

UNDER SIEGE

Bracing for surge of coronavirus

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The world outbreak of the coronavirus has folks across the region bracing for the worst as cases continue to mount in Minnesota and elsewhere.

As of Monday afternoon, there are 54 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota and about 3,800 in the U.S. with about 65 deaths. Of the Minnesota total, there are three cases in southeastern Minnesota, including Waseca and Olmsted counties. Blue Earth County also reported a case on Monday.

Steele County Public Health Director Amy Caron said there are no cases in Steele or Dodge counties at this time. But, she was quick to add she's not very optimistic that it will stay that way.

Two weeks ago, there were 1,700 cases of coronavirus in Italy and the country had reported 34 deaths. Now, Italy is reported an estimated 25,000 cases and more than 1,800 people have died.

The U.S. surgeon general said Monday the number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. is a sign that infections are expected to rise in America as the government steps up testing and financial markets continue to fall.

With the serious scope of the outbreak getting larger, local and state officials are stepping up their efforts to curb the infections.

On the local level, Mayo Clinic established Drive Thru Testing Monday for those suspected of having COVID-19. The testing locations are set up in Owatonna, Austin, Albert



The coronavirus pandemic has everyone running scared and fearful about their health. On March 12, Chad Corey, videographer with KAAL-TV of Rochester covered the Blooming Prairie and Hayfield Section 1A championship by wearing a mask. He was taking extra safety pre-cautions since he recently received a kidney transplant. As of Monday afternoon, there have been 54 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Minnesota alone. So far there have been no deaths attributed to COVID-19 in the state.

Lea and Rochester. Mayo wants patients to call prior to showing up at the clinics.

Caron explained that anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to go to Mayo Clinics to get tested. Symptoms include: shortness of breath, coughing and fever.

THE LATEST

Coronavirus Outbreak

- 54 confirmed cases in Minnesota
- 3 cases in Waseca and Olmsted counties
- Schools are shut down until March 27
- Many cancellations of events throughout region

The symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Mayo's Owatonna clinic, for example, is equipped to do approximately 150 tests per day, Caron said.

Gov. Tim Walz declared a peacetime emergency on Friday. "The safety and well-being of Minnesotans

is my top priority and we are working around the clock to combat the spread of COVID-19," Walz said. "I am declaring a peacetime emergency in Minnesota to ensure the state is able to respond to more rapidly to issues as they arrive. We are looking to the future and preparing for the next chapters of this pandemic as it continues to evolve."

By Sunday, the governor ordered all schools closed by Wednesday until March 27 at which time state officials will reevaluate the situation. Some schools like Blooming Prairie and Medford closed already on Monday, two days ahead of the mandated closing.

Also on Sunday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention came out with its recommendation that organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the U.S. for the next eight weeks. Examples of large events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings and other types of assemblies.

The CDC reports that large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the U.S. via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities.

The recommendation does not apply to the day-to-day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning or businesses.

Care Center stays open despite restrictions

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"We are not at the point of turning people away and our doors remain open," stated Joseph Mason, administrator of the Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

With the global outbreak of the coronavirus, concerns have been expressed about how it affects our local health care facility.

Mason did say that Prairie Manor is taking measures and have screening measures at the door. He said non-essential visitors and vendors are asked not to come in at this point.

Family members of residents and essential vendors

Faithful asked to restrain in new ways

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Concern about the global outbreak of the coronavirus has touched our churches at the local level.

Senior Pastor Heidi Heimgartner and Associate Pastor Mike Walerius of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie attached a pastoral letter in the Sunday, March 15 church bulletin offering reassurance to the faith community that measures of concern are being taken.

In a letter to congregation members, Pastors Heimgartner and Walerius said the COVID-19 virus is now confirmed to be in Minnesota and the news is ever-changing.

The letter reads:

"The leadership of First Lutheran is carefully monitoring the situation, and paying special attention to the information and advice shared by county agencies, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the CDC.

"In the meantime, we wanted to share the steps we have taken already over the past two or more weeks:

- Suspending the shaking of hands and other physical contact during the Sharing of the Peace in worship
- Suspending the shaking of hands in the narthex greeting line before and after worship (greeters, the time is now to practice your friendly smiles and waves)
- Encouraging frequent handwashing and use of disinfecting wipes in our classrooms
- Increasing frequency of cleaning/sanitizing of public spaces based on CDC guidelines.

Other sanitary practices will continue to be followed at the church, the pastors reassured.

Pastors Heimgartner and Walerius said if a case of the COVID-19 virus is confirmed in this community, the church's response might be different, based on recommendations of experts.

The letter continues: "To the members of our community who are medically vulnerable, those who are feeling economic impacts, those disappointed or inconvenienced by travel cancellations or limits on sporting events, and those who are simply anxious and uncertain: let us be patient and kind with one another, find ways to stay connected and express love even when not in physical proximity, and always, lean into the promises of God."

Dream season ends in heartbreak

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was a time for many different emotions when Blooming Prairie boys basketball team players and coaches learned that the coronavirus had wiped out their season prematurely.

A Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) announcement came down at about 10:45 a.m. Friday stating that the girls and boys basketball tournaments for 2020 had been cancelled.

"That's horrible news," head coach Nate Piller reacted after learning of the news.

"With social media, some of the players found out about it before I did," said Piller.

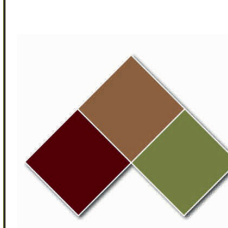
Senior Kaden Thomas said he received a text message from his father and when checking it, found out that the trip to state was cancelled. "My dad never texts me during the day," Thomas related.

The Blossoms had won the Section 1A championship by defeating Hayfield, only about 15 hours earlier on Thursday night and were planning on making

Blooming Prairie's first trip to the state since 1966.

"I feel bad for them because they played a long time together and worked so hard for this opportunity," remarked Coach Piller.

Senior Gabe Hagen said



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.

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OUR VIEW

We will survive this latest crisis

Who could have guessed that toilet paper, facemasks and empty store shelves would be the norm amid the panic buying brought on by the coronavirus? COVID-19 is more like the panic of Y2K. Remember when the media hyped the destruction of the civilized world. They claimed doom and gloom and we would all live in primitive conditions after January 1, 2000 rolled into town? We would be sent back to the Stone Age. No more “normal” life. We would all be thrust back to life before computers.

Media hype then was causing otherwise normally rational folks to buy up farms and rural land. Some moved from the Cities to Sandstone, in their effort to avoid the throngs of their neighbors who had not prepared for the devastating aftermath that was inevitable by the move from 1999 to 2000.

Billions of dollars were spent in an attempt to ward off the coming destruction. The United States and the rest of the world were on pins and needles awaiting the new century and the coming new year.

Nothing happened. We were not thrust back into the dark ages. We were able to ride out the doom and gloom foisted upon us by the 24/7 news media and a few of the intellectual elites who were tagged to present the pending disaster in a manner that sent our nation and the rest of the world onto a panic.

Sound familiar?

For those who lived through Y2K this latest scare of a virus has the entire world in shutdown mode. China, Italy, Spain and now the United States are forcing some residents to quarantine in place.

There have been state mandated closings. Schools, libraries, restaurants and even churches are cancelling services. They’re doing this “out of an abundance of caution,” we’re told by the nation’s fear-mongering media.

Is it a precautionary move? Or is it, as some have suggested, an attempt to slow down the nation’s economy in the throws of a national election?

As a nation we have faced tremendous challenges before. We will survive this virus, a variation of the common cold. (Keep in mind that the Center for Disease Control has estimated that up to 55,000 will die from the common strain of flu.) Compare the death toll so far from the coronavirus, which stands at 68 in the U.S. and 5,700 worldwide.

When we are on the other side of this “crisis” we will be able to look back and decide as individuals whether buying out all of the toilet paper in sight was worth it or if our storage is bulging to the max with hundreds of unused rolls.

YOUR VIEW

Support legislation for Alzheimer’s disease

To-the-Editor:

Please join us in supporting Congressman Hagedorn, who is authoring the Older Americans Act for reauthorization this spring. We are asking Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar to give this bill bi-partisan approval when it is introduced in legislation this spring.

As part of this bill, the Older Americans Act includes needed funding for the Younger Onset Alzheimer’s Act. The Alzheimer’s Association estimates that there are over 200,000 under the age of 65 living with Alzheimer’s disease.

Because of the young age, people living with Younger Onset Alzheimer’s disease do not qualify for support and service programs available to older Americans. This legislation will give these persons living with Younger Onset Alzheimer’s disease the needed resources and services to enhance their lives.

MaryAnne Higgins and Deb Gillard
Owatonna Walk to End Alzheimer’s Co-Chairs

Neighbors care about each other

To-the-Editor:

We are so fortunate to live and work in communities where neighbors actually care about each other. For those of you who attended this year’s Hometown Sampler, you would have witnessed this compassion at the recent concert. I sometimes wonder if I will be able to find the right words to say ‘Thank You’ to everyone who entertained us and to those who attended and made a donation, but I’ll give it a try...

To the talented musicians, silly Emcees, and Shelby Z.: I only wish I had such talents! You have no idea how inspired I am by your willingness to donate your time for an entire weekend, along with the many hours of practice. You played beautifully, you sang like angels, and put smiles on our faces with those goofy jokes, and made the event beautiful. Thank you!

To the teachers and staff of Owatonna Public Schools who donated more than \$4,200 to our cause: I know I said this last year, but it is still true...we will do whatever we can to feed your students healthy food so they are able to sleep better at night and learn easier during the day. My only wish is that none of them had to worry about where they were sleeping tonight or any night.

To our corporate sponsors: Thank you for underwriting the cost of the event. You make it possible that each dollar donated goes to purchasing food for the families of Steele County that need our assistance.

To those of you who came out in the lovely weather to attend one of the 4 shows: You made sure we reached the goal of \$27,000 by bringing in a total of \$28,189.36 and 345 pounds of food! Isn’t that incredible? What a great way to kick-off the annual MN March Food-Share month.

Maureen, Dakota, Deborah, Jess, Kylie, Troy, our team of outstanding volunteers and I appreciate all of you for believing in our mission of keeping Steele County a healthier place to live. Thank you!

Nancy Ness
Co-Executive Director
Community Pathways

Photo Correction



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In last week’s edition regarding the story about Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner PA, the Steele County Times inadvertently misidentified one of the people in this photo. The Times apologizes for the misidentification. Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner PA accounting firm has added two new faces to ownership of the company. They are Lori Arndt (holding bottle) and Allison Andrist next to Arndt. Pictured with the new partners are Daniel Miner, Amy Doerhoefer, left, and Tamzen Johnson, right. Johnson has sold her interest in the company.

Mayo Clinic stepping up in coronavirus storm

The past few days have been challenging to say the least in keeping our readers informed of perhaps the greatest crisis of the modern age.

Information is constantly changing and new twists and turns are coming at every angle. It seems what had been addressed one hour is changing the next. It’s a struggle for us to keep up with everything and to provide you with factual information that will benefit your life.

In the midst of the coronavirus storm, a piece of good news came out Monday morning.

Dr. Brian Bunkers, president and CEO of Mayo Health System in Owatonna and Faribault, delivered the news that Mayo has the capacity to do testing on a much broader scale locally.

In making the announcement, Bunkers stressed that patients cannot self-refer to be tested, but rather must go through the phone triage line first. To get tested,



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

patients must call the clinic first. From there, it will be determined if testing is needed and they will be instructed on where to go for testing.

About 150 tests will be available per day at the Owatonna clinic.

Besides the tests, Mayo has taken some other steps. Visitor restrictions went into place Monday as well in an effort to limit risk and spread.

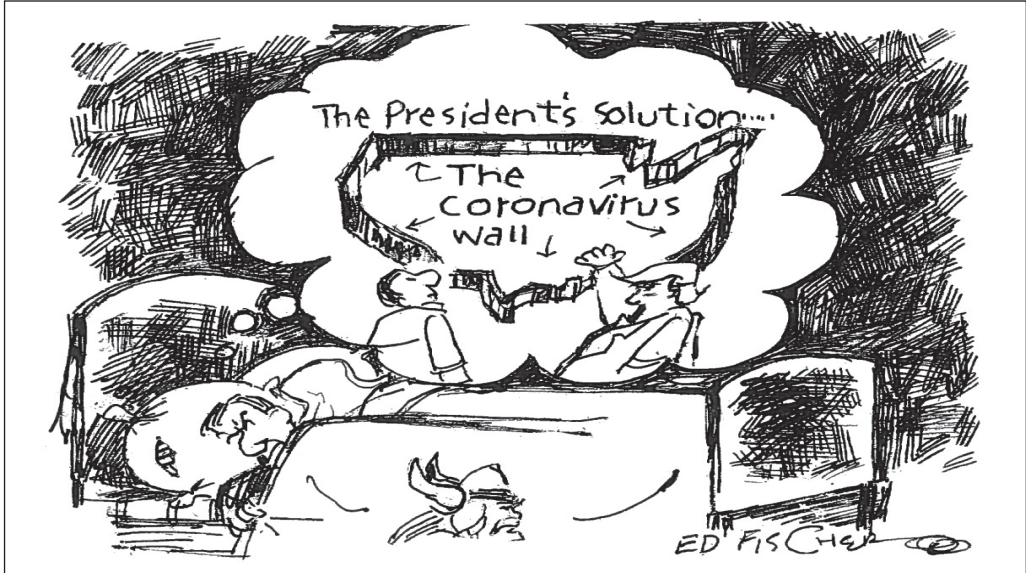
Mayo is in the process of cancelling elective surgeries for the time being. Mayo is also working closely with

school districts to correctly identify health care workers who live in our communities and will need to use school-based child care during the school shut down.

Public Health Director Amy Caron, who serves both Steele and Dodge counties, made a passionate plea to the public on Monday. She stressed the importance of everyone practicing social distancing of 3-6 feet. “Do not gather in groups of people,” she emphasizes. “We’ve even instructed our own staff to do this.”

