

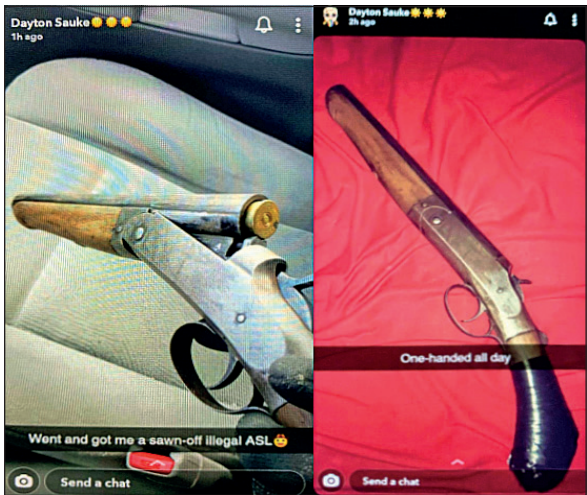


Wednesday, January 27, 2021
www.SteeleCountyTimes.com
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Carved in snow

Christina Spencer, right, and her two daughters, Moira and Dalila, smile atop a blank block of snow as they begin the process of carving it down into a sculpture. See Page B1 for more on the Owatonna's Cold and Bold Ice Sculpture contest now underway in Central Park.

Man allegedly threatens to kill cops



COURTESY U.S. FEDERAL COMPLAINT
Dayton Sauke of Owatonna is accused of threatening to kill cops and selling homemade firearms. The photos above showing firearms were posted by Sauke on social media of what he represented to be a "sawn-off" shotgun in a vehicle, according to the federal complaint filed against him last week.

Dayton Sauke faces federal firearms charge

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

An Owatonna man faces a federal charge after he is accused of threatening to kill cops at a pro-Trump rally and selling undercover agents homemade firearms.

The U.S. Attorney's Office has charged Dayton Charles Sauke, 22, with a single count of possession of an unregistered firearm.

Sauke appeared in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis Thursday before Magistrate Judge David T. Schultz for

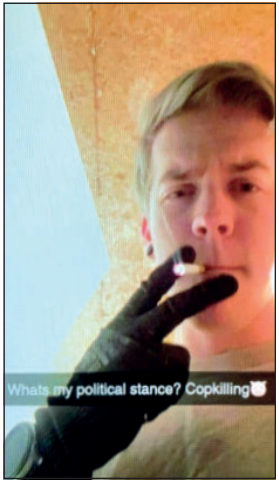
his initial appearance. During the hearing, the judge decided to keep Sauke locked up for now. "At present I find there are no set of restrictions that I can impose that will reasonably ensure the safety of the community," the judge said.

Authorities took Sauke into federal custody on Jan. 15 after a lengthy investigation going back to last summer.

According to the federal complaint, the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office received information on July 30 that Sauke was selling

narcotics and manufacturing and dealing firearms without a license.

Beginning on Dec. 6, law enforcement agents began monitoring Sauke's Snapchat account in which he allegedly made numerous posts consistent with manufacturing and dealing firearms, as well as using and dealing drugs. Between Dec. 6 and Jan. 12, Sauke posted pictures of a short-barreled shotgun and made several threatening



COURTESY U.S. FEDERAL COMPLAINT
In a social media post, Dayton Sauke allegedly wrote, "Whats my political stance? Copkilling." Sauke faces a single count of possession of an unregistered firearm in U.S. District Court.

SEE MAN ALLEGEDLY THREATENS, A10

Entrepreneurs Hall of Fame inductees chosen

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

The Owatonna Area Business Development Center will induct its second class into the Steele County Entrepreneurs Hall of Fame on Feb. 15 during National Entrepreneurship Week, which will be celebrated in Steele County in 2021 for the second time.

This year's Inductees will include:

- Ebenhard, Dale and Mike Gandrud of Gandy Company;
- The Kaplan family of Owatonna Tool Company;
- Otto Jostens of Jostens;
- Carol Nelson of National Hydro-Axe and Cybex; and
- The L.C. Lange

family of Owatonna Canning Company.

The inductees for 2020 were Bob and Donna Ayers of Foamcraft Packaging, Inc., C.I. Buxton of Federated Insurance, James Martineau of Viracon, Tom and Sue Peterson of Climate by Design International, and Harry Wenger of Wenger Corporation.

"National Entrepreneurship Week is the perfect time to celebrate the many innovators who have called Steele County home," said Bill Owens, executive director of the Owatonna Area Business Development Center.

"Our plan, both this year and in the future, is to recognize the achievements of those entrepreneurs

of the past and present, while providing awareness of the many tools at our disposal to assist current and future entrepreneurs."

The events on Monday, Feb. 15, will take place virtually on Owatonna Live. There will be video interviews with the second class of Hall of Fame inductees, plus videos with other

local entrepreneurs telling stories about the history of innovation in Steele County.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, the focus shifts from the past to the present, featuring a marketing competition among local high school students. The students are divided into teams of

SEE HALL OF FAME, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY MITCHELL BREUER
St. Mary's fifth-grade teacher Cheryl Kasper answers questions from her students during the inauguration ceremonies.

St. Mary's class watches inauguration

BY MITCHELL BREUER
STAFF WRITER

Cheryl Kasper's fifth-grade class at St. Mary's School in Owatonna watched President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris be sworn into office on Jan. 20.

Kasper said it was important for the kids to watch, because it provided a lesson of democracy in action in the United States.

"I think that's important for fifth graders to know about, and important as they move on and learn about the history of United States of America," Kasper said.

This was not the first time that Kasper has shown an inauguration in her class, however, she said, this year she was a little nervous because of the recent political unrest.

"But I knew that there were precautions taken, and I knew that this would be safe for them to show," said Kasper.

She also said she knew that many of her students were going to have different emotions on the day itself, which brought up another lesson.

"As fifth-graders sometimes they are going to talk about the views they have from home, which is fine,"

Kasper said. "I think it is okay to hear that and that we all have different views, but we need to respect each other, and it is okay that we don't always agree, but we have to be respectful in what we do."

Another reason Kasper said she wanted her students to watch the inauguration was the fact that Harris was becoming the first African-American, first South Asian-American, and first woman to hold the position of vice president.

This, said Kasper, showed her students, that all things are possible and that they could someday hold these positions too.

OUR VIEW

State lawmakers need to help ailing small businesses

Since the COVID-19 crisis struck nearly a year ago causing mayhem for businesses and the overall economy, many business owners have been forced to rely on a lifeline through the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

The federal CARES Act established the PPP for small businesses suffering unprecedented losses due to the pandemic. More than 100,000 Minnesota businesses reportedly have accessed the PPP funds, which the federal government has mostly forgiven if businesses used the proceeds for qualifying costs and 60% for payroll costs. Even with the government help, many of those very same businesses are still struggling to survive.

As we head into the tax season, businesses may be on the hook for paying taxes for the PPP funds they received. While the federal government has determined PPP should not be taxed, the forgivable loans will be taxed in Minnesota.

We believe it's critical for Minnesota lawmakers to conform to federal tax law as soon as possible in the 2021 legislative session. Without legislative action, many small and mid-sized businesses will face further tax burdens. Businesses have been hit hard enough over the past year without having to worry about paying additional taxes.

We know the governor and Legislature are committed to the health of Minnesota's businesses and the overall recovery of our economy. Passing this legislation early in the session would demonstrate that commitment and relieve businesses of an additional tax burden.

On the local level, the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce has joined the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to push for this reprieve for ailing businesses. Chamber leaders are urging lawmakers to support legislation that fully conforms to federal PPP tax loan forgiveness and allows deductibility of expenses on Minnesota income tax returns.

Minnesota needs small businesses. Let's urge our lawmakers to help businesses withstand COVID-19 – something that has been totally out of their control.



How to contact your elected officials

LEGISLATURE

Senate District 24
John R. Jasinski
3211 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-0284
Email: sen.john.jasinski@senate.mn

Email: sen.gene.dornink@senate.mn
House District 27A
Peggy Bennett
307 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-8216
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CONGRESS

U.S. Rep. James Hagedorn
1433 Longworth House
Office Building
15 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2472

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
100 Constitution Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20510-2308
202-224-3244

House District 24A
John Petersburg
217 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5368
E-mail: rep.john.petersburg@house.mn

House District 24B
Brian Daniels
231 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-8237
E-mail: rep.brian.daniels@house.mn

Senate District 27
Gene Dornink
3229 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5240

U.S. Sen. Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Building
120 Constitution Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20510-2310
202-224-5641

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 13 edition of the Times, a name was incorrectly used for Steele County Sheriff in the history section from 10 years ago. It should have read:

After almost 40 years in law enforcement, Steele County Interim Sheriff Don Gudmundson has retired. Gudmundson made history eight months ago when he was appointed interim sheriff after Sheriff Gary Ringhofer retired. Don was the first person in Minnesota to be sheriff in three different counties. He served Fillmore and Dakota Counties before taking on the Steele County position. As for retirement plans, Gudmundson will continue to make speeches for various organizations and did say there are some good trout streams in the area.

The Times apologizes for this error.

A wise use of public tax dollars

Public officials are often criticized, sometimes justifiably and other times not, for spending excessively and not using public tax dollars wisely. But that's far from the case with a recent situation in Steele County.

Back in December, Sheriff Lon Thiele unveiled a new emergency trailer to replace an old and antiquated one that had been around since the late 1990s. Despite a price tag of \$75,000 for a truck and trailer, the newest additions did not come out of the county's budget. It was paid through the \$4.5 million the county received from the federal CARES Act.

Asked this week where he came up with the idea to tie the trailer replacement to a grant related to the pandemic, Thiele said a sergeant with the Mower County Sheriff's Office tipped him off. "Through our networking system in law enforcement, I was able to receive information from Mower County that they applied for a similar type situation," Thiele said. "I tried for Steele and succeeded. Very good deal for taxpayers."

The beauty of Thiele's idea is how he laid it out in the grant application that the new trailer could possibly be utilized in pandemic needs. The first such need arose last week during Steele County's drive-thru vaccination clinic at the Steele County Public Works Building in Owatonna. In a joint effort with Steele County Public Health, Thiele made the sheriff's emergency trailer available to assist with the clinic during the inclement weather. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Karen Fountaine, a public health worker, utilized the trailer as she was stationed outside the building to



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

direct drivers to where they needed to get their COVID-19 shots. "This enabled Karen to be sheltered to stay warm in between checking people in for their shots," said Thiele. "It's nice to see it kept her warm as she performed her duties for Public Health."



Public health worker Karen Fountaine works at a drive-thru vaccination clinic on Jan. 19 at the Steele County Public Works Building in Owatonna. During the clinic, she utilized the sheriff's new emergency operations trailer.

Thiele said he stopped by to make sure the trailer was functioning properly as it runs on a generator. Though they weren't needed for this particular event, the trailer also comes equipped with a work area for computer and emergency radio transmissions, refrigerator, cot, storage and a de-contamination shower. Public Health Director Amy Caron said they were excited and fortunate to be able to utilize the emergency trailer. She is already

thinking about how it may be used in the future when they offer expanded clinics with more hours. "It was a nice partnership," Caron said. "It's definitely a great asset for our county." Besides pandemic needs, the trailer will also be used for training exercises, search and rescue missions, the county fair and the occasional natural disasters that hit the county. Pointing back to the original grant he wrote, Sheriff Thiele said, "This is a great example of how it assisted Public Health during the pandemic." The emergency trailer is a great example

of federal money being used wisely on the local level. Based on my experience with the sheriff, he is always conscientious about how he spends taxpayer money and coming up with unique ways of fulfilling needs of the residents he represents. This situation certainly bears it out. Other public officials can take a lesson from Thiele in how he goes in hot pursuit of not only catching criminals, but also being fiscally responsible to the public.

GUEST COLUMN

Mandate will drive up vehicle prices

BY PEGGY BENNETT

The week at the Capitol began with news that the Governor Walz administration is moving forward with a controversial proposal that will place Minnesota at the whims of a California board and ultimately raise the price of new vehicles across the state.

California cars mandate will drive up vehicle prices in Minnesota.

Instead of going through the normal process of working with the legislature, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is planning to bypass the legislature and implement the California Cars Mandate through an administrative rule. It kicked off the process by holding its first public hearing on the topic this week.

The California Cars Mandate will give California the power to dictate what Minne-

sota does by making our state subject to the actions of a California air quality board. It will force Minnesota auto dealers to carry certain vehicles on their lots, regardless of whether demand for those vehicles exists. Not only will this limit consumer choice on the vehicles Minnesotans prefer and choose to buy, but the mandate will also increase the cost of all new vehicles by \$1,000 or more.

We should always be looking at common sense proposals that lessen pollution while being smart for the consumer. Unfortunately, putting an unelected California board in charge of Minnesota's automobile policies accomplishes neither of these priorities.

This will also have dramatic negative impacts on border car dealerships like ours in southern Minnesota, where the customer can simply drive to Iowa

and save hundreds if not thousands of dollars on the same car. If the Walz administration moves forward with the adoption of the California Cars Mandate as expected, it will be yet another example of one-person rule in the State of Minnesota.

If you wish to submit public comments, you can attend and speak up at one of the planned virtual hearings, or you can submit links via the Office of Administrative Hearings Website.

Vaccine Sign Up
The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has been under scrutiny for the slow and confusing rollout of the more than 500,000 vaccine doses that have been delivered by the federal government. In mid-January, Minnesota ranked last in the Midwest in total percent of our supply used, and last in the Midwest for doses administered per

SEE MANDATE, A3

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News: Noon Fridays.
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2011—4 national awards
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Owatonna nursing home ready to administer second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

Most of its residents and staff at Benedictine Living Community – Owatonna, formerly known as Koda Living Community, will receive their second shot of the COVID-19 vaccine today, Jan. 27.

The second shot makes the vaccine 95% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Benedictine's Executive Director Lisa Kern said 87% of their residents received the first vaccine at the end of December.

"The residents were very, very happy to be getting vaccinated," she said. "They didn't have any side effects, maybe some sore arms."

The vaccine was made available to all residents so the other 13% declined it. If they've changed their mind, she said they can get their first shot today



Benedictine Living Community-Owatonna staff Tammie Johnson, left, Kari Bloch, middle, and Amy Moriarity proudly show off the stickers they received after receiving their first installment of the COVID-19 vaccine.

and their second shot on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Kern also said new residents will have the opportunity to receive their first shot today

and second shot in February. Meanwhile, residents who have been discharged since the end of December have been invited to

come back and receive their second shot today.

When the first vaccine shot was administered back in December, she said four staff

members, two pharmacists and two support staff, from Walgreens pharmacy came to the nursing home.

All of the Benedictine Living Community-Owatonna's staff also helped with the vaccination process, according to Kern.

"It was hugely a team effort," she said.

The primary responsibility of the nursing home's staff, Kern said, was observing residents and staff for 15 minutes after they received the vaccine.

In total, she said it took just under five hours to administer 149 vaccinations.

One possible reason why so many people received the vaccine is the education they received from Benedictine Living Community-Owatonna about the vaccine.

