



Wednesday, July 7, 2021
www.SteeleCountyTimes.com
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

OH WHAT A PARADE!

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Even though temperatures swelled into the low 90s, it didn't melt the spirits of thousands of people who converged on Blooming Prairie for the community's annual Old Fashioned Fourth of July parade Sunday afternoon. A young girl found a reprieve from the heat by sitting under an umbrella while several boys waited patiently for candy to be thrown from parade units. See inside pages for more Fourth of July coverage.



Dan Boeke

Boeke becomes Owatonna's newest council member

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Retirement didn't suit Owatonna's newly appointed at-large Council Member Dan Boeke. "I didn't like it," said Boeke, adding that three months after

selling his business in 2017, he went to work for the school district as an educational assistant until the end of the 2020 school year. "I loved working with the students," said Boeke. "I have a degree in education but never applied for my license."

Instead, he returned to Owatonna to work for his father-in-law, the late Harland Strohschein, at Harland's Tire and Auto. Boeke purchased the business in 1992. "Everyone should give back to the community in which they live,"

said Boeke when asked why he applied for the at-large council seat left vacant following the death of Council Member Jeff Okerberg in May. Boeke, one of 10 candidates interviewed by the Owatonna City Council in June, was sworn into office on

Tuesday. His term expires at the end of 2022. Boeke previously served on the Owatonna Park and Recreation Board and, in May of 2019, was appointed to a three-year term on the Owatonna Planning Commission. See **BOEKE** on A3 ▶

County's new safety officer is on the job

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

Kristen Sailer said the catastrophes that pop up every week on TV dramas might not be entirely realistic, but she can also draw comparisons to real life. "They practice that," she said of the actors and their roles. "They rehearse over many days and learn the script. And for us, our plans are the script. Our first responders react to the plans we've practiced." The plans Sailer is talking about are

the thousands of pages of documents and procedures she's learning as the new Steele County Emergency and Risk Management director and County Safety Officer. Her role is one of pre-planning, she said, and building relationships with her counterparts. Sailer has spent her first two weeks on the job meeting the people who will respond to emergencies that may arise: Firefighters, members of law enforcement, public works, emergency medical services, dis-

patchers and more. She's also spent a fair amount of time reviewing and updating those plans to ensure the necessary processes and equipment are in place. "Mike Johnson really paved the way for me," Sailer said, referring to the longtime Owatonna Fire Chief and emergency manager for the county. His recent retirement – and a global pandemic – prompted county leadership to take a look at those roles, then redistribute them. See **COUNTY** on A9 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Kristen Sailer, the new director of Steele County Emergency and Risk Management, flips through one of many manuals containing the county's emergency preparedness plans. She's in the process of reviewing and updating the county's processes and procedures.



Rising country music star Jason Pritchett will be offering a free concert on Wednesday, Aug. 18, during the Steele County Free Fair as a thank you to frontline workers of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fair to celebrate COVID heroes

Free concert offered as a way to say 'thanks'

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic will not go unnoticed as officials of the Steele County Free Fair plan to celebrate them in a big way. Wayne Steele, vice president and publicity director of the fair, said last week that the fair will celebrate frontline COVID-19 heroes on Aug. 18. Wednesday night's grandstand performance with Jason Pritchett

will be a free concert as a way for the fair to honor those who courageously battled through the pandemic. The show gets underway at 8 p.m. "We want to thank our hometown heroes and frontline workers," said Scott Kozelka, fair manager. Added Steele: "We want to say a heartfelt thank you. Now is the chance to publicly give them a big thank you." Travis Thamert, a native of Owatonna and singer, will open for the Pritchett show.

In addition to the music, there will be drawings and recognitions throughout the evening. The fair also wants to share stories of workers impacted by the pandemic. Jim Abbe, a county commissioner and a member of the fair board, said the Pritchett concert will be a family friendly event. "We want to blow it up and recognize everyone that has been affected by COVID," Abbe said. "It's just to give back to the community," he added. See **FAIR** on A9 ▶

\$1.00 | Volume 129, No. 50



507-583-4431 | bptimes@frontiernet.net

INSIDE			
Calendar.....	B5	History.....	A5
Classifieds.....	B11	Hometown Living.....	B1
Community.....	A10	Opinions.....	A2
Faith.....	A11	Public Notices.....	B10
		Public Safety.....	A4
		Sports.....	B7-B8
		Steele County Fair.....	B12

AREA DEATHS

Charles Torres, 24, Owatonna
Lowell Wichmann, 81, Ellendale

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OUR VIEW

Time to be altruistic; roll up your sleeves

Twenty states, including Minnesota, reached President Joe Biden’s goal to partially vaccinate 70% of American adults by the Fourth of July.

That may be good news for Minnesotans. But, the fight against COVID-19 is far from over.

Health experts keep warning us about the Delta variant of the coronavirus, which has now been detected in all 50 states. Yet, their warnings appear to be falling on deaf ears – at least among those choosing not to get vaccinated.

And, people keep dying.

Steele County Public Health Director Amy Caron reported two more deaths last week.

“The virus is still out there and it’s still affecting our most vulnerable population,” she said, urging those who haven’t been vaccinated and can be, to do so.

The data is clear: The vaccine protects people, and the best defense against these variants is to get vaccinated.

“If there was ever a time to be altruistic, this is it,” said Dr. Michael Osterholm, an epidemiologist from Minnesota, during an interview with the Times last month. He reminded us that there are 12 million people in this country who are immune deficient. “If you are vaccinated, you pose much less of a risk to them,” he said.

