

BP man charged in Las Vegas murder

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A Blooming Prairie man wanted in connection with a murder in Las Vegas has been captured in Rice County.

Northfield March 4. According to Rice County Sheriff Troy Dunn, a deputy spotted Doocy when he searched his vehicle's registration and learned the vehicle's owner was wanted in connection with a Las Vegas homicide that occurred Feb. 26.

It took officers several hours to transport Doocy into custody. The South Metro SWAT team and four police departments arrived on the scene in an effort to arrest Doocy.



Mark Doocy

After about a four hour standoff with police, the officers used "chemical aerosol and other non-lethal tactics" to force Doocy out of his vehicle, Dunn said.

The sheriff reported Doocy was taken to a Twin Cities hospital for treatment while remaining in custody in lieu of \$1 million bail as authorities in Nevada seek his return.

Jail records show Doocy was booked into the Rice County Jail in Faribault on Friday. He is awaiting extradition back to Nevada. Doocy is charged with killing a man in his 40s in the road near a Love's Travel Stop along Interstate 15 northeast of Las Vegas. He reportedly was employed by the victim and his wife to do odd jobs. The couple lived in a trailer behind the truck stop.

A life changer

Benefit planned as Green battles incurable ALS

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Life has definitely changed for Cindy Green of Ellendale. About a year ago, Green, 51, was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) or otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Gehrig was a baseball star with the New York Yankees when he was stricken with ALS.

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

Life has also changed for Green's husband Frank, for their son Maison, 23 and for their daughter Kestie, 25.

"She is a wonderful woman. Time is precious."

Frank Green
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STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

SEE A LIFE CHANGER, A14

Despite a life-changing disease that typically results in death within a few years, Cindy Green of Ellendale still finds time to share an infectious smile with those around her.

Accounting firm adds 2 new partners

BY RICK BUSSLER
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There are some new hometown faces being added to a well-established accounting firm serving southern Minnesota.

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner PA headquartered in Blooming Prairie has added two new partners while one of the founding members of the firm is phasing out of ownership. Allison Andrist, CPA, of Owatonna and Lori Arndt, CPA, of Blooming Prairie have joined Amy Doerhoefer and Daniel Miner as partners in the long-time firm.

Meanwhile, veteran owner Tamzen Johnson is retiring from ownership, but she will remain on the firm's payroll as an accountant. The name of the company will remain as it has been for now.

Andrist currently works in the Owatonna office located at the Bridge Street Center. She received her Bachelor of Science in accounting and business administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato, in 2008, and her Certified Public Accountant license in 2011. Prior to joining the firm in 2016, she worked for a public accounting firm in Minneapolis. Andrist enjoys working with both business and individual clients.

"Helping people navigate our ever-changing tax system and alleviating some of the anxiety brought on by financial statements and tax returns gives me the most fulfillment of all the work I do," said Andrist. "I'm really excited about the opportunity

SEE ACCOUNTING FIRM, A10

Medford Teamster fights to save pension

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Retired Teamsters union member David Kalk of Medford is fighting to save the pension that he worked 37 years to obtain.

For nearly two decades, David Kalk has been enjoying his pension from the Teamsters. Now, at 77 years old, Kalk is disheartened that an effort is underway to slash a portion of his pension.

Kalk retired as a freight hauler in 2002 after 37 years of over-the-road truck driving. During his career, he worked for a variety of companies, but Kalk always remained a Teamster union member. He began drawing his full pension in June 2002 and

"As a Teamster working 55 to 60 hour weeks, I looked forward to the pension I earned. A full pension, not an 80% pension."

David Kalk
Retired Teamster

currently draws about \$42,000 per year to live on in his retirement. The Teamsters retiree is closely monitoring an effort in Congress aimed at Teamster Pension Reform. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, has proposed a plan for a 20% reduction in pension benefits.

To illustrate the impact of this proposed cut, in Minnesota alone there are \$146 million in annual benefits currently paid to retirees with Central States. The proposal would slash nearly \$30 million. Broken down even further, about \$8 million is currently

paid to retirees living in Minnesota's First District, which encompasses most of the southern part of the state. About \$1.6 million would be at risk of being lost to retirees in the First District.

For Kalk, a 20% cut would result in a reduction in his yearly pension of about \$8,000. "I ain't going to starve to death, but it sure is going to cut my lifestyle," he said. He noted there likely wouldn't be any vacations and his "old Chevy pick-up" will have to be driven longer.

SEE MEDFORD TEAMSTER, A10

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AREA DEATHS

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STEELE COUNTY Times

GOLDEN OLDIES 4B

SLIMY BLOSSOM 1B

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

Bloomington, Minnesota

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Vegas. He reportedly was employed by the victim and his wife to do odd jobs. The couple lived in a trailer behind the truck stop.

Police said the victim and Doocy were arguing with the exchange escalating. "The suspect retrieved a handgun and fired several rounds at the victim," police reported.

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AREA DEATHS

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OUR VIEW

Won't you make us part of your week?

This week our newspaper is going out to more than just our regular subscribers in Steele County. We are offering a newspaper for an expanded audience to see in hopes that new readers will generate an interest in reading the local newspaper.

We acknowledge that people's lives are extremely busy, and they don't often have a lot of extra time to commit to let's say, a daily newspaper. That's where we come into the picture. The Times is a weekly newspaper committed to hometown community news throughout Steele County and the surrounding counties.

Once a week, readers can receive a complete package outlining the news they want and need to know. Our journalists provide stories told with a much more human interest and local flavor. There is no sugar coating what we do week in and week out. We offer a perspective that really isn't offered anywhere else.

We are hyper-local. What does that mean? It means we focus on news that would usually not be covered by larger media outlets, which tend to follow stories of interest to a citywide, statewide or regional audience. We pride ourselves on providing an innovative way of bringing information to the communities throughout Steele County often ignored by others.

We don't pack our pages with state and national news that can be found in many other publications far more credible publishing that kind of information.

People have reached out to us in droves over the past year taking notice of our local newspaper. We are a quality publication that has dozens of state and national awards to back itself up. Our pages are chock-full of local news that shares the successes, triumphs and yes, sometimes the failures of living in this corner of Minnesota.

We hope you will take special notice in what we have to offer Steele Counties. It's with great pleasure that we bring you local news, sports and features every week. If this is something you'd like to be a part of, check out the special offer we have on Page B12.

Won't you make us a part of your week moving forward?

YOUR VIEW

Don't cut our pension benefits

To-the-Editor:
The Chamber of Commerce national organization has been against Teamster Pension Reform. Now they support Sen. Chuck Grassley's plan for a 20% reduction in our pension benefits.

As a retired Teamster with 37 years of service working 55 to 60 hours a week, I looked forward to the pension I earned. A full pension, not an 80% pension. I have been retired 10 years and enjoy going to breakfast or lunch three times monthly with other retired Teamsters. And I am in a breakfast club at church that eats at local restaurants every Sunday after mass up to five times a month. Also I like to take my grandchildren for a special treat after their school events, i.e. band concerts, sporting events a couple times a month. All in local restaurants.

Our Teamster groups meet on off days for dining so we can stay and visit up to two hours and not interfere with busy lunch or breakfast hours. We pick local dining spots that are not big business chains. The same when I take my grandchildren for lunch or dinner. That 20% of my pension is my entertainment dollars. If you are a retired

Teamster and spend your entertainment dollars as I do, wear your Teamster hats, shirts or jackets while dining out at local establishments. Have the waiter take a picture of your group and tell them your story. Our local waiters know ours. Then send your photos to your local Chamber of Commerce to show them those entertainment dollars have an effect, so please don't take them away.

We are ROMEOS- Retired Old Men Eating Out Somewhere.

David Kalk
Local 160
Owatonna

GUEST COLUMN

Tax Code causing financial disasters

BY PEGGY BENNETT

At the Capitol we've been working on a number of topics, including a fix for a tax problem that has cost some farmers and business owners more than \$100,000.

Last session, Governor Walz signed into law a plan that directed the Department of Revenue to review federal tax code Section 179 - accelerated depreciation - claims, adjust for new expensing limits, and review any gains or losses from the equipment they traded in.

This meant a farmer or business owner who traded in farm equipment or other machinery in 2018, and realized a financial gain on that equipment, was subject to paying income taxes on that gain immediately. Whereas on the federal level, that tax increase was negated by higher upfront expensing limits. The tax bill signed by Governor Walz only allowed the higher expensing limits over a six-year period, resulting in a tax increase in Year 1 for farmers with only a promise it would be negated over six years.

The issue is impacting your neighbors as well. This week, Kevin Poppel of Albert Lea and Jason Holund of Wells testified before the Minnesota House Taxes Committee about the problems being caused by Section 179 nonconformity. In Holund's case, he received a \$700,000 bill. I am co-authoring legislation that would fully fund conformity to Section 179 in order to help those who have traded equipment and had that trade value counted as income. The legislation would also cancel any penalties and interest issued by the Department of Revenue on any unpaid debts that had been created due to this ordeal. Another bill is also moving forward that only does partial conformity, which is a good start, but does not finish the job. With our \$1.5 billion surplus, we definitely have the funds available to fix this problem, and it's my hope we'll do so very quickly.

Good news for farmers
A popular state loan program dedicated \$50 million to the Rural Finance Authority (RFA) loan program, which ran out of funding on February 21. The RFA is Minnesota's main agri-

cultural lending arm. It partners with agricultural lenders to provide low-cost financing to farmers on terms and conditions not otherwise available from other credit sources. The bill now heads to the Minnesota Senate for its approval. I was humbled and honored to be the recipient of the YMCA Champion of the Year award there for my work in authoring and advocating for the Sibling Bill of Rights that was passed into law in 2018. It was good to see Director of the Albert Lea YMCA Dennis Dissler there this morning, as well as Sasha, a former foster care youth who was directly involved in getting this bill passed. I was also pleased to have the Gussmann family from Geneva visit me as part of "Homeschool Day on the Hill."

Peggy Bennett is state representative for District 27A, which includes Blooming Prairie, southern Steele County and most of Freeborn County. She lives in Albert Lea.

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Keeping Big Band music alive on local radio

I've only known him for 10 years, but as Sid Hartman, who turns 100 this week after 80 plus years in the radio and newspaper businesses, would say he's a close personal friend.

I'm referring to my dear friend Todd Hale. He has been an icon in the Owatonna area for more than 60 years having served as a radio broadcaster on KRFO for many years and in more recent years serving as publicity and entertainment director for the Steele County Free Fair, Minnesota's largest fair. It's at the fair where I first met Hale a decade ago.

While Hale, 80, has stepped back from most of his duties at the fair, which I hate to say but won't ever be the same again, he is still "live and kickin'" doing something he is truly passionate about. Hale is the host of the Big Band Show on KRFO. It's a weekly radio show featuring Big Band music, mostly from the 1930s.

I'll be honest I don't listen to Big Band music. However, I recall as a youngster growing up listening to WCCO-Radio and tuning in to hear Hobbs' House with late-night radio host Franklin Hobbs sending the big



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

bands to a nationwide audience. He had such a rich, smooth voice that could put anyone to sleep.

I have a deep appreciation for what Hale is doing at KRFO. He is providing listeners with Big Band music that really can't be found anywhere else. He spins Golden Oldies from his vast collection of vinyl albums every Sunday at 8:15 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. (See feature story on Hale elsewhere in this edition.)

Shows such as the one Hale is doing seems to be a lost art on radio these days. Sadly, I don't think the glory years of radio will ever be what they once were. But Hale is doing his part to at least keep a little tradition alive, even if it's only for 45 minutes each week.

Hale has a voice much

like Franklin Hobbs and other great radio personalities. For 27 years, Hale has been the voice of the fair. He's in charge of the "barkering" in which he gives announcements over the fair's PA system. Former fair manager Elmer Reseland recruited Hale because of his radio voice.

I have a standing joke with Hale about how he handles his announcing chores at the fair. He utilizes an old-fashioned tape recorder to do interviews and record announcements. It's what he got used to when he started his radio career in 1959.

A few years ago when I interviewed Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall, who grew up in Blooming Prairie, one of the first things she mentioned about the fair was the highlight of being interviewed by Hale during her younger 4-H days. No need to wonder. Hale was equipped with his tape recorder.

You'll never believe the first thing I saw as I walked into the KRFO studio a few weeks ago to join Hale with the taping of his radio show (it's not done live). He had a tape recorder at his side with a cassette tape all cued up and ready to roll with a Big Band song.

Hale will be the first one to tell you that his process of using a tape recorder is "antiquated" at best. "But it works," he says. "As long as it works and does what we want it to do, there is no reason to stop it."

Besides the radio business, Hale has given so much to the Owatonna community over the years. He is currently chairman of the Owatonna Airport Commission. He is one of the greatest community supporters I know. He doesn't hold back in sharing his love for the community.

I believe it's remarkable for a community to have such legends as Todd Hale. If you're ever in the mood for some Big Band sounds, go in hot pursuit of checking out Hale's weekly radio show on KRFO.



Todd Hale of Owatonna hosts a weekly Big Band Show on KRFO Radio.

GUEST COLUMN

Tax law hurts farmers, small business owners

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

At the Capitol, we have heard countless stories from Minnesotans who have found themselves unexpectedly owing tens of thousands of dollars in taxes from trading in old equipment when investing in new equipment. The bulk of the impacted are farmers and small business owners.

So how does this impact all of us and why should we care?

Some background: Minnesota failed to fully conform with Section 179 - accelerated depreciation - of the federal tax code last year. Instead House Democrats passed a law directing the Department of Revenue to review Section 179 claims, adjust for new expensing limits, and review any gains or losses from the equipment they traded in.

This meant a farmer or business owner who traded in equipment or other machinery in 2018, and realized a financial gain on that equipment value, was subject to paying income taxes on that gain immediately.

And in several cases, that total exceeded \$100,000 in taxes. Even more unfair is that some may have traded in their equipment before the law was even passed.

Outside of the individual problems this causes, this Section 179 tax liability is also preventing investment, which will also slow economic growth. Economic growth occurs when the gross domestic product (GDP) per person grows.

Capital investment into new technology and equipment raises productivity and allows everyone to make more money. It is one of the top ways we can expand and improve our economy.

Minnesota already ranks very low among states when it comes to GDP growth, as well as investment into new and emerging technologies.

Now add in the fact that there's a major tax liability that penalizes people who want to put new technology in their businesses, and you've got a major problem and a slowdown in economic growth.

It's been proven our economy can expand when there is access to better technology. At the very least, state government should try to stay out of the way as opposed to penalizing farmers and business owners who are trying to make their lives simpler. Full conformity to Section 179 would be a good place to start.

John Petersburg is state representative for District 27A, which includes Steele and Waseca counties. He lives in Waseca.

STEELE COUNTY Times

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2020-9 state awards
2019-7 state awards
2018-4 state and 4 national awards
2017-2 state and 2 national awards
2016-4 state and 6 national awards
2015-7 state and 4 national awards
2014-3 state and 2 national awards
2013-4 state and 2 national awards
2012-4 state and 2 national awards
2011-4 national awards
(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Associations)



Visit the Blossom Belle Boutique on Main Street of Blooming Prairie and find lots of color. A grand opening for Kelly LaMotte's new business was held last Saturday.

Blossom Belle Boutique opens in living color

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was a dream come true for Kelly Jean LaMotte.

Her Blooming Prairie boutique opened in living color last Saturday on Main Street next to Bunkie's. "I had a vision, and we made it happen," LaMotte said, crediting her family and others for making a dream real.

"It still doesn't seem real," LaMotte confides.

Her boutique is named the Blossom Belle Boutique. Kelly's husband Derrick installed the sign out front two days before the official opening.

The shop's name incorporates Blossom (for Blooming Prairie) and Belle (for daughter Lake's middle name, Maybelle).

LaMotte's boutique is located in the former site of Jack Shaw's barber shop. "We have brought a little history back to this location on Main Street," she remarked.

A gold clothes rack and another tall pedestal rack come from Harriett's Dress Shop next door. Some of the mirrors are also from the dress shop.

Gift bags were given to the first 20 shoppers who visited the store. Other surprises took place during the day with random gifts being presented.

The Blossom Belle Boutique is a place for women to come and have conversation and a place to make customers feel comfortable and confident, LaMotte says.

The store features a variety of women's clothing and apparel from Sportstitch. Shoppers can also find shoes and accessories.

Hand-made jewelry is supplied by Kelly's mother, Stephanie McCarren and by her mother-in-law, Jane Crawford, whose macrame is also available.

LaMotte has been selling LulaRoe clothing the past 3 1/2 years by mail order from her home. She said she had a desire to offer more styles and more products tailored "for where we live," she said.

The idea of starting her own boutique was suggested by Kelly's friend, Emily Lurken, who has moved her beauty shop to the boutique.

Mike Ressler and Mark Coughlin did the renovation of what has become Kelly's business home. In addition to her husband Derrick helping set up Kelly's business, her son Jaxon, 10, and Lake, 4, have been a help, too, she says.

LaMotte is proud to be part of Blooming Prairie's Main Street. "I've spent more time at the Pizza

Cellar and bowling alley in recent weeks than I have my whole life," she said in describing herself as a new neighbor.

She says she is so thankful to the community of Blooming Prairie and to her landlord, Aaron Ressler.

Regular hours of the Blossom Belle Boutique are as follows: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays and Mondays, closed.



Kelly LaMotte stands in front of her new boutique, Blossom Belle Boutique, which opened last Saturday. The boutique is located in what was formerly Jack Shaw's barber shop.

BP Ed Foundation supports kids

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie has proven over and over again that it believes in its kids. That is so true with the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation providing funds to improve opportunities for its kids.

For the past 17 years, the Ed Foundation has sponsored an auction that has raised nearly \$1 million in funds. This year's auction is planned for Saturday, March 28 at the Pizza Cellar/Cue Company.

Silent auction bidding runs from 3-6 p.m. and the live auction follows at about 7 p.m.

Last year, the auctions brought in \$76,500 in funds. That ranked as the third highest in the history of the huge community fundraiser. The record fundraising total was set in 2014 at \$83,800. The second highest auction total was recorded in 2016 at \$79,700.

The 2019 BP Ed Foundation auction featured 211 live auction items and 203 silent items for a total of 414 auction items. All items are donated, thus all proceeds are profit.

The impact of the BP Education Foundation on learning for its students is HUGE, says Chris Staloch, superintendent of schools.

"The Ed Foundation allows us to offer our students programming and learning opportunities that we couldn't offer without the support of the Ed Foundation," remarked Staloch. He said the Foundation "brings us all together," students, staff, parents and community. "We come together to support our kids," Staloch added.

The superintendent saluted two programs, which were offered because of the Ed Foundation's unselfish donations: robotics and STEAM/STEM.

"It's truly amazing how this community works together," says Staloch.

He reaped the benefits of many BP Ed Foundation grants as principal of the Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Ed Foundation funds helped finance a new playground at the elementary school.



JACOB SCHWARZ

Staloch currently serves as a school liaison to the Ed Foundation board. The Ed Foundation has touched every school program, Staloch pointed out.

The Ed Foundation makes the decisions of where the monies go after reviewing applications from school staff. Lots of discussions between staff and administration lead up to the final decisions of the Ed Foundation Board.

Staloch's successor as elementary principal, Jacob Schwarz, witnessed the impact the Ed Foundation has on the community soon after being hired as principal.

"The impact of the BP Ed Foundation has on learning is tremendous," stated Schwarz.

Schwarz said the Ed Foundation's mission is to enhance the education of Blooming Prairie students. "We are extremely grateful for their partnership," he said.

"When you pair that support with the vision our teachers and staff have for requested ideas, it makes me very proud to be part of this school and district," remarked Schwarz.

"Our students simply wouldn't be afforded such a rich learning experience without the direct support of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation" he continued.

Former Blooming Prairie Superintendent Barry Olson says the Ed Foundation "has and will continue to provide funds for the little things in education that allow BP to be great."

He listed flexible seating, a new trend in education; technology such as the 3D printers and iPads, plus all the field trips, extra trips

SEE BP ED FOUNDATION, A11



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie Elementary School students had the opportunity to help design changes in the alignment of Highway 218 during a STEAM project recently at the school.



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Best friends Heather Olson and Kayla Nelson agree on one thing.

It was by the GRACE of GOD that both were able to shed their shackles of addiction to drugs.

Heather, a recent graduate of the Steele Waseca Drug Court, and Kayla were guest speakers following a Lenten worship service on March 4 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

The two recovering addicts spoke to members of a First Lutheran Church Confirmation class. Their message was also heard by many adults who sat in on the session.

"If I could go back in time, I would say no (to drugs)," Heather professed. "It starts with choice and it is not worth it," she told her listeners.

Heather was first to speak after being introduced by Pastor Mike Valerius. He said he got to know Heather after she started an anti-addiction group at First Lutheran Church called Blooming Hope.

Heather took her listeners through her life of 36 years, riddled with trauma and addiction. Kayla also traced her past addictions and said she was given a great life by God and she was happy to have her life back.

On this particular day, Heather totaled 661 days of sobriety and Kayla logged 711 days. That's 1,372 days between the two of them.

The message to our young people that night was pure and simple: don't use drugs because it will mess up your life and the lives of others.

Both Heather and Kayla have children and their drug addiction definitely seriously damaged their relationships with their children.

It's disheartening to hear these stories of despair but it is

encouraging to see that a sincere belief in God through prayer will help pull these people out of their addiction.

First Lutheran Church is

using a "let it go" theme for its Lenten services. A large cross near the altar carries pieces of cloth, which contain messages from people asking to be released



Heather Olson of Blooming Prairie shared her story of addiction by speaking to confirmation students at First Lutheran Church on a recent Wednesday night. She is shown with a chart that traces her battle with drug addiction.

from burdens that are carrying them down.

What these two people brought to this rural church on a Wednesday evening was hope that more young people will travel the right road rather than choose addiction.

At times, the words of these two women were haunting, but they were real and were put forward to help others.

Heather is a strong proponent of Drug Court but said it only works if you want it to work. Heather had 27 supportive individuals attend her Drug Court graduation in the Steele County Courthouse.

Heather was pleased to have three of her four children in court with her that day. Her father, Henry, who she calls her biggest support, was also there.

The speaking appearance by Heather and Kayla was truly a healing time for both. By sharing their experiences, they could honestly say this was a life they lived in the past and by the GRACE of GOD, they would not live it again.

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.

Father accused of killing toddler before dumping body

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Almost one year after a toddler's body was dumped in a ditch outside of Blooming Prairie, the girl's father is now facing murder charges in connection with her death.



Dariaz Higgins

On March 5, the Mower County Attorney's Office filed second-degree murder charges against Dariaz Lewis Higgins of Milwaukee. The count specifies it was unintentional. He is accused of killing his 2-year-old daughter, Noelani Robinson by "blunt force trauma to the head."

According to the criminal complaint, Higgins and the toddler stayed at a hotel in Austin from Feb. 6 to March 10, 2019. Higgins told investigators the girl fell off a toilet in the hotel and died, and he wrapped her in blankets and left her on the floor for a couple of days while he went to Milwaukee to get a vehicle.

Higgins returned to Austin on March 10, put the

girl's body in the vehicle and drove toward Minneapolis in blizzard conditions. Higgins, who was with a female passenger, said he put Noelani's body in a ditch because he knew she was dead and "could not travel with her," the complaint said.

A passerby found Noelani's remains in a ditch about one mile north of Blooming Prairie on March 15. Just days before the discovery, an Amber Alert had been issued for Noelani.

After dumping his daughter's body, Higgins is suspected of returning to Milwaukee to meet her mother, Sierra Robinson, 24. Prosecutors say he brought Robinson to an apartment where he

claimed the girl was and then he fatally shot her.

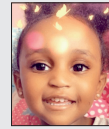
Higgins is currently in a Milwaukee jail awaiting trial for murder charges in Sierra Robinson's death.

The Minnesota BCA investigated the child's death in partnership with several local and Wisconsin law enforcement agencies and the Mower County Attorney's Office over the past year.

In the weeks following the discovery of Noelani, the Blooming Prairie community rallied to left up the memory of the little girl. Community members took part in a group memorial of sympathy cards, notes, drawings and very small tokens. Items were eventually shipped to Robinson's family in Milwaukee.