"Benedictine offered us a lot of research about the trials and we shared the information with residents, family and staff," Kern said.

"We educated our residents, but it was

their choice and we had to get consent," said Lindsay Schlaak, Benedictine's marketing director.

In addition to taking the education seriously, Kern mentioned that a lot of the residents had a lot of good questions.

When the day came for the residents and staff to receive their first vaccine, Kern was the first one to receive the vaccine.

"I had no problems with it whatsoever. Didn't even feel the vaccine when it was given to me. I just had a sore arm that evening and the next day for a little bit, but that's common with any vaccination," she said.

Besides her physical reaction, she's hopeful that this vaccine is an initial step in getting rid of COVID-19.

"I think many felt this was the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic," Kern said. "I looked at it as our saving grace and hope for better times."

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West Hills strives to offer seniors stability in 2021

The West Hills Social Commons is hoping for more stable hours in 2021.

The senior center will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. West Hills offers yearly membership for its programs. On top of being able to participate in the programs you will also be a part of the partnership program. This program is a way for members to get discounts to local businesses. Check the website for a current list of our participating businesses.

To find out what the rotating dice game is please check the newsletter. Please note

that this schedule can change at any time. If West Hills needs to close again, it will be providing virtual programming. This schedule can be found on Facebook or by contacting Dani Bakken at 507-444-4280 or Danielle.bakken@ci.owatonna.mn.us.

The annual membership fee remains at \$40

for 2021 year; however, 2020 members will receive a \$16 discount off their 2021 membership with a remaining balance amount of only \$24. Please note that the membership fees account for roughly 34% of the annual revenue budget for Social Commons.

SEE WEST HILLS, A5

WEST HILLS PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE		
Monday 9 a.m. - Peer Lead weight Training 11 a.m.- Rotating Dice Game 1:30 p.m. - Bunco	Wednesday 9 a.m. - Peer Lead weight Training 11 a.m. - Library/puzzle Drop off or pickup 1:30 p.m. - Rotating Dice Game	Friday 9 a.m. - Peer Lead Weight Training 11 a.m.- Rotating Dice Game 1:30 p.m. - Bingo

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STEVEN E. "STEVE"
JUNE 17, 1930
APR. 1, 2006

PARENTS OF MICHELLE AND RACHAEL

Push, rather than lift, when shoveling

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

As most Minnesotans know, shoveling snow can be quite a workout.

Last weekend's light, fluffy snow isn't as bad as the wet, heavier snow that pushed in the previous week, but health care providers remind older adults each winter to use caution whenever they pick up a shovel.

They also warn everyone to watch where they are walking as ice builds up on sidewalks.

Health care providers at Mayo Clinic Health System offer basic tips for safe snow shoveling:

- Be heart conscious. If you have a history of heart problems and are currently inactive, it's best to speak with your health care provider before shoveling. Additionally, don't shovel while smoking, eating or after consuming caffeine; this may place extra stress on your heart.
- Dress Warm. Wear several layers of clothing. You can always remove a layer if needed.
- Drink plenty of water. Remaining hydrated during cold-weather months is just as important as during warm-weather months.
- Warm up your arms and legs. Stretch your arms and legs before beginning to shovel. You are less likely to injure muscles when they are warm.
- Take it slow. Pace yourself and take breaks if you need to. Safety is more important than speed.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Steve Millam, of Blooming Prairie, pushes snow off his driveway on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Despite having a relatively large driveway, he said it only took him about 15 minutes to clear all the snow.

- Protect your back. Bend at the knees, not the back. Lift with your legs bent, stand with your feet hip-width apart for balance and keep the shovel close to your body. Also, don't pick up too much snow at once; use a small shovel or fill up a large shovel no more than half way.
- Shovel while snow is fresh. Freshly fallen snow is lighter than snow that has started melting.
- Listen to your body. This is the most important snow-shoveling tip. If something feels abnormal, or if you're tired, it's time to stop. Perhaps most important, if you are experiencing an emergency, health care providers ask that you call 911 immediately.
- As for icy sidewalks, Mayo says that if you need to go outside, bend slightly and walk

- flat-footed with your center of gravity directly over your feet as much as possible and walk in designated walkways as much as possible.
- Other tips include:
 - Keeping your hands out of your pockets. Doing so lowers your center of gravity and increases balance. Having your hands free can help break your fall if you start to slip.
 - Extending your arms out to your sides to maintain balance. Beware if you're carrying a heavy backpack or other load. Your sense of balance will be off.
 - In cold temperatures, presume all wet, dark areas on pavements are slippery and icy. Approach them with caution.
 - If you must carry a load, try not to carry too much. As much as possible, leave your hands and arms free to

- balance yourself.
- When walking on steps, always use the hand railings, and plant your feet firmly on each step.
- Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles. Use the vehicle for support.
- Take short steps or shuffle for stability.

Ombudsmen resuming visits to care facilities

Nearly 10 months after being suspended to minimize the spread of COVID-19, in-person visits to Minnesota's long-term care facilities by regional ombudsmen are resuming.

"These in-person interactions are an important tool in our work to protect older and vulnerable Minnesotans," says Cheryl Hennen, the State of Minnesota Ombudsmen for Long-Term Care. "This does not mean we're 'back to normal,'" Hennen says, "but it's an important marker of progress in our response to this pandemic."

Personal protective equipment has been issued to the regional ombudsmen, and they are regularly tested for COVID-19. They must also view training videos and pass a written screening prior to entering a facility.

"Residents are increasingly requesting in-person visits from the regional ombudsmen," said Hennen. "Phone calls and electronic communication have worked as a short-term solution, but they are not the best way to provide the strong advocacy residents of Minnesota long-term care facilities expect and deserve." Hennen consulted with the Departments of Health and Human Services as well as advocacy organizations about the resumption of in-person visits.

To contact the Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care, a program of the Minnesota Board on Aging:

- Call 651-431-2555 (metro) or 1-800-657-3591
 - Email MBA.OOLTC@state.mn.us.
- The Ombudsman's office provides free and confidential advocacy services.

WEST HILLS

FROM A4

mons and Adult Leisure Pursuits programming. Due to the major budget impact the membership fee discounts will product, any 2020 member wishing to forgo their discount

and simply pay the full annual membership fee is welcome to do so. All support is appreciated as West Hills strives toward continuing to offer programs and use of the facility to

the community during these challenging times. If you are interested in signing up or have any questions, please feel free to call or email Bakken.

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Steele County deputies took a child protection report in the 4000 block of 6th Avenue W. in Ellendale at 6:34 a.m. on Jan. 18.

Sex offender takes up new residence

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A high-risk sexual offender has moved to a new residence in Owatonna.

Richard Dean Paquin II, 40, moved in early January to the 100 block of 21st Street NW, according to Owatonna Police. He previously had been living in the 500 block of 23rd Street NE in Owatonna where he moved after being released from state prison last July.

Paquin is labeled as a Level 3 offender, which is considered the most likely to reoffend.

Due to concerns of COVID-19, there will be no community noti-



Richard Paquin II

fication meeting, police said. There also was not a meeting in July when Paquin moved into Owatonna because of COVID.

Police are required by state law to notify the community any time there is a change in living situation with

a Level 3 offender. The notification is not intended to increase fear but rather raise awareness. Police want to keep the public informed as a way to make everyone safer.

Paquin has served a prison sentence for criminal sexual conduct. He engaged in sexual contact, including touching and penetration, with a known boy on multiple occasions.

There are eight Level 3 offenders in Steele County, all currently living in Owatonna.

Anyone with questions about Paquin's release can contact Owatonna Police at 507-444-3800.

CRIME BRIEF

Police nab woman suspected of high alcohol level

A drunk driving arrest in Owatonna has yielded a woman with an alcohol content of more than three and a half times the limit to drive.

Police arrested Nicole Dahl, 45, of Owatonna on Jan. 15 after she nearly hit a police cruiser. She has been charged with two counts of second-degree DWI, which are gross misdemeanors.

A patrol sergeant stopped at the intersection of Havana Road and Truman Avenue, which is controlled by a four-



Nicole Dahl

way stop sign. After stopping, the sergeant began pulling into the intersection but had to stop suddenly for another vehicle that

pulled into the intersection. The sergeant noted the driver had her head down.

When the sergeant went to stop the vehicle, he had to use short bursts of the siren to get the driver's attention to pull over. In speaking Dahl, the sergeant noticed signs of confusion and intoxication, according to police. She failed subsequent road-side field sobriety tests, police said.

Dahl later provided a breath test showing results of .30. The legal limit to drive is .08.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 11 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jeremy A. Miller, 34, Medford, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI and gross misdemeanor violation of order for protection. He was sentenced to \$156, 8 days in county jail and 48 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Jesse A. Seyer, 32, Byron, previously appeared and was convicted of felony engage in electronic communication relating to sexual conduct with child. The defendant was sentenced to \$1,075, 2 days in county jail, maintain employment, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, predatory offender registration, psychological evaluation, attend sex offender program, no possession of pornography, submit to polygraph exams as directed, no access to internet without approval, no position of authority over minors or vulnerable adults and 5 years of supervised probation. Matthew A. Techau, 42, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Techau was sentenced to \$125, 38 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation. Marcos A. Trevino, 28, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of narcotics and misdemeanor DWI. He was sentenced to \$125, 9 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 11 – 17:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Isidro Chavez Rubio, 35, Austin, revoked license, \$275; Armando Cruz-Cruz, 24, Austin, revoked license, no insurance and no license in possession, \$495; Anthony J. Kartes IV, 28, Blooming Prairie, stop sign, \$125; Socorro

Mercardo, 46, West Concord, speeding, \$125; Peter F. Merten, 41, Austin, unlawful use of license plate, no insurance, no license in possession and expired tabs, \$625; Joseph D. Meyer, 19, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$225; Jose M. Quetzecua Fernando, 30, Austin, cancelled license, \$275; Eduardo J. Rojas-Ortiz, 24, Austin, invalid license, \$175.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Raland L. Johnson, 59, Ellendale, park in closed area, \$37; Shawn L. Meyer, 46, Waseca, park in closed area, \$37; Shawn M. Murphy, 52, Waseca, park in closed area, \$37.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Sophia S. Anderson, 23, Plymouth, speeding, \$115; Derrick J. Berg, 34, Austin, seat belt, \$100; Aubrey R. Blanchet, 20, Buffalo, speeding, \$115; Emily A. Busho, 23, Ellendale, possession of marijuana, \$125; Jeffrey S. Carney, 58, Hayfield, DWI, \$600, chemical assessment, Ignition Interlock program, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Abigail B. Collier, 20, St. Joseph, MO, speeding and no insurance, \$475; Angalena G. Cyphers, 23, Blue Earth, speeding, \$115; Ellen J. Dobbins, 54, Chanhassen, speeding, \$125; Sabrina L. Duckett, 34, Austin, no license and expired registration, \$205; Jose I. Fuentes Guevara, 30, Des Moines, IA, seat belt, \$100; Kurt D. Gagel, 37, Ozark, MO, expired tabs and no insurance, \$305; Donovan Garza, 26, Rochester, no license and hands free violation, \$225; Edgar J. Gonzalez Diaz, 19, Owatonna, no license, \$175; Eric K. Gorsuch, 22, Orono, speeding, \$115; Marcos Guevara Hernandez, 26, Faribault, speeding, \$135; Dawson J. Heuer, 22, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Tyler J. Hill, 41, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Nathan P. Johnson, 34, St. Paul, speeding, \$125; Sierra A. Karnes, 23, Swanville, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$175; Rebecca L. Luebke, 19, Maple Grove, speeding, \$125; Sophia H. Martin, 19, Minneapolis, speeding, \$215; Darneshia L. McQueen, 31, Brooklyn Park, suspended license, \$275; Pavel Miadziukha, 42, Sacramento, CA, hands free violation, \$125; Biru O. Ogud, 34, San Diego, CA, speeding,

\$115; Branden J. Prigge, 28, New Richland, speeding and seat belt, \$240; Sarah M. Quezada, 27, New Richland, no insurance, \$275; Ruben Ramon, 46, Faribault, no license and seat belt, \$200; Roberto L. Rivera, 44, Bigelow, speeding, \$115; Forrest G. Seuser, 22, Albert Lea, speeding, \$215; Morgan M. Sickerson, 19, Urbandale, IA, speeding, \$115; Korey J. Tenpas, 59, Esko, speeding, \$135; Jesus H. Terronez Palacios, 38, Faribault, speeding and no license, \$315; Triston J. Tune, 19, Chesterton, IN, speeding, \$115; Steven A. Un, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Paul D. Whipple, 46, Sheboygan, WI, no insurance, \$275; Bradley S. Wilkerson, 31, Geneva, speeding, no insurance and revoked license, \$525; Jiexiong Yang, 32, St. Paul, speeding, \$135.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nimo A. Abdulle, 31, Owatonna, failure to drive on right, \$100; Michael E. Blomquist, 50, New Ulm, theft, \$75 and 37 days in county jail; Keton C. Brown, 22, Owatonna, open bottle, \$175; Nicole R. Buck, 26, Ellendale, DWI, \$400, 2 days in county jail, Ignition Interlock program, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; Mark A. Cruz, 30, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Lauren M. Dexter, 37, New Richland, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Sara E. Egan, 33, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Kenyetta Elwoods, 53, Owatonna, speeding, no insurance and suspended license, \$535; Mohamed A. Fakrudin, 24, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Justin W. Fischer, 39, Owatonna, expired tabs and no insurance, \$305; Felecia D. Fox, 35, Mankato, speeding, \$115; Jose A. Garcia, 26, Granite Falls, speeding, \$135; Melvin R. Garibay, 31, Faribault, open bottle, \$175; Travis J. Hall, 22, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$375, 1 day in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Daniel J. Iverson, 19, Medford, speeding, \$115; Ashley E. Kolar, 35, Farmington, registration violation and abandon vehicle, \$475; Josephine B. Lusamba, 29, Fargo,

ND, speeding, \$215; Kylie J. Mador, 19, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$125; Shelly L. Malecha, 63, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Tavean G. McRelly, 26, St. Joseph, MO, possession of marijuana, \$125; Dawn M. Needham, 50, Owatonna, drive without ignition interlock, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Taylor D. Padilla-Ades, 28, Lonsdale, speeding, \$115; Huguynh Q. Pham, 50, Lakeville, speeding, \$135; Jon R. Quamme, 34, Faribault, seat belt, \$100; Rosemary Reyes, 36, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Stacy M. Roe, 46, Albert Lea, no insurance, \$275; Emma L. Schmitz, 18, Faribault, speeding, \$125; Mark D. Schuster, 56, Owatonna, reckless discharge of a firearm within a municipality, stay of adjudication, \$75, chemical dependency evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Homer Solis, 22, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; Jeff A. Starch, 52, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Derek E. Tolbert, 32, Wanamingo, no insurance and improper information on license, \$305; Steven A. Un, 31, Owatonna, no front plate, \$105; Austin L. Underwood, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$135; Blas O. Varela, 21, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, lights violation and no insurance, \$525; Samuel S. Waterbury, 26, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Nicole G. Weller, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Dawn A. Wocelka, 44, Owatonna, obscured plate, \$105.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

John K. Adams, 20, Madison, WI, speeding, \$115; Jordan L. Anderson, 27, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$125; Kaleena M. Berghman, 37, Owatonna, littering, \$175; Clarence J. Bibbs, 39, Rochester, suspended license, \$275; Clayton R. Boone, 18, Racine, wrong way on street, \$125; Jenna R. Breiner, 19, Faribault, permit offense, \$175; Blanca C. Brown, 30, Fridley, speeding, \$135; Katie A. Cliff, 19, Hartland, speeding, \$125; Dawanna D. Cox, 38, Lakeville, speeding, \$215; Gene T. Cox, 44, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Alexus N. Donkers, 17, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; George J. Farmah, 24, Mankato, speeding, \$115; Dustin L. Fette, 33, Waseca, no insurance, \$275; Jared L.