Protect yourself, but more importantly, protect others, said Osterholm, calling the COVID-19 vaccine a “public health miracle.”

We wholeheartedly agree and know there is work to be done to convince others.

While Minnesota met the Biden administration’s 70% goal, the state did not meet its more aggressive goal of having 70% of those 16 and older vaccinated with one dose by July 1. Current vaccination rates suggest we won’t hit that mark until mid-August.

As Osterholm said: “This isn’t like the first days when there were many more people who wanted the vaccine.”

Obviously, it’s going to take more convincing.

We applaud the vaccine efforts taking place locally. If you haven’t received your vaccination, take advantage of the walk-in clinics. Take advantage of the incentives that businesses and local groups, like Community Immunity Owatonna, are offering to people getting vaccinated. Take advantage of private and public health vaccine resources.

Still need help getting a COVID-19 vaccine? Visit <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/index.jsp> or call our COVID-19 Public Hotline at 833-431-2053. You can talk to a specialist Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A celebration like no other



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

As we climb out a deep, dark hole that COVID-19 put us into for nearly 18 months, there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon of life getting back to (dare I say this) normal.

In an unprecedented announcement last Tuesday, Steele County Fair officials unveiled that they are hosting a big party at the fair for some very special people. It was unprecedented because, as my friend and long-time Owatonna resident and fair worker Todd Hale said, the fair had never

before held a press conference to make such a major announcement.

Heading into the press briefing, Hale, and I’m sure there may have been a few others, feared the worst. He thought maybe the grandstand had been deemed unsafe to use. But instead, it was something extraordinarily positive on how the grandstand will be used to celebrate our front-line heroes from the pandemic since March 2020.

The fair feeds our inner being in a normal year by adding a little excitement and fun to our lives. But this year, it’s going to be the medicine to cure our COVID blues.

With 70% of Steele County residents being vaccinated with the COVID vaccine, the fair is certainly going to be a reason for us to all get out and celebrate. And what better way to do

it than having a free concert on the second night of the fair.

Fair officials are coming together with two powerhouse non-profit organizations, United Way and Community Pathways, to celebrate what appears to be a victory against the worst pandemic to hit in more than a century.

When I asked a couple of fair board members who came up with the idea for the party, they pointed across the table at Wayne Steele, vice president and publicity director for the fair. In his typical humble way, Steele quickly deflected the credit and said, “This is a team effort. It’s all of us working together.”

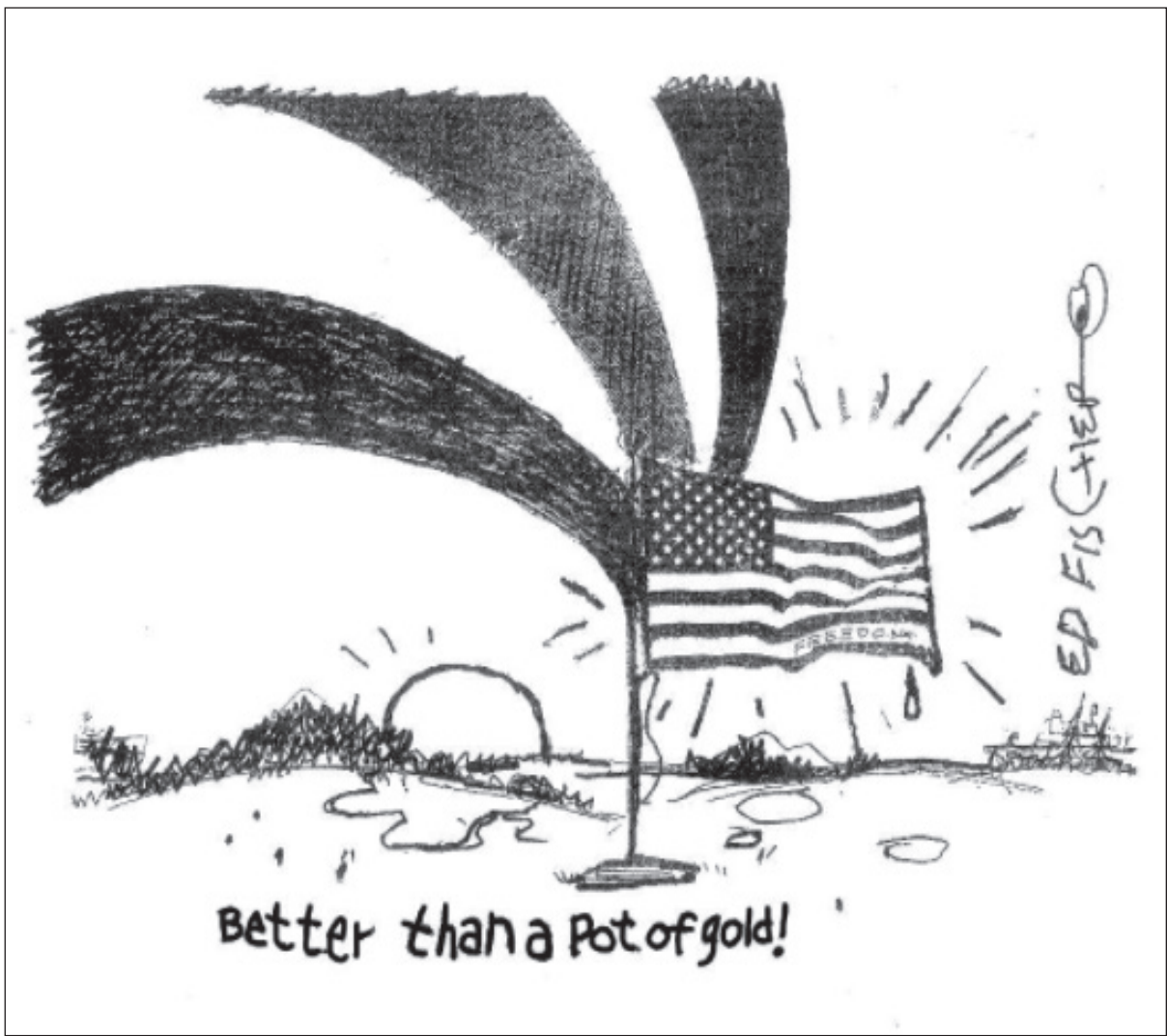
It certainly has been a struggle for many people over the past year and a half. But, we have survived something that nobody knew we could.