As we head into uncharted territory, just remember to remain calm and don’t panic. Anything other is not going to do anybody any good. This is certainly an unprecedented time in our country. Together we will survive this scare and come out stronger than ever before.

Help your friends, neighbors and relatives and go in hot pursuit of keeping the coronavirus at bay in your life.



GUEST COLUMN

Help us meet an incredible milestone

BY DENNY MEILLIER

With the continued support of the people of Owatonna, our local businesses and organizations, the Owatonna Foundation raised over \$400,000 in 2019. The Owatonna Foundation is truly YOUR community foundation and after a very successful fundraising campaign, we want to thank our supporters in the community for your continuous philanthropic spirit!

These funds will be used to carry on the Foundation’s mission of improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting worthy projects that focus on community, arts, recreation and education. As a Trustee, I am both honored and humbled by this amazing support and the entire Board of Trustees wants to personally thank every one of our committed donors.

Annually, the Foundation gives financial support to capital projects that impact Owatonna. The Foundation responds to our community’s needs via our grants program. It is a true “grass roots” process, with local 501C-3 non-profits applying for worthy projects. In 2019, our generous donors helped to provide funds for the following projects:

We All Play Inclusive Playground and Miracle Field: Funds were allocated towards the construction and completion of this community project.

Owatonna Soccer Association: The past two years funds were allocated towards the construction of the new soccer fields at the

intersection of Rice Lake Street and Willow Avenue.

Owatonna Arts Center: A new ice maker was donated for programs and events.

Wee Pals Child Care Center: In the interest of child safety, the Foundation provided funds for a security system upgrade.

Owatonna Trails Association: A new snow groomer will enable the Trails Association volunteers to maintain winter time trails for public recreation.

Owatonna Curling Club: A new warming house and restroom area were constructed by Club volunteers with assistance from the Foundation.

Besides the money awarded annually for grants, the Foundation also sets aside each year \$30,000 in scholarship dollars for traditional and non-traditional students that are enrolled in post-secondary programs for technical and vocational training. And, looking to the future, the Foundation has partnered with the Junior Achievement program, St. Mary’s School and the Owatonna Middle School to teach our children about the importance of philanthropy and provided the funds for the students to donate to the charity of their choice.

Established in 1958, the Owatonna Foundation has currently invested over \$12 million into making our community’s dreams come true. Our community has grown into the vibrant place it is because of the enthusiasm and hard work of many. Yet, there are more projects that still need funding. The funding for these initiatives

is why the Owatonna Foundation is launching the 3 in 3 by Twenty-Twenty- Three (2023) campaign. It is our vision to make more of Owatonna’s dreams come true. How many projects have been imagined but never realized in Owatonna? The Owatonna Foundation with the 3 in 3 by 2023 initiative wants to make more of those dreams a reality.

Three in 3 by 2023 is a campaign to help the Owatonna Foundation reach a goal of \$10 million in assets. With assets of \$10 million, the Foundation will be able to annually award close to half a million dollars in capital grants each year into perpetuity. This will enable more dreams and projects to come to fruition than ever before!

Currently, the Foundation has around \$7.5 million in assets and over the next three years, we would like to see that balance grow by \$1 million a year. We are asking that the community of Owatonna join in the excitement and help us to meet this incredible milestone. The impact on our community will be substantial.

Again, we thank you for helping us to continue to invest in our beloved community, our future, and the future of generations to come. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Denny Meillier is the president of the Owatonna Foundation. More information about the foundation can be found at www.owatonnafoundation.org or call 507-455-2995.



Hometown Living

Hyland chosen woman of achievement

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A veteran senior vice president at Federated Insurance has been named Owatonna's Woman of Achievement for 2020.

Lisa Hyland received the top honor Friday night during the annual Woman of Achievement Scholarship Awards and Fundraiser at the Owatonna Country Club. Hyland serves as the director of human resources at Federated where she has been employed for the past 25 years.

In addition to leadership at work, Hyland is active in the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. For the past 15 years, she has volunteered to prepare and serve weekly

meals for about 150 community members through Bethel Church Community Supper. She has also helped to launch leadership development programs for women and Lean In Circles.

Hyland was nominated for the honor by a colleague who said she is a "champion of women within the company and the community. (She encourages) women to reach their full potential."

Other women honored as finalists were Kristin Haberman, attorney and partner of Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, PA; Barb Heerema, co-owner and CFO of Owatonna Granite and Monument and Lisa Kern, executive director for KODA Living Community.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Lisa Hyland, who is a senior vice president for Federated Insurance, was named the 2020 Woman of Achievement by the Owatonna Business Women Friday night. Three other area professionals were finalists for the honor.

The nominees submit written biographies and a synopsis of their careers as part of the evaluation for the top honor. They also complete an intense interview process with a panel of three professional women from outside the Steele County area.

Julianna Skluzacek was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award while Andi Arnold received the Young Careerist Award.

The Owatonna Business Women also presented various scholarships to aspiring women, graduating seniors and general education development.

Aracely Flores, Amber Friesen and Britt Schultz were the aspiring women scholarship recipients.

Graduating senior scholarships went to Riauna Bishop, Baylee Sorensen and Julia Worke of Blooming Prairie and Julia Holt, Ruth Livingston, Emma Loveless and Kaitlyn Madole of Owatonna.

Owatonna Business Women began as a chapter of Business & Professional Women/USA, commonly known as BPW. The Owatonna chapter was one of the first in Minnesota in 1919. In the early 2000s, the BPW national association dissolved due to poor fiscal management. In 2011, members of the Owatonna BPW formed Owatonna Business Women.

The woman achievement award has been given out every year since 1972.

HONORING THE LEGION



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Jim Wanberg, who served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-69, pauses to reflect on the Thirteen Fold Recitation, which is on display as part of the Legion Exhibit at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna. Wanberg served during the Vietnam era, though he did not go to Vietnam.

2 bids received for Bakery demolition

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Gregg Fristedt, owner of The Bakery which was destroyed by fire on Jan. 28, has acknowledged that two bids have been received to demolish the structure, a former bank.

Fristedt said he would not publicly reveal who the bidders were at this time. They are reported to be local.

Asked about rebuilding, Fristedt said the issue is money. He said it is also a heart and head issue.

The City of Blooming Prairie has been working with Fristedt and the owner of the Sportstitch building, Tara Amundson, to help with the demolition procedures.

Andrew Langholz, city administrator, provided a demolition update for the Blooming Prairie City Council at its regular monthly meeting March 9.

He also acknowledged the receipt of two bids to demolish the two structures.

Langholz said the city has been providing as much assistance as possible for The Bakery and Sportstitch.

The city's EDA (Economic Development Authority) has offered to provide \$13,000 in demolition assistance funds to Fristedt. This offer is contingent upon the total cost of demolition exceeding \$26,000 after the insurance has paid.

Langholz said he had contact with the Minnesota Historical Preservation Office due to the fact that The Bakery building, once a bank, was classified as a historical site. He inquired as to the demolition process of a historical building. He said The Bakery is on the Register. The demolition process can continue, he said.

Langholz said the contractors are eager to begin the demolition process.

Exhibit showcases county's Legion posts

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

As Jim Wanberg of Owatonna toured the new Legion exhibit at the Steele County History Center, he couldn't help but think about the service his family has given over the years.

Wanberg served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966 to 1969 during the Vietnam era, though he never went to Vietnam. His father also served in World War II. "It was kind of a family thing," he says.

On March 12, the Steele County Historical Society revealed its latest exhibit focusing on the American Legion. The exhibit pays tribute to Steele County posts, including Owatonna, Ellendale and Blooming Prairie.

Exhibits director Dan Moeckly said the Legion exhibit will be displayed for at least a year. He acknowledges the exhibit will have "visitor fatigue" and anticipates it will take many people three or four times to come back to fully comprehend everything in the display.

Moeckly said the exhibit features about 12,000



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Blooming Prairie Legion Commander Bruce Kubicek, left, and LaVern Soukup share some thoughts with each other at the Legion Exhibit, which opened last week in Owatonna.

words. "We edited it pretty severely," he said, noting items that didn't make it in the display will be posted to the society's Facebook page. There will be a Legion story featured every week on Facebook for the next 40 weeks, he added.

While looking at the various displays at the history center, Wanberg remembers what it was like for him to serve during the Vietnam conflict. "In 1969,

we took off our uniforms at the airport because we didn't want to be yelled at," he said. "Now everyone thanks me for my service, which never happened in 1969," he added.

Serving in the military is a "maturing process," Wanberg said. "You are responsible for yourself and your buddies," he noted.

Wanberg credits the historical society for its latest exhibit. "This is a very nice display," he said.

"This history center does things right."

Blooming Prairie Legion Commander Bruce Kubicek says the center's exhibit is "really good exposure for us," especially at a time where many Legion posts are struggling for new members.

The requirements to join the Legion changed as of last July, according to Kubicek. Now anyone who has served only one day of active duty and has been honorably discharged can join the Legion. "We hope to get some new people to serve," he said.

Kubicek is a latecomer to join the Legion as he joined about five years ago. For Kubicek, he became attracted to the Legion because he wanted to be on the Honor Guard. "I get a tear in my eye every time they play Taps," he said.

He pointed out that the Legion provides extensive service work throughout the community.

Legion members from around the county posted the colors during a grand opening ceremony on March 12. A roundtable discussion featuring Legion representatives also took place.

More valuable than toilet paper



STEELE TALKIN'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

This past week was Employee Appreciation Week. I spent a bit of time trying to be creative and give my staff a little something that shows they are truly valued. Each of them goes above and beyond on a daily basis, coming together as an amazing team. The pressure was on, and suddenly COVID-19 becomes the priority.

As the week progressed, I was spending more and more time on a COVID-19 policy and procedure plan, speaking with other Museums, following the

CDC and MDH recommendations. And then, BAM! It hit me, I had it. The perfect way to show how much I truly appreciate the people I work with.

TOILET PAPER! The one item that you cannot find on the shelves or purchase online from Amazon, the one item that everyone is searching for. Never did I imagine I would tell someone they were more valuable than toilet paper. We are finding ourselves in a whole different world than a few weeks ago.

As we progress through the COVID-19 pandemic, it is my hope that we can look at those around us and recognize they are always more valuable than the "essentials." Emergencies bring out the best and the worst in people. There are those that have purchased all the toilet paper, sanitizer, soap, etc. that they could and are

SEE MORE VALUABLE, A10

Boys cause severe damage to baseball stadium

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Two juveniles ages 8 and 10 are suspected of causing substantial damage after lighting a storage shed on fire at the Chuck Fuller Field in Owatonna's Dartt's Park.

It took firefighters from Owatonna only about three minutes and 1,000 gallons of water to extinguish the blaze, but by then the damage had already been done. Fire commander Todd Ulrich said damage was still being tallied, but he believes it will be at least \$300,000.

The storage shed, which

measured 12 foot by 20 foot, had been located under the bleachers. The fire got so intense that it also melted aluminum bleachers located directly above the shed, Ulrich said.

Because there was no electricity to the shed, Ulrich said it was immediately suspected that the blaze was deliberately set. The State Fire Marshal and Owatonna Police joined the local fire department in investigating the fire. "Any time there is suspicion of arson, they are called in," Ulrich said referring to the State Fire Marshal.

Witnesses identified two boys leaving the area

of the park, according to police. An 8-year-old boy and 10-year-old boy were located in Forest Hills Cemetery. Both boys have statements to their involvement in starting the fire, police said. They were released into the custody of family members.

The city's Park & Recreation department maintains the stadium. It is covered by the city's insurance policy. Owatonna Baseball as well as the Owatonna Aces utilize the field.

Ulrich said a portion of the stands will still be able to be utilized. The damage will not affect anything on the field, he noted.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

A storage shed went up in flames at the Chuck Fuller Field in Dartt's Park March 10, leaving an estimated \$300,000 in damage. Two juveniles, ages 8 and 10, are suspected of starting the fire.

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.

Sheriff seeks information on fallen Hayfield officer's family

A law enforcement group is seeking the public's help in trying to find any descendants of a fallen officer who was killed in the line of duty more than a century ago.

The Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation of Southeast Minnesota wants help in trying to locate any relatives of Marshal Oly Havey, who served the Hayfield Police Department. Havey was shot and killed just after midnight on Dec. 28, 1905 by a burglar outside the Dalen & Alrick Store on Hayfield's Main Street.

Havey was survived by his wife and three young children.

"We have not been able to identify descendants from this officer and do not want to miss anyone that might still be in the area,"

said Sheriff Scott Rose, who serves on the LEMF board.

Rose reminds citizens that the 31 fallen heroes, including Havey, in southeastern Minnesota did not take on this calling alone. "When Havey took on that call to serve, his whole family took on that responsibility, that commitment, the sacrifices that went along with it, the risks and the stress," he said. "We need to make sure they are recognized and supported as well."

If anyone has information on descendants of Havey, they are asked to contact Rose at 507-635-6200 or scott.rose@co.dodge.mn.us.

LEMF organizes the annual SE Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Program, which will be held this year on Mon-

day, May 18 at 5:30 p.m. in Rochester at the Veteran's Memorial in Soldiers Field Park.

During this program, LEMF honors the 31 fallen officers recorded in southeastern Minnesota and their families.

In addition to LEMF's annual memorial program, the foundation is also raising money to build a SE MN Law Enforcement Memorial right across the street from the Veterans Memorial in Rochester. This memorial will list the names of these fallen so they are never forgotten. This information is available on the website as well.

For more information about Havey, the memorial fundraiser or the memorial program in May, go to www.lawenforcementmemorial.org.

Peterson resigns full-time police position

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Jake Peterson, 17-year veteran of the Blooming Prairie Police Department, has submitted his resignation effective March 21.

The resignation was approved by the Blooming Prairie City Council March 9 on a unanimous vote. The council also granted Peterson's request to be classified as casual part time with the BP Police Department.