Gardow, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Isaac Guerrero, 21, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Joshua C. Helm, 20, Ramsey, speeding, \$115; Joseph J. Herget, 23, St. Peters, MO, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Mohamed S. Hussein, 23, Shakopee, speeding and revoked license, \$335; Carter M. Justice, 21, Ellendale, speeding, \$125; Carl K. Kletschka, 42, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Grace R. Kuhlman, 16, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Beau G. Lammers, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Taylor L. Lawrenz, 26, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Ryan B. Magnus, 48, Mankato, speeding, \$125; John S. Marwa, 38, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Jason C. Olson, 46, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Edward I. Persell, 24, New Richland, cancelled license, \$275; Anthony R. Reichert, 55, Chaska, speeding, \$115; Nathan D. Schroeder, 37, Le Center, revoked license, \$100; Zachary C. Shaw, 30, Medford, cancelled license, \$275; Mariah R. Spatenka, 37, revoked license, \$275; David Star, 44, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$115; London P. Suber, 24, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$215; Michael D. Tupper, 30, Ramsey, speeding, \$115; Shakira S. Tyson, 27, Andover, possession of marijuana, \$125; Jordan C. Varnadore, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption and underage possession of alcohol, \$275; Abigail A. Webster, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Jan. 15
Theft: At 4:29 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 300 block of Memorial Dr. NW.

OWATONNA POLICE

Jan. 15
Theft: Officer took a report of identity theft in the 1400 block of 20th St. NE at 9:19 a.m.

Jan. 16
Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:30 a.m.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of Willowbrook St. NE at 5:52 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Harassment: At 6:31 p.m., a harassment incident occurred in the 700 block of Minnesota Ave. SE.

Jan. 17
Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Broadway St. E. at 2:25 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 3:50 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred at State Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW.

Jan. 18
Mental Health: Police responded to a mental health incident in the 900 block of Grove Ave. S. at 12:17 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 9:18 a.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 400 block of North St. W.

Shoplifting: Police made a shoplifting arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:41 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 1000 block of 10th Ave. NE at 11:49 a.m.

Theft: Police arrested a subject for stealing a vehicle in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 11:52 a.m.

Theft: At 11:55 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of Main St. E.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:10 p.m.

Jan. 19
Theft: Police received a theft report from the 900 block of 39th Ave. NW at 7:55 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a report of identity theft in the 1900 block of Woodcrest Dr. NE at 10:39 a.m.

Jan. 20
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 12:59 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Jan. 21
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 200 block of Southview St. SW at 4:22 p.m. and the 600 block of Willowbrook Dr. NE at 4:38 p.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1000 block of Elm Ave. S. at 5:36 p.m.

Restraining Order: Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 9:25 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Jan. 15
Theft: Deputy took a report of identity theft in the 3000 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 2:46 p.m.

Jan. 16
Juvenile: Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 7800 block of 50th St. NW in Deerfield Township at 11:04 p.m.

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for COVID-19 resources.

How to Find Affordable Housing for Seniors



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
Are there any resources to help seniors find and pay for senior apartments? My aunt, who's 75 years old, needs to find a new place to live but has very little money. What can you tell me?

Searching Sarah

Dear Sarah,
Finding affordable senior housing options can be difficult depending on where your aunt lives. Senior apartments for some retirees are a good option, and you'll be happy to know that there are a number of government programs that can help out financially. Here are some tips that can help you and your aunt find a low-income senior apartment that fits her budget and living preferences.

Start with HUD

There are several different government programs available today that can help individuals who qualify to locate and pay for housing, including:

- Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8): This program allows you to find the housing you want. The government provides the amount allowed by your voucher to the landlord each month.
- Privately owned subsidized housing: HUD helps some apartment owners offer reduced rents to low-income tenants.
- Public Housing: These communities are generally apartment buildings or complexes that are overseen by a city or county public housing agency, and are available to low-income families, the elderly and those with disabilities.
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: This program provides housing to low income families and includes rents that don't exceed a fixed amount.

· Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly: This initiative helps seniors and the disabled. It offers housing for individuals who are able to live mostly on their own but need assistance with certain daily tasks like cleaning and cooking.

For more information about these programs and to locate apartments in your aunt's area that may offer them, visit the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development rental assistance page at [HUD.gov/topics/rental_assistance](https://www.hud.gov/topics/rental_assistance).

You can also search for low-income housing at senior living sites

like [After55.com](https://www.After55.com) and [SeniorHousing-Net.com](https://www.SeniorHousing-Net.com).

If you or your aunt don't have internet access or have troubling maneuvering the internet, you can also locate nearby affordable housing options by calling your local housing authority – call 800-955-2232 to get your local number. If your aunt lives in a location that spans multiple counties, check with the housing authority in each one to compare.

How to Choose

If you or your aunt find several apartment choices that fall within her budget, she should consider what's important to her. She may want housing that's close to family, religious organizations, senior centers, or places she visits regularly, like grocery stores, parks or gyms.

Or, if she has a disabling condition, it may be especially critical for her to find a living space that has easy access to important services like senior transportation and health care centers.

In your housing search, you may also come across some red flags that indicate a retirement community wouldn't be a good fit for your aunt. Keep an eye out for extra fees that may be applied to everyday items or perks you normally wouldn't think about like laundry service, parking or pets.

You should also make sure the apartment is in good condition and then scout out the neighborhood. Ask yourself if the community is clean and well maintained and if there is any debris or messy landscaping. If you notice anything out of the ordinary, follow up with questions before your aunt signs a rental contract.

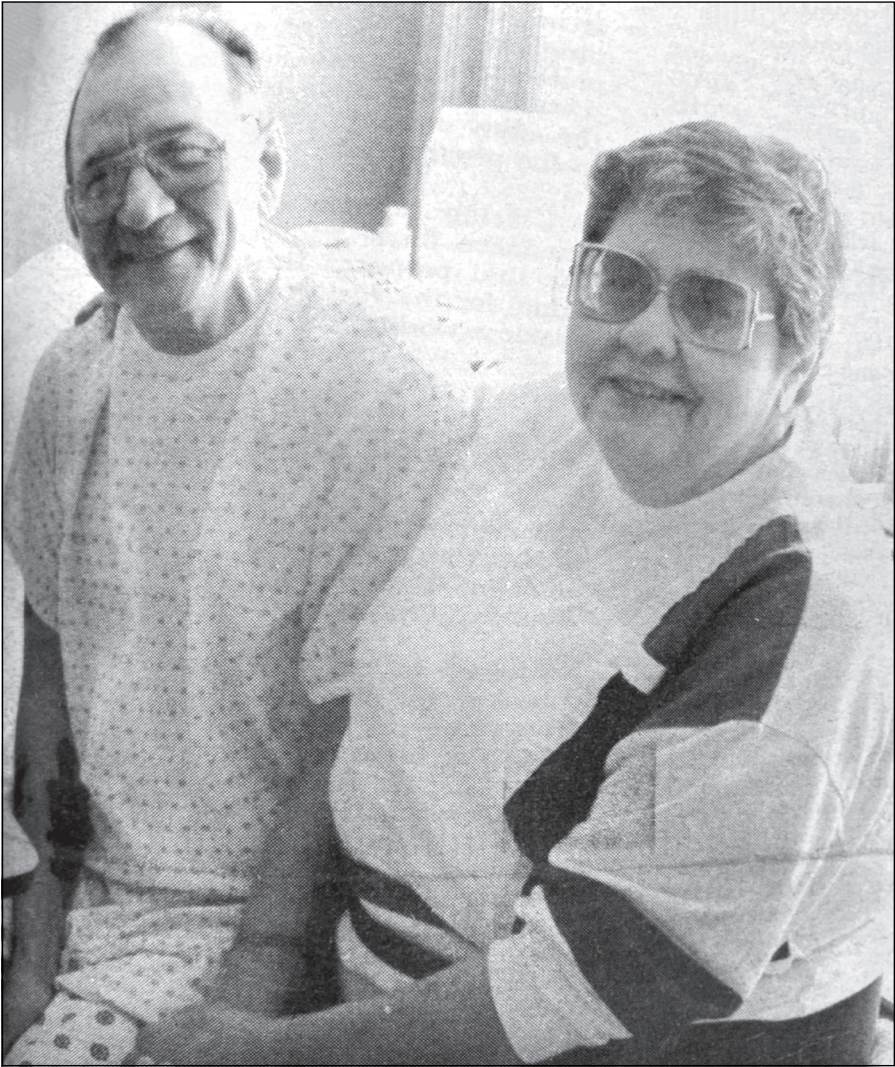
Send your senior questions to: **Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.**

STEELE COUNTY

Times

Always local,
all the time.

Thankful to be alive



FILE PHOTO
In 1990, John Braulik recovered from a near life-threatening incident. He owed his life to some men who performed CPR on him after he suffered a heart attack at the VFW Club in Owatonna on Jan. 12, 1990. He, his wife, Jackie, sons Todd and Jim and daughter-in-law Debbie are grateful to the people who saved his life. Braulik was released from Health One Owatonna Hospital and will be having further medical tests in Rochester.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Jan. 25, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Athletes of the week are Kelli Naatz, she scored 14 points in the Blossoms win over Medford in last weeks game. Tom Fogarty, had a career game against Randolph. He scored 19 points in that game and he also had 10 points in the Blossoms games last week.

American Legion Post #52 and its Auxiliary awarded three \$500 scholarships to local students this year. This is the 16th consecutive year these scholarships have been awarded. The winners this year are: Ranell Kittelson, senior at Augsburg College majoring in special education; Amanda Wanous, a freshman at University of Minnesota majoring in biochemistry and psychology; Ian Campbell, a senior at Hamline University majoring in psychology.

20 Years Ago Jan. 25, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

Bloomington Jaycees named five great choices for Distinguished Award Program. This is the 31st year they have honored Bloomington citizens for their accomplishments. Chad Eischens, Outstanding Young Minnesotan; Ann Stephenson, Outstanding Young Educator; Jim Conner, Outstanding Young Farmer; Ron and Shirley Anderson, Life Achievement Award.

Sports Editor LeMar Nelson wrote: "I am almost ready to issue warnings to local sports fans that they had better not attend boys' basketball games if they have weak hearts. The overtime win over WEM last Friday night duplicated the excitement of the previous week's victory over BA and demonstrated the interest established when two teams play good defense throughout and re determined to win. The victory left the Blossoms tied with BA for the top spot in the Gopher Conference. Hats off to the team and also the fans who have noisily supported them in their home contests."

50 Years Ago Jan. 27, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Pastor and Mrs. Leland Evenson will be honored at an open house on Sunday, Jan. 31st at the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in observance of their 25th wedding anniversary. The congregation will be hosting the event.

Three student teachers will be teaching at Bloomington High School starting in February. Ronald Spika from St. Olaf College will be teaching Social Studies at the senior high level; Kurt Ross and Douglas Lueck, both from University of Min-

nesota, will be teaching in the Vo-ag department.

Pfc. Richard L Ebert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ebert, has now been stationed in Vietnam since January 15. He is assigned to the Military Police. Richard is a 1968 graduate of Bloomington Prairie.

75 Years Ago Jan. 24, 1946

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Herb Rudbeck and Bud Westberg, of Willmar, opened for business on Friday of this week. Their business is named Home Cleaners. Both gentlemen have business experience and are equipped to give guaranteed service. Rudbeck has a wife and two sons and have found living quarters over the Schultz variety store. Westberg is Herb's brother-in-law and has just spent four years in the armed forces. Bloomington Prairie welcomes them to its business circle.

Meat retailers in Bloomington are not greatly affected since slaughtering has stopped in the major packing plants. Betlach, Johnson and Nelson do their own slaughtering and so far have been able to keep abreast of the current demands. Betlach and Johnson cure their own meats and will probably start rationing bacon and hams to make their supply reach the greatest number of customers. During the trying days of the war Bloomington meat dealers did a splendid job of serving our community.

Owatonna Photo News –

31 Years Ago Jan. 24, 1990

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

The Owatonna Figure Skating Line will compete at the Northland Figure Skating Competition in Duluth this Saturday and Sunday. Members of the unit are Shelly Lee, Bridget Chadwick, Jodi Zeise, Stacie Jepbak, Marisa Rohlik. Shelly Wolgram, Andrea Camill, Naomi Powell, Jennifer Ankrum, Tina Wills, Karla Ragor, Julie Erickson, Erika Rietz and Heidi Halla. The girls are coached by Liz Dymoke.

Progress on the new \$4.4 million Willow Creek Intermediate School are on schedule, according to Bob Seykora of Rocon Inc. Owatonna, general contractor for the project. The school is scheduled to open the day after Labor Day.

More than 600 young constituents were recently visited by Rep. Dean Hartle. He answered some tough questions such as "Do you ever get mad at people?" and also explained some of his duties as a legislator. The meaning of Minnesota's state flag stars and symbols were also explained to the students.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

HOME OF THE SHINING KNIGHTS

Students of the Week



Presley 2ND GRADE

Presley is everything it means to be a shining knight in our classroom! She is so positive each and every day and always gives her very best work. This semester she has taken our new student under her wing and automatically shows her the ropes without being asked to do so. She just helps without thinking to help a friend. She loves to help and is a great friend to others. She has a great attitude both in class and during distance learning. I am so pleased with her effort, growth, and kindness. **She is an amazing shining knight!**

Parents are Greg & Kinzie | Presley was nominated by Mrs. Haarstad



Rylan 1ST GRADE

RYLAN is a kind and caring student in our first grade classroom. She takes pride in her work, pays attention to details and checks her work carefully. Rylan is a great listener and follows directions. She comes to school each day with a smile and eagerness to learn. **Congratulations Rylan on being our St. Mary's School Shining Knight!**

Parents are Matthew & Ashley | Rylan was nominated by Mrs. Hall



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THIS FEATURE SPONSORED BY A PROUD ST. MARY'S ALUMNUS.



Most schools have just finished the first half of the school year. How is it going for your children or grandchildren? There have been many starts and stops between in-person and virtual learning, making this school year challenging and unpredictable. Several families have

gone to home schooling. Whatever learning situation you are experiencing, the Blooming Prairie Branch Library offers online databases that can help you and your student continue learning. Here are a few of them:

Explora Kids – Contains elementary school-appropriate magazines, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and images.