There are many heroes of the pandemic. The obvious ones are the healthcare workers. But it goes beyond them into many other occupations. The fair will be our opportunity to collectively say, “Thank you.”

I believe this year’s fair motto, “Bringing back the fun in 2021,” was actually chosen in 2019 before any pandemic hit. How appropriate it is to have such a theme for this year, months after coming out of a deadly virus that has touched everyone in some way.

This week, we are making an extra effort to give our readers a dose of what it takes to prepare for Minnesota’s largest county fair. We begin our weekly countdown to the fair with special fair coverage.

Get prepared for going in hot pursuit of bringing back the fun into your life at the fair. It’s only 42 days away.



GUEST COLUMN

We went along to the moon 52 years ago

BY JAN MITTELSTADT TIPPETT

It was a different world 52 years ago. We lived different lives.

Taking a look back at where we have been in order to know where we are and where we are going is worth celebrating. And as one of my OHS classmates says, we’re above the dirt. It’s a joy to celebrate the moon above and the earth below.

NASA’s long voyage to the moon, ordered eight years before by President John F. Kennedy reached its destination during President Richard Nixon’s watch. It was a big, hairy audacious goal (a Jim Collins phrase) that succeeded.

Apollo 11 was the culmination of an extraordinary effort by a third

of a million people who all contributed greatly to its success. Three men were on the ship that went to the moon, two men walked on its surface for the first time and thousands of thousands upon thousands made it happen.

Millions watched. The lunar landing was witnessed by the largest television audience of its time, some 530 million people, 14% of the global population. Television made us all participants as it did for the Vietnam War, the Live Aid concert, the tragedy of Sept. 11 and the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol. (Today, billions of people tune into events and the lunar landing audience is in 82nd place.)

Apollo was launched Wednesday morning, July 16, 1969. Aboard

were Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. On Saturday afternoon they went into orbit around the moon. And at 4:17:42 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Sunday, July 20, 1969, the Eagle landed on the moon.

It was at 10:56:20 p.m. EDT when Armstrong placed his 9’ size boot upon the surface of the moon, making a man’s footprint and saying, “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” Nineteen minutes later, he was joined by Aldrin.

The pair planted a U.S. flag, deposited a container bearing messages from the leaders of 76 nations, medallions for American and Soviet astronauts who died in the learning period effort, and mounted a stain-

less-steel plaque reading: “Here men from planet Earth first set foot upon the moon, July 1969 AD. We came in peace for all mankind.”

The astronauts gathered some 40 to 50 pounds of rocks for scientific study, measured the temperature outside their space suits (234 degrees Fahrenheit in sunlight and 279 degrees below zero in the shade), collected solar particles and placed two instruments.

At midnight, they returned to the Eagle and after 21 hours and 36 minutes on the moon, they fired the engine and left. Back in orbit, they rendezvoused with Collins on the Columbia, crawled back through a tunnel to join him and cast loose the Eagle. The Eagle floated

through space until it eventually crashed on the moon.

The trip home took 60 hours and the astronauts reentered the earth’s atmosphere Thursday. They were picked up by the Hornet, were placed in isolation, and were firmly planted in the hearts, brains and lives of American people.

The moon landing is one of those events that those old enough to have experienced have a firm memory of where they were and who and what was around them.

I was at Camp Edith Mayo Girl Scout Camp near Rochester, having finished my freshman year at Wartburg College. As counselors and leaders, we brought all the girl campers into the lodge for the televised

report. Some of the girls were interested, others were tired and still others just didn’t understand why they couldn’t be at the fire ring for the nightly sing-along.

Life was pretty carefree. The real world was far away. First-class postage was 6 cents; gas was 35 cents a gallon, and a ticket to the movies was around \$1.25 to see *Easy Rider*, *True Grit* or *Hello Dolly*. That summer of 1969 was a small green world, far removed from newspapers and television.

But for several hours, the moon was under foot.

Jan Mittelstadt Tippett is a retired daily newspaper editor and publisher who lives in Steele County. She can be reached at jtipett@midco.net.

STEELE COUNTY

Times

Founded in 1893
Bussler Publishing, Inc.
www.SteeleCountyTimes.com
Email: bptimes@frontiernet.net

USPS 058-340
Published weekly on
Wednesdays
Postmaster: Send
address changes to:

Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Blooming Prairie,
MN 55917
Phone: 507-583-4431

ETHICS: The Steele County Times editorial staff strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. Please bring any grievances against the Steele County Times to the attention of the Managing Editor.

Publisher	Rick Bussler
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DEADLINES
News: Noon Fridays.
Web: 11 p.m. (Daily)
Advertising: 4 p.m.
Thursdays.