He was a ranking officer in the department as a corporal.

Peterson told The Times that the decision to resign from the police department was made to allow him to spend more time with his wife Alecia and three children, Mason, Peyton and Brooklyn.

He said he is looking at options and has not determined what his next opportunity will be.

Peterson is a Blooming Prairie High School graduate and was well known because of his visibility as a police officer, member of the Blooming Prairie Fire Department and member of the BP Ambulance Squad.

He plans to continue his affiliation when available with the fire department and ambulance service.

Peterson and his wife Alecia observed their 10th anniversary last summer as leaders of the Blooming Prairie drum corps group, the Stix of Fury.

Elaborating more on his decision to step away from his full-time position with the police department, Peterson said, "It's time to spend more time with my family. I've missed out on a lot of family things."

He said he hopes to establish more of a norm in family life. This decision will allow Peterson to be home and able to participate in birthday parties, school events and other family get-togethers, he said.

Peterson said police work is still a passion of his. "I've got some things on my plate and have options," Peterson related.

He is also deliberating his involvement with the Stix of Fury. "We need someone to step forward and help out," Peterson remarked.

Admitting he has been a very busy man over the years, Peterson said his work schedule including nights and weekends, did



Corporal Jake Peterson

not allow him appropriate time to spend with his family.

The decision was one that had to be made, said Peterson. "It's been an honor to serve the people of Blooming Prairie," he said with sincerity.

Jake and Alecia were honored by the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce as BP Citizens of the Year in 2017.

"Jake has been a great asset to the city and police department," said BP Police Chief Greg Skillestad.

"He's been our go-to guy for all electronics, user accounts, radio and computer work. I'm glad he's agreed to staying on part time; his knowledge and experience would be missed."

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 2 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Ron H. Jaeger, 36, Bayport, previously appeared and was convicted of felony attempted murder. He was sentenced to \$131 and 240 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Jennifer J. Robb, 35, Cambridge, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Robb was sentenced to \$131, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 2 – 8:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Aleksandra Dedi, 26, Boulder, CO, speeding, \$115; Henry O. Montplaisir, 41, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Alex L. Riley, 30, Austin, hands free violation, \$125; Madison R. Sauke, 19, Austin, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Dylan C. Tuma, 27, Lake Crystal, speeding, \$115.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Raul Angiano Escobar, 46, Juarez, speeding, \$215; Zachary B. Archer, 18, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$100; Dalton K. Black, 19, Stilwell, OK, speeding, \$115; Trinity Breyer, 23, Faribault, speeding, \$135; Meredith M. Brose, 34, Dodge Center, suspended license, \$275; Emily A. Busho, 22, Ellendale, speeding, \$215; Joelle K. Butler, 34, Ellendale, no insurance, \$275; Monica M. Cariveau, 41, St. Louis Park, speeding, \$125; Raymundo C. Correa, 35, Colorado Springs, CO, speeding, \$115; Daniel Cuellar, 35, Owatonna, revoked license and no license, \$375;

Evan L. Day Diggins, 21, Northfield, speeding, \$115; Neil K. Debuse, 52, West Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$115; Max T. DeGrood, 18, Owatonna, unsafe passing, \$125; Matthew J. Determan, 33, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Cindel D. Diaz Castillo, 27, North Bay Village, FL, speeding, \$135; Brandon J. Diaz, 23, Monticello, speeding, \$135; Andrew S. Fort, 38, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$100; Eliud R. Garcia Ricaldy, 23, Stacy, speeding, \$115; Zachariah D. Hastings, 25, Ankeny, IA, speeding, \$135; Scott G. Hein, 62, Pine City, suspended license, \$275; Manuel Hinojosa, 19, Owatonna, suspended license and possession of marijuana, \$425; Kyaw S. Hlaing, 36, Des Moines, IA, hands free violation, \$125; James L. Hoffman, 69, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Nikki K. Ketzeback, 23, Rochester, unsafe lane usage, \$125; Monica L. Labarre, 22, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Sylvia L. Larson, 42, Oakdale, no insurance, \$275; Tiffany N. Lester, 32, Kansas City, MO, speeding, \$375; Sergio D. Lozano, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; John P. Meacham, 61, Burnsville, hands free violation, \$125; Marco A. Molina, 48, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Lindsey M. Mongeau, 32, Blooming Prairie, tires violation, \$125; Geneva L. Morales, 16, North Mankato, speeding, \$135; Carlos D. Nabor Ontiveros, 22, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$215; Edward J. Nelson, 65, Ellendale, seat belt, \$100; Jabir H. Noor, 20, Faribault, speeding, no insurance and permit violation, \$465; Shafie M. Omar, 23, Minneapolis, speeding, \$125; Amanda M. Pena, 40, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$100; Francisco Ramirez Aguilar, 24, St. James, suspended license, \$275; Kevin M. Reineke, 30, Dundas, speeding, \$115; Noah A. Sattler, 33, Minnetonka, speeding, \$125; Rebekah A. Schneider, 27, Minneapolis, speeding, \$125; Andrew T. Schultz, 21, Northfield, window tint violation, \$125; Jeremiah F. Squires, 59, Edina, speeding, \$125; Jhett J. Wade, 20, Eden Prairie, speeding, expired registration and no insurance, \$345.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gbenga J. Aberuagba, 63, Oakdale, revoked license, \$275; Matthew J. Amundson, 19, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Christopher Caballero, 28, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Richard D. Cody, 50, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, attend MADD impact panels and 1 year of supervised probation; Bianca M. Cuevas, 26, Owatonna, revoked license and seat belt, \$300; Karly J. Ellis, 25, Owatonna, collision with unattended vehicle, \$131; Kaiden M. Hananparker, 24, New Brighton, no insurance, \$275; Noah A. Harazin, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Tiffany A. Hernandez, 30, Owatonna, no insurance, \$300; Tiffany A. Hernandez, 30, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Eric R. Hinson, 35, Kasson, possession of marijuana, \$581, 4 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, obtain permission to leave the state, mental health evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Abdullahi H. Jama, 30, Owatonna, revoked license and expired tabs, \$315; Brian R. Johnson, 56, Wadena, cancelled license, \$131, 4 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ioane Kariti, 26, Austin, revoked license, \$275; Jamie D. Knutson, 42, Owatonna, violation of order for protection, \$131, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Kiana R. Louks, 19, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Alexis A. Murillo Mata, 23, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Jade R. Nordby, 19, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$225; Alejandro Ortiz Sanchez, 33, West Concord, revoked license, \$275; Javier E. Pena, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Angelita Rodriguez, 31, Owatonna, failure to yield and revoked license, \$325; Bernard E. Shaw, 50, West Concord, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Jesse A. Wise, 45, Blaine, give peace officer false information, \$375 and 24 days in county jail; Jessica M. Wolf, 35, Owatonna, school bus violation, stay of adjudication, \$75, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jonathan L. Becker, 29, Owatonna, no insurance, expired tabs and failure to deliver title, \$505; Jamie K. Conrath, 49, Waseca, passing parked authorized vehicle, \$125; Patrick J. Donlon, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; David H. Engel, 46, Pine Island, speeding, \$215; Katiana R. Hanley, 25, Medford, headlamps violation, \$115; Katie L. Kolterman, 39, Waterville, possession of marijuana, \$131, 47 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments

CRIME BRIEF

Unwanted? Hardly, just ask police

It's a case of the unwanted really be wanted.

On March 7, Owatonna Police responded to the Kwik Trip store on Mineral Springs Road for an unwanted person. The store reported that a man had stolen a donation box a year ago.

When officers arrived, they found Jake Karow, 33, of Owatonna



Jake Karow

in the restroom. Officers identified him from past contacts and knew he had outstanding warrants for his arrest. Karow was arrested and a subsequent search uncovered methamphetamine.

Karow has been jailed on the warrants and now has a new charge of felony fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance.

and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Jacob N. McShane, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Kadyn J. Mulert, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Mackenzie A. Mullenbach, 18, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$125; Holly J. Munch, 50, Owatonna, failure to signal, \$125; Laylet J. Nathanel, 18, Austin, speeding, \$115; Jonathan L. Pogones, 28, Ellendale, speeding, \$215; Tyler L. Qualle, 31, Faribault, theft, \$74.99 and 31 days in county jail; Braden M. Schroeder, 18, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Cassandra J. Schrom, 20, Medford, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Scott R. Thorpe, 40, Hayfield, disorderly conduct, \$181, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Tamara A. Veach, 41, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Charles J. Wacek, 35, expired tabs, \$105.

of State Ave. NW at 9:47 p.m.

Trespassing: Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 11:28 p.m.

March 8

Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 1800 block of La Casa Lane SE at 12:34 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1100 block of 18th St. SE at 9:40 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 5:45 p.m.

March 9

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 800 block of 24th Ave. NW at 9:18 a.m.

Fire: Police responded to a fire call in the 600 block of Cherry St. NE at 6:40 p.m.

Clarence J. Bibbs, 38, Rochester, disorderly conduct, \$180; Rayah I. Bond, 19, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Luis M. Hernandez Martinez, 29, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$130; Hitiel E. Ortiz Lopez, 24, Dodge Center, invalid license, \$180; Jamie L. Pena, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$220; Logan C. Shay, 18, Nicollet, speeding, \$220; Scott R. Thorpe, 40, Hayfield, revoked license, \$280.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cole T. Denwiddie, 20, Minneapolis, theft, \$120, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Janeth Miranda, 28, parking violation, \$32; Julie I. Tange, 42, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Jorge L. Valdes, 54, Albert Lea, check forgery, stay of adjudication, \$454.57, 20 days in county jail and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Elijah K. Zwielfel, 18, Dodge Center, stop sign, \$130.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Megan E. Becker, 26, Clear Lake, IA, speeding, \$120; Spencer T. Linton-Smith, 20, Lone Tree, CO, speeding, \$120; Jacob H. Thalacker, 19, Byron, speeding, \$120.

ARRESTS Steele County

MN STATE PATROL

Mary Nyalok Paul, 40, arrested at 6:15 p.m. March 11, felony DWI, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 1 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Robert A. Ebert Jr., 32, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violation of restraining order and gross misdemeanor financial transaction card fraud. He was sentenced to \$1,080, 41 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, mental health evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, cognitive skill training, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 1 – 8:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Michael T. Allen, 43, Goodhue, DWI, \$980, comply with Ignition Interlock program, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation;





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How Medicare is Covering Coronavirus



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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Dear Savvy Senior,
Is Medicare covering testing for the coronavirus? My husband and I are very nervous about this virus and would like to find out if or when we should get tested, and how Medicare manages it.
Nervous Nelly

Dear Nelly,
Yes! Medicare is indeed covering the cost of testing for the coronavirus, or COVID-19. But be aware that getting a test isn't as simple as going to your local pharmacy or doctor's office and asking for one. Here's a breakdown of what Medicare is covering, along with how to get tested if you think you may have symptoms.

Medicare Coverage
Medicare (Part B) will cover the lab test to see if you have coronavirus, but only when your doctor or other health care provider orders it. You will pay no out-of-pocket costs for these tests.

In addition, Medicare also covers all medically necessary hospitalizations. This includes if you're diagnosed with COVID-19 and might otherwise have been discharged from the hospital after an inpatient stay, but instead you need to stay in the hospital under quarantine.

And while there's currently no vaccine yet to protect against COVID-19, when one becomes available next year, it too will be covered by all Medicare prescription drug plans (Part D).

If you happen to get your Medicare benefits through a private Medicare Advantage plan, you will have access to these same benefits. In addition, many Advantage plans are also expanding coverage of telemedicine, which allows beneficiaries to consult with medical professionals without having to go to a doctor's office. Check with your plan for coverage details.

When to Call Your Doctor
Older adults, age 60 and older (especially those in their 70s and 80s), and people with chronic medical conditions like diabetes, heart, lung or kidney disease are at a higher risk of serious illness if they contract the coronavirus. So, everyone in these categories need to be vigilant.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Severe cases can lead to pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death.

If you develop any symptoms that are concerning, you should contact your primary-care provider by phone for guidance. If your doctor believes you need testing, he or she will instruct you on what to do. Unfortunately, there have been reports of test shortages across the country, so depending on where you live you may have to wait a few days.

Prevention Tips
To help you steer clear of COVID-19 the CDC recommends that you avoid close contact with anyone who is sick. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being out in public, blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water isn't available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.

To the extent possible, try to avoid touching your face, nose, and eyes. And avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places, like elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, and handshaking with people. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or finger if you must touch something.

Also, clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces – tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks and cell phones.

You should also avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Your risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like COVID-19 may increase in crowded, closed-in settings with little air circulation if there are people in the crowd who are sick.

The CDC also recommends that seniors and high-risk individuals stock up on supplies, such as extra medications and groceries. And, if there is an outbreak in your community, remain at home as much as possible. They also discourage non-essential travel.

For more information on the COVID-19, visit [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.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

It was announced at the Blooming Prairie school board meeting on March 15, that long time Kindergarten teacher, Ann Clausen, will retire after the current school year. Clausen has taught at the school since 1979 and will be missed by the school district, parents, students and community.

Several choir members threw themselves into the challenge at the Solo and Ensemble Contest held at Riverland College on March 15. There were eight schools participating. Performing solos were: Christina Blair, Ashley Campbell, Shelby Pollock, Pat Trotman and Aliza Mainard. Hunter Henderson, Savannah Allard and Darcy Skala performed a trio. These students were under the direction of vocal music instructor Kari Bottin. Mainard earned a superior rating and the other performers received excellent ratings. Mary Helkenn was the lone band participant this year. She received a superior rating for her performance by Back on the tenor sax. She was under the direction of instrumental music instructor Ross Reishus.