Explora Teens – Contains middle and high school-appropriate magazine, journal, and encyclopedia articles

and also includes primary source documents, reference books, and multimedia. This resource is especially helpful for papers on history and literature.

Gale Virtual Reference Library – Collection of 25 online reference books and encyclopedias covering topics from Art History to Medicine.

Global Road Warrior – Global Road Warrior contains country guides for 175 countries including culture, banking, business, de-

mographics, education, food, history, holidays & festivals, travel, language, money, religion, security, and national symbols. For those looking forward to traveling, this is a great way to find out what to expect.

LearningExpress Library – Interactive collection of tests, tutorials, and eBooks categorized in Learning Centers including School Center, College Preparation (SAT, ACT, & more), College (GRE, LSAT, & more), High

School Equivalency (GED), Adult Learning, Career, and Recursos para Hispanohablantes (Spanish).

Points of View Reference Center – Pro vs. con essays that present multiple sides of current or controversial issues. Plus magazines and newspaper articles, primary sources, and more.

Research In Context – A middle school-appropriate database of reference works, biographies, magazine and journal articles, primary source documents,

and multimedia.

Student Resources In Context – Encyclopedia, magazine, and journal articles, plus primary sources, images, video, and more for middle and high school students.

All of these databases (and more) can be found by going online at www.owatonna.info. For some sources you may need your library card number. Give us a call at 507-583-7750 if you need a library card. You won't need to buy an encyclopedia set ever again – just use ours!

OBITUARIES

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Janet Hope,
89, Austin



Janet Hope

Janet A. Hope, age 89 of Austin, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, at Mayo Clinic Health System Austin.

Janet Ann Sauke was born to Herman and Grace (Sauer) Sauke at home near Walters, on Aug. 13, 1931. She attended Walters Grade School and then Kiester schools. In 1947 her family moved to Blooming Prairie, where Janet graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1949. She then went on to attend Winona State University for teaching.

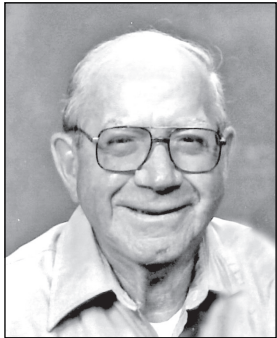
On June 24, 1953, Janet was united in marriage to Donald Hope in Geneva. The couple raised two children, Randy and Lyn. Janet was a wonderful homemaker and taught country school in Geneva for several years. She was a member of the Community Lutheran Church in Geneva, where she was active in WELCA and taught Sunday School. Janet was an excellent seamstress and loved tending to her garden. In 2015, Janet left her acreage and moved to Austin. Her family and friends will miss her dearly.

Janet is survived her daughter, Lyn (Mike) Bolster of Kasson; son, Randy (Rosalyn) Hope of St. Paul; four grandchildren, Sam and Margaret Hope, Brennan and Ben Bolster; and brother, Dennis Sauke of Blooming Prairie.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Grace Sauke; husband, Donald Hope in 2015; sister, Dawn (Clark) Nelson; and sister-in-law, Cheryl Sauke.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials can be directed to Geneva Community Lutheran Church or recipient of donor's choice. Services are pre-arranged and performed with Worlein Funeral Home in Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Chester Louks,
88, Owatonna



Chester Louks

Chester (Jerry) Louks, departed this earth on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 at the Brick Meger Funeral Home, followed by interment at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Military Honors will be provided by the Steele County Funeral Unit. Friends may greet the family one hour prior to the funeral service starting at 10 a.m.

Jerry was born May 15, 1932 in Granada, Minn., the ninth child of Virgil and Florence Louks.

Jerry grew up in a large family with eight brothers and 11 sisters. That large family never left his heart.

His doors were always open and his house seemed to be always full with friends and family.

Jerry enlisted in the US Air Force in 1951 and was first assigned to Korea to support the air missions during the war. After returning to the states, he was stationed at Grand View Air Force Base in Kansas City. While stationed in KC, Jerry returned to Minnesota to marry the love of his life, Arlene Madery. They became husband and wife on April 11, 1953 and moved to Kansas City to start their life together.

After the Air Force, Jerry and Arlene moved back to Minnesota where they worked a few farms in the area, before moving to Owatonna, where Jerry worked for Marigold Dairy's. He then went into sales for AR Wood, where he worked several years before starting C&L Construction in 1970.

Jerry was a hard worker and seemed to know how to do just about everything that involved working with his hands and tools.

Working hard during the week but always remembering that weekends were for fun.

Going to the lake, boating, fishing and Canasta games late into the night were always on tap.

In 1978, Jerry and Arlene were able to purchase a cabin on Lake Miltona and that became the ultimate gathering spot for family, friends and good times for many years.

Jerry also loved the farm life so with the help of his children they kept a hobby farm, raising cattle, horses, hogs, ducks, geese, chickens, cats and dogs etc.

One thing that brought Jerry a special joy, was being a "Grampa"/"Great Grampa." He was sure good at it! Anytime he could spend with his grandchildren was truly cherished time.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 67 years, Arlene; sons, James (Karen) Louks, Bruce (Mary) Louks, Mick (Jean) Louks and daughter Teresa Louks, all of Owatonna; nine grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren; two brothers, Roger and Terry and his four sisters, Verta, Vivian, Pat and Linda

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents Virgil and Florence; six brothers William, Wayne, Kenneth, Bob, Richard and Jimmy and seven sisters, Judy, Grace, Betty, Darlene, Bonnie, Audrey and Mary.

One granddaughter, the hole in his heart, Michelle Anne Bulver.

For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.megercares.com.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
FUNERAL HOME

Doreen
Johnson, 88, BP



Doreen Johnson

Doreen Romona Johnson, age 88, was summoned home from this world on Jan. 23, 2021, after several weeks of hospice care.

Doreen was born on Oct. 2, 1932 in Westerheim Township, one of five children born to Theodora (Hennen) and Octaf Kesteloot. She was raised on a farm in Minneota and grew up with the values of a hard-working Belgian-Dutch commu-

nity, where cakes and bread were made from scratch each morning before school, and floors were not clean unless having been scrubbed by hand on your knees. For Doreen and her siblings, working hard also meant playing hard, resulting in many card games, laughter, and good times (as long as Dora and Tuffy were out of sight).

After graduating with honors from high school, Doreen attended St Kate's in St. Paul. In 1954, she married Paul Sheedy. To this union were born three children: Pamela, Patrick, and Kathryn. The family was living in northern California when Paul died in December of 1961. Doreen returned to Minnesota as a young widow with three small children.

While living and working as a secretary in Austin, Doreen met and married Roger (Moose) Johnson in 1966. The family moved to Blooming Prairie, where their daughter, Joan, was born. Together, Doreen and Roger enjoyed camping, Twins and Vikings games, and attending school and sporting events of children and grandchildren.

While living in Blooming Prairie, Doreen began to explore and refine her many hobbies, including sewing, ceramics, and perfecting her Christmas Santa cookies. Over the years, Doreen wrapped her family in many quilts and created numerous porcelain dolls in her kiln. Doreen continued to work outside the home as well, until she retired from Accentra Credit Union.

Doreen and Roger spent their golden years in Austin and Faribault, where Doreen was active in the Red Hat Club and was a regular bridge player at the senior center. After Roger passed away in January of 2020, Doreen returned to Blooming Prairie to be closer to the many family and friends who remained there. Doreen entered hospice in December of 2020 and was cared for at home by her family until she passed on from this life.

Doreen was preceded in death by husbands Roger Johnson and Paul Sheedy, her parents, two sisters, a daughter-in-law, and other family members who have gone on before her.

She is survived by her children, Pamela (Jack) Duffey, Patrick Sheedy, Kathryn Anderson, Joan (Michael) Olson, 11 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. Additional survivors include her brothers, Robert and Roger, many nieces, nephews, and other family members.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, services will be held on Jan. 29, 2021 at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie for immediate family only. An outdoor memorial service will be held at time of interment when conditions allow.

The family requests any desired donations be made to Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Faribault, First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie, or the Faribault Senior Center. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Verdelle Hansen,
91, Albert Lea



Verdelle Hansen

Verdelle Hansen passed away Jan. 19, 2021 at Good Samaritan Retirement Home in Albert Lea.

A Funeral Service was held on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021 at Bayview/Freeborn Funeral Home in Albert Lea with Rev. Matt Griggs presiding. Burial took place at North Freeborn Cemetery immediately following the service. Online condolences are welcome at www.bayviewfuneral.com.

Verdelle Marie Hansen was born on June 18, 1929 at St. Olaf Lake near New Richland, the daughter of William and Lillian (Preiss) Demmer. She was baptized at St Peter's Lutheran Church in New Richland and confirmed at the Hartland Lutheran Church. Verdelle attended District 7 School for eight years and graduated from Freeborn High School in 1946.

On Oct. 27, 1948 she was united in marriage to Philip Allen Hansen of Clarks Grove at the

Hartland Lutheran Church. Verdelle then joined the North Freeborn Lutheran Church and when it closed in 2002, she joined Central Freeborn Church. She was a member of the ELCA, Mission Circle, Division Chairman, Altar Guild at North Freeborn and ELCA and Mission Circle at Central. She was also the church secretary and joint Treasurer of North and Central churches for 35+ years.

Verdelle and Philip farmed together for 66 years. In her spare time, she was an active member of the Eagles auxiliary in Albert Lea. She enjoyed sewing, embroidery, and hardanger. She made many beautiful pieces and gave to her family for Christmas, birthdays and weddings. Verdelle enjoyed old time music and traveling with Philip to Europe, Alaska, Florida, Arizona, California and Las Vegas. She enjoyed entertaining, baking cookies, breads, and making lefse for the family.

Verdelle was preceded in death by her parents, husband Philip in 2014, granddaughter Jessica Hansen, brothers; Wallace Demmer, Melvin (Edra) Demmer, David (Ruth) Demmer, Lyle Demmer, Lester Demmer, sisters; Lou (Kernie) Jensen, Oriet (Chuck) Ribbe and Doris (Richard) Sigurdson, sisters-in-law; Norma (Elwood) Ingvaldson, and Dorothy Demmer.

Verdelle is survived by sons; Wayne (Nancy) Hansen, Darrell (Cindi) Hansen, Bruce (Susan) Hansen, and Kevin (Sheila) Hansen, 10 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren; brother Boyd Demmer, sisters Arlyss (Richard) Haug and DeVonna (Gerald) Olson, sisters-in-law Norma Demmer, Mary Demmer, and Dorothy Gulbrandsen, and many nieces and nephews. Blessed be her memory.

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Lisa Vaith

January 28
Jonathan Heimgartner

January 29
Claire Schwarz
Kathleen Iversen
Samantha Iversen
Nicholas Iversen

January 30
Jess Motl
Norah Savage
Ken Behnken
Michelle Krell

January 31
Chelsea Miller
Tammy Wehner
Gloria Hernandez

Feb. 1
Jon Vogt
Kim Meiners

Feb. 2
Mike Farr
Mary Burr
Joe Farr
Brayton Ingvalson
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Worship & Faith

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

A9

Great gift ideas for God



Pastor Matt Fennell

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

My Father's birthday is Jan. 25 and I found the most appropriate card for him. It said, "Dear Dad, you are impossible to shop for.....So I didn't! Happy Birthday Anyway!" What do you give the man who has everything? Before you think I'm terrible we all went in together and

got Dad a gift for his birthday, however that question does bring up an interesting quandary. What can a believer give to God as a token of their love and appreciation? He literally has everything.

Fortunately for us our Heavenly Father has provided us with a list of gifts with which He is delighted.

The beautiful thing is they are affordable to any budget! Turn your focus, if you will, to Hebrews chapter 13 and verse 15. The author states, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

The people to which the letter was addressed would have been familiar with a very complicated system of worship. After the sin or trespass offerings were completed, an ardent worshiper might offer many other various sacrifices, such as heave, wave, and a variety of animals. The author of our text has just revealed that Jesus is the fulfillment of our sin offering and no other is needed. How then can we worship Him and show our gratitude?

Did you catch the verses list of desired gifts? He names three

that are guaranteed to be well received. The first is Praise and Thanksgiving. Consider the contrasting response of a child at Christmas who has just opened up his gift to find for the third time he has received clothes, and that of a child who has discovered that his present contains his favorite toy. The squeals of glee cannot be compared to the forced thank you the parents prod the child to emit. To which does our praise compare? If we would but reflect on how gracious God has been perhaps we to could spontaneously offer up the praise God so deserves and desires.

The second gift that

pleases God is simply to do good. We are to turn our hands and effort to that which is profitable to the kingdom of God. We should seek to do those things, which emulate God's character. Some possible suggestions of qualities we could seek to copy certainly include such things as holiness, generosity, love, patience, and benevolence. Do are actions and activities make up an appropriate gift for our Savior?

Last but certainly not least on our list is the simple verb communicate. The term doesn't just mean talking. A lot of people talk with out the recipient actually receiving the intended mes-

sage. This term has the connotation of meeting a need by sharing and distributing that which we have to those who are with out. As believers we should have the truth concerning who God is, yet many peoples' impression of God has been corrupted by the wickedness, selfishness and cruelty of the world we live in. We need to communicate a perception of God that is more accurate. It is not lost to me that perhaps the best way to accomplish this gift is to actively practice the previous two.

May our Heavenly Father who is so deserving be shortly inundated with gifts from his grateful children!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC

503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
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.,
Bloomington
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Valerius
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 – LCMC

2500 7th Ave. NE.,
Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Indoor Worship: Sundays 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Online Worship: Sundays 9 a.m. or anytime on website

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 – LCMC

1054 Truman Ave.,
Owatonna

Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA

30456 Mower-Freeborn
Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC

28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
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 – LCMC

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
Sunday Worship Indoor: 10 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 Oppegard
Sundays 9:30 a.m. - online at
facebook.com/tlcowatonna
and tlcowatonna.org/
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full service on Spectrum
(channel 181) and Jaguar TV
(channel 900) (Tuesday-4:30
p.m.; Wednesday-6 p.m.;
Sunday-11 a.m.) and at
owatonnaonline.com.

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 – LCMC

108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Education Hour: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMC

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
Sunday Worship Indoor:
8:30 a.m.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

CATHOLIC

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205 Second Ave. NW,
Medford
507-451-4845
Father James Starasinich
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL

9946 SE 24th Ave
Owatonna
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:15 a.m.
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 Swaminatha
Pothireddy
Parochial Vicar

507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Masses: Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m.,
and Noon (Spanish)
Daily Mass 7:15 a.m.
Tuesday through Friday
Reconciliation 4 p.m.
Saturday
Adoration – Thursdays 8
a.m.-7 p.m.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC

114 E. Main St.,
Bloomington
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 Starasinich
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation:
3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service 8 a.m.
Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
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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 Cirksena
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST

815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Lisa J. Vick Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org

Traditional Worship
(Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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.destinycoc.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
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507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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PRAIRIE MENNONITE

13638 750th St.,
Bloomington
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.