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2021 —16 awards	2015 —7 state and 4 national awards
2020 —9 state awards	2014 —3 state and 3 national awards
2019 —7 state awards	2013 —7 state and 2 national awards
2018 —6 state and 4 national awards	2012 —2 state awards
2017 —2 state and 3 national awards	2011 —4 national awards
2016 —8 state and 6 national awards	

(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Associations)

Workforce Center to reopen

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Owatonna will no longer be the only city in Minnesota with more than 20,000 residents without a workforce center.

Gov. Tim Walz last week signed the omnibus jobs bill that contains \$275,000 in each of the next two years for the center after it passed in both the House and Senate.

According to Brad Meier, president and chief executive officer of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, a lack of funding forced Workforce Development Inc., a private, non-profit agency, to close Owatonna's workforce center in 2018.

The workforce center helps people transition. And while the reopening of the Owatonna center won't resolve the availability of workers, Meier said it will offer employers a better opportunity to put people in the right spots and provide training where needed.

Getting state funds to reopen the center became a key initiative for the Chamber, Meier said.

"Quite honestly, [when the center closed] that shifted everything that happens up to Faribault," said Meier. It became "out of sight, out of mind as a resource," he added.

Jinny Reitmann, executive director of Workforce Development Inc., said she will be meeting with community leaders in Owatonna later this month to discuss plans for the center.

She said she expects the funding to be available quickly and expects the Owatonna Center to reopen by fall. At least two full-time employees will be hired to serve Steele County, Reitmann said.

Both Meier and Reitmann credited the work of Rep. John Petersburg of Waseca and Sen. John Jasinski of Faribault for passage of the bill that will fund Owatonna's workforce center for the next two years.

Jasinski said the workforce center will provide career education, wrap-around support services, and job skills training in high-demand manufacturing fields.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

The Old Country Boys perform before a large crowd in Owatonna's Central park last week

First Thursday
Downtown Owatonna rocks



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Todd Utpadel starts things off during the 11@7 concert series in Central Park.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Owners of Old Town Bagels in downtown Owatonna, Mark and Stacy Wilson, debut their new ice cream freezer, which arrived just in time for Downtown Thursday.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Two-year-old Aubree Sager of Owatonna dances to the music of the Old Country Boys.

Boeke becomes Owatonna's newest council member

◀ **BOEKE** from A1
"I'm tickled to death that they had faith in me," said Boeke of his appointment to the council. "Okerberg left some big shoes to fill."
Boeke, who described himself as fiscally conservative, said his first task will be getting up to speed on the budget. "There are only so

many dollars and you have to determine where they are best spent," said Boeke. "If you have a \$1 in your wallet, you better not spend \$2."
From there, the Owatonna native said he plans to focus on livability issues – safety, security and roads. "Infrastructure needs to be a priority,"

he said, adding that ensuring orderly growth is a close second.
Housing needs to be addressed, said Boeke. "The city needs to work hand-in-hand with the private sector."
When asked if he has a pet project he'd like addressed, Boeke said he'd like the city to revisit the need for a

community center with an indoor pool.
Boeke said he knows he has a lot to learn. "I'm a rookie, but I'm capable of learning," he said. "Please have some patience with me."
As a council member, Boeke said he wants to be open and accountable, promising to listen to his constituents.

"It's a little more daunting when you represent the whole city," said Boeke. And, as an at-large council member, Boeke said he sees himself serving as a liaison between his constituents and the council members representing specific wards.
"I think you have to be available," Boeke

said, adding that as a private citizen, he would call city and county officials to get answers to questions he had on the issues. And he said he wants his constituents to contact him with questions or concerns.
"We might not always agree, but I'll listen."

Kay Fate joins
Times news staff

A veteran journalist has joined the news staff of the Steele County Times.
Publisher Rick Bussler announced this week that Kay Fate has joined the newspaper as its newest full-time staff writer.
She has been a contributing writer to



Kaye Fate

the newspaper since May.
Fate brings 30 years of journalism experience to her position. She began her journalism career at the Owatonna People's Press in 1989. Since then, she's worked at papers across southeast Minnesota and spent 10 years as the public safety reporter for the Post Bulletin. She's twice received first place in investigative reporting from the Minnesota Newspaper Association.
"We are incredibly fortunate to have someone with Kay's experience and expertise," said Rick Bussler.
See **KAY** on A5 ▶

Site preparation



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Excavation and underground utility work are well underway at the site of Owatonna's new high school. Located on a 90-acre site, the new three-story, 317,000-square-foot high school will accommodate 1,600 students. Construction of the new school is expected to be completed in the summer of 2023.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Domestic: On June 25, police took a subject into custody following a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 1:40 a.m.

Man charged in violent domestic

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

An ex-boyfriend faces seven felony charges in connection with a violent domestic disturbance in Owatonna.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Klayton Ray Ament, 40, of Owatonna with second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon as well as strangulation, terroristic threats, false imprisonment and other felonies.

Owatonna Police found a woman bleeding from the head at the intersection of 26th Street N.E. and 7th Avenue N.E. on June 22. Mayo Ambulance transported her to the hospital with a head wound and a right hand

that had already been banded up.

The victim told police she went to Ament's house to pick up dog food. When she arrived, he came out and allegedly grabbed her around the neck. She claimed Ament squeezed his arm around her neck, put his other hand over her mouth and stuck a few fingers up her nose so she couldn't breathe, according to the criminal complaint.

Ament took the victim in a vehicle and began "driving crazy" on gravel roads in the country. She said he was driving about 130

miles per hour. Ament allegedly told the victim, "I'll kill both of us" and "If I go to jail, your family is dead." He also threatened to kill the victim's son.