A TRAIL OF MURDER MILWAUKEE TO BLOOMING PRAIRIE

2019:
March 11: Noelani Robinson's mother murdered in Milwaukee
March 11: Amber Alert issued for Noelani
March 13: Dariaz Higgins arrested in Milwaukee for mother's murder
March 15: Noelani's body found dumped outside Blooming Prairie
2020:
March 5: Mower County Attorney charges Higgins with Noelani's murder; criminal complaint alleges Noelani was murdered in a motel in Austin



Noelani Robinson

Court of Appeals releases new documentary

Minnesota Court of Appeals has released a short documentary highlighting the origin and workload of Minnesota's intermediate appellate court. Doing Minnesota Justice is an update to a documentary commissioned to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Court of Appeals, in 2008. The 30-minute video is a teaching tool for incoming Court of Appeals law clerks and available for educators and all students of history to stream on-demand via the Minnesota Judicial Branch YouTube.

"The Court of Appeals has served the citizens of Minnesota for almost four decades. The updated Doing Minnesota Justice video will be a key tool to help

Minnesotans, young and old, understand the role of our court. This updated version breathes new life into the story of the Court of Appeals," said Minnesota Court of Appeals Chief Judge Edward J. Cleary.

Appellate court history buffs may recall that in the 1960s and 1970s, the number of appeals soared. As a result the Minnesota Supreme Court became overburdened with an intense workload that was threatening the first appeal for all Minnesotans. The solution was the creation of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, an intermediate court. The documentary follows the robust 1982 constitutional amendment campaign

to establish the Court of Appeals. Minnesota voters overwhelmingly supported the constitutional amendment, which netted 77 percent of votes cast. The passage of the amendment established the Court of Appeals and helped ensure impartial, clear, and timely appellate decisions.

The Court of Appeals handles all first appeals except for first-degree murder. This allows the Minnesota Supreme Court to spend time considering and resolving other constitutional and public policy cases. Court of Appeals' decisions are the final ruling in about 95 percent of the approximately 2,000-2,400 appeals heard by the typically, around 5% of

the Court's decisions are accepted by the Minnesota Supreme Court for further review in the nation.

By law, the Court must issue a written decision, called an opinion, within 90 days of oral arguments. If no oral argument is held, a decision is due within 90 days of the case's scheduled conference date. This deadline is the shortest imposed on any appellate court in the nation. In order to expedite justice and to make the appellate system more accessible, the Court's 19 judges sit in three-judge panels and travel to locations throughout Minnesota to hear oral arguments. Other states frequently look to Minnesota as a model for fast processing and delay-reduction.

CRIME BRIEF

Motorist accused of causing crash after using drugs

A man faces charges after police say he caused a multi-vehicle crash in Owatonna while under the influence of drugs.

Tyler L. Qualle, 31, of Faribault, has been charged with criminal vehicular operation while under the influence of a controlled substance in connection with the crash. He also faces counts of obstructing the legal process and fourth-degree DWI.

Officers responded to the crash at 26th Street and County Road 45 in the afternoon hours of March 1. Witnesses identified the driver of a Pontiac Grand Prix as the cause when it made a sudden change of course and cut off traffic. Police saw the driver showed signs of impairment.



Tyler Qualle

After arresting Qualle, police obtained a search warrant to collect a blood or urine sample. A blood test was collected at Owatonna Hospital. As officers led Qualle from the hospital, he allegedly became combative and attempted to head-

butt the officer.

A search of Qualle's vehicle uncovered drug paraphernalia and presumptive positive methamphetamine, police said. Qualle also made spontaneous utterances that he "didn't know what narcotic he used and will deal with that later."

One of the other drivers in the crash required extrication and was transported to the hospital with severe head and neck pain.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 24 with Judge Ross L. Leuring presiding:

Robert J. Matras, 48, Austin, previously appeared and was convicted of felony manslaughter. He was sentenced to \$131 and 91 months in St. Cloud State Prison. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 24 – March 1:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Zin M. Thet, 22, Austin, permit violation, \$125.

MN STATE PATROL

Nure M. Ahmed, 37, Faribault, hands free violation, \$125; Diana E. Alfaro, 20, Owatonna, speeding and permit violation, \$185; Matthew D. Anderson, 22, Owatonna, unsafe passing, \$125; Danae S. Andrews, 24, Blooming Prairie, possession of paraphernalia, \$125; Joshua D. Bess, 25, Owatonna, possession of

paraphernalia, \$125; Kayla J. Bergerson, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Saeed A. Bin Mahfouz, 21, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Benjamin T. Braun, 22, Owatonna, license plate violation, \$105; Dung T. Cao, 41, Prior Lake, hands free violation, \$125; Anai Ekalino, 33, Rock Island, IL, no license and no insurance, \$375; Siobahn R. Fidele, 25, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Shaylyn P. Fowler, 21, North Oaks, speeding, \$115; Christopher P. Franz, 29, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Enrique D. Garcia, 39, Owatonna, no insurance and no insurance, \$375; Anthony L. Glass, 26, New Smyrna Beach, FL, possession of marijuana, \$231; Ramon N. Gonzales, 23, Apple Valley, speeding and revoked license, \$335; Katherine R. Holten, 20, De Pere, WI, speeding, \$115; La Ku, 27, St. Paul, speeding, \$125; Thanh T. Le, 44, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; Marcus C. Padilla, 49, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Gaciel Ramirez Gomez, 19, Northfield, permit violation, \$125; Rosemary Reyes, 35, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Nolvin A. Rivera, 29, Claremont, no license, \$175; Leah A. Rutberg, 33, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Alejandro J. Sanchez, 20, Faribault, speeding, \$215; Courtney A. Staples, 43, Hopkins, speeding, \$115; William J. Stapleton, 51, Albert Lea, revoked license, \$275; Stephanie J. Stark, 54, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Brian R. Strauss, 50, Marion, IA, speeding, \$115; Chad L. Swenson, 37, Rochester, cancelled license, \$281, 24 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; Joseph L. Whaler, 20, Sioux

Falls, SD, speeding, \$215; Brandon M. Wilmes, 30, Baxter, revoked license, \$275; Myron W. Wunderlich IV, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brett R. Baumeister, 22, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; William E. Bronson, 42, Bloomington, revoked license, \$275; Christopher Caballero, 28, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Ricardo Desgallado Jr., 20, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Tony T. Fisher, 41, Blooming Prairie, possession of marijuana, \$375, 19 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend support groups, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, cognitive skill training and 2 years of supervised probation; Donna J. Grubish, 81, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Richard W. Grunwald, 32, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 30 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state, 168 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Vincent F. Guggisberg, 27, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Mark A. Guse, 54, Owatonna, school bus stop arm violation, stay of adjudication, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation;

Richard M. Harris, 23, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, attend MADD impact panel, substance abuse screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Dominick L. Hernandez, 21, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; George Jaramillo Jr., 30, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$225; Elizabeth A. Long, 40, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Zachary R. Savoie, 28, St. Cloud, receiving stolen property, \$125 and 120 days in county jail; Charly A. Schmidt, 33, Owatonna, no insurance, revoked license and hands free violation, \$525; Reul Vargas, 32, Owatonna, DWI, \$600, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Dion E. Wadley, 20, Owatonna, theft and trespassing, \$390.34 and 23 days in county jail.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Joshua S. Almendinger, 38, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; Linda R. Fitch, 64, Viasaca, speeding, \$115; Timothy D. Franklin, 20, Owatonna, no insurance, \$275; Brandy M. Hensch, 20, Henning, speeding, \$125; Neal V. Justin, 52, St. Paul, speeding, \$115; Charles A. Luckett, 27, Anoka, revoked license, \$275; Elizabeth M. Momanji, 22, St. Paul, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$50, 1 day in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation,

obtain permission to leave the state, 232 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Kelsa D. Pastouch, 34, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Day P. Tho, 32, Austin, speeding, \$125; Rodolfo J. Valenzuela, 45, Morrisstown, suspended license and speeding, \$325; Gabriel R. Villalpando, 29, Troutdale, OR, speeding, \$125; Dion E. Wadley, 20, Owatonna, theft, 23 days in county jail; Cyrus J. Williams, 42, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Feb. 29
Drugs: Police arrested a subject for drug activity in the 400 block of 3rd St. SE at 1:01 p.m.
March 4
Crash: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 500 block of 3rd St. NE at 9:25 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.
Hit and Run: At 10:05 a.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 300 block of Highway Ave. S.
Shoplifting: Officer took a report of a shoplifting incident in the 300 block of Highway Ave. S. at 11:03 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Feb. 28
Drugs: Police made DWI arrests at Hoffman Dr. NW and Kilworth Dr. NW at 12:28 a.m. and at Glendale St. NW and Riverside Ave. NW at 1 a.m.

SEE BLOTTER, A12

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

- David Martinez – DWI – \$500 bail
- Felipe Martinez – DWI – no bail
- Victor Martinez – obstruct legal process – \$12,000 bail
- Lakia Massey – counterfeiting – no bail
- Emmanuel Mata – burglary – \$10,000 bail
- Robert Mattson – revoked license – no bail
- Victoria Mays – assault – \$1,000 bail
- Matthew Metro – indecent exposure – \$1,000 bail
- Jesse Moe – registration violation – no bail
- Imaan Moloo – criminal sexual conduct – \$10,000 bail
- Dayson Montanto – DWI – \$1,000 bail
- Michael Moore – violation of conditions of release – no bail
- Omar Moreno Jr. – damage to property – \$5,000 bail
- Kevin Morrow – DWI – no bail
- Guadalupe Munoz – false name – \$3,000 bail
- Deris Murillo-Benitez – DWI – \$12,000 bail
- Hailee Nagelstad – speeding – \$200 bail
- Theodore Nelson – speeding – \$200 bail
- Dei Nguyen – drugs – no bail
- Alan Noy – revoked license – \$500 bail

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

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How to Prevent the Silent Epidemic of Kidney Disease



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583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
Do kidney problems run in families? My mother died from kidney failure 10 years ago at age 74 but didn't know she had a kidney problem until it was too late.
Just Turned 60

Dear 60,
Anyone who has a family history of kidney disease, or who has high blood pressure or diabetes is at increased risk and needs to have their kidneys tested. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, around 37 million U.S. adults have chronic kidney disease (when the kidneys can't properly do their job of cleaning toxins and wastes from the blood), and millions more are at risk of developing it, yet most people don't realize it. That's because kidney disease develops very slowly over many years before any symptoms arise. But left untreated, the disease can eventually require people to spend hours hooked up to a dialysis machine or get a kidney transplant. Even mild kidney problems can double a person's risk of heart attack and stroke, as well as cause anemia and bone disease.

The reason kidney disease has become so widespread today is because of the rise of obesity, type-2 diabetes and high blood pressure which all strain the kidneys.

Another factor is the increasing number of people who take multiple medications, which can overtax the organs. People over age 60 are especially vulnerable both because they tend to take more drugs, and because kidney function normally declines somewhat with age.

Get Tested
Because kidney disease has no early symptoms, the only way to catch it before it advances is to have a simple blood and urine test by your doctor. So, anyone that has diabetes, high blood pressure or heart disease, a family history of kidney disease, or is age 60 or older needs to get tested. African, Hispanic, Asian and Indian Americans along with Pacific Islanders are also at increased risk.

If you're diagnosed with kidney disease you need to know that there's no cure, but there are steps you can take to help contain the damage, including:

Control your blood pressure: If you have high blood pressure, get it under 130/80. If you need medication to do it, ACE inhibitors and ARBs are good choices because of their proven ability to protect the kidneys.

Control your diabetes: If you have diabetes, keep your blood sugar as close to normal as possible.

Change your diet: This usually means reducing the amount of protein and phosphorus you eat and cutting back on sodium and potassium. Your doctor can help you determine an appropriate eating plan, or you may want to talk to a dietitian.

Watch your meds: Dozens of commonly used drugs can damage the kidneys, especially when taken in high doses over long periods – most notably NSAIDs like ibuprofen and naproxen. Herbal supplements can also be very dangerous. Talk to your doctor about all the prescription, over the counter and herbal products you take to identify potential problems and find alternatives.

Exercise and lose weight: If you're overweight and inactive, start an aerobic fitness routine (walk, swim, cycle, etc.) that gets your heart pumping. This will help lower blood pressure, control diabetes and help you lose excess weight all of which will help your kidneys.

Quit smoking: If you smoke, quit. Heart disease becomes a much greater risk to the kidneys if you smoke. Smoking also doubles the rate of progression to end-stage renal failure.

Limit alcohol intake: Drinking too much alcohol can worsen kidney disease too, so talk to your doctor to see if it's safe for you to drink, and if so, limit yourself to no more than one drink per day.

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 March 16, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The seventh grade boys traveling team completed a dazzling year with a championship at Clear Lake, Iowa. The team defeated the host Clear Lake team in the finals 43-40 after winning two close contests from Forest City and St. Edmonds of Fort Dodge. The tournament win ended the traveling team season in a most successful way. Coach Steve Swenson commented, "The boys beat some very good teams and I think the host school would like to have kept first place in Iowa, but that wasn't the case." Team members are Devin Gwiff, Weston Myer, Scott Romeo, Jake Decker, Sam Swenson, Nick Srser, Jackson Schewe, Nick Gasner and John Rumpza.

The Blooming Prairie Progress celebrated many local businesses. Holman Insurance owners, Keith and Carol Holman celebrate 25 years; Home Sellers, Steve and Linda Vaith with 10 years in business; Prairie Manor has been serving the community for 40 years; SportsStitch, owner Linda Klemmensen, has been helping customers for 15 years; Walsh Garbage has been serving for 45 years. These are just a few of our fine businesses catering to the need of Blooming Prairie.

Tractors, trains, toys and good food – there was something for everyone at the FFA Toy Show. The show was held on March 13 at the high school and sponsored by the Blooming Prairie FFA and FFA Alumni. It is in its seventh year. This year's show had 40 vendors with 71 tables. Vendors brought in a large variety of goods. There were rides on tractors, toy tractors and implements, Lionel trains, antique toys, horse toys, sports, cards, and NASCAR memorabilia. The show brought in a diverse group, grandparents with grandchildren, curiosity seekers and collectors. The proceeds from the show go to the FFA Alumni Association who use this money for scholarships and help pay for trips for the FFA chapter.

20 Years Ago March 14, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Heather Haus/Prairie Manor reported that long-term care will see some changes because of the stressful times; even the competitiveness of the business is felt in the rural areas. The nursing home decertified four beds, making it a 78-room facility. Plans to use the extra space for hospice/privacy room and to expand the physical therapy department. Memorial money will be used for the renovation. As far as the Heather Haus, Robinson hopes that a new promotion will help to fill empty rooms, sign up in March and receive December rent free.

FLA members from the local BPHS chapter competed in the annual Star Events contest at the Mid-winter Meeting in Rochester. They returned home with chapter trophy with the most firsts. Three senior high entries and a junior high entry took gold medals and will advance to the State competition in April. Lisa Meschke, Jasmine Butler and Serena Schewe, Amanda Buho and Kristin Thoen were senior high winners and Katie Johnson was the junior high winner in the presentation category. In the talent show category, Jenny Jaccuse won that event and moves on to state competition. Also, Amanda Lille and Leah Vaith won a silver medal.

The American Legion and Auxiliary held their birthday dinner on Thursday evening. The guest speakers were Heather Bass and Jade Butler. They shared their experiences at Girl's State last summer. It is now time to select our girl stagers for 2000. Any interested junior girls are urged to apply to attend. Two girls will be selected for this all expense paid week at Bethel College.

50 Years Ago March 11, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Jerry Kvasnicka, a senior at Hayfield High School, has been named District 16 Future Farmers of American Dairy Farmer. He was selected from applicants representing 22 southeastern Minnesota high schools and will compete at the regional level later this month. Jerry owns a herd of 23 registered jersey cattle, with an average of 823.7 pounds of butterfat for 1969. He is also active in 4-H and is vice-president of the Hayfield FFA Chapter. He plans to attend the University of Minnesota next year. Jerry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Kvasnicka and grandson of Mrs. Marie Fiebigler of Blooming Prairie.

The Pillsbury Bake Off Contest will be televised on Channel 3, Mason City on March 17. The program will start at 3:30 p.m. with Bob Barker as the master of cere-

monies. Mrs. Richard Trom, rural Blooming Prairie, is one of the finalists in the contest and will be competing for the prize money.

Students from the Blooming Prairie High School participated in the District II small group music contest held last Saturday, March 7 at Glenville. In the vocal competition "A" ratings were awarded as follows: Sextet, consisting of Denise Olson, Mary Walsh, Ann Noble, Joe Lorenzen, Sherree Kittleson and Ann Plunkett; Duet, Denise Olson and Mary Walsh; and solos, Ann Noble, Sherree Kittleson, Judy Lovrink, John Becker and Gary Eisenrager. Beverly Klecker and Sally Lestegaard also competed in the vocal competition. "A" ratings in the instrumental contest were awarded to the following from BPHS: Sax Quartet, Doug Betlach, Doug Olson, Paul Brakke and Roger Krejci; Trumpet solo, Wayne Carlson; Baritone solo, John Becker; Clarinet solo, Denise Olson; Tenor Sax solo, Paul Brakke; Lynn Hunter, clarinet and Tom Becker, trombone, also competed.

75 Years Ago March 15, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

The Vernon cooperative creamery has leased the Hayfield Creamery from Carl Nyrlot for a year with an option to purchase and will operate it as a cheese factory. The plant, which will be opened for business when adjustments are made, will be used to handle surplus milk from the Vernon Creamery. Alfred J. Hugstad, former manager of the Vernon Creamery and the Zumwalt Creamery at Orock Dell, has been named to assistant production manager by the Kraft Cheese Company to work with the creameries in improving output quality.

Births at Goetsch Home Hospital are:
Mr. and Mrs. Adrian J. Hazen are the parents of a six-pound son, born March 9. The new "printer" has been given the name John Elliot. The elated, first-time father was so jubilant over the young man's arrival that he issued a special edition entitled "The Blooming Prairie Blatter". The tiny newspaper covered all the details with the exception that the proud father is still walking among the clouds and scattering 20-cent cigars right and left.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Green are the parents of an eight-pound son, Gerald LaVern, born March 12.
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kruckeberg are the parents of a 9-pound daughter born March 12. The little Miss will answer to the name Judy Kay.

A welcome telegram was received by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Styndl, Bixby, Monday. The wire came from Camp Kilmer, New Jersey and announced the return to the United States of their son, Sgt. Albert Styndl. The message read: "Back in good, old USA. All well. Can hardly wait to see you. Furlough soon. Albert." Sgt. Styndl left Owatonna Feb. 18, 1941 with the now famous Co. F National Guards. He has seen action in every major theatre on the continent. His return on furlough is eagerly awaited by his parents and hosts of friends in the community.

90 Years Ago 1930

GERALDINE RASMUSSEN, PUBLISHER/EDITOR

(Submitted by Steve Wenzel)
Federal prohibition agents were very busy in the last half of 1929 in the Blooming Prairie vicinity. Several raids were conducted and many arrests made ending with the New Year's Eve raid in Blooming Prairie. On Jan. 3, 1930 in St. Paul, M. L. Harney gave a stern warning to the group of individuals arrested in the New Year's Eve raid: "It has taken a long time to get you fellows. And if any of you return to bootlegging, the charges will be severe, for your town is going to be drier than the Sahara Desert." (This sounds pretty serious; everybody was put on notice. It's strange that by the spring of 1930 there was a much bigger still operating west of Blooming Prairie and more activity than ever taking place and most of it in the open, in plain sight. This makes sense almost everybody was involved in one way or another.)



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A whisker away

BP boys keep state playoff hopes alive

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The scenario for the Blooming Prairie High School boys basketball team is the same for them as it was for the girls a week ago.

That scenario is that the Blossoms are one game away from reaching the state tournament for the second time in their history. The Blossom boys made it to the state classic in 1966.

The Blossom girls saw their season come to an end against the Falcons of Fillmore Central on March 5.

Coach Nate Piller's Awesome Blossoms held off a stubborn Grand Meadow team, 52-49, in a Section 1A semifinal game Saturday at the Mayo Civic Auditorium in Rochester.

Blooming Prairie now meets Hayfield for the Section 1A championship at 6 p.m. Thursday night in the Mayo Civic Arena in Rochester.

Free throws and a command performance by senior forward Gabe Hagen led the Blossoms past the Super Larks.

Two quick baskets by Zach Archer gave the Blossoms a 4-0 lead. It was back and forth then as the Super Larks pulled to within 6-5 and then tied the game at 8-8 with 10:50 remaining in the first half.

Blooming Prairie held a slim 24-21 lead at halftime.

As the second half wound down to 12:50, the score was again tied at 28-28. That's when Hagen took charge and helped the Blossoms build a 36-28 lead. Piller said Hagen "is



Senior Zach Archer (11) of Blooming Prairie drives the base line and ended up cashing in the Blossoms' first four points of the Section 1A semifinal game with Grand Meadow. He helped lead the Blossoms to a 52-49 triumph Saturday in Rochester.

a real competitor" and he "will find a way to get things done." The coach said Hagen was "undeniable" and the game was in his hands in the second half. He scored 12 points.

The game's outcome was also in the hands of Parker Vaith's teammates, Kaden Thomas, Drew Kittleson

and Parker Vaith who took spark," said Piller. Vaith scored 12 points, six in the first half when the rest of the Blossoms struggled to score. Grand Meadow junior Colt Landers led his team in scoring with 17 points.

Coach Piller said Saturday's game was similar to the January matchup at Grand Meadow. Once again, the Blossoms built a 12-point lead in the second half, and once again, the Blossoms couldn't put the Super Larks away until the buzzer sounded. A desperation heave from 3/4 court hit the right side of the rim and bounced harmlessly away. The Blossoms missed

a layup and several free throw attempts within the final couple of minutes. Any of which could have iced the game, but Grand Meadow went down fighting. "All in all, we're glad to get the win and to get the chance to move on," remarked Piller.



Surrounded by three Grand Meadow defenders, Kaden Thomas (24) spots an open Drew Kittleson (35) in the corner in action between Blooming Prairie and Grand Meadow Saturday in Rochester. The Blossoms won the Section 1A semifinal game, 52-49.



Wounded Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom Karson Vigeland offers his best wishes to the BP boys team before its Section 1A tournament game Saturday in the Mayo Civic Auditorium, Rochester. Vigeland suffered a season-ending injury in a Gopher Conference game against Hayfield earlier this season.



Blooming Prairie's Kaden Thomas keeps the ball away from Southland's Eli Wolff during the Awesome Blossom's 72-50 win over the Rebels on Wednesday, March 4. Thomas scored 19 first-half points to help Blooming Prairie build a 35-19 lead at halftime, a lead they never relinquished.

Thomas hits 7 three-pointers to lift Blossoms in playoff hunt

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Senior sharp shooting guard Kaden Thomas sank 7 three-point shots to lead the Awesome Blossom boys team to a 72-50 triumph over Southland in Section 1A quarterfinal play March 4 in the Mayo Civic Center arena at Rochester.

Thomas also cashed in on 2 two-point baskets and made a free throw to total 26 points for the evening. "We were not real flashy, but I thought the boys

played very good basketball tonight," said Blossoms coach Nate Piller. The Blossoms, Piller said, had multiple good possessions at each end of the court. "I think we took pretty good care of the basketball, too," he added.

Piller said Southland is a good rebounding team and the Blossoms aimed to limit their second chance points. Defending the three-point line was a top priority for the Awesome Blossoms. Blooming Prairie led 35-19 at halftime and

outscored Southland, 37-31 in the second stanza. Piller said the Blooming Prairie defense "wasn't quite giving the effort it needed in the second half and seemed content to trade scores." "They were playing for their lives and we were playing the situation," said Piller.

Senior Gabe Hagen followed teammate Thomas in scoring with 17 points. Senior Zach Archer added 12 points for the Blossoms. Harrison Hanna led the Rebels with 11 points.



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Huskies tame the Tigers, but can't slow down the Cougars as season ends

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

After winning six of their last seven regular season games, the Owatonna boys' basketball team maintained its momentum in its first playoff game by coming from behind to beat the Farmington Tigers 74-71 on Tuesday, March 3.

The Tigers got the first bucket of the game, but midway through the first half it was the Huskies who held a 17-14 lead.

However, Farmington responded with a 10-0 run to take a 24-17 lead with just under six minutes left in the first half.

The Huskies got within two points, 24-26, but the Tigers sank a three-pointer to push their lead back up to five points; a lead they didn't relinquish the rest of the first half as they took a 36-28 lead into halftime.

Farmington scored the first points of the second half on a three-pointer, but Owatonna used an 11-0 run to tie the game at 39-39.

The Huskies' offense was led by Evan Dushek who at the time had 17 of his team high 28 points.

The Tigers hit another three-pointer to re-take the lead.