Boys basketball held their awards program on March 21. Coaches John Bruns and Nathan Piller summarized the season and held out awards to the players. Seniors earning letters for the season were: Jeff Doerhofer, Robert Hofius, Justin Ingvaldson, Aaron Krejci, Tim Boecker and Rudy Vasquez. Other teammates receiving their letters were: Cooper Nelson, Tom Fogarty, Daniel Hansen, Dylan Hatch, Luke Hueman and Luc Zellner. Although the team had a disappointing win-loss record, they also had some notable contests and some games were lost in the final seconds and a number of career marks were notable. The seniors will certainly be missed, but some excellent juniors and several underclassmen are waiting in the wings.

20 Years Ago
March 14, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Brenda Donnelly, Chantel Houzenga and Angela Wacek were inducted into the Winona State University's chapter of the Golden Key National Honor Society on Feb 27. Golden Key honors the academic achievement of juniors and seniors in the top 10% of their class. Donnelly is majoring in human resources management, Houzenga is majoring in finance and Wacek is a nursing major. All three are juniors and are graduates of Blooming Prairie High School.

The local Elementary School Science Fair was impressive. Seventy-eight students in grades

four, five and six participated in the annual event. Twenty students will attend the Regional Science Fair in Mankato April 29th. The fair is in its ninth year. Science Club advisor, Brenda Sorenson, stated, "This is fantastic. I am so honored to have these students in Science Club. Our Science Fair has improved not only in student involvement, but how they use technology." The students are judged in seven categories: scientific though, creative ability, overall understanding of their project, clarity in communicating their procedures and data, dramatic value in their design and technical skills which included the use of writing material done on computer. They were 20 participants who received purple ratings, 45 students receiving blue ratings and 13 receiving red ratings.

Michael Farr of Blooming Prairie has been accepted for enrollment into the Meat Merchandising major at Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Pipestone campus. Michael will receive training for the retail meat cutting industry. Minnesota West – Pipestone has trained over 2000 students for the meat merchandising industry in its 32-year history.

50 Years Ago
March 11, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Viking Chemical Company will begin operations in Blooming Prairie within the next week or 10 days, William Jarvey, president of the firm, announced Monday. The new industry is located in the former Blooming Prairie Co-operative Creamery property. The company will produce epoxidized oils and polyester plasticizers for the vinyl industry. The products will be marketed nationally and internationally under the trade – Vikoflex. President Jarvey stated, "The Viking Chemical Company is pleased to be located in Blooming Prairie as its people have been most encouraging and co-operative. Viking wants to become a member of this community, providing jobs for an increasing number of people as it may prosper and grow. We believe that, as in any new business, there will be difficulties ahead, but we are optimistic that within a year we can say we are fully established.

The American Legion bowling team set a new record for three games at Ressler Lanes recently, according to George Ressler. The new high is 2978 pins. Rolling on the team were: Dave Helleck, 636; Jack Shaw, 627; Tim O'Connnor, 590; Howard Hunter, 570; and Mike Linse, 555. Previous high score at Ressler Lanes was held by Severson Well Co. when they recorded a 2,968 total back in 1968.

Kenneth Halliday, a member of the Blooming Prairie Police Department, attended a Basic Police

Science School at Austin and has received a Certificate of Achievement issued by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, State of Minnesota. The school extended over a period of five weeks.

Ed Butler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Butler, recently placed third in the Master Swine Award Junior Division at the Spring Barrow Show in Albert Lea. The award was open to all 4-H and FFA members in the Swine Production project. The selection was based on the size of operation, general knowledge of the business, efficiency of operation and management ability. Ed is a junior in the Blooming Prairie FFA Chapter.

75 Years Ago
March 15, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Mrs. Elmer Berg, Elizabethtown, KY, arrived Saturday to be present at a family reunion at eh home of her mother, Mrs. Marie Fiebiger and also to see her brother, Bob Fiebiger, who has completed his boot training at Great Lakes and is home on leave. Sunday was the first time in several years that all the children were able to meet un the parental roof at the same time and needless to add the family gathering was most pleasant and enjoyable. Mrs. Berg left Monday to join her husband who is stationed in Kentucky.

Interesting quip from the "Distributor Stops" column:

This may sound like a "plug" for Dick Olson's drug store, but I don't mean it as such. My sole purpose is to help you gals that are having difficulty in "rolling your own". Dick has several little gadgets resembling a washboard. (How many of you modern girls have ever seen a washboard, Let alone use one?) And Mrs. Glenn Dennis, pleasant and obliging clerk in Olson's, tells me that one of the "thing-a-ma-gigs" will, without muss, fuss, waste or experience, roll a cigarette without bulges. In fact, they look like the real Kid McCoy. Now, ladies, don't all rush into Olson's expecting to get one of the machines, he only has a half dozen of them.

With the III Corps in Germany (Special to the Times). Technician Fourth Grade George S Skalicky, of Blooming Prairie, serving with the medical department, medical detachment 145th engineer combat battalion, was recently was awarded the bronze star medal for heroic achievement. He is the husband of Alice Skalicky, owner of Alice's Beauty Salon. His medal was awarded for heroic achievement for his disregard of bombing and explosions from burning ammunition, unhesitatingly and courageously treated the wounded and attended to their evacuation. His calmness, heroic action and singleness of purpose under enemy bombardment, reflect great credit upon him and the forces of the United States.

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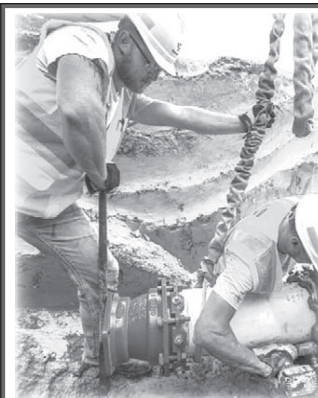
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CRISIS IMPACTS IN MANY WAYS

State courts remain open with precautions

The Minnesota Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, held an emergency meeting March 13 to discuss Emergency Executive Order 20-01: Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19. Following that meeting, Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea issued a statewide order, effective Monday, March 16, for all Minnesota courts.

The order establishes temporary procedures for district court case processing:

- All court facilities shall remain open. Service windows at court facilities will also remain open, and courts will continue to accept filings in all case types. The Judicial Branch discourages the public from making any non-essential visits to court facilities.
- All jury trials currently underway should continue until the trial is complete, regardless of case type.
- For case types designated "High Priority" or "Super High Priority" in the Limited Court Service Case Priorities List, all court proceedings should continue as normal. Courts will schedule new jury trials as needed in those case types. Wherever possible, courts should explore the use of ITV/remote technology to conduct these hearings. The order also eases restrictions on the use of these technologies currently in Court Rules.
- For case types designated "Medium Priority" or "Low Priority" in the Limited Court Service Case Priorities List, all court proceedings (except jury trials currently underway, or cases where a speedy trial has been demanded) will be suspended for 14 days. No new jury trials in these case types should be scheduled for the next 30 days.

Each individual district court has begun communicating these changes to parties, attorneys, jurors, and justice partners. Going forward, court administration is authorized to implement workplace modifications to promote social distancing between employees, and between employees and the public.

The Court of Appeals and Supreme Court will follow Minnesota Department of Health recommendations regarding social distancing, but continue to operate, accept filings, and hear oral arguments as usual.

"The courts are one of the first promises made in the Minnesota Constitution. The prudent and temporary measures we are implementing balance public safety, the safety of people visiting courthouses, and the safety of our workforce. The Minnesota Judicial Branch is committed to ensuring that this delicate balance is upheld as the state copes with COVID-19," said Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea.

Woman's Club cancels meetings

The Woman's Club Board of Directors Monday unanimously decided to cancel the membership meetings for both April and May. This decision follows the coronavirus CDC guidelines about not having or attending meetings or gatherings with 50 or more people for eight weeks.

The board said it believed that following the guidelines was the responsible thing to do. "It is better to be safe, than sorry later," said Jan Mittelstadt Tippet, president. The board meeting for April has also been cancelled.

The May luncheon falls in that time period. Chairs Sue Vedder and Cathy LaCount are undoing the plans for this event, helped by the program committee representatives. Those who have already purchased their tickets for the May 7 event may either leave it with WCO to donate to the Food Shelf (this year's recipient of luncheon funds) or contact Marlys Olson for a refund. It is your choice. If you don't ask for a refund, WCO will put that money together and give it to Community Pathways.

Members who have not yet returned their dues are asked to mail them by May 1. Membership chair is Sandy Muir with Molly Urness as assistant and incoming chair.

The annual meeting will be held by "newsletter."

Allina Health announces visitor restrictions

Allina Health, which operates the Owatonna Hospital, continues to monitor the rapidly evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Allina is actively supporting containment efforts and working to ensure the safety of patients, employees and the public.

In order to do that, Allina Health has announced visitor restrictions to its facilities:

- Sick people are not allowed to visit patients;
- All patients are limited to two visitors per day. Compassionate exceptions may be granted by patient care manager;
- Children under 12 years old are not allowed to visit;
- For patients who are COVID-19 Persons Under Investigation (PUI) or who have confirmed COVID-19: Visitors are not allowed except by compassionate exception only and loved ones are encouraged to use other ways to communicate with COVID-19 patients, which may include Skype, FaceTime, telephone, and other channels.

At Allina Health clinics, children or other family members of patients are NOT considered to be visitors. These individuals can be at the clinic with the patient.

Allina says it knows these restrictions will be difficult for patients and their loved ones, but reminds people they are taking these necessary steps to protect patients, staff and the public.

Farm & Power Show cancelled

Tradexpos Inc. of Austin has cancelled the 2020 North American Farm & Power Show that was set to begin Thursday in Owatonna.

The show had been scheduled for a three-day run at the Four Seasons Centre on the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

"After many discussions with all involved, and after serious consideration for the safety of our exhibitors and the attendees who come to the show, the Tradexpos staff felt this was the safest option," said Brock Nelson, show director of Tradeexpos.

UNDER SIEGE: Bracing for surge of coronavirus FROM A1

There have been many cancellations of events throughout the area. Caron said that Public Health has not ordered any cancellations to this point as groups and organizations have done a good job of choosing to cancel their own events.

Caron said her office has had a Public Health Emergency Preparedness program for nearly two decades. As of last week, Steele County had activated a partial Emergency Operations Center and are meeting on a regular basis with community partners to "efficiently respond if we should have confirmed cases in our county," Caron said.

In an effort to slow COVID-19, Caron issued some key recommendations. They include:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs. Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

On Friday, the Minnesota Department of Health released additional recommendations:

- Do not allow social distancing of 6 feet per person.
- People and families at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness should stay at home and avoid gatherings or other situations of potential exposures, including travel.
- Employers should make telework arrangements for workers whose duties can be done remotely.

Employers should stagger work schedules and limit non-essential work travel.

Hospitals and other health care facilities should implement triage before entering facilities.

According to Public Health, shopping for groceries and other items is not affected by any of the recommendations, although it is a good idea to limit close contact when doing so. People who are sick are advised to stay at home.

"We know these strategies will impact the lives of all Minnesotans, but we are hopeful we can reduce the impacts of this outbreak by working together," said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm. "All Minnesotans share the risks and the responsibilities now."

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, according to Caron. However, she noted, research is underway.

"We continue to recommend that you get your flu shot if you have not already done so this season," Caron said.

"People are getting sick with influenza in our area and the flu shot can help protect you."



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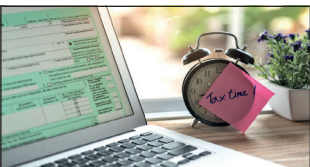
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

COVID-19

- Virus is spread primarily by respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza spreads.
- It can spread when people touch contaminated surfaces and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.
- COVID-19 Questions:
 - Statewide Hotline: 651-201-3920
 - Local: Steele Public Health—507-444-7650



TAX TIPS 2020



Five ways taxpayers can pay their taxes

Paying taxes is not optional – it's the law. Taxpayers do have options when it comes to how they pay their taxes. The IRS offers several easy ways to pay taxes. Taxpayers can pay online, by phone or with their mobile device using the IRS2Go app, just to name a few.

Some taxpayers must make quarterly estimated tax payments throughout the year. This includes sole proprietors, partners, and S corporation shareholders who expect to owe \$1,000 or more when they file. Individuals who participate in the gig economy might also have to make estimated payments.

Here are five options for taxpayers who need to pay their taxes. They can:

- Pay when they e-file using their bank account, at no charge, using electronic funds withdrawal.
- Use IRS Direct Pay which allows taxpayers to pay electronically directly from their checking or savings account for free. They can choose to receive email notifications about their payments when they pay this way. Taxpayers should watch out for email schemes. IRS Direct Pay sends emails only to users who request the service.
- Pay using a payment processor by credit card, debit card or digital wallet options. Taxpayers can make these payments online, by phone or through the IRS2Go app.
- Make a cash payment at more than 7,000 participating retail stores nationwide. To pay with cash, visit IRS.gov and follow the instructions.
- Pay over time by applying for an online payment agreement. Once the IRS accepts an agreement, the taxpayers can make their payment in monthly installments.



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Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

For those of us who can claim to be sports journalist Sid Hartman's close, personal friend, it should be no surprise that he has reached the magic NUMBER 100.

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

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

I have known Sid for more than 50 years.

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

I always submitted athletes from the Albert Lea and surrounding area. When an athlete made Sid Hartman's Prep Parade, it was a time for celebration. It was like being chosen All Conference.

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

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

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

Sid Hartman still reigns supreme

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

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

Sid was somewhat a bully, but a friendly one, when he traveled the circles of other journalists and radio personalities. Yes, he was a radio personality himself. I remember listening to his Sports Hero show on a regular basis.

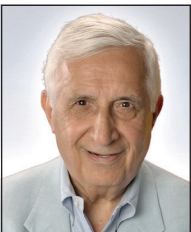
With his trusty tape recorder in hand, Sid interviewed the likes of Muhammad Ali, Fran Tarkenton, Hall of Fame baseball stars Hank Aaron and Harmon Killebrew, Baltimore Orioles pitcher Jim Palmer, race car driver A.J. Foyt, basketball star Michael Jordan, Bud Grant and of course, Bobby Knight.