The victim initially got treated at the hospital for an injured hand. After leaving the hospital, she returned to Ament's house to retrieve her vehicle. She again encountered Ament. This time he was armed with a 12-inch wrench, which she claims he threw hitting her in the head and knocking her to the ground. She began bleeding extensively. She finally took off in



Klayton Ament

the vehicle and pulled over on the side of the road when the vehicle's hood came open. The victim said Ament was trying to take fuses out of the car to prevent her to leave and failed to shut the hood. A passer-by stopped to help the victim and called police.

Ament has twice been convicted of violating a domestic abuse no contact order in June 2019 in Rice County and November 2019 in Steele County.

With this latest case, Ament faces a maximum sentence of seven years in prison and a \$14,000 fine on the most serious charge.

He is currently locked up in the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna.

CRIME BRIEF

Night to Unite is back again

Owatonna Police is planning a community party.

On Tuesday, Aug. 3, the department will hold Night to Unite where neighbors join together for a party to keep their neighborhoods safe.

The special celebration has been held in the past, but it was canceled last year because of COVID-19.

Police say Night to Unite is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate



support and participation in local anticrime efforts and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships.

Anyone interested in taking part should call Pam Roberts at 507-774-7200 or Wendy Gasner at 507-774-7204.

Police nab driver with help of K-9, drone

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A K-9 and a little modern police technology helped officers nab a driver hiding in cornfield outside of Owatonna.

Isai Carreon-Bautista, 25, of Owatonna has been charged in Steele County District Court with felony fleeing police in a motor vehicle.

Owatonna Police attempted to stop a BMW driving without headlights on June 26 at about 11:23 p.m. in the area of Oak Avenue and Vine Street. As the officer tried to stop the vehicle, it accelerated and did not stop, police said.

The pursuit continued on Cedar Avenue from 26th Street at approximately 120 mph. The vehicle turned east-

bound onto 50th Street N.E. by the temporary housing camp used by seasonal workers where two occupants bailed out on foot.

Owatonna's K-9 Vegas responded to begin a track, which led officers to a cornfield on the east side of the camp. Police also utilized a drone equipped with a thermal imaging system to assist in find-

ing the occupants. The drone detected a heat source about 12 rows into the field.

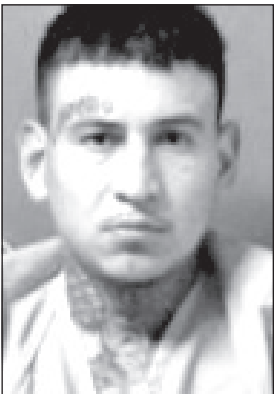
Vegas helped officers find the two men, including the driver, who was identified as Carreon-Bautista. The key to the vehicle police had been chasing was found in the man's left front pocket, police said.

In a statement to police, Carreon-Bau-

tista said: "It was easy for me to escape from the police. I was driving and my friend was in the vehicle with me. My wife owns the vehicle and she usually drives it. I fled because I don't have a license."

Carreon-Bautista faces a maximum sentence of three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

The passenger in the vehicle, Anthony Gay-



Isai Carreon-Bautista

tan, 19, of Owatonna, has been charged with fleeing police on foot.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 21 with Judge Joseph F. Wieners presiding:

Salvador Aztec Jr., 45, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of heroin. He was sentenced to 42 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 21 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Chris A. Rivas, 25, Bayport, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. He was sentenced to \$125 and 65 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 21 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Travis L. Tittle, 23, Winona, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violation of no contact order. Tittle was sentenced to \$125, 30 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation.

Nicole M. Whipple, 33, Prescott, WI, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. She was sentenced to

\$175, 7 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 21 – 27:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phillip H. Bateman, 41, Byron, speeding, \$215; Oneykia A. Craft, 23, Coon Rapids, expired tabs and no insurance, \$305; Nathaniel J. Eberle, 17, New Prague, speeding, \$125; Raalen D. Kimball, 20, hands free violation, \$125; Brianna C. Ober, 26, Austin, revoked license and speeding, \$325; Amanda M. Rosenbush, 35, Austin, hands free violation, \$125; Markeese D. Ross, 29, Maplewood, speeding, \$215.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Abukar O. Abdi, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Hannah A. Ahmadi, 21, Edina, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Joel P. Bond, 36, St. Paul, speeding, \$125; Lisandro Cano, 20, Sedalia, MO, speeding, \$135; Angok J. Deng, 19, Rochester, speeding and revoked license, \$415; Paul B. Dennis, 56, St. Louis, MO, speeding and no license, \$375; Lucas J. Etchason, 25, Northfield, speeding, \$115; Kennoshia M. Fullilove, 35, Roseville,