Farmington held the same three-point lead, except this time the score was 52-49 with 10 minutes left in the game.

Despite trailing for most of the game, the Huskies better shooting from the

free throw line and three-point range propelled them to a 74-71 win.

Owatonna shot 74% from the free throw line compared to Farmington's 64 percent. Meanwhile, the Huskies shot 25% from three-point range while the Tigers made 18 percent.

Owatonna's win advanced them to the section semifinals where they met the number one seed in the section tournament, the Lakeville South Cougars.

Despite being an underdog, the Huskies kept pace with the Cougars throughout the first half and trailed by just two points, 34-36, at halftime.

However, the second half was a different story. Lakeville South scored 12 more points than Owatonna in the second half than to the Cougars who reached double-digit point totals.

Lakeville South ended up winning 80-66.

The loss brings Owatonna's final record to 17-11.

Huskies' stats vs. Farmington: Evan Dushek scored 28 points, Payton Beyer 19 points, Nolan Burmeister 11 points, Isaac Oppegard 7 points, Brayden Williams 5 points, Ty Creger 2 points and Sol Havelka 2 points.

Huskies' stats vs. Lakeville South: Dushek scored 22 points, Williams 21 points, Burmeister 9 points, Oppegard 6 points, Beyer 5 points, Havelka 2 points and Creger 1 point.

Panther boys fall in first round of playoffs

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

One reason basketball fans enjoy the playoffs and March Madness is because on any given day an underdog can beat the front-runner, but the seventh-seeded NRHEG Panthers couldn't pull off the upset as they lost 63-90 to the second-seeded Blue Earth Area Buccaneers on Saturday, Feb. 29.

Even though they ended up losing by 27 points, Head Coach Isaiah Lundberg was happy with how his team competed and kept the game close for most of the game.

"I really liked how we came out in the first half. I thought we played really well and for three-fourths of the game we were right there with Blue Earth," he said.

The Panthers kept pace with the Buccaneers by playing strong offense.

"I thought offensively it was one of the best halves we have had. We got some good looks and made them for a change, but we did have 11 turnovers that really hurt at times when we could have had the lead," he said.

In addition to their own turnovers, Lundberg said the Buccaneers hot shooting also hurt the Panthers.

"In the first game, when we played them nine days ago, they hit three three-pointers all game, but in the first half tonight they made seven of nine and it didn't seem like they could miss," he said.

Blue Earth Area used its hot shooting to turn a close game into a double-digit lead.

"They were ahead 26-23, and then they went on a little run to end the rest

of the half, including a three-pointer right at the buzzer to make it 45-30," he said.

Lundberg noted that NRHEG had chances to make the game close in the second half.

"In the second half, we had times I thought if we could just string some baskets together and get some stops on the defensive end and get the game under 10, we would be good to go," he said.

The Panthers nearly got the Buccaneers' lead down to 10 points mid-way through the second half.

"We got down 51-32 and then had it to 66-54 with around seven minutes left, but they hit a few baskets and made some free throws to push the lead back up

and we just couldn't score quite enough to get back into it," he said. "We had probably the best offensive game of the year for us, but just couldn't stop them from scoring. They ended up hitting 11 three-pointers for the game and we were guarding them on a lot of them and they just made them right in front of us."

Thanks to its strong shooting, Blue Earth Area won 90-63.

Despite the loss, Lundberg was proud of the effort that his team played with.

"I thought all night we played extremely hard and competed with them. They just made more shots tonight and didn't turn the ball over quite as much as we did," he said.

NRHEG ends its season with a 4-23 record.

Scoring for NRHEG: Lonnie Wilson 22 points, Porter Peterson 13, Blake Hrkce 12, Kordell Schlink 4, Ashton Johnson 4, Tory Christenson 3, Dexter Lee 2, Jaxon Beck 2 and Dakota Neste 1.

STATE HOPES DASHED



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

An intense Bobbie Bruns (5) of Blooming Prairie plays tight defense on Fillmore Central's Kassidy Broadwater during the teams' Section 1A championship game last Thursday night in Rochester. Fillmore Central defeated BP, 69-56.

It was a catch-up all the way as Blossom girls fall in section finals

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"It was a fun ride," said a proud Blooming Prairie High School girls basketball Coach John Bruns when reflecting on the 2020 season.

The Awesome Blossom girls saw their season come to an end last Thursday night at the Mayo Civic Arena in Rochester in the Section 1A championship game against the Fillmore Central Falcons.

Fillmore Central used an aggressive offense and a bounding defense to trip up the Awesome Blossoms, 69-56.

"It was a tough loss for us and one that will stick with us for awhile," said Coach Bruns. Fillmore Central played a "great" game, he said. "We didn't have our best defensive game, and they made us pay for every mistake we made," he added.

The Blossom girls finished 21-6 overall for the season.

It was a game that saw the Blossoms playing catch-up the entire game. Blooming Prairie did pull within three at 56-53 late in the game but the Falcons retooled and extended their lead into double digits.

"It does hurt when you come this close," said Bruns. "We got down early and battled back. I give our kids credit for being always tough," he added.

Turnovers also plagued the Blossoms. "We averaged only 11 turnovers during the season but had turnovers in the upper teens in this game," said Bruns.

The Blossoms tried to take away the Falcons' inside game but their speed "wore on us," Bruns explained. He pointed to Kassidy Broadwater, Emma Breitsprecher and

Hope Sexton as being a thorn in the side of the Blossoms.

Junior Megan Oswald had a banner evening for the Blossoms, scoring 23 points and snaring 13 rebounds. Julia Worke scored 12 points for BP.

Junior Maggie Bruns hurt her neck late in the game and was forced to sit on the bench. "She'll be OK," the coach said.

"Our kids need to be proud of their accomplishments during the year," Bruns stated. "The players handled the pressure of being a top 10 team," he added.

Fillmore Central 69, Fillmore Central 56
FILLMORE CENTRAL (69)

Kammry Broadwater 2 P; Kassidy Broadwater 7 P, 6 R; Hope Sexton 12 P, 4 3-PT; Lauren Mensink 7 P, 2 3-PT; Emma Breitsprecher 16 P, 10 R; Kandace Sikkink 25 P, 9 R.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE (56)

Maggie Bruns 5 P, 1 3-PT; Bobbie Bruns 9 P, 1 3-PT; Maya Lemke 3 P; Julia Worke 12 P, 6 R, 2 3-PT; Allison Krohnberg 4 P; Megan Oswald 23 P, 13 R. Halftime: FC 36, BP 24.

Free throws: FC 15-24, BP 10-18. Three-point goals: FC 6, BP 4.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was a sad ending for the Blooming Prairie High School girls basketball team on Thursday night, March 5 in Rochester. Here, the girls lined up to receive their Section 1A runner-up medals and their runner-up trophy.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Junior Allison Krohnberg (31) of Blooming Prairie covers a Fillmore Central ball handler during last Thursday night's Section 1A girls basketball championship game at the Mayo Civic Arena in Rochester. The Falcons of Fillmore Central ended the Blossoms' season, 69-56.

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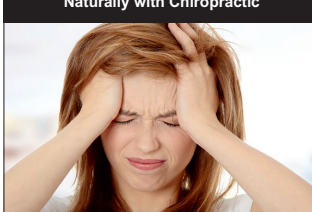
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Recipe Corner

Molten Spiced Chocolate Cabernet Cakes Four servings

4 ounces semi-sweet baking chocolate
1 tablespoon Cabernet Sauvignon or other red wine
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup powdered sugar
2 eggs

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1 egg yolk
6 tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon (Vietnamese cinnamon is good)
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Butter four six-ounce glass custard cups or soufflé dishes. Place on baking sheet. Microwave chocolate and butter in a glass bowl on high for one minute or until butter melts. Whisk until chocolate is completely melted. Stir in wine, vanilla, and sugar until blended. Whisk in two eggs and one egg yolk. Stir in remaining ingredients. Spoon evenly into prepared dishes. Bake for 15 minutes or until sides are firm but centers soft. Let stand one minute. Loosen edges with a knife. Invert onto individual serving plates. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or serve with a scoop of vanilla or coffee ice-cream.

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BIRTHDAYS

March 12
Rianna Bishop
Denise Thompson
Charlotte Trom

March 13
Kelli Williamson
Andrea Farr
Lonnie Lembke
Kelly Peterson
Eve Emanuel

March 14
Elliot Swenson
John Abbe

March 15
Denny Zwienen
Carol Fristedt
Tony Motl
Adam Iversen
Kelly Njos
Kevin Christey

March 16
Caleb Kubista
Cork Drexler
Ryan Heimerman

March 17
Aaron Krejci
Diane Eaker
Landon Allison
Isabel Lindeman
Erik Anderson

March 18
Mary J. Olson
Shannon Spinler
Olivia Trotman
Mary Ramsey

ANNIVERSARIES

March 16
Mr. & Mrs. Laverne Johnson

March 17
John & Barb Stenzel

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Farm and Power show returns to Owatonna

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The North American Farm and Power Show returns to the Four Seasons in Owatonna for three days of vendor exhibits and seminars.

The exhibit floor opens at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 19, Friday, March 20, and Saturday, March 21. The event closes at 5 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 4 p.m. on Saturday.

This year's event will be similar to previous years, said Brock Nelson of Trade-Expos, which organizes the show.

While many companies who have exhibited in the past will be returning, Nelson said that this year there are a "lot of companies featuring data management tools." Precision technologies are becoming more important to the farming community, he said.

Nelson said they have not broken down atten-



Lee Sackett of Waltham with his tractor restoration business was one of the many exhibitors at last year's Farm and Power Show in Owatonna.

dance by those involved in agriculture and other visitors but last year's attendance was approximately 21,000 and he expects similar participation this year.

For the casual visitor to the show, there are several prize drawings over the three days and more than 150 exhibitors, including implement dealers who bring in some of their large farm equipment.

For those involved in agriculture, there are daily seminars on a variety of topics.

Attorney Leah R. Gilbert will be discussing Farm Business Succession Planning, 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday.

The program is sponsored by the Linder Farm Network.

From 1 to 4 p.m., Dr. Marie Culhane, a veterinarian, and Diane DeWitt, Extension swine educator

with the University of Minnesota, will be the speakers at "What Happens When There is a Swine Disease Outbreak in Your Neighborhood?" University of Minnesota Extension sponsors the seminar.

Friday seminars begin at 9 a.m. with "The Healthy of Minnesota's Ag Population," Terri Moxley of 40 Square Cooperative Solutions will be the speaker. Linder Farm Network is the sponsor of the program.

From 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. there will be a Commercial Animal Waste Technician Workshop. There is a \$10 registration for this program and those attending are asked to bring their CAWT license card to the class.

On Saturday, the Southern MN Irrigators Association annual meeting will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The final educational seminar of the show will be on Minnesota Cover Crops from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CRP signup begins for farmers

Farmers and ranchers may apply to enroll grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands signup beginning March 16. The signup runs through May 15.

"Through this CRP Grasslands signup, farmers and ranchers can protect grasslands, rangelands and pastures, while maintaining the land as working grazing lands," said Joe Martin, executive director. "The program emphasizes

support for grazing operations and plant and animal biodiversity, while protecting land under the greatest threat of conversion or development."

Through CRP Grasslands, participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, such as haying, mowing or harvesting seed from the enrolled land. Timing of some activities may be restricted by the primary nesting season of birds.

Participants will receive an annual rental payment and may receive up to 50% cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices. The duration of the CRP contract is either 10 or 15 years. FSA will rank applications using a number of factors including existence of expiring CRP land, threat of conversion or development, existing grassland, and predominance of native species cover, and cost.

The 2018 Farm Bill set aside 2 million acres for CRP Grassland enrollment. CRP is one of the largest conservation programs at USDA. CRP marks its 35th anniversary in 2020 with 22 million acres currently enrolled.

For more information or to enroll in CRP Grasslands, contact your local FSA county office or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

Concerned Citizens sponsor 'Right to Harm' movie

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Dodge County Concerned Citizens has joined with the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project and Greener Pastures to sponsor a special showing of "Right to Harm," the story of agricultural families and communities, this weekend at the Gray Duck Theatre, 619 6th Ave. NW, Rochester.

The film portrays the stories of families across America who are victims of the past 50 years of agricultural consolidation and the rise of industrialized livestock production, said members of the Concerned Citizens group. According

to the filmmakers, these disenfranchised citizens, fed up with the lack of regulation, have banded together to demand justice from their legislators as their health, homes and communities are impacted by the factory farm.

The film features several farm families. Lynn and Nancy Utesch are pasture beef ranchers from Kewaunee County, Wis., where there are five times more cows than people. When they moved to the county in 2004, they were concerned with concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) but at the time there were only a few permitted. A decade later, they told filmmakers,

over 30% of the well water is unsafe to drink.

Maria Payan abandoned her home after years of health issues, she said, caused by tainted groundwater from a massive poultry operation across the street.

Elsie Herring, is a native of Duplin County, N.C., home to more than two million hogs and a rapidly growing concentration of industrial poultry operations. Herring lives on land that has been in her family for more than 100 years which she says is now desecrated by sprayed hog waste from an industrial swine operation that moved next door in the 1980s.

Sonia Lopez and her five

children live across the road from 4 million laying hens in Tonopah, Ariz. She said the gasses, particulates and flies have made her family sick. It is especially hard, she said, for 14-year-old Justin, who suffers from asthma and missed more than 40 days of school in 2017. Lopez said she is unable to sell her home and is trapped both financially and emotionally.

The movie will be screened on Friday, March 13, at 5 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 15, at 4 and 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 with \$2 of each ticket going to Dodge County Concerned Citizens.

Deadline for hemp growers approaching for 2020 season

(USDA) released an interim final rule that outlined state and tribal plans for growing the crop. Minne-

sota is continuing under the existing pilot program in 2020.

Questions about the

MDA's Hemp Program should be sent to hemp.mda@state.mn.us 651-201-6600.

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PUBLIC RECORD

STEELE COUNTY BIRTHS
JULY 2019

Rudy Chales Neff, Parents: Samantha and Grayson, July 1.
Olivia Cruz Honsey, Parent: Jasmine Locola, July 2.
Elsie Liv Hughes, Parents: Tami Dahm and Lucas Hughes, July 2.
Victoria Rose Andrews, Parents: Daisy Williamson and Robert Andrews, July 2.
Isaac Michael Keith Chambers, Parents: Anna and Adam, July 2.
Krewden Jac Jacobson, Parents: Brandy Munson and Kaleb Jacobson, July 5.
Amelia Carmen Reyes, Parents: Samantha Plotz and Roy Reyes, July 8.
Aaliyah Lyn Johnson, Parent: Samantha, July 9.
Isabella Mae Plocher, Parent: Desiree Smith, July 10.
Johanna Dine Diley, Parents: Alison and Erik, July 11.
Leo James Kiesow, Parents: Tessa and Daryl, July 11.
Lillian Rosiland Hebel, Parents: Deborah Slater and Dustin Hebel, July 11.

Kellyn Iyla Schroeder, Parents: Ashley and Dane, July 12.
Lilith Violet Branson, Parents: Cassandra and Matthew, July 12.
Griffin Walter Harkema, Parents: Sara and Christopher, July 14.
Jace Jeffery Woltemar, Parents: Jenna and Jeremy, July 14.
Braylon Bryce Kinniry, Parents: Erin and Bryce, July 14.
Ryker Bruce Mott, Parents: Danielle and Christopher, July 15.
Ryker William Davis, Parents: Jume and Adam, July 15.
Maxwell George Schelling, Parents: Emma and Derek, July 15.
Wyatt Henry Mongeau, Parents: Lindsey and Elliot, July 15.
Owen James Jorgensen, Parents: Victoria and James, July 17.
Aiden Joseph Ulrich, Parents: Kristin and Adam, July 17.
Jacob Ryan Condon, Parents: Alvin Quiram and Korey Condon, July 18.
Mikel William Jensen, Parents: Melissa Collins and Dakota Jensen, July 19.
Lanna Ngoc Vien, Parents: Tho Tran and Long Vien, July 19.
Ellie Anne Vogt, Parents: Angela and Bradley, July 20.

James Edward Ball, Parents: Kelsey Koziolek and Dustin Ball, July 22.
Easton Joseph Schrot, Parents: Ashley and Aaron, July 22.
Caden Charles Bohl, Parents: Adanne and Matthew, July 22.
Owen Scott Svenby, Parents: Chelsey and Ty, July 26.
Myia Jean Basness, Parents: Emma and Stephen, July 28.
Lajnee Jade Torres, Parents: Linda and Jesse, July 28.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS
JULY 2019

Marcello Mae Melberg, 93, Owatonna, July 5.
Vivian Adele Rubedor, 90, Owatonna, July 6.
Virginia Mary Seykora, 94, Owatonna, July 7.
Steven Norman Stansberry, 72, Owatonna, July 12.
Carolyn Stanci, 70, Owatonna, July 18.
Donald Martin Matthes, 82, Owatonna, July 21.
Eleonori J. Sauffrey, 89, Owatonna, July 22.
Blanche Leona Einhaus, 96,

Owatonna, July 23.
Jon Robert Edwin Berglund, 84, Owatonna, July 25.
Joan A. Johnson, 88, Owatonna, July 26.
James D. Tobiasen, 73, Maple Island, July 27.

STEELE COUNTY MARRIAGES
JULY 2019

Karin Mary Wiersma and Bridget Marie Reyes-O'Connor, July 4.
Eniola Damilare Olayanjú and Amber Jo Green, July 5.
Caitlin Marie Swanberg and Evan Martin Morris, July 6.
Shakti Man Gurung and Melissa Gurung, July 11.
Dakota Lucas Hanson and Lorissa Lynn-Francis Kline, July 13.
Edward Louis Wood and Kayla Ann Wimer, July 15.
Robert Ray Devo and Kayla Mae Bates, July 15.
Andrea Inacia Rosales and Brent Allen Sutter, July 13.
David Alejandro Montero Rocha and Richard Zarate, July 17.
Leticia Ann Cowell and Jonathan Wigham, July 18.

Maira Erida Lara-Unzueta and Jesus Quinones Luna, July 19.
Carl Robert Houdek and Helen Marie Slipka, July 23.
Amanda Leigh Malmberg and Ley Enrique Ortiz-Calleja, July 23.
Sammy Daniel Miranda Hernandez and Bailey Renee Waldhauser, July 27.
Timon Joseph Higgins and Courtney Kaylee Lynch, July 27.

STEELE COUNTY DIVORCES
JULY 2019

Rodney Curtis Maxwell and Julie Ann Maxwell, July 3.
Timothy Wade Gedick and Amy Marie Gedick, July 5.
Bradley Thomas Rolle and Mary Ainsley Rolle, July 8.
Alexander Jay Brown and Tiata Mae Vule, July 8.
Jacob Thomas Reim and Courtney Ann Reim, July 18.
Kathryn Renee Anderson and Mark Doran Anderson, July 25.
Amy Lynne Evans and John Evans, July 29.
Wendy Marbury Cirkseana and Randall Jay Cirkseana Jr., July 30.



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner PA accounting firm has added two new faces to ownership of the company. They are Lari Arndt (holding bottle) and Allison Andrist next to Arndt. Pictured with the new partners are Jeremy and Amy Doerhoefer, left, and Tamzen Johnson, right. Johnson has sold her interest in the company.

ACCOUNTING FIRM:
adds 2 new partners FROM A1

to become a partner and continue my career in my hometown of Owatonna." Arndt received her accounting degree from Minnesota State University and her Master of Accounting at St. Mary's University. She has worked for private companies throughout her career, with a long track record of accounting experience. She became licensed by the Minnesota Board of Accountancy to practice in December 2018. Arndt's work ethic is exemplified through her work with businesses and individuals through payroll, accounting systems and taxation.

"It's been great coming back to where my accounting career started," said Arndt. "I'm excited to be back at the Blooming Prairie office." Partner Doerhoefer said the firm would be remiss not to give special mention to Johnson, founder and retiring partner. Johnson has served the community and clients well the past 30 years in a variety of roles. She will continue to work part time as her passion is helping clients and staff.

Johnson's ambitious goals in advancing this small company were achieved and exceeded

throughout her career at Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner PA, which she says started with two women and a desk. The firm extends many thanks and love to Johnson and her family as she works her way into retirement.

"Our Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner PA family goes far beyond our current partners, staff and clients," said Doerhoefer. "This family of over 30 years is made up of all of our former business owners, staff and community members. It's been an incredible opportunity to work with such wonderful people in the town that I love."

The firm has served southern Minnesota since 1997. In addition to the main office in Blooming Prairie and a satellite office in Owatonna, the firm also has a satellite office in New Richland. The firm's tagline is "we understand small businesses because we are a small business."

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OF THE MONTH

Elijah Skillestad



Chris Naatz

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Editor's Note:

The Times inadvertently forgot to run this in January. Our apologies.

Elijah Skillestad - 7th Grade

The junior high student of the month is Elijah Skillestad, who is in seventh grade. His favorite class is math. "I like the challenge of getting the right answer. It is either right or wrong, no in between," he says. Some comments shared by teachers about Elijah include:

"Elijah is a very personable kid. He's always excited to have a conversation with you. He also has a neat sense of humor."
"Elijah works hard and has a positive attitude in class every day."
"Elijah wants to learn new things and is willing to do what it takes to be successful."

Elijah's special interests are arts, crafts and flying drones. He has two siblings, Samuel and Levi. Elijah also enjoys several pets, including a dog, doves and bunnies.

Other teachers commented about Chris:

"Chris is respectful, kind student who brings positive energy into the classroom every day."
"Chris continues to work hard every day looking to be a successful student."
His special interests are agriculture and sports. He has three siblings, Erin, Hailey and Jacob.

Congratulations, Elijah and Chris, on your awesome classroom accomplishments!

SMIF seeks Early Literacy grant applicants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), in partnership with publishing companies Capstone and ABDO, is accepting applications for the Early Literacy Grant Program.

This grant is designed to support early literacy efforts that enhance school readiness for children birth to 5 years old by providing children with books. Organizations working with these children in SMIF's 20-county region are encouraged to apply for books to be given to families to keep and read to their children.

In 2002, Capstone helped launch the BookStart program, working with SMIF to distribute thousands of books to children in the region over a period of 15 years. In 2018, the Early Literacy Grant was formed as a new collaborative effort between SMIF and the two Mankato-based publishing companies to

put even more books into the hands of children birth to age five. SMIF has previously partnered with both companies on collectively distributing more than one hundred thousand books across the region through grants and programming.

"Reading with young children is critical for their development and future success," said Rae Jean Hansen, Vice President of Early Childhood at SMIF. "We are grateful to Capstone and ABDO for their continued partnership in this program to provide parents and children in the region with the support they need to prepare for school."

"We are honored to continue our 18-year partnership with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation through literacy," said Christie Skilbred, Capstone Corporate Giving and Literacy Center Manager. "We at Capstone believe in giv-

ing children the building blocks for lifelong success and that starts with access to books. SMIF is doing amazing work to positively affect the children in our region and we're proud to partner with them."

"We are excited to be donating books through the Early Literacy Grant program again this year," said DeMar Borth, Director of Marketing for ABDO. "This partnership supports our mission of getting more books into the hands of young readers."

"Award recipients will choose from a selection of more than 10,000 books donated by the publishing companies, including bilingual and early childhood appropriate books. Applications are due to SMIF by April 6."

For more information or to apply visit our website at www.smifoundation.org or contact Heidi Coulter at 507-214-7016; heidi@smifoundation.org.

Little Theatre seeks scholarship applicants

Little Theatre of Owatonna is proud to announce it is seeking eligible candidates for its 14th Sarah Foreman Memorial Post-Secondary Scholarship.

This scholarship was established as a memorial to long-time Little Theatre of Owatonna member Sarah Foreman who died in February 2006. Foreman's work as a director extended through 30 years, directing 18 shows and serving 11 years on the LTO Board during three separate terms. Her extensive contribution and dedication to theatre in Owatonna is memorialized in this scholarship.

This scholarship is meant to recognize and support the post-second-

ary education of a current Steele County resident or a previous (prior to 2020) graduate of a Steele County high school whose studies and/or participation in theatre distinguish him/her and support further theatre involvement. The recipient will be chosen based on theatre involvement, two letters of recommendation, academic achievements and educational goals, and other college and/or community involvement.

Details and forms for the application can be found on the Little Theatre of Owatonna website, <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org> or from county high school counselors/career centers. Deadline for application is May 31. Previous appli-

cants who qualify and did not receive the scholarship are encouraged to re-apply. Announcements and notification regarding the \$1,000 scholarship will be made in June. The recipient will be recognized, and the scholarship presented at the opening night of LTO's summer musical production, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Thursday, June 18.