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

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

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

As I was interviewing St. Peter, Sid came sauntering by and said, "Hey Dave, what do you think...?" St. Peter interrupted him and



Sid Hartman

said, "Sid, you are rude, can't you see I am being interviewed by someone else? You wouldn't like it if he did that to you." Wow! Sid was put in his place.

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

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

Hartman penned his first column for the Minneapolis Daily Times on Sept. 11, 1945, and continues to report, now for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

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

It's kind of nice that people have honored Hartman in life and not in death (which has not yet occurred).

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

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

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jerry Shore of the Steele County Toys for Tots, middle back row, is surrounded by members of the Owatonna High School Student Council. Shore accepted \$6,500 from the council for next year's program.

Owatonna Student Council Raises \$6,500 for Toys for Tots

The Owatonna High School Student Council selected Steele County Toys for Tots for an all school fundraiser prior to the school's 2019 Christmas break. The student council held a school assembly where Don Overlie, Steele County Toys for Tots Coordinator

challenged the students to raise funds for the program.

At the conclusion of the fundraiser, \$6,500 was raised locally for Steele County Toys for Tots. Funds received will be used to purchase toys for the 2020 Toys for Tots program that kicks off in

October with fundraising and donation boxes distributed around Steele County.

For more information about Steele County Toys for Tots visit <http://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org> or find Steele County Toys for Tots on Facebook for status updates.

Hearing set for annexation of Kruckeberg building into BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Kruckeberg Industries of Blooming Prairie has requested access to city sewer services for its building located in Westfield Township.

The building, also known as the Gateway building, is the new home of Stinar Corporation.

In order to allow this to occur, the parcel needs to be annexed into the city limits, which the property owner has agreed to.

A public hearing must be held to discuss the proposed joint resolution and orderly annexation agreement in regards to the property located in

Dodge County. The BP Council set a hearing date for Monday, April 13 at 7 p.m.

City Administrator Andrew Langholz said he has met with officials of Westfield Township, where he proposed that the city follow the same process that was used in 1989 when the parcel was originally annexed into the City of Blooming Prairie.

At that time, the city agreed to pay Westfield Township the amount of taxes it would lose for the next six years. Langholz said he thought this was "a way of being a good neighbor."

In other business,

- Council approved

capital projects including seal coating not to exceed \$35,000.

- Council approved the Pay Equity Implementation Report.
- Council approved a resolution adopting the new building permit fee schedule. Steele County also approved an updated fee schedule for building permits. The fees have increased slightly, said Langholz.
- Council OK'd Blooming Prairie Fire Relief Association request for an increase in Fire Relief benefits from \$1,575 to \$1,625 per service year upon retirement or death and allow the city administrator to certify the benefit.

Way to go Tiger scholars!

Congratulations to these students at Medford High School who earned spots on the High Honor Roll and Regular Honor Roll lists for second quarter:

MEDFORD QUARTER 2 HIGH HONOR ROLL

Grade 7 Amanda Bock Hailey Chambers Delaney Driscoll MaKayla Fedder Makenna Gare Lydia Heiderscheidt Hailey Hemann Emma McAdams Addison Poe Adrianna Schlund Lauren Smith Taylor Smith	Josef Sutcliffe Addison Vandereide Josue Zuniga Grade 8 Riley Babcock Ava Clark Ava Cottrell Avery Dressen Broderick Goodnature Omar Guerrero Sadie Kern Annette Kniefel	Isabel Miller Liliana Murphy Grade 9 Andrea Bock Samantha Buecksler Casey Chambers Rian Cloutier Emma Crooks Austin Erickson Abigail Fitzgerald Dylan Heiderscheidt Tate Hermes Josephine Homeier	Grace Keller Jack Meyer Riley Norland Carolina Perez Payton Ristau Tyler Steffen Reagan Sutherland Grade 10 Jacob Andrews Logan Buecksler Irene Charro Vico Isabel DeLeon Cheyenne Fedder	Ryllei Federly Nicole Harfmann MacKenzie Kellen Megan Klein Clara Kniefel Jacob Kucera Samantha Miller Jessica Neuharth Julia Niles Jack Paulson Elizabeth Peterson Scott Scholljegerdes	Hannah Schull Anna Sobrak Erika Thurnau Ava Jae Westbrook Jeancarlo Zuniga Grade 11 Braden Barbeau Brayden Beede Jenna Berg Kinsey Cronin Kaden Dolney Roberta Domstrand Isaac Enzenauer	Garrett Fitzgerald Johanna Grant Josiah Hedensten Gavin Hermes Madison Jaster Ernesto Lazaro Angela Lippert Sierra Lustig Brock Merritt Luz Peralta Brooke Purrier Lily Roehrick Isabella Steffen	Tyler Stursa Alex Vandereide Haley VonRuden Hanna VonRuden Miya Weber Gunner White Halli Zumbunnen Grade 12 Conrad Blome Sviatlana Danilyuk Jordan Edel Taylor Fette Zachary Finholdt	Hailee Homeier Alyvia Johnson Shawn Johnson Emma Kniefel Morgan Langeslag Kiley Nihart Brendan Rahn Kevin Robles Carson Sobrack Jordyn Stadler Lanaya Wacek Zachary Wetmore
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QUARTER 2 MEDFORD REGULAR HONOR ROLL

Grade 7 Jessie Aase Aiden Ahrens Meghan Amberg Alexia Benton Mason Delaney Xander Dell Theresa Ellis Ellory Grund Kaden Harfmann Makailyn Hedberg Cain Johannes Alivia Kappes Jillian Kellen Kylee Krause	Jordyn Kucera Logan Maas Hansen Madysen McCarty Regino Ortega Harvey Prins Erika Schrot Michael Schrot Clara Thurnau Brianna Vazquez German Vazquez Timothy Wilson Gavin Zacharias Grade 8 Maizee Alberts Mia Amberg	London Caron Kelsie Casper Abigail Cloutier Dakoda DuChene Lily George Beau Lawson Emely Lazaro Luis Lopez Rixi Melara-Erazo Rachel Miller Addison O'Connor Hunter Perdue Peyton Snow Ethan Solomon Lauren Stinocher	Kourtney Stoneking Sarah Wall Grade 9 Caden Dell Landon Driscoll Kylie Dusek MaKenna Enzenauer Jacob Esch Jamie Gibbons Alex Helgeson Connor Jones Morgan Jones Emily Kappes Adalia List	Samantha Luebben Preston McCarty Jenesis McGuire Cohen O'Connor Josephine Schell Martina Smith Cohen Stursa Annabelle Troester Mackenzie Zacharias Anahi Zuniga Grade 10 Jake Barten Marissa Bauer Jordan Capello	Reed Cumberland Paige Davis Jacob Ernste Henry Grayson Johnathan Houston Isabelle Huizel Kimberly Jarvi Nathan Johnson Journey Palluck Justin Ristau Nicole Schrot Brielle Smith Jayme Stransky Amelia Thompson	Rylan Warner Jared Zuniga Grade 11 Cole Dusek Alissa Freelove Nathan Galvan Lizbeth Gutierrez Kaelan Hermansdorfer Catrina Herr Dustin Jones Matthew Knutson Mason Nagel Alexander Oatway Jesse Phillips	Peyton Seiler Chloe Van Ryn Layla Wenker Jeffrey Westergaard Grade 12 Jade Arriaga Nately Buck Kylie Cumberland Boden Devoe River Disher Sebastian Duncan Devon Federly Juan Gamez Shelby Ganske Yazmin Gonzalez	Kaylin Hanson Riley Hill Logan Keppers Hannah Knutson Sierra Larson Reilly List Mackenzie Paulson Isabel Reuvers Sawyer Shaffer Dylan Stenzel Jeremiah Sutcliffe Abigail Telljohn William VonRuden Alorah Weise
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MARCH 19
Cancer Group Ham
Bingo, Pizza Cellar
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun
Night, BP Library

MARCH 25
10:30 a.m. – Storytime,
BP Library

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

MARCH 24
10:30 a.m. – Storytime,
BP Library

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

MARCH 20
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

MARCH 25
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building
6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire
Dept. Meeting, Community
Building

MARCH 23
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

MARCH 19
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun
Night, Owatonna Library

MARCH 21
11 a.m. – Fishing
Seminar, Cabela's

MARCH 23
4 p.m. – Owatonna
HRA Meeting, City Admin
Building

7 p.m. – Medford City
Council Meeting, City Admin
Building

MARCH 24
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
– Preschool Storytime,
Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – Owatonna
Public Utilities Meeting, OPU
5 p.m. – Steele County
Board Meeting, County
Admin Building

Minnesota authors
to tour area libraries

Six award-winning Minnesota authors will be touring SELCO region libraries this spring beginning March 24.

A wide-ranging selection of styles, genres and topics means that there should be an appearance that appeals to almost everyone, SELCO says.

All programs will be held at the public library and they are free and open to the public.

Area libraries involved in the tour with Brian Freeman include:

- Albert Lea- Tuesday, March 31, 6 p.m.
- West Concord- Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m.
- Dodge Center- Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.
- Blooming Prairie- Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.
- Kasson- Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m.

The Austin library will be hosting Mary Bleckwehl on Thursday, March 26 at 11 a.m.

The Owatonna library will host Sarah Stonich on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the tours and each author, check out legacy.selco.info/author-tour.

Parkinson's meeting cancelled

The March 24 meeting of the Parkinson Support Group that regularly meets in Owatonna has been cancelled.

The meeting has not been rescheduled at this time.

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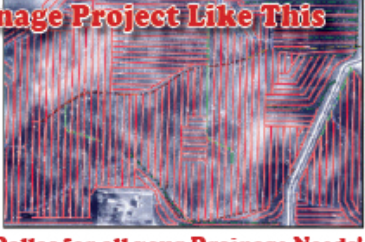
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AUSTIN 7-DAY FORECAST

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

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WINTER EVENTS

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

BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB: Tues. 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. FEB 11, MARCH 10, APRIL 7 MAY 5: "GALA" BENEFITS THE BP YOUTH CLUB

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

Mark Your Calendar

April: Customer Appreciation Day "34 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 18: B.O.B. Ride - Toys for Tots. Registration: 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. @ J & H. Fee: 10 per rider. Ride: Leaves @10:30a.m. MEAL: 5 p.m. @J&H. (2019 Donation was \$17,500)

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Pasta for 4-H



Steele County 4-H ambassadors Lexie Ignaszewski, left, Kalli Nelson and Kaden Nelson assist with taking tickets at the 16th annual 4-H Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser March 8 in Owatonna. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the entire 4-H program in the county. There are more than 1,000 kids along with 150 adult volunteers involved with 4-H in Steele County.

Fair seeks Hall of Fame nominations

A reminder from the Steele County Free Fair that May 1 is the deadline to submit nominations for this year's Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame.

Nomination forms are available at the fair office and also on-line at SteeleCountyFreeFair@scff.org.

There are two types of awards. The first type is the Hall of Fame membership. Nominees may be an individual or husband/wife team that meet the following criteria: Nominees are judged on their impact or influence upon the livestock industry – county, state, and national, their leadership in the livestock industry, and other relevant contributions with county being a priority.

The other type of award is the Hall of Fame Service award. These nominees are to be individuals that grew up or live in Steele County and went on to do outstanding work in the livestock industry outside of the county. State and national contributions are the priority for this award.

Inductees into the Livestock Hall of Fame will be recognized on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 2 p.m. in the livestock show arena.

Freeborn History Center cancels all public events

In response to growing concerns around COVID-19, the Freeborn County Historical Museum is postponing all public events and lectures from March 14–May 5.

For the time being, the museum's exhibits will remain open.

FCHM is taking every precaution for the safety and care of all visitors, staff, volunteers and our community as a whole.

"The well-being of our visitors is of the utmost importance to us and we appreciate your patience, flexibility, and understanding as we navigate this rapidly changing situation," said Stephanie Kibler, executive director of FCHM.

Here's how FCHM is responding:

- Hand sanitizers will be available at the front desk
- Staff are regularly sanitizing high traffic surfaces
- All staff and volunteers are washing hands frequently with soap and water as per CDC guidelines
- We are requiring staff and volunteers to remain home if any signs of illness are present

Our recommendations for visitors:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water
- Avoid touching your face (especially eyes, nose, and mouth)
- If you were planning to visit the Museum but have symptoms of illness, please stay home
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw tissues away after each use (then wash your hands for 20+ seconds!)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

The Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. The Society collects preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The Society is located at 1031 Bridge Ave., Albert Lea, and can be reached at 507-373-8003.

Auditions set for upcoming show at Little Theatre

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) has announced auditions for its summer production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The auditions will take place at the Owatonna Arts Center, 435 Garden View Lane in the West Hills Complex in Owatonna.

For children ages 9-11: audition dates will be Saturday, March 28, from 2-4 p.m. and Sunday, March 29, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

For adults of all ages: auditions will be Sunday, March 29, and Monday, March 30, from 6:30-9 p.m.

LTO is looking for 11 men ages 16-42 to play the brothers, 10 women of various ages to play their wives, a Narrator, Pharaoh, Jacob/Potiphar, and Joseph.

This is a musical, you will be asked to sing and dance.

Sha la la Joseph you're doing fine! You and your dreamcoat ahead of your time! One of the most enduring shows of all time, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a reimagining of the Biblical story of Joseph, his father Jacob, eleven brothers and the coat of many colors.

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

Audition packets are now available at the Owatonna Public Library, and online at <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org/upcoming-auditions/>.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m., June 18-20 and 25-27 with matinee performances at 2 p.m. June 21 and 28.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is presented by arrangement with The Musical Company, LP 229 West 28th St., 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001 and is sponsored by Wenger Foundation.

ALS benefit rescheduled to April

The benefit for Cindy Green of Ellendale has been postponed for this weekend and rescheduled to April 18.