speeding, \$135; Michael L. Groen, 52, Little Rock, IA, vehicle width violation and rear view mirror violation, \$225; Tiara S. Gross, 33, Waterloo, IA, no license, \$175; Corina F. Holmes, 52, New Brighton, speeding, \$125; Janer Htoo, 25, St. Paul, speeding, \$115; Hussein M. Ibrahim, 45, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Delia C. Johnson, 21, Apple Valley, speeding, \$115; Charles J. Khoury, 21, Woodbury, speeding, \$215; Brandon K. Lamprecht, 46, Dahinda, IL, speeding, \$115; Christina M. Maffucci, 23, Yonkers, NY, speeding, \$215; Yessenia Montengro, 29, Lakewood, CA, speeding, \$125; Chase C. Petermeier, 24, Zimmerman, revoked license and speeding, \$325; Lance M. Peterson, 31, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Samuel J. Pietsch, 34, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$275; Sandra R. Pliego, 41, Bricelyn, speeding, \$215; Chastity M. Richardson, 32, Chicago, IL, careless driving, \$175; Erick A. Rivas Lopez, 30, Houston, TX, no license and speeding, \$335; Angel R. Rodriguez, 44, St. Paul, revoked license, \$275; Benjamin A. Rosaasen, 44, Prior Lake, speeding, \$125; Abby M. Schoenbauer, 35, New Prague, speeding, \$125; Roberto C. Silva, 23, Broken Bow, OK, speeding, \$115; Lee P. Thao, 60, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Danielle R. Thomas, 30, Des Moines, IA, revoked license, \$275; Roxanne M. Thorn, 47, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Kirk D. Thornton, 51, Minneapolis, speeding,

\$215; Faith Toweh, 23, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; David J. Wherry, 30, Grafton, IA, speeding, \$125.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Charlene M. Brage, 85, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$125; John R. Bulver, 34, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Kailey N. Caspersen, 25, Bloomington, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Mark A. Cruz, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Jay B. Fuentes, 25, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Mario Garcia-Ramirez, 23, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Charles T. Goodman, 23, West Concord, revoked license, \$275; Hassan N. Hassan, 29, Owatonna, DWI and revoked license, \$75, 90 days in county jail; Luis M. Hernandez Martinez, 30, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Carter D. Jensen, 18, Owatonna, muffler violation, \$125; Sara D. Nelsen, 84, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$125; Steven J. Noasconi, 40, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Jesus Ortiz III, 33, Owatonna, violation of order for protection, \$1,234.99, 7 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms and 2 years of supervised probation; Jared M. Santibanez, 24, Owatonna, revoked

license and no insurance, \$475; Dillin R. Schultz, 29, Owatonna, failure to stop, no insurance and revoked license, \$525; Edward W. Thorson, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; David R. Willis, 38, West Concord, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Eric B. Zeise, 51, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jose U. Aguilar Lopez, 24, Shakopee, invalid license, \$175; Davon R. Burris, 30, Chicago, IL, drug possession, stay of adjudication, \$75, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Cassandra A. Carter, 36, Millville, speeding, \$115; Cade R. Christianson, 17, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$100; Mamoudou Cisse, 21, St. Cloud, speeding, \$115; Dyana L. Degner, 49, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Griffin M. Flemming, 18, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Karleen J. Fox, 28, Lambertton, speeding, \$115; Christopher T. Gonzalez, 18, Medford, speeding, \$275; Dana M. Hachfeld, 31, Medford, revoked license, \$275; Mustafa Hamzic, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Sofia I. Lozada Aponte, 21, Minneapolis, expired tabs, \$105; Bryahna A. McKenzie, 31, Waterville, speeding, \$275; Randolph R. Smith, 75, Swanville, cancelled license, \$275; Pedro Tellez, 23, Owatonna, speeding,

\$215; Bryan D. Vazquez, 18, Medford, speeding, \$135; Deonna R. Whiteaker, 20, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Amber J. Wolters, 37, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Devin D. Zvorak, 25, Owatonna, assault, \$275, 3 days in county jail, maintain employment, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

June 25 Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1900 block of Hemlock Ave. NE at 1:40 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1800 block of 4th Ave. SE at 12:34 p.m.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:24 p.m.

June 26 DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Oak Ave. S. and McKinley St. SW at 1:08 a.m. and at 21st Ave. NW and Park Dr. NW at 10:56 p.m.

Pursuit: Police arrested a subject after a pursuit at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. at 11:24 p.m.

June 27 DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 2400 block of 24th Ave. NW in Owatonna Township at 5 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 12:42 p.m.

See **BLOTTER** on **A9** ►

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Jose Jimenez Jr. – domestic assault – no bail | 8. Caitlin Johnston – theft – no bail | 15. Larry Kittelson – DWI – no bail |
| 2. Cody Johnson – warrant - \$2,000 bail | 9. Scott Jones – disorderly conduct - \$300 bail | 16. Aaron Klatt – theft – no bail |
| 3. David Johnson – dishonored check - \$1,000 bail | 10. Mikael Kajjansinkko – DWI, speeding - \$500 bail | 17. Charles Kohn – theft - \$3,000 bail |
| 4. Lawrence Johnson – domestic assault - \$1,000 bail | 11. Kabinda Kamangala – assault – no bail | 18. Heather Krumrie – violation of restraining order – no bail |
| 5. Robert Johnson – criminal vehicular operation - \$10,000 bail | 12. Tongyik Keirkow – DWI - \$12,000 bail | 19. Percy Lacey – revoked license – no bail |
| 6. Skylar Johnson – theft - \$300 bail | 13. Marie Kinard – DWI – no bail | 20. William Lamb – drugs - \$5,000 bail |
| 7. Teddy Johnson – financial card fraud - \$1,000 bail | 14. Carissa King – theft - \$300 bail | |

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

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for COVID-19 resources.

Top smartphones for tech-shy seniors

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you recommend some good smartphones for older seniors? I would like to get my 78-year-old mother to upgrade to a smartphone but want something that's easy for her to see and use.
Shopping Around



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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583-4434

Dear Shopping,
There are actually several smartphones I can recommend that will provide your mother a simpler, less intimidating smartphone experience. Here are my top three options.