Little Theatre of Owatonna is committed to providing dramatic arts opportunities and incentives for citizens of Steele County. Questions regarding this scholarship should be directed to Gaylene Steckelberg, LTO Scholarship Chairperson, at P.O. Box 64, Owatonna, MN 55060.

MEDFORD TEAMSTER:

fights to save pension FROM A1

"As a Teamster working 55 to 60 hour weeks, I looked forward to the pension I earned," said Kalk, who lives in Medford. "A full pension, not an 80% pension. I worked hard for that pension."

According to Kalk, the trouble began in 2014 when U.S. Rep. John Kline passed a bill just before Congress broke for the holidays to break up the existing pension law that had been on the books since 1975. At that time, Minneapolis Moline filed for bankruptcy, and the government stepped in to pass a law that pensions cannot be cut.

The Teamsters pensions are currently being funded by the Central States Pension Fund, which covers retirees in 24 states. Like some other pension companies, Central States is having trouble meeting its obligations. Kalk said they have been told the pension "will be broke" by 2025 if

no help is received from the government.

Kalk is involved with a Minnesota group called "Save Our Pension Minnesota" with 900 active members. They have held rallies around the state and lobbied Congress in an effort to pass the Butch Lewis Act, which delivers justice for 1.3 million workers and retirees like Kalk facing devastating cuts to pensions. The Act has the support of the Democratic-controlled House, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, won't allow the bill to be heard in the Senate putting the pensions in jeopardy.

The House passed the BLA last July.

"It's politics," Kalk says. "I'm so tired of the government. It's just a game to them."

Kalk said if the Senate passes BLA, he would be guaranteed a pension for the rest of his life. "If we

don't get BLA, our pension will be gone. We're trying to hang on to these fixed pensions," he said.

He is on a mission to spread the word throughout southern Minnesota in an effort to help people understand the situation and to push representatives to pass the BLA. "We're hoping with the election to get more democrats into the Senate so we can get this passed," Kalk said.

If the BLA doesn't pass, Kalk says, "This is a disaster if it happens. It's a catastrophe."

Kalk and others called themselves the "Romeos." It's an acronym that stands for Retired Old Men Eating Out Somewhere. Kalk reminds people if pensions are cut, they will no longer be Romeos. "If we lose our pensions, we will no longer be able to support our communities," he said. "We spend our money here in our communities."

BP ED FOUNDATION: supports kids FROM A3

and quality programs that are hard to fund in the basic school budget.

Olson pointed to agriculture/industrial tech areas, technology purchases and the reading programs at the elementary as innovative and extraordinary.

"The best part of the Ed Foundation is that it allows our community an avenue to show support for a great education system we have here in BP," remarked Olson. "The better and greater the support, the better the education is for our kids," he added.

The BP Ed Foundation allows all kids to have both life experiences and educational experiences that wouldn't be possible without their funding, says Kim Lea, second grade teacher at the BP Elementary School.

"It's truly amazing how this community works together."

Chris Staloch
BP Superintendent

book learning and real life application, Lea explained. "Students see that what they are learning and it can impact their future, which in turn, builds a sense of empowerment," she said. STEAM Programs allow all children to improve their critical thinking skills and teamwork, Lea believes.

"The students aren't told how to do something. Instead, they are encouraged to think about the problem, brainstorm how to solve it, and learn through mistakes. The kids get excited and don't realize they are learning. They just think

than the Ed Foundation, mentioned Lea. "If I need something as a teacher, there are many people in BP who would jump to help me," Lea related.

Lea pointed to the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce providing a Junior Entrepreneur program led by Linda Klemmensen as an example of community support for education. Lea says when she needs supplies for a project, B to Z Hardware does everything possible to help her.

The BP City Center, BP Police, BP Fire, F & M State Bank, Pizza Kellar, The Bakery and Knecht Ford give tours to help learning come alive for her students, Lea said.

Arkema also offers a summer science institute and judges the Science Fair. "The list could go on and on," says Lea. "The community is amazing and really supports the efforts of the school; Blooming Prairie is a community like no other," she continued.

In conclusion, Lea offered his comment: "I can honestly not thank the Ed Foundation enough for all they do for our school. The Foundation began with a few people and a passion for helping others and has evolved into a Foundation that is truly impacting the lives and education of all the BP students (both past and present).

"The Ed Foundation is the icing on the cake of an already amazing educational system. I'm proud to call my family Awesome Blossoms."

Kim Lea
BP Teacher

Field trips, art residency and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) resources are just a few of the experiences where the Ed Foundation helps.

Lea just recently helped organize a special STEAM/STEM day at the elementary school. Students were able to solve real life problems, she said.

Last year, students had to build a bridge to sustain a certain amount of weight. This year, kids gave feedback to MnDOT about what they would like to see for the Highway 218 project.

Activities like these empower the kids and bridge the gap between

they are having fun."

Lea said she has resided in Blooming Prairie for almost 20 years, and one of the things of which she is most proud, is how the community supports education of its children.

"It comes from the core of what our small community believes and the Education Foundation is a huge part of that," said Lea.

The Ed Foundation allows teachers to follow their passions and to create opportunities like STEAM that wouldn't be possible without the Ed Foundation funding and support, Lea says.

The support for our schools runs deeper

Winners announced in SSC's walking challenge

Several groups around the area are being recognized as winners in Southeast Service Cooperative's ninth annual walking challenge.

The challenge attracted 700 people from 19 SSC member organizations. Included were 12 school districts and seven local government members.

Mower County was the winner in the local government division. The Rice-Steel 911 Center in Owatonna took second place while Austin HRA came in third. Honorable mention placements included: Freeborn County, Goodhue County, City

of Byron and Workforce Development, Inc.

Trish Harren, a Mower County team member, stated, "What motivated me was not wanting to let my team down. On those nights when I did not get at least 10,000 steps and I just wanted to lay on the couch and watch TV, I got in my car and drove to the courthouse and went to the fitness room and watched an episode or two of HGTV and got in my steps and usually more than my goal!"

Winners in the School District Challenge included: Red Wing - 1st Place, Wabasha-Kellogg - 2nd Place, Grand Meadow -

3rd Place. The remaining teams, which each received an honorable mention, are listed in the order of their ranking: PEM, Goodhue, Stewartville, Byron, Albert Lea, Lewiston, Kasson-Mantorville, LeRoy-Oshtemo, and Southland. Wabasha-Kellogg was the winner for having the highest participation.

The contest, which ran the month of January, was based on the number of steps walked by participating members. Trophies (and bragging rights) are awarded to the winning teams. Certificates will be presented to all teams who participated.

Hormel Institute earns \$670K grant

Gene therapy has become a powerful instrument for the treatment of many diseases to prevent or stop the disease from progressing. Dr. George Aslanidi, Associate Professor and head of the Molecular Biotechnology and Cancer Vaccine lab at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, received an award of \$670,000 by the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics along with collaborator Dr. Kah-Whye Peng, Professor of Oncology at Mayo Clinic. They will work together to provide support for clinical applications of gene therapy in the effort to ensure novel cutting-edge technologies are available for patients.

"Gene therapy aims to alter what nature has planned in an effort to change the outcome to a more positive one for patients," said Dr. Aslanidi, who joined The Hormel Institute in 2017. "Manipulation of genetic materials such as gene substitution, gene overexpression, or gene 'editing' can stop or alter what was destined to

be negative for a patient and turn that around for a better life quality."

Adeno-associated virus (AAV) is a non-pathogenic human parvovirus that has been most widely explored as a virus-based delivery platform for safe and effective gene therapy of numerous inherited or acquired diseases affecting different organs/tissues. The recent success of AAV-based gene therapy for rare eye disease and muscular atrophy sparks interest for use vectors for wide-verify if genetic and other diseases when positive clinical outcome requires genetic manipulation with cell and tissues.

One of the major limitations in AAV technology applications is the bottleneck caused by the current production process and pre-clinical evaluation of the vector purity and activity. The current collaborative proposal between Dr. Aslanidi (The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota) and Dr. Peng (Mayo Clinic) will provide access of researchers from both institutions to the reliable source of AAV for pre-clinical application produced under Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) principles to ensure safety, consistency, and quality of vectors. The ultimate goal of this study will be to provide patients with expanded, innovative cures.

The three-year grant begins in April 2020. The Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics is funded by the Minnesota State Legislature and funds joint projects between University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic in an effort to fund novel applications of advances in biotechnology, genomics, proteomics, imaging, bioinformatics and more in an effort to prevent, diagnose or treat disease to support and protect human health.

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TAX TIPS 2020



Five steps taxpayers can take now to protect against identity theft

All taxpayers should make sure they're doing everything they can to prevent a thief from stealing their identity.

Tax-related ID theft occurs when someone uses a taxpayer's stolen personal information to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. The thieves use personal information like a stolen Social Security number.

The IRS and its partners

are constantly working to combat these types of crimes, but they can't do it alone. Taxpayers play an important role when it comes to preventing identity theft.

Here are some tips to help taxpayers protect themselves against identity theft. Taxpayers should:

- Use strong, unique passwords. They should also consider using a password manager.
- Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening calls and texts from

thieves. These scammers pose as legitimate organizations such as banks, credit card companies, and even the IRS.

- Not click on links in unsolicited emails or messages from un-

known senders. Also, people shouldn't click on links or download attachments from emails that seem suspicious, even if they appear to be from senders they know.

- Protect personal

information and that of any dependents. For example, people shouldn't routinely carry around their Social Security cards. They should also make sure tax records are secure.



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Book of Golden Deeds award now taking applications

The Owatonna Exchange Club is seeking nominations for its Book of Golden Deeds Award.

When searching for the appropriate volunteer to honor, keep in mind that the recipient need not be a person of great wealth or prestige. It is important to choose a person(s) who is sincere about helping the community, has an

exceptional track record of continued, unselfish giving and enjoys volunteering his or her time to help others. The recipient can be from any profession, a member of any organization or someone who deserves acclaim, but rarely receives it. The Book of Golden Deeds Award is not limited to a single volunteer, but can also be presented to a

group of individuals such as a civic group, sororities/fraternities, religious groups and charitable organizations.

Nominations must be returned by March 27 to the Owatonna Exchange Club, Sharon Klein, 240 15th St. SW, Owatonna, MN 55906. Nomination forms are on Owatonna Exchange Club Facebook page or by re-

questing them at kleinowatonna@msn.com. If you have a question, please contact Klein at 507-363-0443.

The Awards Banquet will be held April 23 at Torey's in Owatonna. Guest speaker will be Julie Rethmeier. Tickets for \$25 will go on sale March 16 at Kotke's Jewelers, Insty Prints or the City Administration office.

BOOK NOOK

Library prepared to handle Coronavirus



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

The Owatonna Public Library was only open for one year when a smallpox epidemic hit Owatonna in the spring of 1901. The Board of Health recommended that no books could be taken from the library for one month. During this time, the library was disinfected before the reading room reopened. Books that had been exposed to smallpox were burned. Before anyone could again check out books, they had to sign a statement that there were no infectious diseases in their homes.

Epidemics, unfortunately, do occur periodically. As we face the Coronavirus at this time, the Blooming Prairie Branch Library will do all that we can to keep the library clean and healthy. We are being vigilant about cleaning children's items and are providing sanitizing wipes for those using computers. Further precautions will be taken as necessary.

We request that if you are sick, please stay home! If children are too ill to attend school, they are too ill to spend hours at the library. If you need items to help pass the time or to entertain sick children, give us a call (507-583-7750) or email us at bpbli@selco.info. We will be happy to gather items for you and deliver them to you in the parking lot. We will also deliver items to daycares, the elderly, and care facilities.

Blooming Prairie has survived through smallpox, polio, wars, and economic depressions. We can handle this too!

COLLEGE NEWS

Area students honored for academic success

RIVERLAND COLLEGE

Several area students are being honored for academic excellence at Riverland Community College in Austin.

Hannah Ahrens and Reese Millam of Blooming Prairie were named to the President's List for Fall Semester 2019.

Those honored on the Dean's List were Chloe Emberson and Laura Sorensen of Waltham and Ashleigh Alwes, Lila Ann Carlson, Alexis Olivo and Emily Trihus of Blooming Prairie.

To be eligible for the president's list, students must have completed 12

credits per semester with letter grades and have earned a GPA of 4.0.

The dean's list requires students to have completed 12 credits and a GPA of 3.25 to 3.99.

U OF M- TWIN CITIES

William Cardenas and Jesse Schewe have been named to the 2019 Fall Semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

Cardenas is a freshman majoring in human development while Schewe is a senior in the College of Science and Engineering.

To qualify for the Dean's

List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 GPA.

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE

Brayden Wachowiak of Owatonna was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. for the 2019 Fall Semester.

Wachowiak is in the game design and development program.

Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.4 and they complete at least 12 credit hours.

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

Three area students are being recognized for academic excellence at Minnesota State University Mankato for Fall 2019 semester.

They are Ethan Arett, who qualified for the high honor list, McKenna Hein and Leah Schiefert earned spots on the honor list. They are all from Blooming Prairie.

A total of 915 students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 GPA while 2,530 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 GPA to qualify for the Honor List.

BLOTTER: FROM AM

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 300 block of Stoneridge Lane NE at 10:09 a.m.

Feb. 29 Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 11 a.m.

March 1 DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 28th St. NW and County Road 45 N. at 4:18 p.m.

March 2 Restraining Order: At 2:31 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 400 block of State Ave. NW.

March 3 Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Elm Ave. N. at 3:55 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Truancy: Police received reports of truancy in the city at 9:41 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Officers began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 300 block of School St. E. at 9:42 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1700 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 1:21 p.m.

Trespassing: At 2:47 p.m., a subject was trespassing in the 300 block of School St. E.

March 4 Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 600 block of Rose St. E. at 4:35 p.m.

Restraining Order: At 7:49 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S.

March 5 Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for

shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:20 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Rose St. E. at 1:35 p.m.

Theft: At 3:39 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 1400 block of Linn Ave. SW.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Feb. 28 Fire: Deputies responded to a fire call in the 2200 block of 82nd Ave. NW in Meriden Township at 3:36 a.m.

Feb. 29 DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at Highway 14 W. and 39th Ave. SW in Owatonna Township at 3:06 a.m.

March 3 Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 12:47 a.m.

Assault: Deputies responded to an assault in the 600 block of School St. in Ellendale at 4:14 p.m.

Arrest: Deputies assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 11:22 p.m.

March 4 Arrest: Deputies assisted another agency with arresting a subject at Interstate 35 and Highway 14 W. in Owatonna Township at 10:20 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Tyler Steven Britt, 24, arrested at 9:27 a.m. March 5, felony domestic assault, held for court.

Tyler Steven Britt, 24, arrested at 10:41 p.m.

March 4, felony threats of violence and DANCO violation, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Randy Scott Mensing, 56, arrested at 6:35 a.m. March 3, warrant arrest, \$15,000 bail.

Sean Martin Cicero, 39, arrested at 2:15 p.m. March 3, probation violation, held for court.

David Valentino Morris, 32, arrested at 6:36 a.m. March 3, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Matthew Kyle Strampke, 36, arrested at 12 a.m. March 4, 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 Feb. 23 - March 1:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Eric J. Books II, 25, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Kimberly E. Huemoeller, 23, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; Anthony Perno Jr., 49, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Joshua D. Peterson, 38, Claremont, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; John W. Walbruch, 71, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kate S. Brevner, 36, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Andrew J. Gustafson, 19, Maplewood, speeding, \$140; James F. Nickels, 27, Rochester, stop sign, \$130; Chadrick R. Peterson, 47,

Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

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

Cancer Corner

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Ham Bingo is fun for everyone

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It's going to be a BIG one, says Blooming Prairie Cancer Group treasurer Cheri Krejci when previewing the 2020 Ham Bingo fundraiser scheduled for Thursday, March 19.

The Seventh Annual Ham Bingo will be held in the Pizza Cellar party room. Everyone is welcome. "It is a family affair," says Krejci. The BP Cancer Group brought in \$2,300 with the fundraiser last year, which drew nearly 100 Bingo players. Krejci encourages Bingo players to come early because tables fill quickly. A new speaker system will be set up in the restaurant if space is needed there.

Proceeds go to the BP Cancer Group's general fund. Cards are \$1 each. Twenty-five games will be played with the last game of the evening being a blackout. The winner of this final game will win a jam-packed Easter basket. Twenty-five hams will be given to lucky Bingo players. The hams are donated by Robyn and Craig Kruckeberg. Hope butter will also be an alternative choice if Bingo winners would rather have that commodity.

Three meat raffles and one Hope butter raffle will be promoted by the 2020 Ham Bingo volunteers. Connie Troom and Ashley Valek will be Bingo callers for the evening.

The BP Cancer Group is sponsoring two Purse Bingo events for Saturday, April 4. The first fundraiser starts at 11 a.m. and the second will be at 5 p.m. Some tickets remain. Contact Krejci.



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Treasurer Cheri Krejci holds a Ham Bingo flyer and encourages families to attend Ham Bingo at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 at the Pizza Cellar Party Room. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

Sponsored by Krejci Ford

SCHOOL LUNCH

BP Elementary

March 11- Walking taco, chicken fajitas, spicy pinto beans
March 12- Italian meatball sub, ham deli sandwich, kettle potato chips, homemade brownie
March 13- Cheese pizza, sloppy Joe on a bun, broccoli salad
March 16- Chicken alfredo with pasta, garlic toast, crispy chicken salad, roasted broccoli
March 17- Crispy chicken nuggets, chicken & gravy, mashed potatoes, garden peas, dinner roll, chocolate chip cookie

BP High School

March 11- Walking taco, refried beans, corn dog, buffalo chicken salad, chef salad
March 12- Roast turkey & gravy, mashed potatoes, dinner roll, homemade brownie, chef salad, chicken Caesar salad, breakfast bar
March 13- Sloppy taco sandwich, broccoli salad, maxx sticks, chef salad, chicken Caesar salad, build your own sub
March 16- Turkey BLT flatbread, kale salad, cheeseburger, crispy chicken salad, chicken Caesar salad, pasta bar
March 17- Shepherd's pie, garden peas, dinner roll, pizza, crispy chicken salad, pizza munchable, taco bar

Worship & Faith

Letting Go with Grace



Rev. Mike Walerius

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

As we continue to move closer and closer to the Cross this Lenten season, we are called to look at ourselves and recognize God in our lives. For many of us this can be difficult. Either we don't have a strong relationship with God, or we are so burdened by life we are unable to recognize what God is saying. Whenever we are in life, God is calling us into relationship and asking us to let go of what is holding us down. God is calling us to be free from our burdens so we can live a healthy, holy life. Struggles in our lives can feel overwhelming at

times, though. The mistakes that we have made can weigh heavy on our shoulders. The loss we have endured can break our hearts. The pain and judgement others have inflicted on us can make us believe that we are not worthy of God's love – that somehow we are unlovable by God, by others and even ourselves. This is not true! No matter who you are or what you have gone through God loves you and God is seeking you this Lenten season. God is saying to you: I will help you let go of what is burdening you. I will free

you from your pain.

At First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie our theme this lent is "Letting Go with Grace." We are intentionally taking time each week to reflect on our lives and recognize the hurts that we carry in our hearts. We are searching ourselves and asking God to make visible those deeply seated emotions/feelings/struggles that are holding us back from a healthy relationship with God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

As we name our struggles, we ask God to take these barriers from our

hearts so we can be opened to the Spirit in our midst. This naming and asking can be a powerful way to acknowledge our own brokenness and then receive healing from God. These burdens can include events that have happened to us, they can be actions we have done to ourselves and others, or they can be emotions we hold on to like anger, greed, jealousy or fear. Grief, loss, sadness and isolation can be debilitating burdens that many bear alone. Whatever the inner most challenge is, by naming it we are acknowledging that we need a change.

What we are doing is not working and we want something else, we need something more for our lives. I am inviting you to Let Go with Grace, too. Whether you let go in worship or privately in your home, know that as you ask God to release you from your burdens God hears you and God answers your prayer. If your burden is great, continue to ask God for healing – but seek help from a friend or family member: talk to a Pastor or spiritual guide. Know that relief and change will come as you Let Go with Grace. God Bless.

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
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW.,
Bloomington
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Hedi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Walerius
507-583-6621
firstlutheran.org
Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMS
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandra 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
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA
7618 NE 44th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edvardson
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
Rev. Suzanne Froelich,
Interim Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.rglutheran.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 Klavetter and Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday
507-567-2474

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 SE 50th 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 92nd 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
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Bieghaus
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 Starasich
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 Antony Arokiyam
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. with Children's Church
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
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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
Father John Wilmot
507-477-2256
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday

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

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

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
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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 Cirsena
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Scott Jakel
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
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.
Bible Study: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

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

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

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

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

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across
the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5669
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
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

(Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

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

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
651-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

UCC

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

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

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 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
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Fellowship: 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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A LIFE CHANGER: Benefit planned as Green battles incurable ALS FROM A1

Maison lives at home with his parents and is a second assistant manager at Casey's in Ellendale. Kestle lives in St. Cloud. She has cystic fibrosis.

To assist Green and her family with the financial burden caused by the disease, friends and family have been planning a Cindy Green Benefit. The benefit is scheduled for 3-7 p.m. Saturday, March 21 at the Geneva Community Center. A free-will donation is asked for a meal featuring sloppy Joe's, potato salad, cole slaw, chips and a beverage. A bake sale, silent auction and live auction will be part of the benefit.

Cheryl Boverhuis and Mary Bailey are co-chairs of the benefit. If interested in donating or helping with the benefit, contact Allie Larson at 507-456-3234 or Jean Worrell at 507-383-0833.

For monetary donations, an account has been set up at the Commerce Bank in Geneva, P.O. Box 149, Geneva, MN 55035.

ALS is an aggressive disease with no cure and has unfortunately caused numerous complications in Cindy's daily life.

"Things we all take for granted daily such as eating, drinking, walking and even breathing (she is using portable oxygen) have become difficult for Cindy," says co-chairs Boverhuis and Bailey.

Green has lost most of her speech and her dexterity. She uses a phone speech assist application to communicate and also uses a "boogie board" on which to place messages.

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

As she, Frank and Maison met with this writer to discuss their journey, Cindy fought back tears but replaced them quickly with a wide, glowing smile.

Green also proudly wears a Green Bay Packer shirt and points to her son Maison as another Packer fan. Husband Frank said he claims the Minnesota Vikings as his team.

She worked as an expeditor for Viracoon of Owatonna and logged 28 years with the glass manufacturer before she was forced to quit.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRID
Cindy and Frank Green and son Maison have attended every planning meeting for a benefit planned for Cindy Green March 21 at the Geneva Community Center.

"It's been a roller coaster ride for us," admits Frank, who says he is an arm's length away from Cindy during the day. He is employed at Geneva Meats.

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

Frank said he and his wife have become "rock hounds" and he has made jewelry from some of their finds.

Frank said he has become "pretty good" at house work, cooking and cleaning.

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

The Greens are very appreciative of the support

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

Darin Rhoades is Frank's partner in making comfort crosses. He said he recently made crosses for Larry and Emily Otto, Ellendale. Emily was recently diagnosed with ALS.

"We are overwhelmed by the support," Frank said.

"We can't thank people enough," added son Maison. The Greens have been made aware of the many items donated for auctions at the benefit.

Here's some of the items: afghans, quilts, bean bag game (Tony Holmes), two-night stay at Chase on the Lake in Walker, five auto details (by Frank), wine, signed Harrison Smith Minnesota Vikings mini helmet, generator, two \$50 gift certificates for Dragon's Lair Tattoo Parlor and many other items.

Frank plans to make 50 dozen cookies for the benefit, chocolate chip, sea salt caramel and white chocolate craisin. Cindy became famous for her chocolate covered cherries, says Frank.

ALS BY THE NUMBERS

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

Source: ALS Association

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

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

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



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRID

A benefit for Cindy Green has been in the planning stages for weeks. Here's the planning committee including Cindy and Frank Green. Row 1: Frank Green, Cindy Green and Maison Green; Row 2: Valerie Srock, Patty Hocking, Jeannie Worrell, Allie Larson and Karen Wiersma; Row 3: Becky Larson, Kim Hauer, Stacey Blouin, Les Johnson, Cheryl Boverhuis, Mary Bailey, Diane Smith, Kelly Mrocz, Joyce Richards and Darin Rhoades.

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Fair Board considers more changes for racetrack

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The race track situated on the Steele County Fairgrounds used to be known for its demolition derbies and stock car racing, but now it is used primarily for music and other entertainment. The track has not hosted a stock car race since 2011.