Allie Larson, one of the benefit committee members, said the benefit was cancelled because of the coronavirus outbreak sweeping the world.

Green is suffering from ALS, a rapidly progressing neurological disease.

The benefit will take place on Saturday, April 18 from 3-7 p.m. at the Geneva Community Center.

Alzheimer's Caregiver support groups cancelled

At the direction of the MN/ND Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, the local Caregiver Support Groups have been cancelled until further notice.

Therefore, it is expected that both the March 17 Afternoon Group and the April 7 Evening Group will not be held. Local Support Group facilitators will wait for instruction from the Alzheimer's Association regarding the date on which the Support Group meetings may resume and will announce the resumptions at that time.

If you have questions, please contact Deb Gillard at 507-213-1305 or gillard.deb@gmail.com.

If you need assistance from the Alzheimer's Association, please log onto the website at alz.org/mnnd or call the Helpline at 1-800-272-3900.

Book of Golden Deeds postponed until fall

The committee for the Book of Golden Deeds has made the decision to postpone the April 23 Book of Golden Deeds event until September.

All nominations that have been submitted will be held and considered at that time.

Nominations may still be submitted and more information can be found on the Owatonna Exchange Club Facebook page. New information will be sent out in early summer about the September event.

"It was one of our best games of the year" -- Senior Gabe Hagen

"Obviously, our boys are disappointed but they knew it was a real possibility to have the season called off."

Ali Mach
BP Activities Director

decision for the whole population, even though it doesn't seem fair," she believes.

"Obviously, our boys are disappointed, but they knew it was a real possibility to have the season called off," stated Mach.

The decision affected kids, teachers, coaches, families and the community, said Mach. "The kids worked so hard and don't get to finish," she noted. "They ended as champions, however," Mach added.

The championship game featuring Blooming Prairie and Hayfield was well coached and well played by both teams, said Mach. "It was a great atmosphere with these rivals facing off," she remarked. "Everyone should be proud of that," she concluded.

DREAM SEASON ENDS: in heartbreak FROM A1

he was "disappointed" by the news but said he expected it to happen with all of the other activities on a national level being called off.

With the euphoria of winning a sectional championship on Thursday night, the Awesome Blossom boys had "no closure" for the season. "There's no practice; it's over," said a sad senior Isaac Ile.

Despite being dethroned by the MSHSL news, Thomas, Hagen and Ile were excited about the outcome of Thursday night's game. The Awesome Blossoms made it three victories in a row over Hayfield this season.

"It was 0-3 against them last year," said Ile.

"It was one of our best games of the year," thought Hagen. "We were in control the whole game and were confident we would win," he said.

As Minnesota shut down the boys and girls tournament games, they were not alone with Wisconsin and Michigan seeing similar fate.

Asked to name some highlights of the year, Thomas quickly said the Section 1A championship game win over Hayfield was his choice. "We ended on a high note," said Hagen. "It was a nice way to finish," agreed Coach Piller.

Piller pointed to the Blossoms' 25-3 overall record for the 2019-20 season. "That was the best record ever for a Blooming Prairie boys team," said Piller.

The past season was a season of firsts and it saw Hagen and Thomas both surpass the 1,000 point total for their careers. "Having two go over 1,000 points in the same season doesn't happen very often," said Piller.

Piller said this team "never wavered and fought lots of adversity" during the season.

Coach Piller praised his assistant coaches Andrew Hardecopf and Brian Nelson. "Brian was a calming influence on the kids," said Piller. Coach Nelson's son Anthony (2016 graduate) played basketball for the Blossoms. He was killed last year in an automobile crash.

The Blossoms will lose eight seniors for next year. Hagen, Thomas and Coach Piller were also members of the state championship BP football team. "It's awesome they both happened the same year," said Hagen. "We will go down in history," he continued.

Hagen was one of those Blooming Prairie athletes who thanked the community for its support of the football and boys and girls basketball programs.

The winter seasons are done, said Blooming Prairie High School Activities Director Alison Mach. "We were following the direction of the High School League, the Department of Health and the Department of Education," said Mach.

The decision to shut down the boys and girls tournaments was "new territory" for the MSHSL, said Mach. "It's the best

BRACING FOR THE CORONAVIRUS

Tips to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses:

• **STAY HOME**

If you have cold or flu-like symptoms and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

• **COVER YOURSELF**

Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, and then throw the tissue in the trash.

• **WASH YOUR HANDS**

Wash often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom or before eating. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

• **AVOID TOUCHING**

Do not touch your face – especially your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

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Sandra Peterson, 58,
Blooming Prairie



Sandra Peterson

Sandra JoAnn Peterson, 58, of Blooming Prairie, died Friday, March 13, 2020 at her home.

She was born March 2, 1962 in Dodge Center the daughter of Robert and Renee (Kiefer) Hedberg. Sandra married Jeffrey Peterson on Jan. 26, 1980 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. The couple farmed together and were later divorced. She then worked for Krampitz Itco prior to providing private in-home healthcare.

Sandra enjoyed gardening, canning, fishing, traveling and occasional trips to the casino. She loved all the time she could spend with her grandchildren, including watching them participate in sports and races.

She is survived by her daughters, Angie Cisneros, Amber Brandt, Samantha (Ray Garza) Peterson, Mariah (Chris Endelman) Ohlendorf; grandchildren, Brayten, Ry-lie, Aaron, Aubrie, Lexx, Maxx, Daxx, Braxx, Dakota, Cruz; granddogs, Dodger, Trigg; mother, Renee Hedberg; siblings, Dan (Janet) Hedberg, Gloria Heise, Glen (Sandy) Hedberg, Teresa (Joe) Duschek, Wayne (Leslie) Hedberg, Roy (Linda) Hedberg, Randy (Robbin) Hedberg, Yvonne (Scott) Ripka, Dennis Hedberg and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by father, Robert Hedberg; brother, Brad Hedberg; grandson, Tristan and ex-husband, Jeff Peterson.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 11a.m. at Michaelson Funeral Home with Pastor Doug Jones officiating.



Sharon Whelan (left), vice president of the Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary, presents a \$1,500 check for sexual assault training to Jessica Whippis, patient care manager in the Emergency Department of the Owatonna Hospital.

Owatonna Hospital
Auxiliary donates to
nurse training

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary recently donated \$1,500 to help train nurses in handling sexual assault cases.

The donation goes toward education and training of two sexual assault nurse examiners. The program is called SANE (Sexual Assault Nurses Education).

The monies are directed to fully training two forensic nurse examiners to cover sexual assault cases brought to the Owatonna Hospital.

Two nurses are beginning training this week. The training represents a 40-hour course.

The nurses are specially trained forensic nurses used to collect evidence in a pa-

tient after sexual assault and assist the patient with safe discharge planning. This is a specialized service not performed by all RN staff.

The course focuses on evidence collection, photography, medical management and safety planning for the victims as well as preparation for presenting evidence in court.

The Owatonna Hospital is expanding to have more trained nurses as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners.

“The \$1,500 donation is supporting our mission of meeting the needs of the hospital and community,” remarked Sharon Whelan, vice president of the Auxiliary.

The monies are directed to this purpose from scholarship funds raised by the Hospital Auxiliary.



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THE BOLD LOOK
OF **KOHLER**

Recipe
Corner

Beef and Broccoli
Four servings

1 pound boneless beef sirloin or top round steak, 3/4" thick
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 can (10-3/4 oz) tomato soup
2 tablespoon soy sauce

1 tablespoon vinegar
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper (optional)
3 cups fresh or frozen broccoli florets
4 cups hot cooked rice

Slice beef into very thin slices. Heat oil in skillet. Add beef and stir-fry until browned and juices evaporate. Add soup, soy sauce, vinegar, garlic, and pepper. Heat to a boil. Add broccoli and cook until tender-crisp. Serve over rice. Yields four servings.



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Email to bptimes@frontiernet.net
OR Send to: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie

BIRTHDAYS

March 20
Dillon Easton
Sandy Christianson
Hunter Borg
Tom Walters

March 21
Calla Staads
Mary Ann Betlach
Pam Farr
Sue Rossow
Jackie Olson
Jan Anderson
Dwayne Gross

March 22
Robert Haberman
Kevin Christianson
Tom Donnelly
Dustin Hensrud

March 23
James Trihus
Kelsey Wolf
Blake Symes
Katie Wolf
Karen Thoen
Isabella Salinas
Nolan French

March 24
Kay Toquam

March 25
Jenny Heimerman
Charles Wagner
Whitney Burruel
Nala Klemmensen
Becky Severtson
Mark Anderson
Bryan Rossow
Douglas Wencl
Kathleen Christey
David Maixner

ANNIVERSARIES

March 19
Richard & Imogene Symes

March 20
Larry & Gerry Wurst

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CARE CENTER: FROM A1

will be allowed to enter the facility, Mason said.

“It would not be good for our residents’ mental health to say no visitors would be allowed,” Mason remarked.

Mason did say that he learned of nursing home quarantine practices being invoked at facilities in Hayfield, New Richland and Austin.

Mason urged concerned parties to regularly check Prairie Manor’s Facebook page and its website for updated information on the coronavirus.

Following is the statement that currently exists on the Prairie Manor Facebook page:

“Prairie Manor Inc. is actively preparing for possible cases of coronavirus (COVID-19).

“Prairie Manor has no known cases of COVID-19. However, Prairie Manor is following recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and as of Thursday March 12, 2020, is restricting visitors at this time. Only staff, residents, approved vendors, and residents closest of kin may enter, and only if they have done a screening survey.

This may become stricter as the virus expands.

Prairie Manor has infection prevention and control policies and procedures in place, which are key to helping prevent the spread of COVID-19, a respiratory illness, and other common viruses.

“Prairie Manor is educating staff, residents and families on symptom awareness for COVID-19.

“Prairie Manor has clear protocols for staff to stay home and not come to work if they are ill, symptomatic, or have been in contact with anyone who is being screened for COVID-19, and to contact our Infection control nurse if they have recently returned from traveling out of state.”

MORE VALUABLE: FROM A3

now selling it online at outrageous prices. I saw a 6-pack of toilet paper for \$70. And, then there are those offering to buy groceries for the families who have children that depend on school breakfast and lunch, which for many U.S. children are the only meals they get each day.

As more closures happen, and grocery shelves empty out, I have faith in my community that each of us will do what is necessary to ensure our neighbor, co-worker, business owner has the support that they need to guarantee they don’t walk this surreal path on their own. Whether that be a simple phone call to check on them, or a delivery of milk and cereal. Let’s strive to be the best we can be during this difficult period in our history.

And yes, my staff appreciated the gift of toilet paper, possibly more than the Jake’s Pizza we shared for lunch.

Stephanie Kibler is a member of the Ellendale City Council and also serves as director of the Freeborn County Historical Society in Albert Lea. Steele Talkin’ is a regular column featuring authors representing various throughout Steele County.

BOOK NOOK

Library can help
you with census



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Within the next weeks you will be receiving a letter inviting you to respond to the 2020 United States census. This is the first time that residents will be able to complete the census online. Since libraries are a trusted resource across the nation, many people will turn to libraries with their questions. Blooming Prairie Branch Library is ready to help answer those questions.

American Library Association President Wanda Brown commented “It’s impossible to overstate what’s at stake with the 2020 census. If the census isn’t accurate, our communities will lose out on trillions of dollars for schools, roads, healthcare and libraries for the next decade. If there’s a miscount, people could also lose political representation at the city, state and local level.

“This year, libraries will take on the added role of connecting people who otherwise lack reliable and secure internet access. That is about 25% of households in America. Fortunately, 100% of libraries across the country have computers, internet, and knowledgeable staff to ensure everyone has someone to turn to with questions.”

As your local public library, you can access the internet here either through wireless connections or using our secure computers. This year make sure that you are counted on the census!

Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

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

HAM BINGO POSTPONED



The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group has announced that it is postponing Ham Bingo for Thursday, March 19 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A makeup date has not been established at this time, said Cheri Krejci, Cancer Group treasurer.



Pastor Matt Fennell

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Even in crisis, we need to be faithful

Dear Christian friend,
can I share a verse with you?

II Timothy 1:7 tell us “
For God hath not given us
a spirit of fear but of power
and love and of a sound
mind.”

Fear seems almost
palpable around us. This
fear is most certainly not of
God and not healthy. Fear
can make ordinary rational
people do extraordinary,
selfish even wicked things.

We allow the question of
“What if?” to over power the
questions of What’s right,
What should I do, or perhaps
most importantly How can I
serve God even in this.

With the recent out
break of viruses plaguing
our world, it behooves the
people of God to take a deep
breath and carefully assess
our reactions and actions.
Proverbs 22:3 reminds us
that it is wise and prudent

to anticipate danger and act
responsibly. We do not bury
our heads in the sand in pre-
tense that nothing bad can
happen. We should wisely
consider our course, yet in
this we must not allow fear
to be drive and corrupt us.

Ultimately as Christians,
we are called to act in faith
in the loving nature of our
God. In the end it is He, not
ourselves that determines
our ends. I would argue

that the length of our days
is not nearly as significant
as the way we live them.
Would Jesus in fear with-
draw himself from those
in need? Would Jesus be
pleased by hoarding more
than I need because I fear I
might lack while these very
actions threaten to deprive
my fellow human being?
Do I show the power of God
in my life when I allow this
fear to swallow my cheer

paralyzing all my better
impulses, condemning
myself to live under a cloud
of doubt and despair.

I urge you, fellow be-
lievers, lift up your eyes to
the heavenly plain. Claim
II Timothy 1:7. This spirit
of fear does not come from
God. He calls us to power,
love and sound thinking!
May he find us faithful
even in crisis, May God
bless you and keep you all.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA

434 First St. SW.,
Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Walerius
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS

2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
Pastor Mark Neumann
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30
a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA

30456 Mower-Freeborn Road,
Austin
Rev. Suzanne Froelich,
Interim Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School
(Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS

28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN- ELCA

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

ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – LCMS

202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA

2781 SW 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
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor:
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 Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING

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

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

307 SW First St., New Richland
Father 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.
Faith Formation classes for
K thru Confirmation
Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

150 NE Second St., Hayfield
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 Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service
8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after
hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT

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

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST

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

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST

200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirkseena
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.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK

30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
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
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE

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

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER- DAY SAINTS

404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA) and
United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna’s oldest church)

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Legion marks another birthday

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

An open invitation was extended by Daniel Moeckly of the Steele County History Center to visit the History Center's newest exhibit, the American Legion of Steele County.