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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.

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702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Interim Pastor Wendell
Anderson
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Kids Church: 9 a.m.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST (OWATONNA'S OLDEST CHURCH)

123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Carla Nelson
507-272-9834
www.firstbaptistowatonna.
com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BETHEL BAPTIST

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY LIFE

105 2nd St NE Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
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Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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MAN ALLEGEDLY THREATENS: to kill cops

FROM A1

posts about killing law enforcement and politicians, the federal complaint alleges.

“We’re all from the same cloth,” Sauke allegedly wrote. “Don’t be showing out for any politicians we gotta murder every single one of them.”

In another social media post, Sauke was seen pointing a gun at the camera. On Dec. 20, he wrote, “I got one of the most liberal states armed to the teeth in ghost locks.”

On Jan. 15, two undercover agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives met with Sauke and purchased from him a privately made firearm for \$1,500, the complaint said. During the conversation, Sauke allegedly showed the undercover agents photos of firearms they could purchase and said he had a “sawed-off shotgun” in his car. The transaction took place at a parking lot in Faribault.

The undercover agents agreed to purchase two additional firearms from Sauke and paid him \$900 toward the purchases. Once the transaction was completed, agents took Sauke into custody.

The complaint said agents recovered from Sauke’s vehicle a short-barreled shotgun similar to the gun shown in his Snapchat posts and a box of shotgun ammunition.

Federal law requires shotguns with reduced barrels and overall lengths to be registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, according to U.S. Attorney Erica H. MacDonald. She said the shotgun was not registered to Sauke.

There are several social media posts from Sauke outlined in the federal complaint. In one of them, Sauke allegedly said, “I’m just not the sucker who brings my fists to a gunfight. And I’m going to win in a gunfight every single time. I have more firearms training and better nerves than the average cop.” He went on to say in the same post, “Doesn’t matter if you’re a felon or not you should be conceal carrying everywhere you go in 2021. I can help you with that.”

The federal com-

plaint also detailed comments that Sauke allegedly made to his probation officer. He allegedly wrote in December, “I carry guns wherever I go and wish that somebody ANYBODY would find the courage to play games with me. It’s a Christmas miracle that I haven’t put anyone in the dirt yet. Cops can feel my wrath too. I’ve been tazed, stabbed and numbed numerous times that (expletive) doesn’t phase me. It’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when.”

Jurisdictions involved in the investigation included ATF, FBI, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Olmsted County Sheriff’s Office, the South Central Drug Investigations Unit and the Cannon River Drug Task Force.

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Snow sculpting a family affair

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Blocks of snows are carefully being carved away and shaped to a myriad of different designs in Owatonna's Central Park as Minnesota Michelangelos vie for the top prize at this year's snow sculpture contest.

This is the third year of the contest and it serves as the perfect preamble to the city's Bold and Cold festivities held Jan. 29 to Jan. 31. Christina Spencer and her two daughters, Dalila and Moira, have participated all three years, winning the competition in the first two.

"We made an owl the first year and baby Yoda last year," Spencer said.

An artist and sculptor, Spencer said, she relishes the chance to take her skills to a larger canvas. "We're doing a dragon this year. Every year, I'm trying to do something a little more difficult and see how it goes."

Spencer said she and her two daughters have improved their technique each year. Tools of the trade include ice-chippers, shovels, hand-made sanders, and a small replica of the final product which Spencer uses as a guide. "I made a model out of clay last year and it worked really well," she said. "It's in a grid so I can see it better in the box."

"It's hard to get the details in the snow," Spencer said. "Last year, we had trouble with the fingers because they were so small. One small chip and they might fall off and the snow all around is not sticky so I can't rebuild it."

Because the snow is so dense, the ini-



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Christina Spencer and her eldest daughter Dalila work at chipping away a block of ice from their sculpture as her youngest, Moira, looks on.

tial stages begin with ice-chippers, which Spencer and her daughters use to carve away some of the blocks before getting to the fine detailing of the piece. "It feels almost like it's ice when you try to carve it," She said.

"I'm constantly learning, I've always worked on a smaller scale but I like working on a larger scale," Spencer said. "It's a challenge and I have to come up with new ideas and I'm happy my oldest is getting bigger so she can help out more."

The most difficult part is the initial carving but after some of the blocks are sliced off Spencer and her

daughters begin to give the sculpture its shape. "After we're done my husband comes and does all the heavy cleaning," Spencer said.

Spencer and her daughters are one of six teams sculpting this year. Each year has had different levels of participation often due to the weather. "The first year was the polar vortex and so we were out here bundled up with goggles carving," she recalled.

"I love getting my kids outdoors so this is a good excuse for them to stay out loners," Spencer said of what motivated her to par-

ticipate in the contest her first year. Since then, she has become the resident expert and only time will tell if one of the other teams can knock her off the podium and take first place.

The snow sculptures will stay up in Central Park until they melt. The carving is set to take place from Jan. 22 to Jan. 27 when the winner will be unveiled. Other events for the Bold and Cold celebration will get underway this weekend including ice-fishing, a sled race, and a snowman building contest.

All of this year's events are COVID-friendly.

SEE SNOW SCULPTING, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

The model dragon Christina Spencer sculpted which will be used as a guide for her and her daughters' snow sculpture. Spencer sets the model in a grid and then plots it out onto the giant block of snow.

Commission recommends hike in hanger fees at airport

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Hanger rental at the Owatonna Degnar Regional Airport could increase between \$5 and \$10 per month, if the Owatonna City Council approves a recommendation of the Airport Commission.

The Airport Commission voted to increase most hanger rental fees at its regular meeting on Jan. 21.

The Commission is recommending that rental fees for full-size units increase from \$160 to \$170 per month in the airport's newer buildings, and from \$125 to \$130 per month for north facing units and \$135 to \$145 per month for south facing units in its oldest hanger.

Smaller storage units in all of the hangers would see the largest increase if approved, going from \$110 to \$210 per month.

Dan Beaver, airport manager, said the \$100-per-month increase for the smaller units is an attempt to bring them in line with the private-sector rates.

Traditionally, those units were rented by aviation tenants who needed extra storage

SEE COMMISSION, B3



COURTESY MnDOT

Snowplows in the Owatonna area are testing new technology that activates digital highway signs to warn motorists when slow-moving vehicles are ahead on the road.

MnDOT tests I-35 snowplow activation of warning signs to boost safety

Minnesota Department of Transportation snowplows on Interstate 35 in southern Minnesota are testing technology that activates digital highway signs to warn motorists when the slow-moving vehicles are ahead on the road.

The goal is to improve highway safety by providing motorists information when they are likely to be approaching a state maintenance vehicle. A digital sign message warns drivers they will be approaching slow-moving MnDOT vehicles, which improves safety by increasing awareness.

Ten MnDOT snowplows on I-35 from Iowa to Northfield were outfitted with technology to activate digital message signs as they pass. During snow events, signs notify drivers: "Snowplow ahead, use caution." During non-snow conditions, the message alerts: "Maintenance vehicle ahead, use caution." The message stays activated for several minutes after the MnDOT vehicles pass.

Snowplows can create "snow clouds" when clearing roads at slower speeds. Warning signs can also be used at other

times of year for uses such as maintenance work when crews are repairing high-tension cable median guard or striping roads.

Data from the past few years shows that many crashes involving snowplows were rear-end collisions when motorists strike the back of the snowplow. This technology and warning system could reduce and prevent these types of crashes in the future.

MnDOT snowplows and maintenance vehicles use existing automatic location technology and the

SEE MNDOT TESTS, B3

Optimistic for 2021 in Ellendale



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

As I begin my seventh year on the Ellendale City Council, I am doing it with optimism. Last year presented challenges for all of us, and 2021 has most definitely started out with controversy, however I am a firm believer that nothing is insurmountable and that we as a community will continue to move forward.

Progress was made in November with the election of two new city officials. Mayor Matt Bartsch and Councilmember Derek Bartness have just begun their first term on the city council bringing our average age down a bit. It is refreshing and vital to our community to have our younger population represented in our city government.

One of the first pieces of business Matt and Derek will be a part of is the

finalization of the city codification manual, which has been underway for a little over three years. As part of the codification manual, the council has created a Codification Commission. Derek Bartness and I will be heading up the committee and are seeking one or two community members who would be interested in participating. The goal is to create a safe, clean community for all residents. The committee will bring forth issues and ideas to the council on how to achieve this.

The City also has a new Community Economic Development Associates (CEDA) representative, Matt Durand. Matt and CEDA support the city by providing ideas and capacity building for rural economic regeneration and revitalization. Matt is here to help the city take control of our economic development. CEDA assisted with the start up of Bio-Plastics Solutions.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Jackie Froman and her service on the council from August

SEE OPTIMISTIC, B8



Rodney Krell



Chris Staloch



Alison Mach

BP School Board approves next step in new ZED facility

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie School Board approved the construction of Zumbro Education District's (ZED) new facility and received an update on the district's progress in reaching its annual goals on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

An updated resolution featuring the issuance of certificates of participation for the proposed ZED project required approval by the school board to move forward with the project. Each of the six school districts in ZED had to approve the resolution.

School board Chair Rodney Krell said ZED previously determined that it is necessary and desirable to approve the issuance of certificates of participation in the amount not to exceed \$16,475,000 to finance the equipment and construction of a 61,000-square-foot building. The building would be used for all ZED programming and administration, including the main office, ZED South campus, ZED Area Learning Center and Transition 2 Success program.

He also said Blooming Prairie School Board had previously approved this resolution in 2020 but had to approve it again because it's a new year.

The motion to approve the ZED resolution carried unanimously.

When asked what's coming next, Superintendent Christ Staloch said time would tell.

"I think we're going to learn a lot about that in the next couple weeks. I have not heard a lot from Patrick [Gordon, ZED Director] as of late, but I know that they were going to be selling those bonds," he said.

Once the new facility is completed, Pine Island, which is currently the seventh school district in ZED, will leave the district.

As far as when the new facility will be ready, Staloch said the plan is for construction to be completed in one year.

"It is exciting. Great for those kids," he said.

The current ZED facilities will be used for one more full school year.

Earlier, Associate Principal Alison Mach presented the annual World's Best Workforce Strategic Plan which detailed how the district was doing in reaching its educational goals and outcomes.

Most of the district's goals, such as getting all third-grade students to achieve grade-level literacy and career and college readiness for all, don't have data for last school year because the district didn't hold its

annual MCA testing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so it didn't have data to compare to the previous year's data.

However, one set of data that was available to the school district was its graduation rate.

"We're always above average. I always say our goal is 90%; we're usually close to 100%. We have been very successful in maintaining a very high graduation rate and that's been another great advantage of our school system as a whole.

"The things that we could measure, it has been positive; the things we weren't able to measure, there have been positives that have come out of all this stuff. I think that when I share this report with you next year and if we would compare from previous years, you're going to see some things drop down and we're just going to have to adjust. It also, I think, presents a nice challenge for us as far as administratively and our teaching staff to freshen up our skills and find some different ways to bring these kids back, engage them and get them moving in a positive direction again," Mach said.

The school board's next meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, in the Blooming Prairie High School Media Center.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

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- ACROSS
- 1 Depositors' protective grp.
- 5 Fruitcake
- 10 Jane Austen match-maker
- 14 Bind
- 15 Uma Thurman's ex --- Hawke
- 16 Give temporarily
- 17 Arabian chieftain
- 18 Lightweight cord
- 19 Breathtaking organ
- 20 Against
- 21 Large bundle
- 22 Lamp scam?
- 23 Bit of broken pottery
- 25 To do with mail
- 26 Strainer
- 29 Whisky distiller --- Walker
- 31 Appears ominously
- 32 --- Chanel
- 33 Actor and rapper Mike ---
- 37 Wheat flour in India
- 38 For example, brogues
- 39 Harvest
- 40 Hits lightly
- 41 High-efficiency lights, briefly
- 42 Enigmatic quotemaker
- Yogi ---
- 43 Corpse
- 45 Luxury accommodations
- 46 Dozing
- 49 Wet season
- 51 Place
- 52 Work the land
- 53 Records
- 57 Cookware
- 58 Military blockade
- 59 "... sting like ---" (Ali)
- 60 Therefore
- 61 Kofi ---
- 62 Brief message
- 63 Red light gas
- 64 Office in training
- 65 Writing table
- mainland
- 11 Launch
- 12 Passion
- 13 Theatrical backer
- 22 Smallest Indian state
- 24 "--- So Fine" (old Chiffons number)
- 25 Advantages
- 26 Fuss
- 27 Scintilla
- 28 Former Mississippi senator Trent ---
- 30 Summer refreshments
- 32 Top cook
- 34 Cheeky
- 35 Shave
- 36 Health farms
- 38 Thin potter's clay
- 42 Top and bottom of a hamburger
- 44 Senator --- Cruz
- 45 Noiseless
- 46 Colorado resort
- 47 Stockpile
- 48 Dismiss
- 50 Pond problem
- 52 S N L comic --- Fey
- 54 Double-reed woodwind instrument
- 55 Obtains
- 56 Search
- 58 Cold War U S A F arm
- DOWN
- 1 Type of market
- 2 What Rhett didn't give
- 3 Brenda Lee's "--- True?"
- 4 Yuletide
- 5 Home beverage center
- 6 Fighting an enemy
- 7 Old acquaintance
- 8 His last word was "Rosebud"
- 9 Unity
- 10 Large landmass north of the Canadian

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SNOW SCULPTING: a family affair FROM B1

ly. "We're offering some self-paced or guided activities such as the Snowman Building Contest and the Who Melted Frosty Clue game," Owatonna Parks and Rec Administrative Assistant Jessica Abrahams said. "These activities can be done on the person's own time without any gathering of people."

"For our in-person

activities such as the Cardboard Sled Race and Family Ice Fishing we are offering multiple time slots," Abrahams said. "Also, pre-registration is required for these activities and we are limiting the number of people per time slot to stay within the Governor's guidelines. Additionally, we will be taking even more precautions during

the actual activities such as sanitizing equipment in-between time slots."

For those looking to enjoy the winter weather there are plenty of fun opportunities during this year's Third Annual Bold and Cold celebration scheduled for January 29 through January 30 with some activities, such as the snow sculpture contest, beginning early.

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ASK THE
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By Shannon Nordstrom
and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I've been having issues with my 2008 GMC Acadia. The Service Engine Soon light comes on and also the Trac-Off and ABS lights come on and when they do the message center displays reduced power and I can't drive because I have no throttle response. When I take this thing in to my shop it works for them because it only happens about once a week.