With this change in mind, the Fair Board has been carefully considering how best to utilize some of the space the track currently takes up. In 2018, it was decided to peel away part of the north end in order to free up additional space for vendors and entertainment.

This portion began synonymous with the newly minted Steele Saloon, which opened last year and provided fairgoers an alternative to the Beer Garden. Now it seems the south end is destined for a similar fate as the Fair Board has already begun discussing how they could utilize that space.

At last Thursday's monthly meeting talks got a little more specific as director Josh Prokopec mentioned the idea of turning the south end into a parking space. Prokopec provided the board with some possible layouts for a gravel parking lot situated along 18th St. SE.

Many of the board members were intrigued by this notion, including Gene Fisher who lobbied for additional handicapped parking within this new region. "Our handicap parking is scattered all over the grounds, and not in one particular spot," he said.

"It would be nice to at least consider the possible of having an area that is designated as handicap parking," Fisher added. "Maybe that is something to think about on that south end." It was also suggested that a handicap parking space could be situated somewhere else as more parking becomes available.

While all of these discussions are preliminary, the board was in agreement that more handicap parking would be a good addition. Construction on this section is yet to be determined, as is the final layout and design which will likely be cemented after this year's festivities run their course.

The board is also continuing to establish the area freed up from the north end of the track. Board members have recently been floating options when it comes to how to best surface that area, and whether it should be black top, grass, or an alternative.

"One of the things that I'd really like to really concentrate on is what we're going to do — if the remainder of this winter and spring keeps going the way it is — maybe we can jump on things a little earlier this year," manager Scott Kozelka told the board. "We need to figure out as a team what we're going to do on the north end."

Kozelka and the board want to find the best possible solution when it comes to establishing the surface of the north end. "Are we going to put grass in there, are we going to bring dirt in, are we going to make it all recycled asphalt and make some paths through there," he said. "As we did it last year, we had some big things that took up a lot of space in there."

Board member Doug Meier mentioned the idea of paving that region. "I think the whole north end should be black top," he opined. "It takes our imperious thing back away though."

Meier manages the saloon, which is situated in that area. Some on the board felt that grass was still the best option, including director Jim Abbe who suggested that they wait another year for the grass to establish. "If you go to the State Fair it's not all asphalt. Machinery Hill is green," Abbe said. "There's lots of green space up there. You got to give it a year to settle into place."

Overall, the consensus was to try and establish the grass by adding some dirt on top and playing the waiting game. Treasurer Tim Arlt mentioned that an inch or two of extra dirt could go a long way to helping establish a green space there. Kozelka said that he would look into getting some new dirt there as per the board's wishes.

While no discussion or timetable have been set, the board will also be considering a similar removal and repurposing of the east end of the track.



Take that, Mr. Kittelson

Blooming Prairie sixth grad teacher Matt Kittelson gets slimed by Levi Swinarski, Kaden Anderson and Liberty Cartin during Slime Day on March 2. The students loved to watch teachers and principal Jacob Schwarz get slimed as part of the school's I Love to Read program. See Page 9B for story and more photos.



Pathways to exciting times



Steele Talkin'
JESS STROMLEY

What an exciting time it's been here at Community Pathways.

We've seen a lot of new faces coming into our thrift store (Unique Finds) and donations are piling up. When bringing in your donations, think Spring as we're no longer accepting winter items. We appreciate your cooperation. Your support means the world to us and our customers. Our donation center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during regular business hours. Also don't miss out on \$2 Tuesdays, where all hanging clothes are only \$2 and every penny spent goes right back into supporting our mission. Marketplace has been very busy as well. With new customers registering every day, donations coming in and we just had our annual Hometown Sampler fundraiser, which blew us out of the water with your generosity. Bringing in a total of \$28,189.26. We're beyond blessed to be a part of this amazing community. Your donations, whether food or monetary, are what helps us serve over 700

households every month.

Did you know March is MN Food Share month? Minnesota Food Share March Campaign brings together various community organizations, businesses and faith communities to help restock nearly 300 food shelves statewide. In 2019, participating food shelves raised more than \$8 million dollars and over 5.1 million pounds of food. One hundred percent of donations received by this campaign go into the Food Fund and are distributed to food shelves across Minnesota.

With all these wonderful donations coming in, we're always in need of volunteers. Some of the positions we have include front desk check in, cashier for Unique Finds, sorting and hanging clothes, taking shoppers through, stocking shelves and unloading truck. We cannot do what we do without are volunteers, we appreciate all their hard work and dedication!

Erna Bombeck said it best, "Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain loving one another."

Jess Stromley is the fund development and marketing coordinator with Community Pathways in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Humane Society aims to build new shelter

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Recognizing a need to take care of the county's lost and abused dogs and cats, the Steele County Humane Society is launching a capital fund campaign to build a new shelter.

Members of the organization are out to raise \$1.9 million of a \$2.5 million goal to construct a new building on land they have owned for the past three years next to Chase Lake Dog Park in Owatonna. SCHS has already raised \$600,000 of its goal through previous commitments and estates.

Karen Thompson, who is a member of the steering committee, said hitting the goal would allow SCHS to construct the building, furnish it and have enough

funds to operate the center for five years.

The shelter would be licensed to house up to 100 animals, including 40 dogs, according to Thompson.

Currently, SCHS is considered a foster-based program and hasn't had a shelter for animals during its entire 30 years of existence. Animals in need of help are presently funneled out to people's homes throughout the county. "We are always short of fosters," Thompson pointed out.

She said with a facility, SCHS would be able to handle a lot more of the animals in Steele County that don't have a place to be. Thompson also hopes a shelter would become a valuable resource to the community in which there would be many volunteer



opportunities as well as younger children having the opportunity to read to animals. "Reading is comforting to the animals," she said.

Thompson said the Steele County Sheriff's Office has already expressed an interest in partnering with the society. Sheriff Lon Thiele is also one of the capital fund committee members.

A fundraising kick-off will take place on Saturday, April 4 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Sparetime Entertainment Center in Owatonna. Members will be available to answer questions and show artists renderings of what the new facility would look like as well as hand out brochures. There will also be a silent auction. One question SCHS members often hear is where is the money that

has been donated in the past. "The money is there," Thompson says. "It hasn't been frittered away. It has been in holding."

If people are unable to attend the fundraiser but would like to help the cause, they can send donations to Steele County Humane Society, P.O. Box 220, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Thompson stresses that no donations is too small. "Corporate donations are hugely important, but just as important is the general public donating as a family," she said. "The smallest donation is just as important as the biggest."

Besides soliciting donations, SCHS is also looking for volunteers. "We can always use more volunteers," said Thompson, who has served on the society's board of directors for four years.

Thompson is excited to see the shelter become reality. Construction is expected to begin this fall. "It has been a dream for 30 years," she said. "We just want it to be a vital resource for people. We want to work together with the community."

UNLEASHING THE POSSIBILITIES FUNDRAISER

Who: Steele County Humane Society
What: Raise funds for new animal shelter
When: Saturday, April 4, 12 noon-3 p.m.
Where: Sparetime Entertainment - Owatonna
More info: www.steelecountyhumanesociety.org

County launches new online residential recycling tool

The new online recycling tool was launched Jan. 31. County residents are encouraged to visit the Steele County's website or use the direct link steelecountymn.recoll.net to view their monthly recycling calendars.

The online recycling tool is user friendly and can be viewed in both English and Español. The tool

has multiple features including recycling reminders by phone or email and service alerts for weather and holiday related delays. Residents can link their recycling calendar to their iCal, Outlook or Google

Calendar for easy access to their collection dates, reminders and service alerts. Can't remember where the recycling drop-off sites

are located? All seven drop-off locations address, and hours can be found using the online tool.

Not sure what goes in the bin? That, too, can be found using the new online tool.

For more recycling related questions, use the 'Need Help' tab for quick and easy answers to questions like, how to print your calendar,

canceling or modifying your reminders, phone numbers for missed pickup and service problems, landfill information and more.

Residents with questions regarding the new online recycling tool are welcome to call the Steele County Planning & Zoning office at 507-444-7475. Members of the office would be happy to help.



Preparing for Hwy. 14 expansion

Work has been underway south of Claremont on the new Hwy. 14 expansion project. Within the past few weeks, crews moved a house that was in the direct path of the new roadway. Workers have also been clearing away many trees and brush along the proposed route. Actual construction on the 12.5 mile expansion between Owatonna and Dodge Center is slated to begin this spring. The two year project will expand the current roadway from two lanes to four lanes and bypass the current road to the south.

STAFF PHOTOS BY WICK MUSSELER



More drama about to unfold at Little Theatre

Little Theatre of Owatonna has announced the cast for its spring production of "Cat's Cradle."

The action takes place at "The Cresswell Arms," an old coaching-house in a remote English village. Many years before, a kidnapping (and perhaps murder) had taken place in the town, but the policeman assigned to the case by Scotland Yard, Inspector Frost, had failed to solve the crime. Now he has returned to try again, only to find that he has become a very unwelcome guest. In fact, as he reopens his investigation, he encounters suspicion and even hostility, as it be-

comes increasingly clear that he is facing a conspiracy of silence and the wish of the townspeople to leave the past shrouded in mystery. But Frost presses on, with results that are both startling and disquieting, and which lead to a surprise ending in which justice is indeed served after all—but in a manner more ironic and severe than any formal court of law could mete out.

Jon Terrill is the director and Mary Butler Fraser is the technical director. The cast includes: Linda Karnauskas as Peggy Fletcher, Mark Zolner as Sam, Sharon Gearin as Miss Merton, Kenna

DaMitz as Sarah, Kim Schaufenbuel as Pamela Fulton, Tyler Mielke as Frost, Hank Bell as Bob Marriott, and David Phillips as Sir Charles Cresswell.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m., April 24-25, May 1-2, with matinee performances at 2 p.m. April 26 and May 3. Online tickets will be available at www.LittleTheatreOwatonna.org for the public on April 11. The LTO Box Office opens April 20. Adult ticket price is \$17; student ticket price is \$14.

"Cat's Cradle" is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Owatonna Foundation offers \$15K in scholarships

Graduating spring 2020? April 10 is the deadline for traditional Owatonna Foundation scholarship applications. The Owatonna Foundation has \$15,000 available to assist students who will be attending non-four year programs at technical/community colleges to prepare themselves for a vocational or technical career.

An applicant must be a June 2020 graduate of Owatonna High School, Owatonna Alternative School, Eagle Academy, Owatonna Christian School, Choice Technical Academy, or Pillsbury College Prep. The parent or guardian of applicant must be a resident of Steele County.

Previous award recipients have pursued training in the

following areas: accounting, business and office technology, agriculture services and management, carpentry/cabinet making, child development, civil engineering technician, construction electrician, cosmetology, culinary arts/chef, drafting, electronics, interior design and sales, jewelry and gemology, machining/tool and die, microcomputer support technician, radiology, paramedic/EMT, and sales and marketing.

"We are excited to be offering these scholarships to graduating seniors," said Laura Resler, executive director of the Foundation. "Currently, there is a lot of demand for skilled workers both in and out of Owatonna. Students graduating from

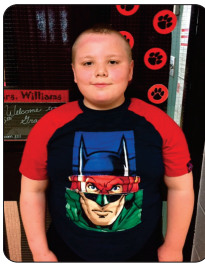
these programs can earn good wages and not have a lot of debt when they enter the workforce at the time of their graduation," she said.

Resler added, "The Foundation has always recognized the contributions of these workers to our local industry and is proud to be supportive of their education."

Applications must be submitted no later than April 10. Applications are available in English, Spanish and Somali at the Foundation's website at <http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/Grants/Scholarships>, and Apply for a Scholarship from Jill Holmes at 507-455-3059, and at the Foundation's office at 108 West Park Square, Owatonna.



NRHEG Panther of the Week



PRESTON

Sponsored by:



NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's *Panther of the Week* is **Preston Lillico**. He lives in Ellendale with his mom and sister and is in Mrs. Williams fifth grade class.

Preston is always respectful to teachers and classmates alike. He is also helpful. When he gets to the classroom each morning he will help get the room ready for the day right away. He is always on task and following directions.

He shows kindness to everyone. **Keep up the great work Preston!**

Housing rehab loans available from Semcac

Semcac, a Community Action Agency serving southeastern Minnesota, has funds available through Minnesota Housing for housing rehabilitation loans.

Funds will be awarded for eligible homeowners in Steele, Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Rice, Wabasha and Winona counties. This loan is a 0% interest rate loan (no monthly payments) with a 15-year term or a 10-year term for mo-

ble/manufactured homes in a mobile home park. If you meet the following requirements, you may be eligible to borrow up to \$27,000 to complete improvements to your home:

- Must have owned and occupied the property as principal place of residence for the past six months;
- Current with your property taxes;
- Current with your mortgage payments;
- Have homeowners' insurance on the property;

- Have less than \$25,000 in assets;

- Have total gross household income within the income limits, which is 30% of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Properties in a Reverse Mortgage, Trust or in a Cooperative are not eligible. For more information, please contact Cindy at Semcac, P.O. Box 549, Rushford, MN 55971, call 507-864-8207 or e-mail cindyv@semcac.org. All applicants are protected under the Data Privacy Act.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MARCH 16
6:30 p.m. – Friends of the Library Meeting, BP Library

MARCH 17
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
5 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting

MARCH 18
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

Noon – Chamber Meeting, City Center
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting

MARCH 19
Cancer Group Ham Bingo, Pizza Cellar

MARCH 28
7 p.m. – BP Education Foundation Auction, Pizza Cellar

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

MARCH 12
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

MARCH 13
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
Ellendale Fire Department Fish Fry, Community Building

MARCH 16
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

MARCH 18
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

MARCH 21
3 – 7 p.m. – Cindy Green ALS Benefit, Geneva Community Center

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

MARCH 12
Rod & Reel Trade-In, Cabela's
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – Grand Opening of American Legion A

Powerful Factor of Good, History Center
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge
6:30 p.m. – Gardening for Everyone, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library

MARCH 13
6:30 p.m. – Woman of Achievement Awards & Celebration, Country Club

MARCH 14
Figure Skating Show, Four Seasons Centre
9 a.m. – Craft Show, Lansing Corners Supper Club
10 a.m. – Girl Scout Cookie Sale, Fleet Farm

11 a.m. – Fishing Seminar, Cabela's
6:30 p.m. – Romantic Concert, History Center

MARCH 15
1 p.m. – Fishing Seminar, Cabela's

MARCH 16
7 p.m. – Medford Zoning Board Meeting, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Sons of Norway Meeting, Owatonna Elks Lodge

MARCH 17
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime, Owatonna Library
4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – AAUW March Meeting, Arts Center
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

MARCH 18
10 a.m. – Senior Housing Coop Informational Meeting, Hy-Vee

Open house set at NRHEG Elementary

An Open house for kindergarten and Bridges orientation for NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale is set for Monday, March 23, at 4:30 p.m. The orientation will be held in the NRHEG Elementary School music room and will last approximately one hour. Please bring your child

with you to the orientation. Both NRHEG's Bridges, which is a kindergarten alternative program, and Kindergarten programs will be highlighted at this orientation. If you have questions, please contact Jean Greenwood, administrative assistant, in the school office at 507-684-3181.

AUSTIN 7-DAY FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
80	78	81	81	82	79	76
62	63	62	63	62	63	63

WEEKEND Weather Forecasts
7am & 6pm
KSMQ TV
The Better Choice

J & H LIQUOR

WINTER EVENTS

BAR BINGO: Monday @ 6:30 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

April: Customer Appreciation Day
24 Years of Business
July 3: Street Dance - Red Dirt Road - 8 p.m. to Midnight - \$5 coverage charge. 21 and over. ID required.
July 4: Open - 9 am to close (Bar & Off Sale)
July 10: B.O.B. Ride - Toys for Tots. Registration: 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. @ J & H. Fee: 10 per rider. Ride: Leaves @ 10:30 a.m. MEAL: 5 p.m. @ JH. (2019 Donation was \$17,500)

EUCHRE: JAN 25, FEB. 22 AND MARCH 28
1 p.m. - 2 Person team sign up at the Bar

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

BUSINESS FOR SALE
Need a career change?
Be your own boss!
Great opportunity to own this hometown bar/off-sale.
Contact Harvey for details.

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, OR RETIREMENT PARTY

Final resting spot



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUJ
A Minnesota Prep Bowl official football signed by all members of the 2019 Class 1A state football champion Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms has found its final resting spot—in the Blooming Prairie High School trophy case. The football was on a silent auction during a benefit for Gregg Fristedt and Linda Klemmensen. Bruce Krejci of Lakeville and a graduate of Blooming Prairie, was the successful bidder at \$1,100. He then turned the ball over to the school's trophy case.

Annual meeting set for Mower Historical Society

The Mower County Historical Society will hold its **Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation** event on Thursday, March 19 in the Pioneer Building. The event will kick off at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour and dinner. The official business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the MCHS staff presenting "Treasures of the Mower County Historical Society." Official items on the agenda for the Annual

Meeting include the following:
1. Changes to the MCHS By-laws allowing Board Members the opportunity to serve three terms instead of two.
2. Election of new members to the MCHS Board of Directors.
3. Awards and recognition of volunteers and business partners of the year. This is a FREE event for all member and volunteers of the Mower

County Historical Society. Everyone should RSVP by Friday, March 13, by calling 507-437-6082 or email director@mower-countyhistory.org. Guests wishing to attend will be \$10 at the door. The Mower County Historical Society, founded in 1947, is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to discover, collect, preserve, and share the history of Mower County and relate it to

the history of Minnesota. Membership information is located at www.mower-countyhistory.org or contact the MCHS office during regular business hours from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday. The Mower County Historical Society is located on the east end of the Mower County Fairgrounds at 1303 6th Ave. SW. Call 437-6082 or email director@mower-countyhistory.org for more information.

Baker to present at women's group

Members of the American Association of University Women Owatonna invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting, co-sponsored by Steele County Home Economics Association and AAUW. It will take place at the Owatonna Arts Center on March 17 at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and 7 p.m. for the program.

The program for the evening will feature Master Bread Baker and Poet Danny Klecko. In his book "Hitman-Baker-Casketmaker: Aftermath of an American's Clash With ICE," he writes poems of loss, change, and rebirth. He writes of loss of his loyal and talented crew. A \$5 fee will be charged at the door. The net proceeds will benefit the Owatonna Arts Center.

Mental Health Support Group for families meets in Owatonna

The Minnesota National Alliance on Mental Illness is sponsoring a free support group for families and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support group helps families develop bet-

ter coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in Owatonna on the first Monday of the month from 7:30 p.m., at Christ Community Covenant Church, 540 SE 18th St., Owatonna. For information, call Judy at 507-451-0043.

Where promise lives, hope blossoms

The 25th annual rose sale is underway in Mower County. The sale started on Feb. 18 and continues through March 24. Pick-up and delivery day will be Tuesday, April 7. LIFE Mower County is sponsoring the sale as a way for people to let someone know that they care and support of the work of the group. All proceeds from LIFE Mower County's Rose

Sale benefits children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities including Down syndrome, Cerebral palsy, Autism and Epilepsy. One in 10 families has a member with a disability. Your participation in LIFE's Rose Sale provides critical funding for programs and services. For more information, go to www.lifemower-county.org/rose-sale.

Sons of Norway to meet in Owatonna

The Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway meets on Monday, March 16, at 7 p.m. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$8 at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 East Vine St. The March program features guest speaker Pati Kachel, a full-time professional storyteller with The Parable Fund in Minneapolis. Her program is entitled "Ya Sure, I'm a Norvegin Lutheran."

Kachel shares captivating stories honoring her heritage as a Norwegian Lutheran. With songs, humor and historical information, she tells tales of her pioneer ancestors' immigration from Norway to their Minnesota homestead by Paynesville. If you would like more information on the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Paul Hokanson at 507-451-9301.

Winter Tree ID Class coming to St. Peter

Ever wonder how foresters identify trees in winter months? This workshop will take participants on a walk outside to learn the various ways to identify some of Minnesota's most common trees and invasive woody plants. Summer identification focuses heavily on leaf structure; winter identification will focus

more on persistent characteristics like branching, bark, buds, leaf scars and habit. This Winter Tree ID Class will be held at the Linnaeus Arboretum classroom at Gustavus Adolphus College on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. There will be some in classroom time, but most

of the class will be outdoors. Come dressed for the weather. An optional trip to 7 Mile Creek to see the state record black cherry and black ash trees is available after class. Registration is \$20 and includes publications. Register online at <https://z.umn.edu/TreedIDStPeter>



STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

SPINNING GOLDEN OLDIES

“Let’s let it roll...” From a small intimate studio on Owatonna’s south side, veteran radio broadcaster Todd Hale introduces and spins yet another Golden Oldie from his collection of Big Band music.

Yes, the voice of Owatonna has been officially retired from the radio business for 30 years. However, that is not stopping him from jumping behind the controls and microphone to do his weekly Big Band Show on KRFO, the AM station he once owned with other partners.

He may be 80 years old, but Hale shows no sign of letting go of the show that has filled the local airwaves for decades. He pulls from a collection of cassette tapes and vinyl records at his side ready to fill the 45-minute time slot that airs twice on Sundays, once at 8:15 a.m. and again at 6 p.m.

KRFO Brand Manager Paul Shea says the station is blessed to have someone of Hale’s caliber still on the radio. “Having Todd Hale is invaluable with all the years of talent he has,” Shea said. “It’s truly a pleasure to have him.”

The amount of work he puts into the show is really incredible.”

Shea said the old adage “no news is good news” applies to Hale’s show. While they may not receive a lot of feedback at the station, Shea points out, “If the show is not on, we definitely hear about it.”

True to Hale’s fashion and symbolic of earlier radio days, he utilizes a handy cassette tape recorder to aid in spinning some of the oldies. He also uses a similar recorder to record announcements, or “barking” as he calls it, for the Steele County Fair during fair week. He has been the voice of the fair for 27 years.

On KRFO, the show is rich with big band music from the 1930s. Some of the favorites he plays include Clyde McCoy, Harry James, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw and Hale’s personal favorite, Guy Lombardo.

“I like the rhythm and I like the sound,” Hale says of Lombardo’s music. “He used to be on TV and I always watched him. He is one of my favorites.”



Veteran radio broadcaster Todd Hale feels comfortable behind the microphone at KRFO in Owatonna. Hale hosts a weekly show featuring Big Band music from the 1930s. He says the show is a trip “down the line of yester years of big bands.”

“No matter what kind of day I’m having, this music relaxes me and makes for a better day for me.”

Todd Hale
Big Band Show Host

During a recent taping, which takes place usually on Wednesday mornings prior to the Sunday airing, Hale played “The Best of the Big Bands.” Those oldies included One O’Clock Jump by Count Basie and his orchestra and Two O’Clock Jump by Harry James and his orchestra.

Midway through the show, Hale spun Clyde McCoy’s Sugar Blues from 1935. “We haven’t had this one on for a long time,” Hale reflected.

With Hale being the sole person in the studio doing everything from finding the hits to spinning the records and hosting, the show isn’t always perfect. While the vinyl was spinning, Hale noticed the music cut out momentarily. “For some reason, this cuts out,” he said. “I think it’s in the needle assembly. There’s a little glitch in there.”

Another oldie played on this particular show was “Does Your Heart Beat for Me?” Recorded by the Russ Morgan Orchestra in 1936, Hale is particularly fond of this song because it was the theme song played at the closing of the Monterey

Ballroom in Owatonna in 1976. Hale recalls KRFO broadcast live from the Monterey with Morgan’s entire show. “We were all live and kickin’,” Hale shared. “It was the last big band that came to the Monterey,” he added.

In the middle of the show, Hale reads a commercial spot on hearing from the show’s only sponsor, Amy Swain Hearing. Hale knows the show isn’t a huge source of revenue for the station. “Hello everybody to the neighboring communities.”

“Glad to have you as well proceed down the line of yester years of big bands.” Hale has a pretty extensive collection of hits in the studio, but he says he’s always open for donations

if people have records sitting around that they don’t want any longer. He noted he’s not particularly interested in vocal music.

There have been a variety of hosts for the show throughout the years. The show began in the early 1960s, according to Hale. In those early years, Pink Allen joined Hale on the show. After Allen became ill, Armin Rezac hosted the show. Hale stepped away from the show and was replaced by Bill Reizenhauer, who himself played in a big band. Jerry Peters eventually came on to join Rezac. Following Peters’ death, Hale came back to solo the show. He has been doing it for the past few years.