Apple iPhones: Because of the quality and functionality of Apple products, an iPhone is a great choice for seniors who are inexperienced with technology. But, to make it easier for you mom to use, you'll need to set it up and customize it to meet her needs and preferences.

To set-up your mom's iPhone and make it senior-friendly, start by cleaning-up/decluttering the home screen, which you can do by deleting the apps your mom won't use and hiding the apps she'll rarely use in labeled folders or the App Library. The fewer options the better!

You'll also want to set up a small number of contacts (with photos) to family and friends that your mom frequently communicates with and install some apps she would enjoy using.

And finally, iPhones have a wide variety of built-in accessibility features you can turn on depending on your mom's needs. These features, which you access through the phone's settings, can help users that have diminished vision, hearing impairment, hand dexterity problems or cognitive loss.

Some popular accessibility features among older iPhone users include larger text and icon display, zoom (screen magnification), magnifier

(turns iPhone into a magnifying glass), increased volume and alerts, voice control, find my iPhone, and emergency SOS and medical ID set up. But there are dozens of other tweaks you can make to enhance your mom's experience with her iPhone.

For a rundown of the different accessibility features and instructions on how to set them up, see *Apple.com/accessibility*.

If you're interested in this option, the iPhone 12 (5G, 6.1-inch display screen, \$800) or iPhone 12 mini (5G, 5.4-inch screen, \$700) are excellent choices. Or, for a more budget-friendly phone consider the iPhone SE (4.7-inch screen, \$400) that came out in 2020.

Samsung Galaxy: If you're an android phone user and would like to get your mom a phone that you're familiar with, you should consider a Samsung.

All Samsung phones offer an "Easy Mode" feature in their settings that boosts the text and icon size, and simplifies the home-screen layout and contacts, which makes these phones a nice option for seniors or tech-newbies.

These phones also have a variety of accessibility features – see *Samsung.com/us/accessibility/galaxy-mobile* for instructions – that can accommodate your mom's needs.

The Samsung Galaxy S21 5G (6.2-inch screen, \$800) or more moderately priced Galaxy A71 5G (6.7-inch screen, \$600) are good choices to consider here.

Lively Smart: An-

other less expensive option to consider is to purchase your mom a smartphone that's specifically designed for seniors. The best one available is the new Lively Smart offered by Best Buy.

This phone has a 6.2-inch screen, large text and a simple list-based menu that provides one-touch access to frequently used features like video chat, camera, email and more. It also offers a nice variety of optional health and safety features you can add on like:

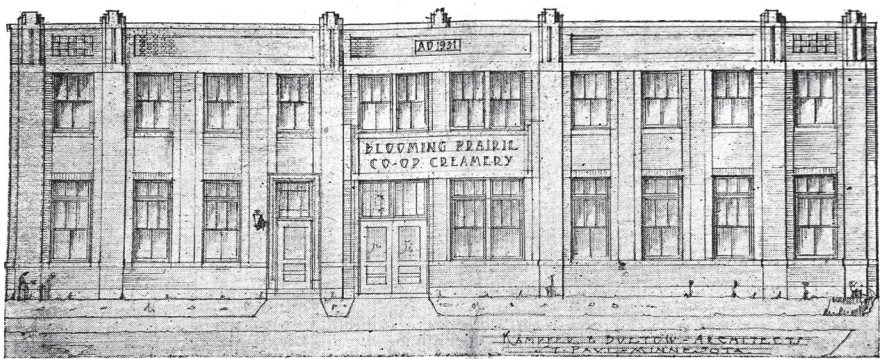
- **Urgent Response**, which is a mobile medical alert service that would connect your mom to a Lively agent in emergency situations, 24/7, who would confirm her location and get her the help she needs.
- **Urgent Care**, which would let your mom to speak to a registered nurse or board-certified doctor anytime.
- **Lively Link**, which is an app that sends alerts to family and friends if your mom calls urgent response.
- **Personal Operator Service**, who can assist your mom with tasks like helping find addresses, setting up appointments booking Lively Rides through a partnership with Lyft and much more.

The Lively Smart is available online at *Lively.com* or at Best Buy stores for \$150.

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

History from the News Archives

BP's new creamery



FILE PHOTO

In the summer of 1931, officials unveiled a drawing of the new Blooming Prairie Creamery building being erected west of the depot by Peter Kramer, St. Charles contractor, under the direction of Kampfer and Buetow, St. Paul architects. The building, which is 54 by 74-foot, is a two-story structure made of brick and will present an unusually fine appearance. The creamery will be ready by November 1931.

10 Years Ago

July 5, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie High School gym was filled with excitement for the Little Miss Firecracker competition. The pageant has been on a long hiatus, the last Little Miss Firecracker was Samantha Kraling, who helped the girls with their dance number. Miss Minnesota, Mary Swenson, announced the new Little Miss Firecracker, Marti Snider. Marti, daughter of Amy Snider and Micah Andrews, will be entering fourth grade in the fall. "I am so excited and I had a lot of fun," said Marti after receiving her tiara.

When the clock struck 12:01 last Friday, the state of Minnesota shutdown. The much talked about and devastating consequence of a failed attempt to reach agreement on how to balance the budget. Locally, the shutdown hasn't taken its toll on the city of Blooming Prairie. City Administrator Mike Jones stated, "The shutdown means nothing to the city's operations. We will still receive our LGA money and have received the property taxes. The city has the money it needs for the next six months."

20 Years

July 3, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

It has been announced that Dawn Roush has been hired as executive director/outreach coordinator for Blooming Prairie Center. Ms. Roush, who lives in Austin with her husband and children, begins her duties July 2. She joins Jessica Jacobson, associate outreach coordinator, in the mission of promoting mutual understanding among cultures and empowerment of disadvantaged families in Blooming Prairie.