Mike in Daytona Florida

Dear Mike, That's a ton of stuff going on there but I suspect they might all be connected. Over the past year we have seen no less than 20 vehicles exhibit this set of symptoms and they all turned out to be the same, a failed throttle body. The throttle body is electric and is the part that regulates how much air enters the engine. There is no cable connecting the throttle pedal to the engine as in the past. This system as you can imagine must be calibrated exactly and have sensors to make sure that the vehicle does not have unintended acceleration or throttle loss. When the engine computer senses a failure in any of the internal circuits the system goes into reduced engine power mode. It will need to be diagnosed to know for sure and if replaced make sure you keep a receipt for the work in case GM decides to recall it for safety reasons which could possibly make you eligible for a monetary reimbursement on repairs.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 2008 Chevy Impala and when it's cold outside I get a message on the dash that reads "Engine Hot A/C off and the Check Engine light comes on at the same time. Once the car warms up I can shut the light off and clear the message if I cycle the ignition key. It has been doing this for over a year and my wife is getting nervous about it so I want to get it fixed.

Tom in Ventura California

Dear Tom, We have seen this message a few times and although engine codes and messages should be something simple to diagnose they don't always get diagnosed as easily as you could hope for. The system needs to be diagnosed to know for sure what's up but some of the things to check that can trip the codes are the lack of ability to read engine temperature due to a failed sensor or connection to it or an actual failure of the engine to reach proper operating temperature in a preset amount of time as determined by the engine computer software. Now the message reads Engine Hot, but that's where it gets tricky because when the engine can't reach proper temperature it's often a failed thermostat and that makes the engine run cold, not hot. A strange situation for sure but it's just one of the fun things we mechanics get to deal with everyday on our shops.

Take care, the Motor Medics

1/28

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

FEB. 2
10:30 a.m. – Online Storytime, BP Library Facebook

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JAN. 29
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
Fire Department Meeting, Community Building

FEB. 1
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
6 p.m. – Ellendale

FEB. 3
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JAN. 29
4:30 p.m. – Cold and Bold Carry-out Soup Supper, History Center
All-Day – Where is Nickel Village Hunt, History Center

JAN. 30
10 a.m. – Cold and Bold Cardboard Sled Race, pre-registration required
All-Day – Where is Nickel Village Hunt, History Center
All-Day – Cold and Bold Snow Sculpture Exhibition, Central Park

JAN. 31
1 p.m. – Cold and Bold Family Ice Fishing, Lake Kohlmier, pre-registration required

All day – Cold and Bold Snow Sculpture Exhibition, Central Park

FEB. 1
6 p.m. – Owatonna Firefighters Relief Association Meeting, Fire Station
7 pm. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Hall

FEB. 2
10 a.m. – Genealogy Club, History Center
10:30 a.m. – Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook

FEB. 3
2:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. – Informational Meeting – North Cedar Ave. Streetscape Project, Torey's



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PANTHER OF THE WEEK



SOFIA BUNN

This week's Panther of the Week is **Sofia Bunn**. She is the daughter of David and Jennie Bunn and they reside in New Richland. Sofia is in Ms. Garlow's fourth grade class.

Sofie shows her panther pride by being respectful and helping classmates. She cares about others and is always willing to help out! Sofie loves to create things and make things for others! When classmates are struggling, Sofie will check in and try to help out.

Sofie loves cheerleading and will often share stories with us about her many tricks she can do. She also loves animals and will share stories about her cats.



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

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

Brewing up a new business



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hy-Vee in Owatonna has brewed up a new business with the opening of a Starbucks Coffeehouse. Ambassadors from the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism welcome the business on its recent addition of Starbucks located inside the store at 1620 S. Cedar. Beth Smith is the Starbucks manager and Justin Lewer is the Hy-vee Store manager.

SCHS holds Bold and Cold soup fundraiser, and Nickel hunt

The Steele County Historical Society will offer a Carry-Out Soup Supper from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29. Soup will cost \$5 per 12 oz. container of hot chili or steaming wild rice soup, and garlic bread.

Carry-out orders can be purchased at SCHS. Enter by the north side of the History Center, Wenger room, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, MN.

Soup buyers may also phone ahead to place an order by calling 507-451-1420. If requested, volunteers will bring soup to your vehicle. Please have cash for vehicle purchases.

The Soup Supper is sponsored by Rocon Inc. of Owatonna.

Also on Friday, visitors are invited to find mini – Nickel buffalos in the Village windows to win a sweet candy prize at the Steele County History Center. The hunt will also take place on Saturday. Nickel is the mascot of the Steele County Historical Society. Snap a picture with your cell phone of where in the Village of Yesteryear Nickel was located and redeem your prize. You can also see the life-size Nickel in the atrium of the History Center during regular business hours.

Please wear face coverings and maintain physical distancing as you walk through the Village grounds. We ask family groups to not interact with other groups/families while they enjoy this winter-time walk.

FREELANCE WRITER WANTED

The STEELE COUNTY TIMES is seeking a freelance writer & photographer to cover Blooming Prairie & Ellendale area news. Perfect opportunity for a retiree who loves to write & attend community events.

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- **BAR BINGO**
- Starts Again Jan. 25
- Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
- Must be 21 to play
- **TUNNEL OF LOVE**
- Saturday, Feb. 6
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Valentine gifts featured at many local businesses

- **OFF-SALE SPECIALS**
- Sample Seltzers & Wines
- "Sweetheart of a Wine Sale"
- Lottery Promo

Prairie Sportsman

Thurs. Evenings, 7:30
Starting Jan. 28th!

- Live action outdoors
- Outdoor enthusiasts in their element!
- Interviews with natural resource researchers & managers
- Entertaining food, art or drink segment
- Aquatic Invasive Species prevention Minute
- The latest on habitat restoration



STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

MNDOT TESTS: I-35 snow-plow activation of warning signs to boost safety

signs are equipped to receive the signal that triggers the message when they travel near the sign.

"Alerting motorists that they're approaching a slow-moving snowplow can improve safety for our operators and motorists," said Ron Heim, MnDOT maintenance supervisor in Owatonna.

"MnDOT is focused on safety and we think this use of technology will help everyone on the road."

What comes next

MnDOT will evaluate the technology to determine whether it can be used in other operations. This work builds off previous research by leveraging existing technology, which automatically updates travelers, improving reliability. This technology holds the possibility of exploring future ways to connect with motorists.

"Our trucks are already providing data, so we're able to build off of that and test this concept," said Jed Falgren, MnDOT state director for Transportation System Management and Operations. "We can improve safety and this an important test that should show us what can come next."

This pilot project is part of MnDOT's connected and automated vehicle research to understand how advancing technology can improve safety. Minnesota is preparing for connected and automated vehicles by observing emerging technology trends and testing those solutions to see how they solve Minnesota transportation challenges. MnDOT's Connected and Automated Vehicle Office (CAV-X) is the state's lead office for connected and automated vehicle technology engagement, policy, testing and partnerships.

"This project illustrates one element in a broad range of CAV initiatives and the potential these technologies hold," said Michael Kronzer, MnDOT CAV-X project manager and Head of Strategic Partnerships. "CAV is so much more than just automated vehicles and MnDOT is interested in helping lead the state to learn, integrate and understand how technology can improve our transportation system, equity, accessibility and safety."

COMMISSION: recommends hike in hanger fees at airport

space, said Beaver, adding that In recent years they've become more non-aeronautical storage units.

"We don't want to undercut those in the private market," said Beaver.

The proposed rent increases will apply to new hanger leases, said Beaver, adding that most of hanger leases are fairly short term (3 to 6 months).

No increase in the airport's daily rates, which range from \$50 per day to \$150 per day for heated hangers depending on the type and size of the aircraft and \$25 to \$100 per day for unheated hangers, is being proposed.

Free throws doom Blossoms in home opener

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

The Blooming Prairie boys basketball team came close to taking the lead multiple times, but could never quite overtake the United South Central (USC) Rebels and ended up losing its home opener 59-46 on Friday, Jan. 22.

The Rebels scored the first five points of the game to take an early two-possession lead.

Coach Nate Piller explained there were multiple reasons why the Blossoms got off to a slow start.

"Part of that, it was our first game of the season and none of the guys on our team had started a varsity game before. That was USC's third game of the season and they play a packline defense to limit inside shots. The nine guys we had Friday have only had two practices together because of health issues," he said. "USC had the opening possession, then we came down and didn't score. USC's next possession was three plus minutes. So that's going to mean a slow start."

Once the Blossoms got their first basket, he noticed his team get more in-sync.

"The first basket is always hard. Nerves settled down a little, and we got a little more aggressive," he said.

Thanks to that aggressiveness, Blooming Prairie tied the game 15-15 with eight and a half minutes left in the first half.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Awesome Blossoms' forward Mitchell Fiebiger tries to get around past two Rebel defenders during the first half of Blooming Prairie's home opener.

In final six minutes, USC went on a 11-2 run to take a 30-19 lead into halftime.

"We missed some shots and had a hard time rebounding. We also had a key player pick up two early fouls, so we couldn't afford for him to get a third foul late in the [first] half. He's a guy that's going to lead us in scoring and rebounding for the short term," Piller said.

Down by 11 at halftime, he mentioned that the Blossoms had to work on maintaining possession of the ball better in the second half.

"We struggled to rebound and mishandled

the ball a little more than we'd like," he said. "Our defensive rebounds went from 47% in the first half to 83% in the second half."

In addition to rebounding, Blooming Prairie's offense also played better in the second half. The Blossoms started the second half on a 7-0 run to trim their deficit to four points, 30-26.

However, other than the rebounding margins, Piller said Blooming Prairie played nearly identical in the second half as they did in the first half.

In the middle of the second half, the Blossoms

trailed by just one point, 37-36, but then the Rebels went on a 11-3 run to take a 48-39 lead with just under five minutes left in the game.

He noted the main reason that run happened was Blooming Prairie started fouling USC to try to extend the game.

"We were down by four until about three minutes left. By then our leading scorer and rebounder had fouled out. USC made 23 free throws to our five," he said.

Thanks in part to the free throw advantage, the Rebels won 59-46.

SEE **FREE THROWS**, B7

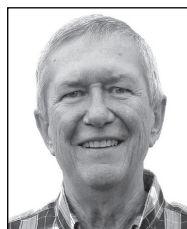


PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Two of the greatest Major League Baseball sluggers, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves, left, and Harmon Killebrew of the Minnesota Twins at right, got together for a home run hitting contest at Metropolitan Stadium in 1974, one month after Aaron broke Babe Ruth's home run record (714).

Hammerin' Hank was my hero

Baseball has always been my favorite sport and former Major Leaguer Hank (Hammerin' Hank) was one of two American heroes I idolized. The other star is Willie (Sey Hey) Mays of the Giants.



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

Aaron, who played all but two years of his career with the Milwaukee Braves and Atlanta Braves, died last Friday of natural causes. He was 86.

As a rabid fan for most of my years, I have been fortunate enough to have seen both Aaron and Mays in action.

I was saddened when I learned of Aaron's death last week. He fought strong racism as he marched toward breaking Babe Ruth's home run total of 714. Aaron walloped No. 715 on April 8, 1974.

I was lucky to have met Aaron one month later in May of 1974 when he accompanied the Braves baseball team to Minneapolis to play an exhibition game at Metropolitan Stadium against the Minnesota Twins.

Prior to the exhibition game, Aaron (44) and Twins slugger Harmon Killebrew (3) were pitted against one another in a home run hitting contest. I was on the field as a credentialed reporter/photographer for the Forest Lake Times.

I smuggled in an action photo of Aaron I clipped from an issue of SPORT magazine. I edged closer to the Braves' dugout and making eye contact with Aaron, I asked him to sign the photo. He graciously agreed.

Asking for an autograph while a member of the press was, then and now, frowned upon, I got by with it and still have the autograph to this day.

Killebrew and Aaron tied in the home run contest at Met Stadium. I was fortunate again to be one of just a few media to capture some moments of Aaron and Killebrew together.

Able to get close for some iconic photos, I snapped photo after photo of these two sluggers taking their swings and also posing together for a historic photo.

Years later, my son Troy, an avid autograph collector, had some of my photos from the home run hitting contest enlarged and signed by the two Hall of Famers.

I also saw Aaron two more times, once when he joined the Milwaukee Brewers for the last two years of his Major league career, and again when he was retired and personally attended a memorial service for his friend Harmon at Target Field.

Aaron and Killebrew were two of a kind, both playing the role of a true teammate. They were more interested in bringing their fellow players across home plate than they were about putting the ball over the fence.

Aaron played 23 seasons in the Major Leagues. He was one of the last major league stars to play in the Negro Leagues.

More than 44 years after his last game, he still ranks first on baseball's all-time list in RBIs (2,297), second in home runs (755), third in hits (3,771) and fourth in runs (2,174).

His career batting average was .305. The Hank Aaron Award has been given to the top hitter in each league, as voted on by fans and the media, annually since 1999.

Aaron was a two-time National League batting champion and was the league's Most Valuable Player in 1957, the year Aaron's team, the Milwaukee Braves won the World Series. Aaron hit .393 during the seven games of the World Series that year.

Aaron fell one home run shy of breaking Babe Ruth's home run record in during the 1973 season. He quickly tied Ruth at 714 on the first day of the 1974 season. He broke Babe's record on April 8, 1974 in Atlanta before more than 55,000 fans.

Aaron's historic homer was hit off left-hander Al Downing of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

SEE **HAMMERIN' HANK**, B7

Split results for Owatonna boys hockey

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

Owatonna's boy hockey head coach, Josh Strom, was left with a bad taste in his mouth, after his team spilt games this week, winning against Rochester Mayo and losing to Mankato East.

The team started off the week with a win 5-3 over Mayo, that saw junior Levi Kubiack score two goals in the contest.

However, the Huskies would not have the same luck in their second game of the week, as they ended Saturday with their first loss of the season, losing to Mankato East, 2-5. Kubiack and junior Taylor Bogen scored the team's only goals.

"I thought we were okay against Mayo, and

I think it kind of caught up to us against Mankato East," Storm said. "I think we won and were kind of successful on our talent, and we kind of have to get back to the effort that we expect from our players."

Storm says that this week he will focus on a lot of film with the team, showing them examples of the good effort that he saw during the games last week, the catch being that the good effort will not just be from his team.

"I am going to show them the clips of people working hard, whether it is our team, or there is a couple of clips that I am going to show of what the Mankato kids did," Storm said. "Mankato East really showed the ability to play well. They

blocked pucks all over the ice. We have got to show them how our lack of execution and effort are the reasons that we have been falling."

It was not all negative takeaways from this week's games though, as Storm was impressed by junior Grant Achterkirch and senior Joey Dub. Praising Dub's defensive work, and noting how much Achterkirch has improved in his eyes.

"For a guy (Achterkirch), who is not necessarily a skill player, I thought he played fantastic. I think he's stepped up and has really come a long way in the last year," Storm said. "I thought he was really good."

Storm was also impressed by the team's

performance on offense, and their ability to get them in games.

"I think the positives continue to be the first two games, without necessarily outworking them, we are having a ton of offensive opportunities," Storm said. "In the Mankato East game, where it looked like a little bit of lack of focus, we still had a lot of chances to score. Our offensive production has been strong and will continue to be strong. What is nice is if we can clean up the defensive side and play defense first, then the offense will take care of itself."

Looking ahead, Storm is focused heavily on Thursday's home matchup against Northfield. He believes that the early season matchup against the one loss team has the opportunity to shape their season.