“It’s a trip back in musical time,” Hale says of the show. Asked whether the

pendulum will ever swing back to Big Band music, Hale said, “Doubtful.” He added, “Nobody can afford to transport a whole band and the ballrooms are diminishing rapidly.”

For Hale, hosting the show is out of love for big band music. The station does not compensate Hale for the show. “I do it as a hobby,” Hale said. “No matter what kind of day I’m having, this music relaxes me and makes for a better day for me.”

Hale doesn’t have any idea what the future will hold for the show. He admits Big Band music is “totally out of their regular format” on KRFO. “I hope they never decide to stop running it,” he said. He added AM radio is always facing “an uphill battle” with programming. After graduating from Brown Institute in the Twin Cities, Hale got his start in radio as a staff announcer for KRFO in 1959. “Back then, we were playing these tunes all the time,” he recalls. He admits he never really planned on staying in Owatonna, but two years after joining

KRFO, the opportunity came up for him to become a partner in the station. There were three partners from 1961 to 1989.

Hale said he has always been attracted to radio. “I enjoy the creativity of the program,” he said. “I felt I provided a need in town,” he said, adding he was the “early morning man” at sign-on for many years. Even after being away from radio for several decades, Hale seems to be a natural behind the microphone. “Getting behind the mic brings back a lot of memories of my days in radio,” he said.

As Hale ends the show, he tells listeners, “It’s great having you with us on the Big Band Show. Enjoy the week and have a great one.”

Hale turns away from the microphone and says, “There it is, completed. Another one in the books. Not the best. I go through some of them without mistakes, but today we had some crazy things happen.”

Perhaps that’s the reason Hale felt the need to play “I’ve Got a Feelin’ I’m Fallin’” by Benny Goodman and his Orchestra.



Hale looks back at a portion of his Big Band music collection in the studio.



Hale has dozens of vinyl albums to choose from for music on his Big Band Show, which airs weekly on Sundays at 8:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM HONORING EVERY LIFE

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

B5

The Steele County Times honors those who passed on during 2019. The photos and information are from obituaries that ran in our newspaper throughout the year. The first portion contains mostly Steele County and the second portion comes from Dodge County where the photos and information ran in our sister publication, the Dodge County Independent.



Joyce A. Hallinger
COLORADO SPRING, COLO.
AUG. 11, 1926-JAN. 4, 2019



Margo Kolady Roberts
FORMER BP BUSINESSPERSON
JULY 22, 1949-JAN. 8, 2019



Rose Mary Nelson
ANNANDALE
AUG. 18, 1947-MARCH 6, 2019



Duane Wayne Wohl
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
MARCH 19, 1942-JAN. 28, 2019



Janet Lucille Guttormson
AUSTIN
AUG. 17, 1912-JAN. 31, 2019



Cindy Anderson
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
NOV. 5, 1928-FEB. 2, 2019



Marianne Warner
OWATONNA
FEB. 25, 1928-FEB. 2, 2019



Scott Luverna Bryant
ALBERT LEA
NOV. 2, 1942-FEB. 9, 2019



Robert D. Ganser
ELLENDALE
NOV. 26, 1910-FEB. 2, 2019



Alice E. Rees
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
AUG. 21, 1919-FEB. 22, 2019



Maxine Higgins
FORMERLY OF AUSTIN
DEC. 17, 1920-MARCH 3, 2019



George B. Ressler
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
FEB. 22, 1918-MARCH 3, 2019



Nina-Mae Rogers
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
AUG. 18, 1925-MARCH 6, 2019



Lee E. Folkers
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
FEB. 17, 1948-MARCH 18, 2019



Madeline 'Dolly' Thomas
WEST CONCORD
JULY 17, 1928-MARCH 18, 2019



Richard Allen Schumacher
AUSTIN
MARCH 12, 1934-MARCH 18, 2019



Robert Duane Johnson
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JAN. 14, 1915-MARCH 21, 2019



Carolyn A. Haubenschild
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JAN. 4, 1942-MARCH 21, 2019



Henry Shawback Jr.
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
MAY 24, 1912-MARCH 11, 2019



Allan Madsen
OWATONNA
APRIL 27, 1924-APRIL 2, 2019



James Gleason
OWATONNA
JUNE 17, 1913-APRIL 1, 2019



Taylor Ciera Zylstra-Sletten
WEST CONCORD
MAY 21, 2002-APRIL 11, 2019



Roland 'Ron' Leak
ELLENDALE
MARCH 19, 1947-APRIL 17, 2019



Daniel Schiefert
ROCHESTER
OCT. 26, 1940-APRIL 11, 2019



Curtis Christianson
AUSTIN
FEB. 13, 1912-APRIL 21, 2019



Hannah Noel Lager and Matthew Kiefer Lager
ATOKSON, KANSAS (FORMERLY OF BP)
DEC. 17, 1994-APRIL 24, 2019
(MATHIAS UNION)



Dona M. Jacobson
AUSTIN
OCT. 11, 1928-APRIL 24, 2019



Harriet Regina Jirasek
OWATONNA
NOV. 20, 1916-MAY 3, 2019



Dorothy V. Kruger
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
DEC. 21, 1944-MAY 7, 2019



Ferris Decker
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JULY 17, 1913-MAY 7, 2019



Beverly A. Willert
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JAN. 8, 1940-MAY 3, 2019



Betty Meyer
NORTH HAVEN, CT
(FORMERLY OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE)
FEB. 13, 1919-MAY 18, 2019



Douglas Winter
JAN. 28, 1948-MAY 22, 2019



Harriet Jean Lehman
PERRYBURGH, OHIO
MAY 27, 2019 (98)



Dale Mowers
ALBERT LEA
JAN. 14, 1924-JUNE 10, 2019



Maureen M. Grams
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
DEC. 12, 1924-JUNE 10, 2019



Robert Leon Goff
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JAN. 11, 1929-JUNE 12, 2019



John Dean Bernard Olson
AUSTIN
APRIL 12, 1927-JUNE 12, 2019



Roger L. Dulak
ALBERT LEA
NOV. 29, 1919-JUNE 10, 2019



Michael Earl Harber
AUSTIN
MAY 11, 1929-JULY 6, 2019



Marilyn Frances Holm
ROCHESTER
FEB. 29, 1913-JULY 17, 2019



Verlin Eaker
MECHANICVILLE, IOWA
(FORMERLY OF BP)
JUNE 1, 1919-JULY 17, 2019



Burton A. Kittelson
AUSTIN
JULY 1, 1912-JULY 17, 2019



Lotus Ann Hanson
DEXTER
MARCH 7, 1918-JULY 17, 2019



Patrick Gorman
ATOKSON, OKLA.
(FORMERLY OF OWATONNA)
JULY 24, 2019 (85)



Anthony Lee Nelson
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JULY 17, 1997-JULY 31, 2019



Ronald Henry Fisher
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JULY 11, 1951-JULY 31, 2019



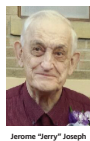
Nathan K. Goodwin
AUSTIN
FEB. 9, 1927-AUG. 12, 2019



Rosalee Grace Ile
ALBERT LEA
JUNE 14, 1920-AUG. 18, 2019



Helga Grant
AUSTIN
JULY 11, 1941-JULY 17, 2019



Jerome 'Jerry' Joseph
KALISTA
OWATONNA
FEB. 11, 1918-AUG. 30, 2019



Orline Peterson
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
AUG. 9, 1924-SEPT. 2, 2019



Norma J. Long
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
MAY 1, 1914-SEPT. 3, 2019



Donald Drey
AUSTIN
SEPT. 28, 1924-SEPT. 11, 2019



Arnold 'Buz'
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JULY 6, 1910-SEPT. 11, 2019



Nina C. Ingvalson
AUSTIN
JULY 21, 1927-SEPT. 10, 2019



Ardell Ramah Lindquist
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
AUG. 2, 1928-SEPT. 22, 2019



Elaine Joy Hanson
OWATONNA
MAY 20, 1927-SEPT. 23, 2019



Jeanne D. Lee
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
MARCH 4, 1916-OCT. 9, 2019



Roger Elmer Erickson
HAYSTACK
(FORMERLY OF BP)
OCT. 11, 1919-OCT. 10, 2019

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

STEELE COUNTY TIMES



Lowell Irving Trom
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
APRIL 10, 1929-OCT. 14, 2019



Dianne Hamenberger
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
OCT. 1, 1946-OCT. 15, 2019



Doree Mae Gerner
OWATONNA
MAY 10, 1911-OCT. 20, 2019



Lois Ann Taphorn
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JULY 28, 1942-OCT. 22, 2019



Helen Ruth Fjore
FARIBAULT
JUNE 15, 1925-OCT. 27, 2019



Esther Ann Hansen
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
MARCH 21, 1927-OCT. 26, 2019



Gloria Nicken
HAYFIELD
NOV. 21, 1951-NOV. 9, 2019
(FUNERAL ON NOV. 8, 2019)



Robert James Kvell
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JAN. 30, 1937-NOV. 13, 2019



Kenneth Winzenburg
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
JULY 11, 1935-NOV. 17, 2019



Norma D. Hartzell
RURAL, STEWARTVILLE
DEC. 26, 1917-NOV. 27, 2019



Marge Deml
OWATONNA
MAY 29, 1920-NOV. 26, 2019



Oscar Dalle
OWATONNA
JAN. 10, 1909-DEC. 11, 2019



William Eugene Stinehart
MINNEAPOLIS
MAY 5, 1945-DEC. 18, 2019

DODGE COUNTY



Joyce A. Haflinger
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.
AUG. 11, 1926-JAN. 4, 2019



Judith Kaye Hanson
KASSON
MAY 12, 1942-JAN. 4, 2019



Anna Ross Muehleis
WINONA
JAN. 15, 1910-JAN. 5, 2019



Robert Jensen
WINONA
JULY 6, 1954-JAN. 7, 2019



Gretchen Jensen Erickson
KASSON
SEPT. 17, 1934-JAN. 9, 2019



Jayne Beth Hoffmann
DODGE CENTER
MARCH 2, 1954-JAN. 31, 2019



Robert Thomas Rundquist
KEWYON
OCT. 25, 1925-JAN. 26, 2019



David E. Bakken, 69
STEWARTVILLE



Leslie 'Les' Severson, 68
STEWARTVILLE



Jacqueline Joyce Tendick
HAYFIELD
AUG. 5, 1932-FEB. 1, 2019



Larry E. Tucker
KASSON
JAN. 19, 1933-FEB. 1, 2019



Kenneth Lee Urbach
MANTONVILLE
APRIL 2, 1942-FEB. 2, 2019



Mary Jane Ogren
DODGE CENTER
FEB. 3, 1947-FEB. 2, 2019



Charles Bishop
KASSON
1937-FEB. 22, 2019



Eldora 'Dor' May Jensen
DODGE CENTER
SEPT. 20, 1927-FEB. 10, 2019



Linda D. Hutchinson
CLEVELAND
AUG. 29, 1948-FEB. 20, 2019



Richard Elton Sturgis
KASSON
APRIL 10, 1942-FEB. 26, 2019



Jennifer Boychuk
HALLOCK
NOV. 5, 1950-FEB. 21, 2019



Georgia Alberta Hebrink
LACROSSE
JAN. 7, 1919-FEB. 25, 2019



LeMerle Jean Kendall
KASSON
OCT. 5, 1932-MARCH 1, 2019

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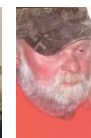
EXP. 12-31-2020 APPLIES TO NEW ORDERS MADE IN 2020. OTHER RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

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 Charles James Brown KASSON AUG. 22, 1942-FEB. 12, 2019	 Evelyn M. Edmond DODGE CENTER MARCH 24, 1915-MARCH 5, 2019	 Thomas H. Ferry MANTORVILLE FEB. 24, 1924-MARCH 10, 2019	 William Edward Koss DODGE CENTER APRIL 30, 1929-MARCH 3, 2019	 Raymond Oswald Schmitz WEST CONCORD MAY 16, 1930-MARCH 3, 2019	 Marion Serbus CLYDE APRIL 8, 1931-MARCH 3, 2019	 David H. Colburn HARTFELD DEC. 12, 1945-APRIL 5, 2019	 Marion P. Jorgensen KASSON JUNE 28, 1925-APRIL 7, 2019	 Arlene Lorraine Segin DODGE CENTER NOV. 10, 1931-APRIL 2, 2019	 Ramona Laura Aggrey WEST CONCORD FEB. 15, 1931-APRIL 14, 2019
 Herman Hoerger Suess KASSON NOV. 11, 1932-APRIL 18, 2019	 James 'Jim' Worth LaRock KASSON OCT. 27, 1942-APRIL 17, 2019	 Lucille Boyum KASSON DEC. 27, 1924-MARCH 17, 2019	 Mary Ann Beniak ROCHESTER APRIL 24, 1923-APRIL 13, 2019	 Allen Richard Mitchell PEPUL, WIS. 1920-APRIL 5, 2019	 Betty Southworth KASSON 1920-APRIL 5, 2019	 Thomas Aarsvold MINNEAPOLIS NOV. 9, 1947-APRIL 15, 2019	 Helen M. Ferry MANTORVILLE OCT. 10, 1922-APRIL 18, 2019	 Cindy Jo Glazier HARTFELD 1964-APRIL 17, 2019	 Harold Lyle Freerkson HARTFORD NOV. 10, 1929-APRIL 18, 2019
 Forrest J. Unested FORMERLY OF KASSON NOV. 21, 1932-APRIL 18, 2019	 Carol Diane Trystad KASSON MARCH 7, 1941-APRIL 18, 2019	 Betty Ann Reynolds KASSON SEPT. 8, 1938-MAY 13, 2019	 Frederick R. Heimbach PINE ISLAND JUNE 4, 1940-MAY 18, 2019	 Marie Lavonne Baugartner KASSON SEPT. 28, 1932-MAY 14, 2019	 Joseph Mathias Simons KASSON MARCH 9, 1932-MAY 26, 2019	 Shirley A. Jorgensen KASSON AUG. 29, 1931-MAY 25, 2019	 Anita Louise Shouweiller KASSON JULY 31, 1945-MAY 22, 2019	 Ervin Richard Livingston KASSON MARCH 28, 1925-MAY 25, 2019	 Elsie Edora Abel KASSON DEC. 17, 1926-MAY 22, 2019
 William Michael Carter MANTORVILLE DEC. 24, 1944-MAY 20, 2019	 Rev. Dr. Elia Patt KASSON OCT. 1, 1932-JUNE 18, 2019	 Donald L. Behne KASSON MARCH 31, 1932-JUNE 21, 2019	 James Angell Hanson NEW LONDON AUG. 15, 1930-JULY 4, 2019	 Lorraine Settgren NEW LONDON JULY 2, 1919-JULY 21, 2019	 Charles W. Tesch CLAREMONT FEB. 24, 1943-JULY 11, 2019	 Adetta M. Bungum SARGENT JULY 23, 1931-JULY 27, 2019	 Harrison 'Jim' Freeman LEESBURG, FLA. JULY 17, 1936-JULY 11, 2019	 Allan Joseph Hanes KASSON SEPT. 16, 1933-AUG. 10, 2019	 Darrel F. Faulmer MANTORVILLE DEC. 22, 1938-AUG. 14, 2019
 Carol A. Meyer BYRON FEB. 23, 1924-AUG. 24, 2019	 Peter Otto Peterson MANTORVILLE SEPT. 4, 1944-AUG. 18, 2019	 Jeffrey L. Follett KASSON NOV. 23, 1940-AUG. 18, 2019	 Bonita Benson Rebelein KASSON DEC. 2, 1943-AUG. 18, 2019	 Dorothy Fjerstad Dallas KASSON 1924-AUG. 18, 2019	 Sharon M. Schneckoeth HICK FOREST, ARIZ. JAN. 14, 1946-SEPT. 4, 2019	 Lorie Lynn Alwes KASSON NOV. 29, 1929-SEPT. 2, 2019	 Quinten Eric Franck ROCHESTER JULY 15, 1940-SEPT. 9, 2019	 David Dickie KASSON MARCH 29, 1935-SEPT. 19, 2019	 Anna Finger DODGE CENTER NOV. 26, 1939-SEPT. 17, 2019
 Gene Franke HARTFELD MARCH 10, 1938-SEPT. 20, 2019	 Louise A. Welch WEST CONCORD MAY 20, 1945-SEPT. 20, 2019	 Hilma Lorraine Howard DODGE CENTER OCT. 4, 1944-SEPT. 20, 2019	 William Joel Hughes KASSON MAY 20, 1945-SEPT. 20, 2019	 Jon Tollefson MANTORVILLE JULY 5, 1930-SEPT. 20, 2019	 Daniel Arthur Linbo KASSON JUNE 9, 1943-SEPT. 30, 2019	 Hugh C. Kuhlman BYRON SEPT. 10, 1927-OCT. 1, 2019	 Marlene Davis Cotton ROCHESTER JAN. 22, 1945-OCT. 1, 2019	 Vance Jon Harris FORMERLY OF WISCONSIN OCT. 25, 1944-OCT. 11, 2019	 Marion E. Bateman STEWARTVILLE SEPT. 24, 1937-DEC. 28, 2019
 Dale E. Heimbrecht MERRIDICK, N.H. (FORMERLY OF DODGE COUNTY) OCT. 28, 1919-194	 Kay Powers INDIAN TRAIL, N.C. AUG. 9, 1935-NOV. 3, 2019	 Signe Fineld FORMERLY OF KASSON SEPT. 7, 1924-NOV. 3, 2019	 Gerald Laumb Jr. KASSON MAY 6, 1917-NOV. 3, 2019	 Olga Lon Himle RURAL, ARIZONA APRIL 29, 1929-NOV. 6, 2019	 Kenneth M. Bale RURAL, ARIZONA DEC. 14, 1929-NOV. 8, 2019	 Kevin Simonson GLENCED (FORMERLY OF HARTFELD) AUG. 2, 1938-NOV. 30, 2019	 Stanley Isaac Zellinske MANTORVILLE JUNE 27, 1932-DEC. 8, 2019	 Alfred Grunklee FORMERLY OF DODGE COUNTY JAN. 6, 1913-DEC. 17, 2019	 Ellen May Gill DODGE CENTER MAY 19, 1927-DEC. 28, 2019
 Sharon Radtke ROCHESTER DEC. 11, 1944-DEC. 22, 2019	 Rosann Lucille Yurcek KASSON SEPT. 7, 1931-DEC. 28, 2019	 Mary Wilcox MANTORVILLE MAY 2, 1943-DEC. 28, 2019	 Cary Peterson ALBERT LEA JUNE 10, 1944-DEC. 30, 2019						



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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS

The following names were registered with death certificates at the Steele County Recorder's Office in 2019:

January

Antoinette Jacobson, 77, Fairbault, Jan. 1.
Lisa A. Johnson, 91, Austin, Jan. 2.
Irene Jean Stetten, 86, Owatonna, Jan. 2.
Bruce Laverne Moravec, 56, Aurora Township, Jan. 4.
Raymond Carl Wayne, 84, Owatonna, Jan. 4.
Steven Anthony Tekautz, 42, Owatonna, Jan. 7.
Rita Mae De Werd, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 8.
Dolores Irene Mae Williamson, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 8.
Ralph Ervin Brown, 85, Owatonna, Jan. 11.
Evelyn Christine Ahrens, 93, Fairbault, Jan. 18.
Carol May Johnson, 86, Mantorville, Jan. 18.
Cynthia Diane Dekong, 66, Owatonna, Jan. 20.
Marche Lou Ann Chicos, 86, Claremont, Jan. 20.
Lola Marie Hulteland, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 24.
Sharon Letitia Johnson, 63, Owatonna, Jan. 26.
Janina May Young, 72, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 28.
David Michael Schroeder, 63, Owatonna, Jan. 28.
Diane Wayne Wolf, 76, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 28.
Jean Elizabeth Thompson, 96, Owatonna, Jan. 31.
Marian Pave Schultz, 89, Owatonna, Jan. 31.

February

Adam James Knopik, 45, Owatonna, Feb. 26.
Marianna Catherine Warner, 96, Owatonna, Feb. 2.
Allison Christine Anderson, 67, Owatonna, Feb. 2.
Harlan Orlan Schultz, 75, Owatonna, Feb. 4.
Albert Chase Ratchford, 91, Fairbault, Feb. 3.
Richard Edward Tollefson, 66, Owatonna, Feb. 6.
Dolores Olga Smith, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 6.
Robert Lee Nesbitt, 41, Owatonna, Feb. 7.
Randy Lee Harris, 59, Owatonna, Feb. 12.
Richard Wallace Schlegel, 95, Owatonna, Feb. 12.
Denny Edward Wilcox, 49, Owatonna, Feb. 12.
Barbara C. Miller, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 13.
Dolores Hentges Nelson, 89, Owatonna, Feb. 14.
Frank Arthur Kordick Jr., 88, Owatonna, Feb. 15.
Judy Lee Bee, 78, Owatonna, Feb. 18.
Marie Margie Johnson, 84, Medford, Feb. 18.
Lavonne Anne Schmidt, 85, Owatonna, Feb. 17.
Gene Carleton Muchow, 87, Austin, Feb. 18.
Arlene Marvis Peters, 83, Owatonna, Feb. 17.
Virginia Adeline Towsen, 90, Owatonna, Feb. 20.
Diane Louise Olson, 78, Fairbault, Feb. 21.
Kathryn Lynn Grovath, 64, Owatonna, Feb. 21.
Gabriel David Beud, 38, Owatonna, Feb. 21.

March

Louis John Sharrock, 74, Owatonna, March 1.
George Bernard Reader, 101, Blooming Prairie, March 3.
Brian Lee Scott, 56, Blooming Prairie, March 5.
Laverne Jerome Towsen, 78, Owatonna, March 5.
Nina Mae Rogers, 93, Blooming Prairie, March 6.
David George Olson, 68, Geneva, March 10.
Martha Jane Hall, 93, Owatonna, March 7.
Danna Kavit, 80, Medford, March 10.
Doris Ann Tidball, 74, Owatonna, March 18.
Helen Clara Schultz, 88, Owatonna, March 12.
Betty Jean Blumfelder, 92, Owatonna, March 15.
Robert Florence Korman, 87, Owatonna, March 15.
Regina Kathryn Klecker, 92, Owatonna, March 16.
Steven D. Ackmann, 66, Fairbault, March 16.
Patricia Marie Kruger, 83, Blooming Prairie, March 17.
Pernik Island Deaton, 83, Blooming Prairie, March 18.
Carl Norman Pink Jr., 75, Austin, March 21.
Robert Duane Johnson, 84, Blooming Prairie, March 21.
Robert Duane Johnson, 87, Owatonna, March 22.
Alice Martha Sechta, 91, Owatonna, March 23.
John Clair Porter, 73, Austin, March 23.
Carolyn Ann Heubusch, 88, Fairbault, March 23.
Richard Edmond Maggett, 71, New Richmond, March 25.
Dennis Dean Klinkenberg, 85, Owatonna, March 26.
James M. Pippin, 41, Owatonna, March 27.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.
David Eric Kausch, 89, Blooming Prairie, May 14.
Martha Jane Warehime, 81, Owatonna, May 17.
Evelyn Louise Kaplan, 93, Owatonna, May 22.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.
David Eric Kausch, 89, Blooming Prairie, May 14.
Martha Jane Warehime, 81, Owatonna, May 17.
Evelyn Louise Kaplan, 93, Owatonna, May 22.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.