Moeckly was the guest speaker at the 101st birthday party of the American Legion at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on March 14.

He acknowledged that he had been the featured speaker at these Blooming Prairie birthday events for the past four years.

"History doesn't change but institutions do," Moeckly said. "Our understanding of history can change, however," he pointed out.

With the American Legion, there is so much more about the American Legion than buildings where Legion posts are located, Moeckly said.

Moeckly said the Blooming Prairie American Legion Post 52 met in The Bakery (old bank) building for over 30 years.

Moeckly quickly summarized what the American Legion stands for as described by its four pillars: 1) Support of veterans; 2) Patriotism; 3) Youth and 4) National security.

Blooming Prairie, Moeckly said, is in a special place with its history. He encouraged BP residents to bring in their stories, photos and documents of history into the History Center.

Post 52 Commander Bruce Kubicek was



Marilyn Meshke was at the 101st birthday party of the American Legion Saturday at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club and selling chances on a quilt she pieced. The quilt was quilted by Bev Wacek. It is an Americana quilt.

master of ceremonies for the birthday event. He introduced the following guests: Dale Welick, First District commander; Larry Otto, First District chaplain; Myron Ehrich, First District chairman; Wanda Prescher, First District Auxiliary president; Mary Hanson, First District Area Four vice commander; Becky Noble, American Legion Auxiliary Post 52 president and Karen Thoen, American Legion Auxiliary Post 52 vice president.

The last part of the program featured a tribute to Post 52 Legion veterans and Legion Auxiliary members who died during the past year.

Legion member Doug Johnson read the names of the Legion members who passed, and Becky Noble read the names of Auxiliary members who passed. Ed Scala lit candles in memory of those who passed.



Blooming Prairie American Legion Post 52 member Ed Scala lights candles in tribute to the Legion and Auxiliary members who passed during the past year. This tribute was part of a birthday party held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Saturday, March 14.

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MARCH BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH



Blooming
Prairie
High
School



Melanie
Winzenburg

Melanie Winzenburg - Junior

The senior high student of the month is Melanie Winzenburg, who is a sophomore. Her favorite class is physics as she describes it as "challenging."

"Melanie is one of the kindest and most empathic students I've ever had," said one of her teachers. "She is smart, kind and helpful."

Other teachers shared these observations of Melanie:

- "She is truly an Awesome Blossom. She is kind, hard working, inquisitive and a real joy to have in class."
 - "Melanie is dedicated and works hard every day. She is a leader in every aspect of her school life. I love having her in class because she motivates those around her to succeed as well."
- Her special interests are reading and sports. She has three siblings: Rachel, 13; Natalie, 10 and Valerie, 8.



Annika
Green

Annika Green - 9th Grade

The junior high student of the month is Annika Green, who is in ninth grade. Her favorite class is geometry. "The teacher is fun," Green commented.

Some comments shared by teachers about Annika include:

- "Annika is a smart girl whose confidence is growing and growing. She will do good things."
- "Annika always shows up prepared for class and ready to learn. She is kind and patient and enjoyable to be around."
- "Annika is helpful, kind and smart. She has made great strides this year."

Annika's special interest is working out. She has four siblings—Hayley, Brianna, Casaundra and Zachary. She also enjoys a pet dog Ozzie.

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SECTION CHAMPS

Blossoms sneak in title before health scare cancels state trip

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was a trip to the Class 1A State Boys Basketball Tournament that was earned by the Awesome Blossom boys basketball team but it will not be made as the team was knocked out before the tournament even began.

The Blossoms were knocked out of the tournament by the coronavirus. On Friday, all boys and girls state tournament games were cancelled by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) for public health concerns.

The scenario is difficult to follow at times because the seriousness of the outbreak grew by the minute.

Let's get back to the Section 1A championship game on Thursday, March 12. The outcome: Blooming Prairie defeated Hayfield, 59-51, to earn a trip to state in Class 1A action.

The Blossoms played one of their best games of the year, said an ecstatic Coach Nate Piller. "Our boys have worked so hard for this and it will be a great memory for them," he remarked.

"They (Vikings) couldn't stop Gabe to-night," said Piller.

Blossoms then pulled ahead at 16-13 at the 11:02 mark. The lead then changed hands several times with Hayfield leading 24-23 with 4:53 remaining in the first half.

The game was tied at 27-all at the 2:16 mark. Hayfield went ahead 28-27 but the Blossoms came back with two points to lead 29-28. The Blossoms went ahead on a two-pointer by Zach Weber and saved a 31-28 halftime lead.

Hagen kept showing his strength underneath the basket and Thomas sank two threes to move the Blossoms ahead to stay. They enjoyed a 37-29 lead and then a 40-21 advantage.

Hagen was also intimidating on defense blocking a couple of Hayfield shots. Kittelson also blocked a shot. With 4:02 left, Isaac Ille fouled out. A two-pointer by Kittelson put the Blossoms on top, 53-45. The Vikings pulled within six at 57-51 but trips to the free throw line by Thomas and Kittelson put the Blossoms ahead to stay.

"We handled everything they threw at us and kept our composure," said Coach Piller. "It was a total team effort."



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie High School senior Karson Vigeland went to center court with teammates Gabe Hagen and Kaden Thomas to accept the Section 1A championship trophy after defeating Hayfield.

"Our boys worked so hard for this."

Nate Piller
BP Boys Coach

Hagen was able to use his strength to power toward the basket and make some easy two-point shots against Viking defender Luke Dudycha. Hagen scored 17 points in the first half to help his team lead 31-28 at halftime. He scored 23 for the evening to be the top scorer on the floor.

It wasn't all Hagen, however, on this particular night. Some sharp shooting from Kaden Thomas and Drew Kittelson pulled the Blossoms ahead late in the second half. Thomas had 14 points for the night and Kittelson followed with 12. Ethan Slaathaug led Hayfield with 21 points.

The Blossoms' bench of Parker Vaith, Zach Weber, Zach Archer and Isaac Ille helped the Awesome Blossoms keep their lead.

Hayfield took control early, leading 9-6. The

Senior Thomas said defense was the difference in this game. Coach Piller agreed with Thomas, saying the BP defense was tough enough to force some turnovers and difficult shots.

The Blossoms offense was also tough with Hagen leading the way. "They doubled me and then I went to work," Hagen said.

"Gabe was just unstoppable at times," said a gleeful Coach Piller.

"It was a great experience for the team and now we just practice and wait for the state to tell us what's next," said Piller.

What's next? The season is over for all boys and girls high school basketball teams because of a decision by the MSHSL in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Blossoms set a record in wins, finishing with a 25-3 record.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Senior Karson Vigeland was a starter on the state-bound Awesome Blossom basketball team when his season ended in early February.

Vigeland suffered a torn ACL when going up for a rebound against the Hayfield Vikings.

Vigeland was ready to face the Vikings again last Thursday, March 12, only this time leaning on a pair of crutches that have become his best friend. Because of his athleticism, Vigeland is able to navigate to any destination.

Even though he was not in the starting lineup as the Blossoms faced Hayfield for the section 1A championship, Vigeland was hyped

for the game. He sat on the bench with his teammates.

"I'm ready to send them home," Vigeland said with a determined look. His teammates did just that, defeating the Vikings, 59-51 and thus claiming the Section 1A championship.

That win earned the Blossoms a trip to state. With disappointment, Vigeland and his teammates learned Friday morning that the state tournament was cancelled due to the coronavirus.

Before last Thursday's game, Vigeland talked about his injury. Vigeland said, "It was really disappointing but now I have entered a new chapter helping the guys in practice and working toward a trip to state."

Vigeland was definitely

treated as a contributing team member and went to center court on crutches after the game to accept the 1A championship trophy.

Vigeland underwent knee surgery on Thursday, March 5. He said the surgery went well and he now is in rehabilitation at Sports Therapy in Owatonna, working on leg strength.

"I'm slowly working my ACL back into shape," he says.

Since his injury, Vigeland still reported to all practices. He said he took junior Drew Kittelson under his wing, helping him to become the next level player. "I've been giving him tips that I learned playing against other players," Vigeland said.

"Everyone is pumped

and ready to move on," Vigeland said before last Thursday's Section 1A championship game.

Vigeland sees his high school career end by being part of another championship team. Vigeland was a key member of the 2019 1A championship football team.

Vigeland now points toward a college football career at Concordia of St. Paul. He said he will be a medical red shirt next season. This will allow him to strengthen the leg play as a freshman the following year.

Looking back on his career, Vigeland was most satisfied with helping bring two championships to the Blooming Prairie community. "We made Blooming Prairie proud," he smiled.



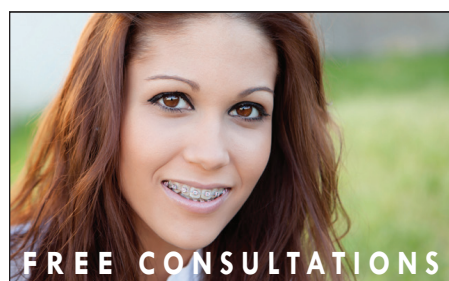
STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Fighting for control of the basketball are Kaden Thomas (24) and Parker Vaith (23) of Blooming Prairie and Ethan Slaathaug (34) of Hayfield during the Section 1A championship boys basketball game in Rochester last Thursday. Blossom teammates watch from the bench. The Awesome Blossoms won the sectional title with a 59-51 victory.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie senior Gabe Hagen (33) turns the corner against Hayfield's Luke Dudycha (24) during Section 1A action Thursday night in Rochester.



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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Downtown restaurant offers home cooking in Dodge Center

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's been a couple years since Pure Country Family Dining re-opened in Dodge Center, and the restaurant continues to be a favorite spot for residents and visitors alike.

"It's been almost two years," said owner/baker Kevin Nawrocki, and they are still offering the same home-cooked meals that keep the customers coming in.

While patrons certainly come for the meals, the homemade breads and biscuits and rolls that Nawrocki makes are a special attraction with the cinnamon rolls and cinnamon swirl toast topping the list. The décor of the restaurant may also be part of the appeal, which includes old restaurant equipment, menus, signs, advertisements, farm implements and a vintage vacuum cleaner that dates back to the 1800s.

Nawrocki explained he is at the restaurant at 5:30 a.m. each day to get everything ready and stays until the restaurant closes at 2:30 p.m. Then, he said, it's usually off to Rochester to buy food for the next day.

Dodge Center may be a small town but business is "going good," he said. "We have some people who never miss a day."

Nawrocki said he has been cooking since a really young age but until he opened Pure Country it was always for someone else. He is originally from Michigan and worked in restaurants there and in Colorado and Minnesota. He also studied at a culinary arts school when he was a teenager, he said.

"Each restaurant was so different, I learned something at each," he said.

A friend in Michigan who he worked for had a restaurant called Pure County, and Nawrocki said when he opened in Dodge Center he asked if he could use the name.

Pure County, he said, represents what might be considered a dying breed. "Privately-owned cafes are dying."

When Nawrocki first arrived in Dodge Center the building now housing Pure Country was for sale and the previous restaurant had been closed for two years. He said he saw the For Sale sign and bought the building.

He originally opened in restaurant in 2013. It was closed for a year while Nawrocki dealt with some personal issues and re-opened in the spring of 2018.

Nawrocki and head waitress Heather Radke lead the staff, he said, and his brother David is helping out as cook. Erin Beaver, Trent Weiberg, Adryanna Eggert and Steven Casey round out the staff.

Eggert said she has been working at the restaurant since it originally opened and she was a high school student. In fact, she said, it was before the restaurant officially opened as there were only paper menus to study and the tables were not even in.

She has stayed all these years, she said, because of Nawrocki. "He cares," she said.

The restaurant is open daily until 2:30 p.m. with the exception of Mondays when it is closed, he said. A daily special is offered each day for lunch. On Fridays, the restaurant is open until 8 p.m. offering a dinner menu that includes items such as ribs, steak, wings and now a fish fry.



Kevin Nawrocki, Steven Casey, David Nawrocki, Heather Radke and Adryanna Eggert took a break from serving customers. Also working at Pure Country are Trent Weibert and Erin Beaver.



Wayne Klinger, seated, is one of the regulars at Pure Country Family Dining. Kevin Nawrocki, standing, said they even keep Klinger's favorite cereal, chocolate Malt-O-Meal, on hand for when he stops by for breakfast.



Adryanna Eggert works behind a counter that is decorated with a variety of mostly old items. The long metal object hanging above the counter is a vacuum cleaner that dates to the 1800s.

Minnesota exports fall 2% in 2019

Minnesota exports of agricultural, mining and manufactured products fell 2% between 2018 and 2019 to \$22.2 billion, according to a report released last week by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

U.S. exports fell 1% in 2019. The year-over-year decline in exports follows a record year for Minnesota exports in 2018, when they reached \$22.7 billion, up 10% from 2017. Exports also increased in 2017, up 8% from 2016.

"International exports are a critically important part of Minnesota's economy, accounting for billions of dollars in revenue and thousands of jobs," said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove.

"The Minnesota Trade Office works hard to support exporters and expand markets in our fast-changing global economy," Grove continued.

Minnesota's top five export markets in 2019 were: Canada at \$4.7 billion, China at \$2.5 billion, Mexico at \$2.4 billion, Japan at \$1.5 billion and Germany at \$1.1 billion.

Among the state's 10 largest exports, pharmaceutical goods (\$637 million, up 7%) and optics and medical goods (\$4.6 billion, up 2%) had the largest growth from 2018 to 2019.