"I think Thursday is a massive game with Northfield. Northfield beat Mankato East, and I think East outplayed them a little bit," Storm said. "When you start talking about our desire to win a conference championship, it comes down to we probably have to win that game to be in that conversation. Every game where we play the team for the first time is the one that counts, and if we can find a way to knock out Northfield on Thursday that would put us in a three-way tie with the top teams in the conference, as we would all have one loss."



PHOTO BY TODD WALKINGSTICK

Senior Casey Johnson skates down the ice looking for an opportunity to score against the Mankato East Cougars during Saturday's game. The Cougars knocked off the Huskies 5-2.

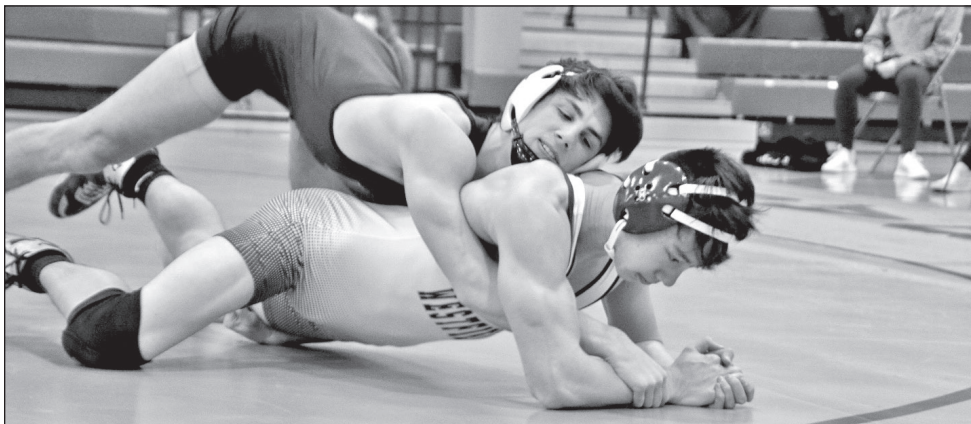


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STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Medford's Charley Elwood scores a takedown against Westfield's Sam Skillestad. Elwood won by fall in the final seconds of the third period. Elwood's win increased Medford's lead to 24-9, a lead they would never relinquish, winning 54-21.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Medford heavyweight Gavin Hermes used a headlock to defeat Westfield's Dylan Ehmka by fall in the final seconds of the first period. His win gave the Tigers a 33-point win, 54-21.

Westfield's struggle continues with pair of losses

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

The Westfield wrestling team's disappointing start to the season continued this past week when they went 0-2 at a pair of triangulars. In the first triangular, the Razorbacks lost to Maple River 45-28 and lost to perennial power Scott West 60-12 on Tuesday, Jan. 19. In its second triangular, which was a home meet in Hayfield, Westfield lost to Medford 54-21 and lost to Chatfield 62-16 on Thursday, Jan. 21. Against Maple River, the Razorbacks got off to a strong start because their four lowest weights all won.

"Hunter Simonsen got us off to a great start at 106 and Kevin Hodge was able to keep it going with a tough-fought match at 113. This gave us a great start. Bo Zweiner and Lane Lembke were able to follow it up with falls of their own at 120 and 126," said Westfield Co-Head Coach David Lassahn. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Razorbacks were unable to fill a few weights and gave up four forfeits due to not having wrestlers available at 132, 138, 170 and 182. In between those forfeits, Maple River won three straight matches, including two by fall to take a 27-21 lead – a

lead they would never relinquish. "We give Maple River credit, they bounced back in the middle weights of the dual. However, the forfeits we gave up proved to be too much to overcome," he said. Westfield did end the meet strong. Tyler Archer won by major decision 12-3 and Dylan Ehmke won by decision 9-4, but it was too little, too late and the Razorbacks lost 45-28. Against Scott West, it was Panthers who got off to a great start as their three lowest weights all won to give Scott West a 17-0 lead. Lembke got Westfield on the board with a win by decision 9-5, but

then the Razorbacks didn't get their next win until Archer won by fall at 195 pounds. Ehmke followed with a win by decision 3-2 at 220 pounds, but those were the only three wins Westfield earned in their 60-12 loss. The Panthers' dominant performance wasn't surprising to Lassahn. "Scott West is known as one of the wrestling powers in Minnesota. They have a strong wrestling tradition and seem to always be competing for a spot in the state tournament," he said. "The ability to fill a full line up and still have depth is critical. They have over 30 wrestlers in the room, and

this creates a very competitive atmosphere." Thanks to that competitive atmosphere, he noted that the Razorbacks were at a disadvantage. "In a few of the matches, we were simply outmatched. However, the ability to stay in good position and have that attack style mindset is critical when wrestling tougher competition. The wrestlers will take this as a learning experience and look to improve," he said. Lassahn commended Lembke, Archer and Ehmke for their performances in their wins. "Lane wrestled one of his best matches of the year in this one. He was constantly attack-

ing and looking for ways to score. He'll look to continue to build off of this win and help lead this team as a senior. Tyler is off to a great start this year, and this match was no different. He was able to secure the fall for us. He's up a couple weight classes this season and has proved that his strength and speed can handle the jump in weight classes. Dylan wrestled to a hard fought 3-2 victory. He has come in this year with a great attitude and mindset. We look for him to be one of our leaders this year as a senior," he said. Despite the two losses to Maple River and Scott

SEE WESTFIELD'S STRUGGLE, B7



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Huskies' guard Ty Creger tries to drive past a Scarlet defender.

Huskies drop close one to Scarlets, rout the Rockets

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

After winning its first game of the season on the road, the Owatonna boys basketball team was hoping to continue its winning ways at home, but the Mankato West Scarlets had other plans and they eked out a narrow 63-58 win on Thursday, Jan. 21. The Huskies rebounded, both figuratively and literally, by beating Rochester John Marshall 58-22 on Saturday, Jan. 23. Against Mankato West, the Huskies went on a 5-0 run to take a 20-19 lead with just over seven minutes left in the first half, but the Scarlets responded with a 5-0 run of their own to re-take their four-point lead. The score remained close for the rest of the first half. Mankato West led 34-30 at halftime. Owatonna started the second half on a 13-4 run to take a 43-38 lead with 11 and a half minutes left in the game. The Scarlets slowly clawed their way back and the game was tied 47-47 with five minutes left in the game. Thanks to a pair of three-pointers, the Huskies took a 53-50 lead, but the Scarlets responded with a 7-0 run and never looked back, winning 63-58. Head Coach Josh Williams said the Huskies played pretty solid offensively and defensively throughout the game. "We did some good things both halves. The last five of six minutes is what really cost us. We had way too many turnovers overall, but the issue late in game was giving up seven points on two possessions," he said. On the first possession, the Mankato West scorer got the basket to fall and

was fouled. He missed the free throw, his teammate got the rebound and then the Scarlets' top player sank a three-pointer to make it a five-point possession. After recording a defensive stop, the Scarlets tacked on another two points on their next offensive possession. "We went from leading by three points to trailing by four and we never regained our composure," he said. Williams also noted that the Huskies took some tough shots down the stretch. However, he said the most frustrating part of that game was that his team hadn't taken enough time to go over end of the game situations, which could have really helped them against the Scarlets. After a tough loss to Mankato West, Owatonna played Rochester John Marshall two days later. The Huskies jumped out to an early 11-0 lead thanks to a couple three-pointers by Nolan Burmeister, a basket by Evan Dushek and a basket by Payton Beyer. Owatonna's offense and defense continued to play well the rest of the first half and the Huskies led 33-9 at halftime. Williams said his team did a good job keeping that momentum going in the second half and Owatonna ended up winning 58-22. He noted that 22 points might be the lowest amount of the points that his team has given up in his 18 years as head coach. He said a couple reasons why the Huskies won by so much was they outrebounded JM 36-25 and the Rockets only shot 17% from the field. Owatonna's (2-1) next game is a home contest against Albert Lea (0-3) at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29.

Huskies eye improvement against Northfield wrestlers

Owatonna splits matches over past week

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

On Friday, the Owatonna wrestling team travels to Northfield for its second meeting of the season. During their first match of the season, the Huskies were defeated 48-18. Owatonna is looking for an improved outing this time around. "We are looking for the kids that we are putting out on the mat to have personal improvements," Head Coach Adam Woitalla said. "If we can improve in every single match from the first time we wrestled, that is going to change some of those team scores around and we are going to close the gap. We do not expect us to have a quick turnaround where all of a sudden, we are flipping every match that we lost, but we are looking for that slow

improvement to show that we are getting better." Woitalla will also look for improvements from their most recent matchups from the week of Jan. 21, where the team saw spilt results, with wins against Egan and Mankato West and losses against St. Michael-Albertville and Watertown Mayer. "As a whole, we really learned how to compete as a team and fight for every point, which was good to see," Woitalla said. "We wrestled some really tough teams, and we realized how important bonus points are," he added. Bonus points proved to be the deciding factor in the Huskies' match against Watertown Mayer, where the final score from the dual was 32-32 with the Royals grabbing the win virtue of having a technical fall during the contest.

Woitalla did not reflect on this outcome negatively though, instead using this as a lesson for his team moving forward. "If we would have saved one point in any of the matches that we lost or gained one more point in any of the matches that we won, that could have won us the dual outright where we did not need to go tie breaking criteria," Woitalla said. "It is just a great learning experience for the team for them to be able to see what it means to compete as a team in what people often think as an individual sport." Looking ahead, Woitalla's team will return to action on Thursday, as Owatonna hosts Mankato East and Lakeville North with action beginning scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., before going back on the road Friday for action against Northfield with the same start time.

Panthers overpowered by Bluejays, lose heartbreaker to Tigers

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

The NRHEG boys basketball team simply did not have the offensive manpower to keep up with Waseca nor the defensive ability to stop them as the Bluejays raced out to an early lead and cruised to a 77-29 win on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The Panthers performed quite a bit better against Medford, but the Tigers

edged them 54-48 on Friday, Jan. 22. Against Waseca, the Bluejays scored the first two baskets of the game to take an early 4-0 lead. The two teams then traded baskets, so the score was 8-4 in favor of Waseca. After that, the Bluejays went on a 10-0 run to take control of the game. The Panthers' offense broke out of its offensive slump with two baskets in

quick succession, but Waseca still led 20-8 with about nine minutes left in the first half. Unfortunately for NRHEG, the Bluejays' defense clamped down and didn't let Panthers get any closer, while its offense scored 29 points in the final nine minutes to take a 49-10 lead into halftime. In the second half, NRHEG's offense scored more points, but also Waseca's offense took its foot off the gas and only scored 28 points after halftime. In the end, the Bluejays handily beat the Panthers 77-29 in NRHEG's home opener. Three days later, NRHEG faced a team more its size when they went on the road to take on Medford. It was a close game throughout, but the Tigers pulled away at the end and won 54-48. NRHEG's (0-2) next game is a home contest against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (0-2) at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29. Medford's (1-2) next game is also at home, but against Bethlehem Academy (0-2) at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Panthers' senior forward Kordell Schlaak drives to the basket and scores to cut NRHEG's deficit to four, 8-4. Unfortunately, after that basket, the Bluejays went on a 10-0 run and the Panthers never got back within single digits.



OWATONNA PROUD

B6 | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Hess keeps busy producing crafty cards

BY SOPHIE MUIR
OHS MAGNET WRITER

OHS junior Ava Hess recently started her own business called ArtAvieCo, which specializes in adorable greeting cards for many occasions. Currently operating on an etsy account, Hess hopes to spread joy and happiness through her artwork.

Hess had been making handmade cards for her family and friends three years prior to starting her business and had dreams of becoming an entrepreneur. When the quarantine hit, she was inspired by her friends

on social media; from all around the world, to start her greeting card business. She continues to draw inspiration from other artists on Youtube and Pinterest.

While ArtAvieCo was started less than a month ago and has already made great progress, Hess already has plans for the future. She hopes to create stickers for water bottles as well as bumper stickers and sticker sheets. Another one of her goals is to figure out international shipping, which would enable people across the world to benefit from the happiness a card brings.



How cute! OHS junior Ava Hess owns and operates her own card making business! Not only are her products adorable, they are designed and created by Hess herself.

Hess hopes to positively impact society with her business, "Getting something in the mail is different than getting a text, if someone sends a greeting card to me I'd be like 'aww,' so I think spreading joy through that."

OHS junior Maddie Moen, a friend of Hess and one of the first customers of ArtAvieCo, had this to say about Hess in terms of her business, "It impresses me how quick she moves with everything and how good she is with problem-solving." Being an entrepreneur can be daunting, especially while being a student, but when

asked what advice she had for other student entrepreneurs, Hess said, "Keep working at it, because it's definitely rewarding in the end. Don't give up."

Being a student entrepreneur is no easy task, but Hess makes it obvious that she loves what she is doing, and is both driven and creative. She has taken a talent and turned it into something beyond a hobby or distant goal, she has utilized her artistry and morphed it into something that is truly inspirational. Her site can be found here: www.etsy.com/shop/ArtAvieCo?ref=search_shop_redirect.

Happenings around Owatonna Schools



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Top: Owatonna High School Assistant Principal Hollie Jeska and Principal Kory Kath aren't afraid to jump in and help out in the kitchen during the week of Jan. 11, when students at OHS returned to hybrid learning. Providing extra help appears to have met their approval as one waves and the other gives the thumbs up. Right: "Look what I've made," says a kindergartener behind his mask in Ms. Schuette's class at Lincoln Elementary School. Kindergarteners learned how to make shapes using marshmallows of different sizes.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lindsey Rosenthal is a second grade teacher at Wilson Elementary School. She and her husband, Kiel, have two boys: Calvin and Paxton.

Teacher loves watching kids grow and learn

Lindsey Rosenthal has taught preschool, second grade, and fourth grade. She is currently a second grade teacher at Wilson Elementary School in Owatonna.

Her husband's name is Kiel and they have two boys: Calvin and Paxton. They also have a dog named Owen.

Lindsey enjoys walks with her family. Some of her hobbies are going shopping at Tar-

get and Hobby Lobby. She enjoys going to the races in the summer to watch her brother who drives an A-Modified car. She also likes to spend time with her friends and have play dates with their kids.

Lindsey loves working for Owatonna Public Schools because of the students. She stated, "I love watching them grow and learn throughout the years of their education."

Owatonna Students of the Week



Elementary

Maya Schiltz
Fifth Grade
Parents: Barb and John Schiltz

Wilson School is so very proud of Maya Schiltz and the hard work she puts forth each and every day. Maya has that rare, natural ability to make her thoughts come alive through words she writes on paper. She is wise and insightful beyond her years. Add to that a kind and genuine heart who cares about people, animals, and our environment and you have a star that shines bright!



High School

David Smith
Sophomore
Parents: Dean and Bridget Smith

David is a fantastic English student who has continued to excel in distance learning. David goes the extra mile on his written work, he offers original insight into assignments and class discussions, and reflects thoughtfully and thoroughly on his classmates' work. He is confident, creative, and compassionate. David's voice is definitely an asset to our class. Keep up the great work, David!