April

Kathleen Doris Jones, 89, Owatonna, April 1.
Robert Lee Scott, 56, Blooming Prairie, April 1.
Dolores Hentges Nelson, 89, Owatonna, April 1.
Margery Ann Bessner, 89, Owatonna, April 2.
Patrick Floyd Perrin, 81, Fairbault, April 2.
James Michael Gleason, 65, Owatonna, April 3.
Laura Emily Tuttle, 88, Owatonna, April 5.
Delbert William Schabach, 89, Owatonna, April 6.
Dale Barker Needham, 91, Egan, April 6.
Edward Carl Schwenne, 88, Owatonna, April 7.
Karen Maria Johnson, 81, Owatonna, April 10.
Gudulache G. Perez, 80, Claremont, April 10.
Cavilyn Josephine, 86, Owatonna, April 13.
Stewart Edward Kubat, 81, Owatonna, April 14.
Roland Lavale Leak, 86, Ellendale, April 17.
Hendrina Aleida Hinton, 83, Owatonna, April 18.
David John Dehling, 71, Aurora Township, April 19.
Merlemona Berg, 51, Owatonna, April 19.
Stacia Rose Jensen, 58, Menasha, April 22.
Francis Frances Johnson, 85, Owatonna, April 20.
Evelyn Kubat Beers, 88, Owatonna, April 20.
Coral Jeanne Burgett, 90, Owatonna, April 22.
Michael Dean Shouse, 52, Owatonna, April 22.
Danna Mae Jacobson, 90, Blooming Prairie, April 24.
Audrey Lorraine Hase, 88, Owatonna, April 27.
Jimmie Mervel Cornelius, 72, New Richmond, April 28.
Jan Kay Holberg, 74, Owatonna, April 28.
Brian James Diefenderfer, 54, Owatonna, April 30.
May 1.
Harriet Regina Jirousek, 102, Owatonna, May 1.
Robert James Lee, 84, Owatonna, May 1.
Eugene Charles Hudeby, 92, Owatonna, May 1.
Lois Maxine Hunt, 94, Owatonna, May 6.
Dorothy Viola Kruger, 83, Blooming Prairie, May 7.
Pernik Island Deaton, 83, Blooming Prairie, May 18.
Florence Lorraine Berweg, 82, Medford, May 9.
Arvid Kenneth Husted, 92, Owatonna, May 10.
Martin Elmer Finley, 65, Owatonna, May 10.
Alice Martha Sechta, 91, Owatonna, May 22.
John Clair Porter, 73, Austin, March 23.
Carolyn Ann Heubusch, 88, Fairbault, March 23.
Richard Edmond Maggett, 71, New Richmond, March 25.
Dennis Dean Klinkenberg, 85, Owatonna, March 26.
James M. Pippin, 41, Owatonna, March 27.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.
David Eric Kausch, 89, Blooming Prairie, May 14.
Martha Jane Warehime, 81, Owatonna, May 17.
Evelyn Louise Kaplan, 93, Owatonna, May 22.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.

June

Timothy John Miller, 55, Owatonna, June 2.
Connie Lynn Holter, 71, Owatonna, June 3.
Kevin Paul Johnson, 62, Owatonna, June 4.
Dale Movers, 83, Blooming Prairie, June 6.
Dean William Imm, 85, Owatonna, June 8.
Doris Ellen French, 96, Owatonna, June 10.
Maureen May Grunwald, 94, Blooming Prairie Township, June 10.
Helen Louise Scott, 87, Owatonna, June 17.
Hendrina Aleida Hinton, 83, Owatonna, June 11.
Elizabeth Leona Anderson, 88, Owatonna, June 14.
Waseca, June 13.
Elizabeth Leona Anderson, 88, Owatonna, June 14.
Michael Joseph Novak, 54, Deerfield Township, June 17.
Jerry Thomas McCarthy, 76, Owatonna, June 21.
Francis Charles Krumholz, 92, Owatonna, June 20.
Alfred Justin Jandro, 81, Owatonna, June 20.
Margie Ayla Moore, 94, Medford, June 20.
Eleanor Alena Andrist, 90, Owatonna, June 21.
Rochester, June 21.
Vaughn Fredrick Kasper, 87, Owatonna, June 21.
Thomas Harold Montgomery, 81, Owatonna, June 27.
Roger Lee Dallas, 88, Ellendale, June 29.
Hilda Anna Schmidt, 93, Owatonna, June 30.
June 1.
Marcella Mae Melberg, 93, Owatonna, June 1.
Paul George Stawski, 88, Owatonna, June 1.
Vivian Marie Skyrka, 94, Owatonna, June 1.
Dorothy Viola Kruger, 83, Blooming Prairie, May 7.
Pernik Island Deaton, 83, Blooming Prairie, May 18.
Florence Lorraine Berweg, 82, Medford, May 9.
Arvid Kenneth Husted, 92, Owatonna, May 10.
Martin Elmer Finley, 65, Owatonna, May 10.
Alice Martha Sechta, 91, Owatonna, May 22.
John Clair Porter, 73, Austin, March 23.
Carolyn Ann Heubusch, 88, Fairbault, March 23.
Richard Edmond Maggett, 71, New Richmond, March 25.
Dennis Dean Klinkenberg, 85, Owatonna, March 26.
James M. Pippin, 41, Owatonna, March 27.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.
David Eric Kausch, 89, Blooming Prairie, May 14.
Martha Jane Warehime, 81, Owatonna, May 17.
Evelyn Louise Kaplan, 93, Owatonna, May 22.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.

July

Stephan A. LaCroix, 68, Medford, Aug. 5.
Doris Helen Paulson, 86, Owatonna, Aug. 5.
Beverly Ann Willet, 79, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Sharon Ann Johnson, 64, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Lisa Ann Stamp, 67, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Karen Virginia Benoit, 73, Owatonna, Aug. 12.
Gregory John Miller, 80, Owatonna, Aug. 12.
Nancy Lee Stewart, 83, Owatonna, Aug. 15.
Roy Dewey Halverson, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 15.
Joyce Marion Forsberg, 98, Owatonna, Aug. 17.
Alton Phil Tuttle, 90, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Arthur James Schouweiler, 93, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Joy Lee Severson, 70, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Ingbert Alexander Waagen, 101, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Ronald John Yalish, 71, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Eugenia Dolores Koneck, 92, Medford, Aug. 18.
Dolores Regina Burgraff, 94, Owatonna, Aug. 19.
Timothy C. Bover, 70, Blooming Prairie, Aug. 24.

August

Christopher Joseph Kenow, 86, Owatonna, Aug. 26.
Valerian Lawrence Hauer, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 26.
John Albert Cousins, 84, Owatonna, Aug. 27.
Timothy Maria Riggs, 67, Owatonna, Aug. 27.
Robert Eugene Houghtlin, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 27.
Francis Charles Kourafsky, 81, Owatonna, Sept. 28.
Gary Lloyd Boettcher, 63, Owatonna, Sept. 28.
Charles Ethel Full, 94, Owatonna, Sept. 28.
Dean Elwood Lee, 73, Owatonna, Oct. 1.
Geraldine Joyce McKner, 88, Owatonna, Oct. 2.
Kathryn Marie Jorgensen, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 5.
Evelyn Carolyn Trulsson, 101, Owatonna, Oct. 5.
Jeanne Diane Lee, 83, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 9.
Elmer George Eaker, 84, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Dora Garza Rubesh, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Gary Evan Steffen, 84, Owatonna, Oct. 12.
Betty Jean Johnson, 87, Owatonna, Oct. 13.
Lowell Irving Tron, 90, Owatonna, Sept. 10.
Dianne Sue Hamenberger, 73, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 10.
Clyde Edward Grant, 94, Owatonna, Oct. 16.
Anthony Charles Rainone, 63, Medford, Oct. 17.
Jean Robert Lorman, 81, Owatonna, Oct. 18.
Dorlene Agnes Phillips, 80, Owatonna, Sept. 4.
Glen Roger Quaintance, 68, Owatonna, Sept. 4.
Ronald Albert Briddick, 83, Owatonna, Sept. 12.
Retha Ray Earlywine, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 14.
Raymond Charles Nichols, 95, Owatonna, Sept. 15.
Judeanne Marie Pirtl, 81, Owatonna, Sept. 15.
Gladys Warrin, 93, Owatonna, Sept. 17.
Dorlene Agnes Phillips, 80, Owatonna, Sept. 18.
Margaret L. Leven, 94, Owatonna, Sept. 20.
Dorothy Gertrude Carroll, 97, Owatonna, Sept. 21.
Frances Elizabeth Johnson, 88, Owatonna, Sept. 21.
Arlene Elizabeth Wilson, 69, Owatonna, Sept. 22.
Ardell Ramah Lindquist, 91, Owatonna, Sept. 22.
John Austin Lent, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 24.

September

Sandra Mae Gildert, 78, Owatonna, Sept. 1.
Laverne Mildred Hanson, 90, Owatonna, Sept. 1.
Robert Michael Hendrickson, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 1.
Roger Lee Dallas, 88, Ellendale, June 29.
Hilda Anna Schmidt, 93, Owatonna, June 30.
June 1.
Marcella Mae Melberg, 93, Owatonna, June 1.
Paul George Stawski, 88, Owatonna, June 1.
Vivian Marie Skyrka, 94, Owatonna, June 1.
Dorothy Viola Kruger, 83, Blooming Prairie, May 7.
Pernik Island Deaton, 83, Blooming Prairie, May 18.
Florence Lorraine Berweg, 82, Medford, May 9.
Arvid Kenneth Husted, 92, Owatonna, May 10.
Martin Elmer Finley, 65, Owatonna, May 10.
Alice Martha Sechta, 91, Owatonna, May 22.
John Clair Porter, 73, Austin, March 23.
Carolyn Ann Heubusch, 88, Fairbault, March 23.
Richard Edmond Maggett, 71, New Richmond, March 25.
Dennis Dean Klinkenberg, 85, Owatonna, March 26.
James M. Pippin, 41, Owatonna, March 27.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.
David Eric Kausch, 89, Blooming Prairie, May 14.
Martha Jane Warehime, 81, Owatonna, May 17.
Evelyn Louise Kaplan, 93, Owatonna, May 22.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.

October

Dean Elwood Lee, 73, Owatonna, Oct. 1.
Geraldine Joyce McKner, 88, Owatonna, Oct. 2.
Kathryn Marie Jorgensen, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 5.
Evelyn Carolyn Trulsson, 101, Owatonna, Oct. 5.
Jeanne Diane Lee, 83, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 9.
Elmer George Eaker, 84, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Dora Garza Rubesh, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Gary Evan Steffen, 84, Owatonna, Oct. 12.
Betty Jean Johnson, 87, Owatonna, Oct. 13.
Lowell Irving Tron, 90, Owatonna, Sept. 10.
Dianne Sue Hamenberger, 73, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 10.
Clyde Edward Grant, 94, Owatonna, Oct. 16.
Anthony Charles Rainone, 63, Medford, Oct. 17.
Jean Robert Lorman, 81, Owatonna, Oct. 18.
Dorlene Agnes Phillips, 80, Owatonna, Sept. 4.
Glen Roger Quaintance, 68, Owatonna, Sept. 4.
Ronald Albert Briddick, 83, Owatonna, Sept. 12.
Retha Ray Earlywine, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 14.
Raymond Charles Nichols, 95, Owatonna, Sept. 15.
Judeanne Marie Pirtl, 81, Owatonna, Sept. 15.
Gladys Warrin, 93, Owatonna, Sept. 17.
Dorlene Agnes Phillips, 80, Owatonna, Sept. 18.
Margaret L. Leven, 94, Owatonna, Sept. 20.
Dorothy Gertrude Carroll, 97, Owatonna, Sept. 21.
Frances Elizabeth Johnson, 88, Owatonna, Sept. 21.
Arlene Elizabeth Wilson, 69, Owatonna, Sept. 22.
Ardell Ramah Lindquist, 91, Owatonna, Sept. 22.
John Austin Lent, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 24.

November

Sharon Lee McKner, 80, Owatonna, Nov. 2.
Eileen Rose Stibal, 97, Owatonna, Nov. 2.
Janice Mae Hoel, 88, Blooming Prairie, Nov. 3.

December

Norma Lou Hestad, 66, Ellendale, Dec. 2.
Ruth Irene Hermann, 96, Owatonna, Dec. 2.
Mary Eleanor Nelson, 64, Owatonna, Dec. 4.
Lavern Glen Ekenstam, 84, Owatonna, Dec. 4.
Vivian Marie Sarby, 70, Owatonna, Dec. 4.
Eileen Rose Stibal, 97, Ellendale, Dec. 5.
Janice Mae Hoel, 88, Blooming Prairie, Nov. 3.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS

The following names were registered with death certificates at the Steele County Recorder's Office in 2019:

January

Antoinette Jacobson, 77, Fairbault, Jan. 1.
Lisa A. Johnson, 91, Austin, Jan. 2.
Irene Jean Stetten, 86, Owatonna, Jan. 2.
Bruce Laverne Moravec, 56, Aurora Township, Jan. 4.
Raymond Carl Wayne, 84, Owatonna, Jan. 4.
Steven Anthony Tekautz, 42, Owatonna, Jan. 7.
Rita Mae De Werd, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 8.
Dolores Irene Mae Williamson, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 8.
Ralph Ervin Brown, 85, Owatonna, Jan. 11.
Evelyn Christine Ahrens, 93, Fairbault, Jan. 18.
Carol May Johnson, 86, Mantorville, Jan. 18.
Cynthia Diane Dekong, 66, Owatonna, Jan. 20.
Marche Lou Ann Chicos, 86, Claremont, Jan. 20.
Lola Marie Hulteland, 88, Owatonna, Jan. 24.
Sharon Letitia Johnson, 63, Owatonna, Jan. 26.
Janina May Young, 72, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 28.
David Michael Schroeder, 63, Owatonna, Jan. 28.
Diane Wayne Wolf, 76, Blooming Prairie, Jan. 28.
Jean Elizabeth Thompson, 96, Owatonna, Jan. 31.
Marian Pave Schultz, 89, Owatonna, Jan. 31.

February

Adam James Knopik, 45, Owatonna, Feb. 26.
Marianna Catherine Warner, 96, Owatonna, Feb. 2.
Allison Christine Anderson, 67, Owatonna, Feb. 2.
Harlan Orlan Schultz, 75, Owatonna, Feb. 4.
Albert Chase Ratchford, 91, Fairbault, Feb. 3.
Richard Edward Tollefson, 66, Owatonna, Feb. 6.
Dolores Olga Smith, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 6.
Robert Lee Nesbitt, 41, Owatonna, Feb. 7.
Randy Lee Harris, 59, Owatonna, Feb. 12.
Richard Wallace Schlegel, 95, Owatonna, Feb. 12.
Denny Edward Wilcox, 49, Owatonna, Feb. 12.
Barbara C. Miller, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 13.
Dolores Hentges Nelson, 89, Owatonna, Feb. 14.
Frank Arthur Kordick Jr., 88, Owatonna, Feb. 15.
Judy Lee Bee, 78, Owatonna, Feb. 18.
Marie Margie Johnson, 84, Medford, Feb. 18.
Lavonne Anne Schmidt, 85, Owatonna, Feb. 17.
Gene Carleton Muchow, 87, Austin, Feb. 18.
Arlene Marvis Peters, 83, Owatonna, Feb. 17.
Virginia Adeline Towsen, 90, Owatonna, Feb. 20.
Diane Louise Olson, 78, Fairbault, Feb. 21.
Kathryn Lynn Grovath, 64, Owatonna, Feb. 21.
Gabriel David Beud, 38, Owatonna, Feb. 21.

March

Louis John Sharrock, 74, Owatonna, March 1.
George Bernard Reader, 101, Blooming Prairie, March 3.
Brian Lee Scott, 56, Blooming Prairie, March 5.
Laverne Jerome Towsen, 78, Owatonna, March 5.
Nina Mae Rogers, 93, Blooming Prairie, March 6.
David George Olson, 68, Geneva, March 10.
Martha Jane Hall, 93, Owatonna, March 7.
Danna Kavit, 80, Medford, March 10.
Doris Ann Tidball, 74, Owatonna, March 18.
Helen Clara Schultz, 88, Owatonna, March 12.
Betty Jean Blumfelder, 92, Owatonna, March 15.
Robert Florence Korman, 87, Owatonna, March 15.
Regina Kathryn Klecker, 92, Owatonna, March 16.
Steven D. Ackmann, 66, Fairbault, March 16.
Patricia Marie Kruger, 83, Blooming Prairie, March 17.
Pernik Island Deaton, 83, Blooming Prairie, March 18.
Carl Norman Pink Jr., 75, Austin, March 21.
Robert Duane Johnson, 84, Blooming Prairie, March 21.
Robert Duane Johnson, 87, Owatonna, March 22.
Alice Martha Sechta, 91, Owatonna, March 23.
John Clair Porter, 73, Austin, March 23.
Carolyn Ann Heubusch, 88, Fairbault, March 23.
Richard Edmond Maggett, 71, New Richmond, March 25.
Dennis Dean Klinkenberg, 85, Owatonna, March 26.
James M. Pippin, 41, Owatonna, March 27.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.
David Eric Kausch, 89, Blooming Prairie, May 14.
Martha Jane Warehime, 81, Owatonna, May 17.
Evelyn Louise Kaplan, 93, Owatonna, May 22.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.

April

Kathleen Doris Jones, 89, Owatonna, April 1.
Robert Lee Scott, 56, Blooming Prairie, April 1.
Dolores Hentges Nelson, 89, Owatonna, April 1.
Margery Ann Bessner, 89, Owatonna, April 2.
Patrick Floyd Perrin, 81, Fairbault, April 2.
James Michael Gleason, 65, Owatonna, April 3.
Laura Emily Tuttle, 88, Owatonna, April 5.
Delbert William Schabach, 89, Owatonna, April 6.
Dale Barker Needham, 91, Egan, April 6.
Edward Carl Schwenne, 88, Owatonna, April 7.
Karen Maria Johnson, 81, Owatonna, April 10.
Gudulache G. Perez, 80, Claremont, April 10.
Cavilyn Josephine, 86, Owatonna, April 13.
Stewart Edward Kubat, 81, Owatonna, April 14.
Roland Lavale Leak, 86, Ellendale, April 17.
Hendrina Aleida Hinton, 83, Owatonna, April 18.
David John Dehling, 71, Aurora Township, April 19.
Merlemona Berg, 51, Owatonna, April 19.
Stacia Rose Jensen, 58, Menasha, April 22.
Francis Frances Johnson, 85, Owatonna, April 20.
Evelyn Kubat Beers, 88, Owatonna, April 20.
Coral Jeanne Burgett, 90, Owatonna, April 22.
Michael Dean Shouse, 52, Owatonna, April 22.
Danna Mae Jacobson, 90, Blooming Prairie, April 24.
Audrey Lorraine Hase, 88, Owatonna, April 27.
Jimmie Mervel Cornelius, 72, New Richmond, April 28.
Jan Kay Holberg, 74, Owatonna, April 28.
Brian James Diefenderfer, 54, Owatonna, April 30.
May 1.
Harriet Regina Jirousek, 102, Owatonna, May 1.
Robert James Lee, 84, Owatonna, May 1.
Eugene Charles Hudeby, 92, Owatonna, May 1.
Lois Maxine Hunt, 94, Owatonna, May 6.
Dorothy Viola Kruger, 83, Blooming Prairie, May 7.
Pernik Island Deaton, 83, Blooming Prairie, May 18.
Florence Lorraine Berweg, 82, Medford, May 9.
Arvid Kenneth Husted, 92, Owatonna, May 10.
Martin Elmer Finley, 65, Owatonna, May 10.
Alice Martha Sechta, 91, Owatonna, May 22.
John Clair Porter, 73, Austin, March 23.
Carolyn Ann Heubusch, 88, Fairbault, March 23.
Richard Edmond Maggett, 71, New Richmond, March 25.
Dennis Dean Klinkenberg, 85, Owatonna, March 26.
James M. Pippin, 41, Owatonna, March 27.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.
David Eric Kausch, 89, Blooming Prairie, May 14.
Martha Jane Warehime, 81, Owatonna, May 17.
Evelyn Louise Kaplan, 93, Owatonna, May 22.
Douglas Frank Winter, 71, Ellendale, May 22.
Mary Patricia Tibbott, 86, Fairbault, May 13.
James D. Oakes, 88, Owatonna, May 13.

June

Stephan A. LaCroix, 68, Medford, Aug. 5.
Doris Helen Paulson, 86, Owatonna, Aug. 5.
Beverly Ann Willet, 79, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Sharon Ann Johnson, 64, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Lisa Ann Stamp, 67, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Karen Virginia Benoit, 73, Owatonna, Aug. 12.
Gregory John Miller, 80, Owatonna, Aug. 12.
Nancy Lee Stewart, 83, Owatonna, Aug. 15.
Roy Dewey Halverson, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 15.
Joyce Marion Forsberg, 98, Owatonna, Aug. 17.
Alton Phil Tuttle, 90, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Arthur James Schouweiler, 93, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Joy Lee Severson, 70, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Ingbert Alexander Waagen, 101, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Ronald John Yalish, 71, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Eugenia Dolores Koneck, 92, Medford, Aug. 18.
Dolores Regina Burgraff, 94, Owatonna, Aug. 19.
Timothy C. Bover, 70, Blooming Prairie, Aug. 24.

July

Stephan A. LaCroix, 68, Medford, Aug. 5.
Doris Helen Paulson, 86, Owatonna, Aug. 5.
Beverly Ann Willet, 79, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Sharon Ann Johnson, 64, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Lisa Ann Stamp, 67, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Karen Virginia Benoit, 73, Owatonna, Aug. 12.
Gregory John Miller, 80, Owatonna, Aug. 12.
Nancy Lee Stewart, 83, Owatonna, Aug. 15.
Roy Dewey Halverson, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 15.
Joyce Marion Forsberg, 98, Owatonna, Aug. 17.
Alton Phil Tuttle, 90, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Arthur James Schouweiler, 93, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Joy Lee Severson, 70, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Ingbert Alexander Waagen, 101, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Ronald John Yalish, 71, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Eugenia Dolores Koneck, 92, Medford, Aug. 18.
Dolores Regina Burgraff, 94, Owatonna, Aug. 19.
Timothy C. Bover, 70, Blooming Prairie, Aug. 24.

August

Christopher Joseph Kenow, 86, Owatonna, Aug. 26.
Valerian Lawrence Hauer, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 26.
John Albert Cousins, 84, Owatonna, Aug. 27.
Timothy Maria Riggs, 67, Owatonna, Aug. 27.
Robert Eugene Houghtlin, 88, Owatonna, Aug. 27.
Francis Charles Kourafsky, 81, Owatonna, Sept. 28.
Gary Lloyd Boettcher, 63, Owatonna, Sept. 28.
Charles Ethel Full, 94, Owatonna, Sept. 28.
Dean Elwood Lee, 73, Owatonna, Oct. 1.
Geraldine Joyce McKner, 88, Owatonna, Oct. 2.
Kathryn Marie Jorgensen, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 5.
Evelyn Carolyn Trulsson, 101, Owatonna, Oct. 5.
Jeanne Diane Lee, 83, Blooming Prairie, Oct. 9.
Elmer George Eaker, 84, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Dora Garza Rubesh, 79, Owatonna, Oct. 11.
Gary Evan Steffen, 84, Owatonna, Oct. 12.
Betty Jean Johnson, 87, Owatonna, Oct. 13.
Lowell Irving Tron, 90, Owatonna, Sept. 10.
Dianne Sue Hamenberger, 73, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 10.
Clyde Edward Grant, 94, Owatonna, Oct. 16.
Anthony Charles Rainone, 63, Medford, Oct. 17.
Jean Robert Lorman, 81, Owatonna, Oct. 18.
Dorlene Agnes Phillips, 80, Owatonna, Sept. 4.
Glen Roger Quaintance, 68, Owatonna, Sept. 4.
Ronald Albert Briddick, 83, Owatonna, Sept. 12.
Retha Ray Earlywine, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 14.
Raymond Charles Nichols, 95, Owatonna, Sept. 15.
Judeanne Marie Pirtl, 81, Owatonna, Sept. 15.
Gladys Warrin, 93, Owatonna, Sept. 17.
Dorlene Agnes Phillips, 80, Owatonna, Sept. 18.
Margaret L. Leven, 94, Owatonna, Sept. 20.
Dorothy Gertrude Carroll, 97, Owatonna, Sept. 21.
Frances Elizabeth Johnson, 88, Owatonna, Sept. 21.
Arlene Elizabeth Wilson, 69, Owatonna, Sept. 22.
Ardell Ramah Lindquist, 91, Owatonna, Sept. 22.
John Austin Lent, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 24.

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Full-Season Package

Family (2 adults, children 6-25, in same house).....	\$875
Senior Couple (oldest spouse 62 or sr. member in 2019, same house).....	\$845
Adult (age 33-61 as of 12/31/19).....	\$670
Senior Single (age 62-79 as of 12/31/20 or sr. member in 2019).....	\$635
Super Senior (age 80+ as of 12/31/20).....	\$540

20% New Member Discount on Full Package

Reduced Season Package

Young Adult (age 26-32 as of 12/31/19).....	\$465
Futures (age 21-25 as of 12/31/19).....	\$310
Juniors (age 8-20 as of 12/31/19).....	\$205
Weekday Couple (2 adults, same house, M-F only does not include holidays).....	\$750
Weekday Single (M-F only does not include holidays).....	\$550

10% New Member Discount on Reduced Package



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BP elementary kids get to slime teachers, principal I Love to Read benefit

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

With some gooey, slimy stuff sliding down his face, Blooming Prairie Elementary School Principal Jacob Schwarz still managed to display a smile.