Mineral fuels (\$320 million, up 106%) also performed strongly, driven by shipments to Canada (up 142%).

Exports to Asia sank 5% between 2018 and 2019 to \$8 billion, with exports to China (down 9%) tumbling the most in this region.

Meanwhile, exports to North America were unchanged, with the 4% gain in exports to Mexico balancing out a 2% dip to Canada. Exports to the European Union were stable, while exports to

other European markets were up 10%, including high growth to Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Minnesota slipped from 20th in 2018 to 21st in 2019 in ranking among 50 states for amount of exports. However, its ranking was still higher than in 2017 (23rd).

The full annual export report is available at Export and Trade Statistics on the DEED website. Data for the fourth quarter of 2019 is also available online.

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

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

Paint the Town with SMIF grants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), in partnership with 12 local Ace Hardware stores, will be accepting applications for free paint and coating products for community mural, community welcome sign, or historic structure projects through its Paint the Town Grant program.

This grant opportunity is available to communities with a population under 10,000 throughout SMIF's 20-county region. A goal of this program is to encourage local volunteer involvement in the painting process. A total of up to 10 projects will be awarded paint products based on visual impact, public benefit, volunteer participation and community support.

"Faribault Ace Hardware and St. Charles Ace Hardware

are proud to support the Paint the Town project along with SMIF," said Joe Donahue, owner of two participating stores. "Paint the Town is a great program that allows communities to tell a story and contribute to the vibrancy of the region."

"Investing in beautification projects in our smaller towns is an important component of community vitality for our region," said Tim Penny, SMIF President and CEO. "We are proud to support these projects alongside our Ace Hardware partners."

Applications are due to SMIF by May 18. For more information or to apply visit our website at www.smifoundation.org or contact Jennifer Heien at 507-214-7040; jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

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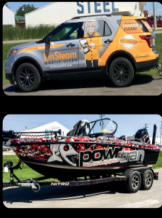
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VANS FOR SALE • HAYFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hayfield Public School District is accepting bids to purchase our used

- 2007 Dodge Caravan; 135,000 miles & our used
- 2008 Dodge Caravan; 145,500 miles.

Bids will be opened on 3/31/2020 at 10 a.m. in the Hayfield District Office.

Please place your bid in a sealed envelope marked "VAN BID 2007" or "VAN BID 2008" and address it to **Hayfield Public Schools, District Office**
9 Sixth Avenue SE, Hayfield MN 55940.

For detailed information and/or inquiry for inspection of the vehicle, contact **Lila Rehnelt, District Services Coordinator,** at **507-671-1556.**

The School Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities.

3/19, 3/26

St. John's Lutheran Church

is seeking a qualified candidate for a 30 hr/week

Church Office Administrator

responsible for financial bookkeeping, overall congregation communication directive, and administrative support to the pastoral staff.

Applications at stjohnskasson.org or in-person at 301 8th Ave NW, Kasson

For more info: (507) 634-7110

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If you have a caring-giving heart... join our team!

► Resident Assistant

- FT 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- PT 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- FT & PT 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- PT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.

► Cook

- PT 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Apply at: 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN - EOE

A2-27

FINANCE ANALYST/CLERK POSITION

The City of Dodge Center, MN seeks a Finance Analyst/Clerk

GENERAL DUTIES:
The position will be responsible for the day-to-day and long-range administrative work involving the City's finances.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Minimum qualifications include an associates degree in accounting, finance, or economics with an exposure to accounting/finance and an aptitude for accounting work. Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or economics with experience in public accounting/finance. Salary range: \$62,984.36 to \$73,237.62 DOQ.

APPLY:
Additional information available online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us. Cover letter, application, and resume may be submitted electronically to tkozisek@ci.dodgecenter.mn.us or by mailing to City of Dodge Center, Finance Analyst/Clerk Search, P.O. Box 430, Dodge Center, MN 55927. This position will remain open filled, with the first review of applications taking place on March 30, 2020.

For information contact City Administrator Joshua Tetzlaff at jtetzlaff@ci.dodgecenter.mn.us or by calling 507-374-2575.

3/19, 3/26

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Make ale
5. Residue
8. Female parent
12. Succulent plants
14. Ol's judge
15. Czech river
16. Embarrassing predicament
18. NHL legend Bobby
19. Sunfish
20. One who acclaims
21. On the __: running away
22. Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital"
23. The Golden State
26. Merrymake
30. Siberian nomads
31. Pock-marked
32. Baleen whale
33. Leaf-footed bug genus
34. Treasure
39. Tanzanian shilling
42. Changed
44. Intestinal pouches
46. Walked in a celebratory way
47. South American mountain chain
49. Jai __, sport
50. Consumed
51. Firm
56. Pubs
57. Leafy drink

CLUES DOWN

1. Crush
2. Razorbill genus
3. "Full House" actress Loughlin
4. Bluish green
5. Garlic mayonnaise
6. Attacks repeatedly
7. Secretion
8. Special instance
9. A handsome youth loved by Aphrodite
10. Tree genus in the mahogany family
11. Israeli city
13. Formed a theory
17. Remove
24. Type of light
25. Repeats
26. Certified public accountant
27. River in eastern France
28. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
29. Special __: military group
35. Ribonucleic acid
36. Not even
37. Power transmission belt
38. Doctor of Education
40. Type of nerve
41. Types of tops
42. Large primate
43. Flooded, low-lying land
44. Gritty
45. Gets up
47. Stake
48. Not the most
49. Swedish rock group
52. Expresses pleasure
53. Expression of boredom
54. Queen of Sparta
55. Where Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2021 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Westfield will meet:

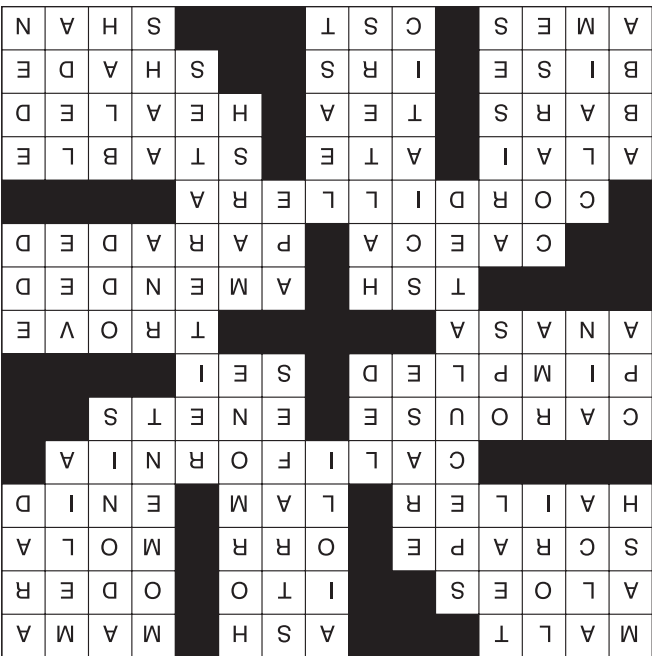
Date/Time: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Location: Town Hall

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Given under my hand this 10th day of March, 2020.
John Fouarge, Clerk of the Township of Westfield



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Dodge County Advantage
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Reimbursed Stipend Volunteer Positions

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is looking for volunteers, ages 55+ to serve our Lutheran Social Service Companion Program. Volunteers will receive stipends, mileage reimbursement and other benefits.

Contact Ashley
507-512-1036
www.lssmn.org | ashley.lushinsky@lssmn.org

**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota**
2/27, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19

Are you friendly and have excellent customer service skills?

Semcac Transportation is looking for a Full time Dispatcher

for the Dispatch Center in Kasson, MN. M-F, 35 hours per week with excellent benefits. Position requirements include:

- Excellent computer skills, including experience with Microsoft Excel and Word
- Ability to multitask in a very fast paced, team environment
- Customer service experience necessary

 More information & application available at **www.semcac.org** or contact Barb Thompson at **barb.thompson@semcac.org** or **507-864-8202**.

Applications must be postmarked by **March 25th**. E.O.E.


50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Robert and Margie Blood would like to invite our friends and family to help us celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary on March 28, at Monticello Senior Center from 1-4 p.m.

NO GIFTS PLEASE.

D12

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

If you have a caring-giving heart... join our team!

► FT Dining Director Position Available

...lead/supervise the culinary team to serve and create an excellent dining experience



Apply at: 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN - EOE

A2-27,3-5

BARGAIN FINDERS

ANTIQUE ORGAN- CHICAGO WINDSOR. Reed organ, late 1890s-1900. Walnut case, excellent keyboard, plays well. Call 507-451-7626. 2/19 -t4-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 run 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 I APARTMENTS IMMEDIATE OPENING! 1 bd smoke free apt for 62+ or disable persons in Blooming Prairie. Rent based on income and all utilities 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

BLOOMING 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

PLATBOOKS 7 old Dodge County plat atlas books (1905-1960). Also, other southern Minnesota atlas books available. \$50-\$250 OBO. Call 507.450.5395 3/19-t4-pd

GARAGE SALE

HELLO! Spring is finally here! Thank God! We are having a **HUGE SALE.** Sat. March 21, 11 a.m. — 3 p.m. **50% off** all house items and **25% off** all consignments. Lots to choose from at **Dano's Consignment Store**, 32 E. Main Street, Dodge Center (next to Harold's Club). 3/19pd

FOR SALE

MAPLE WOOD CRIB with mattress and bumpers, excellent shape. FREE. Call 507-421-2833. TFN

BALES OF HAY for dairy and horse. Hay for sale. \$150 or less. Also, straw for sale \$125 a bale. Call 507.634.4070. 3/19-t4-pd

MOVING SALE

KASSON 1400 1st Ave Circle NE. Moving. Everything must go. Saturday 3/21 from 8 to noon. 3/19pd

MILTON TOWNSHIP CALL FOR QUOTES

Milton Township will re-open its call for service quotes.

Milton Township is re-opening its call for services and will accept quotes at its meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 7:30 pm. For details and specifications, please see the Milton Township website: www.milton-township.com

Quotes will be opened at 8 p.m. All quotes present will be considered. Certificates of insurance must accompany all quotes.

Questions may be directed to Luke Elias at 507.951.2851.

Madge Alberts • Clerk, Milton Township
507.254.5545

D&A 3/19, 3/26

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507- 634 -7907. 33tfc

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 27tfn

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. Cal 507-634-6293. TFN/NC

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

SEMI-RETIRED INDIVIDUAL looking for short term or seasonal part time work. Building and grounds maintenance, mowing? Please call 507-201-3042 after 5pm 3/19pd

Professional Sales Opportunity

We're looking for an enthusiast and driven person to build relationships and help other businesses grow through advertising sales and marketing opportunities. The right candidate will help our community newspaper, which includes a weekly newspaper, shopper, website and social media, grow our digital and newspaper platforms.

We offer a variety of special section opportunities as well as a competitive commission plus base salary. Send your resume and letter of interest to Publisher Keith Hansen at keithhdci@kmtel.com.

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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!
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-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
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C2

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A3,5-26

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truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501

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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)

**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
- Bathhouse 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>

Medford continues to move forward with 2021 project

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During a special session last Wednesday, the Medford City Council heard from engineer Joe Duncan who explained some of the current proposals for the city's 2021 Mainstreet project and detailed what steps the city will need to begin to take.

While the project is not set in stone, the city opted to move forward at this time, which requires a public hearing at which members of the public will get to learn more about the proposed project and give their input.

"At this point we're talking about a potential 2021 construction, so it's not for 2020 it would be the following year," Duncan told the council. The city of Medford has been working with the county on this project. "Obviously, it would be to address the deteriorating pavement and the city's primary reason would be to address

the city's 1950s era water main."

The construction will involve removing the existing pavement and replacing it. The city will have options moving forward on the pavement section, including asphalt or concrete. "Addressing the pavement section as a reconstruction would be an ideal opportunity for the City of Medford to implement much needed water main improvements along that corridor," Duncan said.

"We had originally held an open house in the summer of 2019," Duncan explained. "We will see the addition of pedestrian facilities on both sides of the roadway as well as a center left turn lane."

The city will have to take into consideration the existing conditions along Main Street when they begin to tackle this project. "Constructed some 35-years ago, this pavement is seeing a degree of deterioration," Duncan

said. Duncan also suggested augmenting the storm sewer rather than a full replacement.

"We have included a 7.5% contingency factor seeing as we are a year off from this," Duncan said when detailing the possible price tag. "The total estimated project cost at this time is \$2,713,400, which includes as soft costs."

During the session, the members of the city council were able to share their own thoughts and ask Duncan any questions they had at that time. Questions over the viability of keeping trees, or the possibility of lowering costs were floated.

At the end it was the council's decision to move forward and schedule an improvements hearing on the project currently set for April 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the Medford School choir room. This public hearing will give property owners an opportunity to address the council with any concerns they may have over the impending project.

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John and Barb Heerema

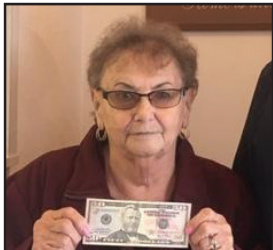
3/18, 3/25



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

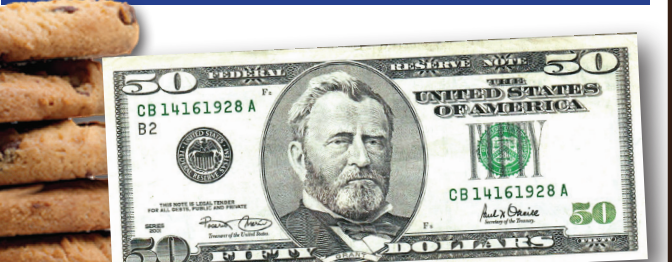


Week 9 Winner:
Dawn Gross
Blooming Prairie

Week 10 Winner

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2. Mail to Steele County Times- P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
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