Owatonna Public Schools Montessori Program

Information for the 2021-2022 school year

What is Montessori Education?

The Montessori approach to education embraces individualized instruction for children, mixed-age groupings of students, a structured curriculum, and a prepared environment, using specialized Montessori teaching materials. Montessori classrooms provide an environment that supports

independent, self-directed learning, and self-assessment.

Dr. Maria Montessori, who developed this educational program, believed strongly that parents play a critical role in their child's education.

Montessori students display:

- Self-directed work habits
- High level of responsibility to work

independently

- Enjoy hands-on learning

There are two Montessori classrooms:

- E1 – Grades 1-2
- E2 – Grades 3-5

If you are interested in the Montessori program at the Owatonna Public Schools, please complete the Enrollment form by **Feb. 12** and return it to your neighborhood

school. Montessori is housed at Washington Elementary, 423 14th St. NE, Owatonna. The administration will review student registrants for grade level balance and instructional needs. However, the primary basis for selection will be first come/first serve.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth Svenby at Washington Elementary School: 507-444-8300

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On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

Winter is the perfect time of year to start deciding what you'd like to plant in your yard for the upcoming growing season. And you should consider planting flowers!

Our pollinator insects are faced with a shortage of flowers (their main food source) on our landscape. This is due in large part to habitat loss. In addition to limited food and habitat sources, pollinators

are at risk of being exposed to diseases, parasites, and pesticides. These combined threats contribute to pollinator decline, an issue that affects all of us. So, anything we can do to add flowering plants to the landscape helps pollinators by helping make sure they are at least properly fed.

The insects aren't the only ones that benefit from increased flowering habitat; anything that helps them can ultimately help us. Approximately 75% of flowering plants benefit from or rely on pollination facilitated by pollinator insects or other critters. That means we humans benefit too, because without these pol-

linators, we could lose some of the foods many of us love. This includes various nuts, fruits, and vegetables. Luckily, there are easy considerations we can make to incorporate pollinator food and habitat onto our properties.

Generally speaking, pollinators need pollen for their protein source and nectar for their carbohydrate source. Adding plants which have both of these resources helps pollinators get the nutrients they need. To provide pollen and nectar, plants should be a "single" rather than "double" flower variety, which just means that the pollen-producing parts of the flower are present.

Additionally, studies have shown that native pollinator insects often prefer native plants, which is one of the reasons why planting native plants whenever possible is recommended. There are non-native plants and various cultivars which are attractive to pollinators, too, and these can certainly be incorporated into your pollinator habitat. There is, however, an advantage to using native plants because they tend to give more accurate cues to the pollinators about what time of year it is, prompting them to behave normally in accordance with the season. For example, the death of native

milkweed helps signal that it is time for monarchs to migrate south for the winter.

Another important factor to keep in mind while selecting the plants you'd like to establish for pollinators is diversity. Try to incorporate flowers of various sizes, shapes, and colors. To ensure that you're providing flowering food for pollinators throughout the year, consider planting a mix of species so that some flowers bloom in the spring, some throughout the summer, and then some in the fall.

There are many varieties of plants you can incorporate and there are several strategies

you can use to plant pollinator-friendly areas on your property. You can plant a bee lawn, a pollinator garden, or a native prairie-type planting. Even flowering trees or shrubs can be good flowering resources. The University of Minnesota Bee Lab has created an extensive list of Minnesota-appropriate plants which are particularly attractive to bees, which is available at: z.umn.edu/MN-bee_flowers.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She writes for this newspaper regularly.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

How Can New Relief Package Help

Now that the \$900 billion stimulus package has been signed into law, individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19 will receive some additional relief. How might you be helped?

Here are the key provisions of the new legislation, along with how they could affect you:

• **Stimulus payments to taxpayers** – If you had an adjusted gross income of up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers and \$112,500 for heads of household), you're eligible for a \$600 payment, or \$1,200 if you filed jointly, as well as \$600 per child younger than 17. The payment amount is gradually phased out above certain income thresholds. By now, you may have already received your payment, especially if you had established direct deposit with the IRS. If you don't need the money to pay your bills, you could use it to help build an emergency fund or add to your IRA or other investment account.

• **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** – The new legislation provides about \$285 billion in additional funding for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. If you own a business, you may be eligible for a PPP loan, even if you already received one from last year. The loan is forgivable if at least 60% of the money is spent on employee payroll costs, with the other 40% going for other allowable expenses. The new legislation expands the definition of allowable expenses for PPP loan forgiveness and clarifies that business expenses paid with PPP proceeds are tax deductible. Also, \$20 billion of new money has been allocated for Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) grants. Priority for second PPP loans and EIDL grants will be given to small businesses (with 300 or fewer employees) that had a significant decline in revenue. You can apply for a PPP loan through any existing Small Business Administration (SBA) lender or through a participating bank or

credit union. To begin the application process, visit the SBA website at sba.gov.

• **Unemployment assistance** – The new legislation provides an additional \$300 per week to recipients of unemployment insurance for weeks of unemployment starting after Dec. 26, 2020, and ending on or before March 14, 2021. It also continues the expanded eligibility of benefits under the CARES Act and provides an additional 11 weeks of unemployment benefits through March 14, 2021, for those who remain unemployed after state employment benefits are no longer available. If you haven't already done so, contact your local unemployment office to apply for benefits.

• **Rental assistance** – The relief legislation provides \$25 billion of rental assistance to state and local governments for paying rent, utilities and housing stability services. To find out if you're eligible for aid, contact your local Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office or visit the HUD website at hud.gov. The new relief package also extends the current eviction moratorium through Jan. 31, 2021.

• **Charitable cash contributions** – The new legislation extended the above-the-line deduction for cash contributions to charities for those who don't itemize deductions. For 2021, the maximum deduction is \$300 for single filers and \$600 for joint filers. For those who itemize, the legislation extends the CARES Act provision that suspended the 60% of adjusted gross income limit for charitable deductions. Hopefully, 2021 will be the year in which we put the pandemic behind us. But in the meantime, you may get some valuable aid from the new relief package.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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HAMMERIN' HANK: was my hero FROM B4

On his way to breaking the Babe's home run record, Aaron faced lots of racial taunts threatening him.

Years after he left the game of baseball, Aaron said he now saw a clear picture of what the country was all about.

He remembered the times he was forced to stay in a different hotel while traveling with the Braves. He also said his children had to live like they were in prison because of kidnap threats. Aaron always impressed me as a class

athlete. He had that wide smile and was always willing to reflect on his baseball career. Hammerin' Hank served as a Braves' vice president in charge of player development after he retired. He then became a senior Braves

vice president and worked on behalf of the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation, helping gifted kids develop their talents. Hank Aaron will be regarded by me as one of the best baseball players ever and also as one of the best human beings off the field.

FREE THROWS: FROM B4

Overall, he was mostly happy with how his team played in its season opener. "We have two guys out who would start.

One is an All-Conference player and the other could get similar recognition this year. Two other guys would also be key contributors,

so considering four of our top ten players were out, I think the guys filled in admirably," Piller said. Mitchell Fiebigler led the way with 13 points, while Alex Miller and Jacob Naatz each scored 11.

He mentioned that the Blossoms can improve on all aspects of their game. Blooming Prairie's (0-1) next game is a road contest against Maple River (2-0) at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29.

WESTFIELD'S STRUGGLE: FROM B5

West, he thought the Razorbacks wrestled pretty well in the matches we competed in. "This group is hard working and knows they will be outmatched in most duals this year due to open weights. However, we look to be competi-

tive in the matches we do wrestle," Lassahn said. Against Medford, Zweiner won by 6-2 decision at 113, Lembke won by forfeit at 126, Archer won by fall at 195, and Vincent Hernandez won by forfeit at 220. Unfortunately for the

Razorbacks, the Tigers won the rest of the matches, including five by forfeit to win 54-21. Against Chatfield, Lembke won again, but this time by 12-0 major decision. Also winning were Sam Skillestad by forfeit and Ehmke by fall.

The Gophers won the rest of the matches, including five wins by forfeit to end up with a 62-16 victory. Westfield's (0-6) next meet is a home triangular at Blooming Prairie High School at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28. The Razorbacks host the NRHEG Panthers and the Lake City Tigers.

A non-traditional farm family assists with dairy operation
THE ZOLLNERS

By most accounts, the Zollners are a non-traditional farm family helping to maintain a solid dairy operation in eastern Steele County.

The Zollners live in Owatonna, but they are a 4-H livestock family who have leased and now own a few animals as well as volunteer and work at Clover Glen Farms near Claremont. Involved with the operation are Mark and Gail Zollner along with their adult children, Becca and Lilly. Becca currently attends South Central College while Lilly attends the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Lilly is active on the farm and works part time at Carriage House Veterinary Clinic in Kasson when she's not away at college.

Gail related how the family became involved in farm work after their daughters completed Cow Camp through Owatonna Community Education, whose director is Deb McDermott-Johnson. Deb and her husband, Glenn, operate Clover Glen Farms. Becca and Lilly both leased and showed Holstein and Brown Swiss calves, heifers and cows. They also were Junior Dairy Ambassadors and Dairy Princesses for the Steele County American Dairy Association.

Clover Glen Farms milks 60 dairy cows, a mix of Holstein and Brown Swiss, along with additional heifers and calves. The Johnsons, who have farmed for more than 40 years, host Cow Camp for area children every summer.

"Our greatest joys come from time with the animals both at the farm and in the show ring," says Gail, adding they also like the time together with friends. Gail's family is involved with calf chores, other farm work, show prep and showing. In addition, they are 4-H volunteers and club leaders and belong to the Minnesota Brown Swiss Association. The Zollners are also involved with the Steele County ADA.

Farming, Gail said, is a career that is both passed down through generations and chosen when presented as an option. "Farming is a life where families work hard, learn true teamwork and provide a quality food product for the community while safely caring for their herd," she explained. "Working with so many families and friends through 4-H has been a great bonus at Clover Glen Farms."

Gail said her family has been blessed to be one of the families helping at Clover Glen. "We incur none of the real stress and financial concerns, but get to be with the animals and our farm friends," she said. "It has helped build our family and our life with leadership skills, friendship and job choices," she added.



The Zollner family of Owatonna is involved with Clover Glen Farms near Claremont. The family includes Gail and her husband Mark and their children, Lilly and Becca.

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



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1/27, 2/3

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OPTIMISTIC:
for 2021 in Ellendale

FROM B1

through December. Jackie was appointed by the council when the resignation of Steve Engle opened a vacancy. She jumped right in and did not miss a beat. I look forward to seeing her name on the ballot in the future.

I am excited with what the next two years will bring to the city of Ellendale. The City Council is committed to working together as a team to ensure our community continues to thrive and grow. The council meets the second and fourth Thursday of

every month at 7:30 p.m. in the City Clerk's office. Stop in and get caught up on what is happening, share an opinion or an idea, or just get to know your councilmembers.

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

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MINNESOTA PHEASANTS of STEELE COUNTY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021

Election of officers and annual members meeting will be held on **Monday, February 8th at 7 p.m.**

Social hour is at 6 p.m. at the **KC Hall, Owatonna, MN.**

Please bring any concerns or comments for the board.

Dennis Thompson, Treasurer

1/27, 2/3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INTENT TO INCLUDE PROPERTY IN AN ORDERLY ANNEXATION AGREEMENT

To: The Public

The **Blooming Prairie City Council** will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, February 8, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.** in the City Council Chambers at the City Center located at 138 Highway Ave. South for the expressed purpose of considering the possible annexation of 1.35 acres on the North edge of the City of Blooming Prairie. Said property is located in Steele County, Minnesota, as Steele County Tax Parcel ID 01-024-3301 pursuant to a proposed Orderly Annexation Agreement entered into by the **City of Blooming Prairie and Blooming Prairie Township.**

The Public is encouraged to attend.

1/27

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Steele County Self Storage, 1010 Hoffman Drive NW. Suite C, Owatonna, MN 55060 will sell the following storage units to satisfy rent and Storage Lien using our online public auction at **www.Bid13.com** at 10 a.m., Saturday, February 06, 2021.

Units may contain household goods, unknown treasures, boxes, tools, and other miscellaneous contents stored by the following person(s) and last known address of:

Unit 130: Jesse Nappin, Owatonna, MN 55060

Unit 010: Alissa Hall, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Unit 127: Crystal Barnes, Faribault, MN 55021

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To access complete job descriptions and apply online, go to:
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CONGRATULATIONS

2019-20 Steele County 4-H Award Winners

Many youth and adults were recognized for their extraordinary accomplishments with the Steele County 4-H program. They were honored Sunday during a virtual ceremony on KRFO-Radio.

2019 – 2020 4-H Graduates

Arica Kath
Lilly Zollner
Lexie Ignaszewski

Adult Leader Awards

Bill Arthur- 10 year
Lisa Ahrens- 15 year
Stacy Nelson- 20 year
Cheryl Paulson- 35 year

I Dare You Leadership Award Winners

"I Dare You" award is presented to two graduating 4-H members. The winners are selected by their fellow graduating 4-H'ers. The "I Dare You" Award challenges youth to continue being leaders throughout life and emphasizes a balanced four-fold life of mental, physical, social and spiritual development.

Arica Kath
Lilly Zollner
Lexie Ignaszewski

4-H Key Award

The Gold Key award is the "highest distinction" you can receive in the 4-H program. It recognizes youth for their outstanding leadership and service through 4-H. To qualify for this award, a 4-Her must complete an application. For years, we have not had very few 4-Her's apply for this award. This year, we have had 2 outstanding individuals who have more than meet the standards to achieve this award!

Samantha Fredin
Lexie Ignaszewski

Kottke Dairy Achievement Award

The Kottke Achievement Award in Dairy is "...given to the outstanding 4-H Dairy member, who is at least a high school senior and who has provided leadership in the dairy project as well as excelling in show ring performance. This award may only be won once."

Courtney Kath

Super Hero Awards

"Super Hero" award goes to an individual or individuals who have "swooped in and saved the day"! These people are ordinary people but when duty calls, they drop what they are doing to lend that helping hand.

- The Wonderdogs – Our 4-H Dog Trainers who trained through zoom meetings this past year. They are:
Michele Styndl
Deanna Ripka
Rick & Alisa Miller
- The Super S's – who were a tremendous help during our Steele County Achievement Day Showcase:
Scott Kozelka
Sandy Jirele
Scott Seykora
- Our 4-H Super Youth - Alexis Steckelberg who went above & beyond to help with our swine achievement day showcase.

Friends of 4-H

This person, group or business has gone above and beyond the expectation of help and supporting the 4-H program.

KRFO (Townsquare Media)
Jim Grass

Outstanding Adult Leaders

4-H is made possible through the efforts of many volunteers who so generously give of their time, resources and talents. Of the many, each year we choose two people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. This year's selection of Outstanding Adult Leaders are truly that - OUTSTANDING! They have given hundreds of hours to the 4-H program by: checking records, supporting young people, helping with project training, lending a helping hand when ever it was needed and so much more.

Jill Kath
Kevin Weckman • Guy Walburn

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