Schwarz was one of five victims of a slime brigade of elementary school students representing grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

In addition to Schwarz, these teachers and media specialist were: Brenda Berg, media specialist; Emily Henslin, first grade; Jenna Volgarino, fourth grade and Matt Kittelson, sixth grade.

Slime Day was on March 2, the culmination of a month-long program, I Love to Read. Students in all grades were encouraged to read as many books as possible during the entire month of February.

Teachers, support staff and students were able to dress up each Wednesday of February and also on Monday, March 2, Pajama Day.

First grade teachers Natalie Sorensen, Heather Schiller, Karlee Ruen and Emily Henslin were in charge of the I Love to Read month activities.

Each grade set its weekly reading goals.

In order to be able to slime a teacher, the students had to meet their weekly reading goal set by their teacher. If they met their goal, the students added their names into their grade level bucket. The more names they entered, the better chance they had to slime a teacher.

The slime was made of Lime-Jell-O and a water mixture. First grade parents helped make the slime.

All BP Elementary School students were able to witness the sliming of their teachers and principal. Five chairs were



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Something happened on the way to school on March 2 for these five Blooming Prairie staff members: Ms. Emily Henslin, first grade teacher; Mrs. Jenna Volgarino, fourth grade teacher; Mr. Matt Kittelson, sixth grade teacher; Brenda Berg, media specialist and Mr. Jacob Schwarz, elementary principal. They were all slimed as part of the I Love to Read campaign.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Bella Hernandez was very excited to see her teachers put on a new form of make-up, lime-colored slime. Bella was in the audience watching teachers and Principal Jacob Schwarz get slimed as part of the I Love to Read campaign.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

This Awesome Blossom is none other than Mr. Jacob Schwarz, principal of the Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Mr. Schwarz was slimed by some of his students and by his own children during Slime Day, part of the I Love to Read program.

positioned on a platform covered with plastic. The plastic did not catch all of the slime, however.

Students let out a roar when the slime was applied to five different staff members.

Since he was plastered with the slimy stuff, school custodian/para Rob White took Schwarz out of the gymnasium on a two-wheel utility truck.

Emily Henslin even wore goggles and a shower cap but that didn't help her fight off the slippery slime.

Kittelson really got into the craziness of Slime Day by smearing some of the slime all over his face.

Prior to the actual sliming, Schwarz read from a Dr. Seuss book, "Green Eggs and Ham." He coached the students to fill in some of the words in the book. March 2 was also Dr. Seuss' birthday.

First grade teachers even got into the act of sliming their fellow staff members.

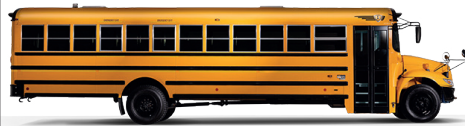
The slime victims were told that the Times photographer wanted to get a photo of them. Unsuspecting, they were slimed from behind, with teachers using ice cream buckets to pour more slime onto their victims.

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NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 12, 2002

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$75,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin P. Johnson and Kimberly K. Harpel, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Sterling State Bank, Corporation

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 17, 2002 as Document Number A298416, as modified of record by document recorded on May 11, 2016 as Document Number A000407508 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ohio Savings Bank by assignment recorded on April 17, 2002 as Document Number A298417 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on February 13, 2008 as Document Number A00039087 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 3 in Dart's Second Addition to the City of Owatonna including any land lying west of the west line of said Lot 13 and east of the east line of the above mentioned land conveyed to the City of Owatonna for a street. Together with the North 24.75 feet of Rice Lake Street that accrued thereto by reason of vacation thereof as contained in Book 125 of Deeds, Pages 483-484, Steele County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 603 E. BROADWAY, OWATONNA, MN 55060-2507

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$64,057.55

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Sterling State Bank, Corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-129-0313

TRANSACTION AGENT'S

MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 31, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagee(s) or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless sale of the mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2020.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 562.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 29, 2020

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

Mortgage

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.

Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.

Michael van Muelken, Esq.

Attorneys for Mortgagee

25 Dale Street North

St. Paul, MN 55102

(651) 209-9760

(19-1083-F-C01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/4, 3/11

NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 27, 2015

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$126,530.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Cruz Corona, a single man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rescue Mortgage, Inc. d/b/a Mortgage Depot

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 28, 2015 as Document Number A000403817 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on May 25, 2018 as Document Number A000416370 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on July 16, 2018 as Document Number A000419198 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 5, Kneeland's Addition to the City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1132 ELM AVE S, OWATONNA, MN 55060

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$121,486.00

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Rescue Mortgage, Inc. d/b/a Mortgage Depot

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Flagstar Bank, FSB

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-125-0506

TRANSACTION AGENT'S

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1002489-000008929-3

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or

any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagee(s) or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless sale of the mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 21, 2020.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 562.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: February 14, 2020

LAKVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC

Mortgage

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.

Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.

Michael van Muelken, Esq.

Attorneys for Mortgagee

25 Dale Street North

St. Paul, MN 55102

(651) 209-9760

(20-0150-F-C01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/26, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1

Allina offers Change to Chill training

Change to Chill, a free, award-winning, mental well-being program offered by Allina Health, is offering free community trainings. The free training sessions are open to the community and offered in a variety of locations and days.

Through an interactive website tailored to both teens and the adults who work with them, Change to Chill helps teens become more aware of the things that stress them out and equips them with relevant tools and resources to better manage stress and anxiety, so they can live happier, more resilient lives.

The Change to Chill training sessions are designed for school staff, mental health professionals, community organizations and parents of teens. They will:

- Provide participants with knowledge about teen stress;
- Demonstrate ready-to-use, plug-and-play

lessons and DIY activities, including foundations of mindfulness, athlete-specific content, information from the Action Guide for Teens and more;

• Facilitate participant sharing and discussion time to generate program application ideas and provide time for community networking; and

• Provide participants with the skills to implement Change to Chill in a school, home or community setting

There is no cost to attend this training. Light and healthy snacks will be served. A certificate of participation will be provided to each attendee.

To reserve your spot, register here or visit [ChangeToChill.org](https://www.allinahealth.org/change-to-chill) and click on the banner on the home page.

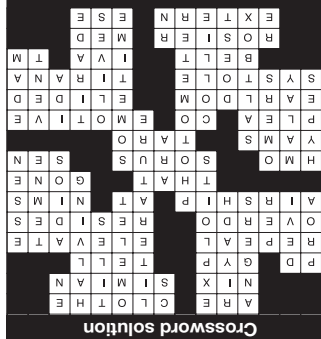
A training session is scheduled for Monday, April 27 from 8-11 a.m. at the Owatonna Hospital. All are welcome, so help spread the word by sharing this information.

TURN OFF the television...



Encourage your children to make reading the newspaper a part of their everyday routine for lifelong learning.

STEELE COUNTY TIMES Always there at the time



Crossword solution

IN MEMORIAM FROM BS

February
 Jacqueline Joyce Trodick, 86, Hayfield, Feb. 15.
 Lilian Dahl Peterson, 96, Kasson, Feb. 20.
 Charles William Bishop, 81, Kasson, Feb. 20.
 Joann Mae Stewart, 83, Kasson, Feb. 23.
March
 Raymond Oswald Schmitt, 88, West Concord, March 3.
 Kenneth Lee Urback, 76, Mantoville, Feb. 2.
 Lawrence Jean Kendall, 88, Kasson, March 3.
 William Edward Koss, 88, Dodge Center, March 3.
 George Edmund Draves, 88, Hayfield, Feb. 3.
 Shirley May Buchan, 83, Dodge Center, Feb. 3.
 Mary Jane Jones, 72, Dodge Center, Feb. 3.
 Eldora May Jensen, 91, Dodge Center, Feb. 3.
 Charles James Brown, 73, Kasson, Feb. 12.

April
 Marion P. Jorgensen, 93, Kasson, April 7.
 Agnes M. Woodard, 83, Dodge Center, April 7.
 John Anthony Wellner, 83, Mantoville, April 8.
 Joseph Michael Labrec, 84, Hayfield, April 10.
 Taylor Sierra Zyhrta, 16, West Concord, April 11.
 Arnold E. Severson, 90, Hayfield, April 12.
 Ramona Laura Aggrey, 88, Kasson, April 14.
 Mark Dennis McNeill, 61, Dodge Center, April 18.
 Lucille Arlene Boyum, 84, Kasson, April 17.
 Cindy Jo Glazier, 53, Mantoville, April 17.
 Herman Horger Sues, 83, Kasson, April 18.
 Helen M. Perry, 96, Mantoville, April 18.
 James W. Larock, 72, Kasson, April 18.
 Carol Diane Trygstad, 78, Kasson, April 19.
 Brenda Elaine Ingham, 80, Kasson, April 23.
 Samantha Denise Stevenson, 53, Hayfield, April 25.
 Yvonne Gail Albrecht, 82, Kasson, April 28.
 German Eugene Harb, 78, Dodge Center, April 30.
 Weldon Harold Egler, 88, Dodge Center, April 30.
May
 Shawn Marie Jungers, 50, Kasson, May 3.
 Duane Glenwood Hanson, 81, Dodge Center, May 1.
 Richard Charles Smith, 88, Hayfield, May 1.
 Frederick Richard Heinberg, 78, Pine Island, May 13.
 Richard Irving Fjerstad, 78, Hayfield, May 15.
 Christopher Lee Bruns, 28, Kasson, May 19.
 William Michael Carter, 73, Mantoville, May 20.
 Pamela Lee Sims, 63, Mantoville, May 21.
 Anita L. Schaeuvel, 73, Kasson, May 22.
 Elaine Eldora Abel, 92, Kasson, May 25.
 Shirley Ann Jorgensen, 87, Kasson, May 25.
 Kevin Richard Livingston, 84, Kasson, May 25.
 Joseph M. Simons, 87, Kasson, May 29.
 Marvin Rudy Burt, 60, Kasson, May 29.

June
 Georgeana May Lindbo, 70, Hayfield, June 9.
 Faith Elizabeth Briggs, 20, Kasson, June 9.
 John M. Hibbs, 63, Kasson, June 13.

July
 James Angell Hanson, 88, Dodge Center, July 8.
 Wendell Frederick Gronmeyer, 88, Dodge Center, Sept. 27.
 Daniel Arthur Lindbo, 75, Dodge Center, July 12.
 Rita Kathryn Carroll, 75, Dodge Center, July 12.
 Leonard John Buell, 95, Kasson, July 13.
 Mary Lou Lorraine Burton, 90, Dodge Center, July 13.
 Paul David Stabberg, 79, Kasson, July 22.
 Donald Allen Jensen, 85, Hayfield, July 26.

August
 Allan Joseph Hames, 65, Kasson, Aug. 30.
 Peter Bryant Doe, 88, West Concord, Aug. 12.
 Darrell Frank Faulkner, 80, Mantoville, Aug. 14.
 Clarence Carl Biese, 86, Hayfield, Aug. 15.
 Forrest Levenst, 82, Dodge Center, Aug. 15.
 Peter Otto Peterson, 74, Mantoville, Aug. 18.
 Lloyd Marvin Von Ruden, 81, Claremont, Aug. 18.
 Lois Anne Butterfield, 90, Dodge Center, Aug. 30.

September
 Lorie L. Aaloes, 59, Kasson, Sept. 2.
 Orline Martha Magdalen Peterson, 85, Hayfield, Sept. 2.
 Nancy Marie Renard, 81, Mantoville, Sept. 5.
 Cindy Rae Delano, 54, Dodge Center, Sept. 8.
 Maurice P. Renard, 83, Mantoville, Sept. 8.
 Quentin Erle Franck, 71, Kasson, Sept. 8.
 Virginia Helen Costen, 85, Dodge Center, Sept. 9.
 Jerry Dean Ingvaldsen, 81, Dodge Center, Sept. 13.

October
 Ronald B. Elden, 79, Kasson, Oct. 3.
 Kyle Marvin Schandorf, 55, Hayfield, Oct. 6.
 Braxton John Raymond, 22, Kasson, Oct. 9.
 Paul David Stabberg, 79, Kasson, July 22.
 Donald Allen Jensen, 85, Hayfield, July 26.

November
 Delmer Dan Kiefer, 63, Kasson, Nov. 4.
 Gerald Wayne Laumb, 48, Kasson, Nov. 5.
 Everett Leland Hettinger, 78, Dodge Center, Nov. 11.
 Mark Alan Speltz, 44, Kasson, Nov. 14.
 Lawrence Allan Wood, 85, Hayfield, Nov. 17.
 Jerald Albert Scherger, 75, Dodge Center, Nov. 24.
 Celeste Opal Pritch, 86, Mantoville, Nov. 24.

December
 Letha Maxine Odman, 96, Dodge Center, Dec. 5.
 Martin Lee Dengler, 75, West Concord, Dec. 8.
 Stanley Isaac Zellinski, 87, West Concord, Dec. 8.
 Shelly LuAnne Johnson, 77, Kasson, Dec. 9.
 Ellen May Gill, 92, Dodge Center, Dec. 19.
 Rosann Lucille Yurek, 88, Kasson, Dec. 21.
 Mary Ann Wilcox, 78, Mantoville, Dec. 28.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Plural of be
- Dress
- Nothing
- Relating to apes
- They protect and serve
- Swindle
- Show's partner
- Lift
- Raise up
- Do something to an excessive degree
- Occupies
- Power-driven aircraft
- Indicates position
- Matchstick games
- This and
- No longer here
- Health insurance
- Spore-producing receptacle on fern frond
- Monetary unit
- Sweet potatoes
- Tropical Asian plant
- Guiltily or not guiltily
- Carbon dioxide
- Able to arouse intense feeling
- Earl's jurisdiction
- Omitted
- Heartbeat
- Albania capital
- Fashion accessory
- Interaction value analysis

CLUES DOWN

- Erranges
- Capital of Saudi Arabia
- Uses in an unfair way
- Cesium
- Whitt's works
- Breakfast item
- Found in showers
- A way of fractioning
- Unit of measurement
- Sailboat
- Indian goddess
- For each
- Forewall
- Ethnic group of Sierra Leone
- German industrial city
- Measures intensity of light
- Small, faint constellation
- Promotes enthusiastically
32. Malaysian inhabitant
33. Ancient units of measurement
35. An unspecified period
38. Frame house with up to three stories
41. Lassie is one
43. Martinis have them
44. Pant
45. Famed journalist Tarbell
46. Opening
47. Round Dutch cheese
49. Archaic form of do
50. Once more
57. Registered nurse

55. Symbol of exclusive ownership

56. More precisely

58. Student, learns

59. healing

60. Midway between east and southeast

Let's get you movin'!

KW KELLERVILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY MLS

Jennifer Walsh 507.438.6676
 email: jennifer.walsh@kw.com
 web: jennifer.walsh.com

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bptimes@frontiernet.net

411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32

BUY TWO WEEKS,
GET THE THIRD FREE

UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER

TO PLACE AN AD

Dodge County Independent

Dodge County Advantage

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121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

BARGAIN FINDERS

ANTIQUE ORGAN-CHICAGO WINDSOR. Reed organ, late 1890s-1900. Walnut case, excellent keyboard, plays well. Call 507-451-7628, 2/19-14-pd

TWO OLDER BOOK DISPLAY RACKS, each holds approx. 50-60 books. Racks came from Hallmark store. 1/2 off asking price-Now \$20.00 for both or best offer. Please call 507-450-5395 if interested (pd 11.12.13.14)

APPROX. 100 OLDER SPICE TINS, some cardboard containers, some are very rare. 1/2 off asking price-Now \$25.00 or best offer. Please call 507-450-5395 if interested (pd 11.12.13.14)

50 PLUS OLD POST CARDS in frames. Some rare 1/2 off asking price-Now \$25.00 for all, or best offer. Please call 507-450-5395 if interested (pd 11.12.13.14)

3 TABLE LAMPS (2 are very old pair) Floor lamp, end table. All are good condition. 1/2 off asking price - Now \$25.00, or best offer. Please call 507-450-5395 if interested (pd 11.12.13.14)

FOR RENT

PRAIRIE VILLA 1 APARTMENT. IMMEDIATE OPENING! 1 bd smoke free apt for 62+ or disabled persons in Blooming Prairie. Rent based on income and all utilities included.

ities included. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity

OWATONNA RENTALS Smoke free apts & townhomes. April openings. Affordable rates & great locations! 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 2/27-T4

ROOMING PRAIRIE RENTALS 1 bd smoke free apt for 62+ or disabled persons. Rent based on income & all utilities included. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 2/27-T4

2ND STREET STORAGE. 10-ft. x 20-ft. and 8-ft. x 10-ft. available. Call 634-7435 or 271-3155. D12T2

2 BD CLAREMONT Open April! Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity D12T4

HELP WANTED

SALES PERSON WITH ABILITY to work with area business in developing a marketing/advertising plan that will build the client's business. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Will train. Base-plus commission. Apply by sending your resume and three references to: keithdci@kmtel.com. No phone calls please.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507-534-7507. 331c

SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 271in

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

FOR SALE

MAPLE WOOD CRIB with mattress and bumpers, excellent shape. FREE. Call 507-421-2833. TFN

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Experienced Equipment Operator
(CDL License Helpful)

Laborer Position



Owatonna
507-451-2873

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS will be hiring a High School/ Middle School Art Teacher and a Middle School Science Teacher. All postings and applications for Triton Public Schools can be found at: www.triton.k12.mn.us under the District Office menu. EOE 3/12/NC

60th Annual WELLS RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOC GUN SHOW

Modern & Antique Guns, Knives, Coins & Collectibles

Sat. March 14 • 8am-5pm
Sun. March 15 • 8am-5pm
— Over 350 Tables —
\$5 Admission • Public Invited
Delicious breakfast & lunch available.
Pie, egg, brewed coffee, & more!

LLC Public Gun Show - Wells, MN

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Steele-Waseca County Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a permanent, Full-time Program Technician position open.

Computer skills are required. Annual salary ranges from \$31,208 to \$56,222 depending on the qualifications of the applicant. Position is located at the Steele-Waseca County FSA Office, 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN. Tel. 507-451-1054 EXT 2. Applications are to be submitted online through USAjobs at www.usajobs.gov, JOA number MN-2020-0037. Applications will be accepted from March 2, 2020 through March 13, 2020. For questions, please contact the Steele-Waseca County Office.



FSA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

12T2

Housekeeping Position Available

Fairview Care Center is seeking a

Part-time Housekeeping Aide

37.5 hours/pay period 6:00AM-2:30PM

Every third weekend & Holiday

\$12.86 to \$14.70 / hour

For Application:

Come meet us on site!

702 10th Ave NW | Dodge Center, MN 55927

-OR visit-

www.co.dodge.mn.us/fairview

For more information please contact:

Brenda Vieths

Director of Housekeeping & Laundry

(507) 635-6419

Mail application to: PO Box 10 | Dodge Center, MN 55927

brenda.vieths@co.dodge.mn.us

Equal Opportunity Employer

C2

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We are currently hiring for all positions including:

- Diesel/Heavy Equipment Mechanic • Oil/Lube Truck Driver
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- Sewer & Water, Grading, and Concrete Foremen
- Truck Drivers • Landscapers

We offer competitive wages in a fast paced industry with lots of room for advancement. We are an equal opportunity employer and encourage all to apply.

Apply in person at 103 1/2 West Main Street Kasson, MN or via email at amanda.dorschner@imsicon.com. Please call 507-634-7778 with any questions.

A3.6.26

NATALIE WEBB FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

2020 EMPLOYMENT

The City of Dodge Center will be accepting applications for aquatic center employment until Friday, March 27, 2020 at 5 p.m. The following positions are being offered:

- Assistant Managers
- Food Court Staff
- Lifeguards & Water Safety Instructors
- Crossing Guards
- Bathroom Attendants

Applicants must be available to work days, nights, and weekends. Copies of all Lifeguard, WSI and CPR certifications must accompany the application. Competitive Wages! Reimbursement for training! Applications are available at Dodge Center City Hall or on the City's website at <https://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us/195/Employment>



mcan

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

EMPLOYMENT

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Middle School Teacher. New London-Spicer Schools. MN Special Education License required. See www.nls.k12.mn.us/employment for more information.

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE

FREON WANTED:
We pay CASH for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R13 R14. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 12/236-3558 or visit: RefrigerantFinders.com

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES
Running or not. Titled or not. Prices will fall soon. Sell now while prices are high! Call Dan at 612/720-2142

BUYING AND SELLING

any gold and silver items, collector coins, diamonds, gold jewelry, silver dollars, rare currency. No collection too big. Kuehl's Coin Fairmont, Minnesota. 507/235-3886, 507/399-9982, open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

SPORTING GOODS

GUN SHOW: MARCH 13-15
Chippewa Valley Expo Center, 5150 Old Mill Center, Eau Claire, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. \$8 (Under 14 FREE) 608/752-6677 www.bobanddore.com

ADOPTIONS

YOUNG SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
couple promises baby loving home. Gentle pet, devoted grandparents, educational opportunities. Living expenses paid. Angela and Andrew 818/305-5684 or attorney 310/663-3467

DOGS FOR SALE

AKC STANDARD POODLES
Beautiful, family raised, purebred puppies. OFA Genetic health tested parents. Great hunting/companion, vet checked, UTD on shots - \$1250. Poodlesaround.com 218/590-2050 MN Lic# 6099396

SEED/FEED/GRAINS

PROTECT YOUR YIELD
from soybean white mold and SDS. Ask your seed dealer for Heads Up® Seed Treatment. Cost-effective. Proven results. headsUpT.com/plant20 or 866/368-9306

MISCELLANEOUS

DISH NETWORK \$59.99
For 190 channels! Add high speed internet for only \$19.95/month. Call today for \$100 gift card! Best value & technology. Free installation. Call 855/562-4309 (some restrictions apply)

AT&T WIRELESS

Two great new offers! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with AT&T's Buy one, Give one offer. While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464

MISCELLANEOUS

A PLACE FOR MOM
The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is free, no obligation. Call 844/347-2104

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501

MOBILEHELP

America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety and peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! Call today! 855/610-5151

Classified Advertising that is

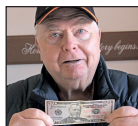
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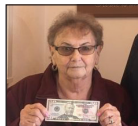
Your newspaper representative can provide complete details.
The 2nd Network is a program of the MNA, phone 800-276-2870



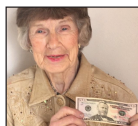
Week 1 Winner:
Mike and Becky Wheeler
Mantorville



Week 2 Winner:
Dave Paulson
Blooming Prairie



Week 3 Winner:
Dorothy Jackel
Claremont



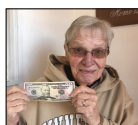
Week 4 Winner:
Verna Magnuson
(for Nathan Magnuson)
Blooming Prairie



Week 5 Winner:
Shelly and Mark Meyer
Owatonna



Week 6 Winner:
Lisa Dun and Bob Wayne
Ellendale



Week 7 Winner:
Alice Dulitz
Owatonna



Week 8 Winner:
Tiffany Stockwell
Owatonna



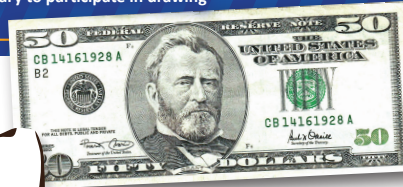
Week 9 Winner:
Dawn Gross
Blooming Prairie

Week 10 Winner

WIN A SWEET \$1,000 PRIZE!

Subscribe to the Times and you could win a grand prize of \$1,000 at the end of March.

No purchase necessary to participate in drawing



STEELE COUNTY Times

BAKER'S DOZEN GIVEAWAY

HOW IT WORKS

Buy a 12-month subscription for \$35 or subsequent years for \$30 per year and **GET ONE MONTH FREE!**

New or renewal subscriptions honored!
Each person who purchases a subscription will be entered into a

WEEKLY drawing to win \$50 every Friday!

On the final day, everyone who has purchased a subscription during this promotion will be entered into a

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING TO WIN \$1,000.

Grand Prize drawing will be held Friday, March 27.

No purchase necessary to participate in drawing.

3 WAYS TO ENTER:

1. Call 507-583-4431
2. Mail to Steele County Times- P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
3. Stop by our office at 411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie

BAKER'S DOZEN GIVEAWAY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Check One
New Subscriber: _____

Renewal: _____
Just Enter Me for the
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Offer good in Steele, Dodge, Waseca, Freeborn and Mower counties, prepaid, no billing.