Even though it's her first year at the helm of the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity, Vicki Staloch seems to have captured many hearts. The Exchange Club's annual Golf to End Child Abuse fundraiser has more than filled its available spots and looks to be the most successful yet. It will be held July 13 at Hidden Creek Golf Club in Owatonna.

50 Years Ago

July 7 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The Blooming Prairie Civic Progress Club elected new officers for the upcoming year at its monthly meeting. Newly elected officers are: Carl O. Myers, president; Gene Graves, vice president; James A. Merritt, secretary; and James Mork, treasurer. Otto Jensen is the retiring president.

Blooming Prairie, The Syndicate and the Still

BY STEVE WENCL

1928: (summer) initial contact with locals. Fall 1928, Joe Fine and Albert Cole talked Ed Levy into a still on the farm site. Fine completes still set-up in the barn, around Christmas time.

1929: The still is producing at capacity by January 15, 1929. On Feb. 15, the still is conveniently raided. Plan to get farm site for huge still proceeds. Renter's wife and family gone by early fall. Construction probably starts in late September. Undercover agent in Blooming Prairie for the month of October. New Year's Eve raid on BP still

results in 8 arrests.

1930: Early spring – New, huge still starts operation west of Blooming Prairie. Lots of activity in BP more than before and pretty much in the open. Lots of \$\$\$ start to flow through BP.

1931: July 10, a large still is raided near Springfield, Minn., by Austin Noland, head agent at Mankato, MN. On Nov. 9, a large still is raided near Thielman, Minn.

1932: In the early spring, several stills are raided in Wisconsin in connection with an investigation initiated by Austin Noland of the Mankato office. On June 15, 45 men in

five states are indicted for liquor conspiracy in connection with the Wisconsin Syndicate, 3 are from Blooming Prairie. In mid-September, William Paske is killed after stealing 600 gallons of alcohol from a Baraboo, Wis. area barn. On Dec. 5, a fake raid is conducted on the big still west of Blooming Prairie.

1933: On Feb. 5, men indicted in June of 1932 appear in Federal Court. There is no trial. On Oct. 24, there are guilty pleas and fines as low as \$200 for thousands or perhaps millions in alcohol sales. Nothing is mentioned about the still raids in Minnesota.

Kay Fate joins Times news staff

◀ **KAY** from A3
tise joining our staff," said Bussler. "She is a true news professional who has a passion for community news."

Fate will complement existing staff members, including Deb Flemming, who

joined the newspaper last fall as news editor, and Howard Lestrud, who remains a contributing writer. Flemming has 35 years of newspaper experience, while Lestrud has more than 50 years. Bussler

adds another 25 years of experience.

Bussler said it's unusual for a small weekly like the Times to have so many experienced journalists.

"There's nothing like being involved in things at ground-level," Fate said. "It's incredibly rewarding to help readers understand complex issues, from city council actions to school board decisions to health care regulations. Nowhere is that more important than small towns, where residents are almost certain to be affected on some level. I look forward to doing that in Steele County again."

Fate earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Northern Iowa and has used that in her journalism work, as well, educating many civic groups on the importance of local media.

She has also worked in broadcast journalism in Rochester, receiving two Emmy nominations for her work in one year – the only person at her station to do so.





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AN OLD-FASHIO

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK
BUSSLER AND HOWARD LESTRUD





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NED 4TH OF JULY



lights, sounds and smells fill the air during the 46th annual Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration in booming Prairie July 3 and 4. It was the first major celebration for the community since COVID-19 shut everything down in early 2020. Thousands of people lined the streets for the Fourth parade, which featured about 60 units, down from previous years. Some of the spectacular highlights included: bottom left side: Rocky and Mark Noble were honored as the grand marshals of the parade; top right side: Lion Dean Zilm didn't shed his glasses to make perfect pancakes at the Lions Pancake Breakfast; middle center: Ashley Zak joins her 7-year-old daughter, Chloe, of Owatonna as she waves a flag; middle far right: Alexa Curry, 6, of Owatonna dazzles on the Fourth with a patriotic head band.

Sparkling American pride

PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD AND RICK BUSSLER



American pride shines brightly and surrounds this waving boy as he rides on a float in the Fourth parade Sunday in Blooming Prairie.



Skye Hein of Iowa enjoys the Fourth decked out in a cute outfit. The 8-month-old, who was being held by her mother Kaylie Hein, was visiting her grandparents in Blooming Prairie.



Little Devin Pridie, 2, of Owatonna, is not sure whether he should go down the slide at Central Park in Blooming Prairie.



A future firefighter? This little girl perhaps thinking about it after riding in Sunday's parade in a miniature fire truck.



With folks at attention with a hand on their hearts, Keith Stark sings the National Anthem at the start of the Fourth parade Sunday. Stark is a member of Blooming Prairie's Class of 1971.



Every Fourth celebration in Blooming Prairie features a youth pedal tractor event. The pull is sponsored by MJC Farm Solutions and the Blooming Prairie Lions. Winners of the 4-year-old division at Central Park were, from left: Dylan, Landon and Adeline.



One-year-old Colton Hensel of Blooming Prairie really likes the malts made at the dairy stand in Central Park during the Fourth. He is the son of Ryan and April Hensel.



This smiling little girl was one of the first customers for the Blooming Prairie Lions at the group's Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, July 4 at the Prairie Manor Care Center.



The Krell girls are eager for some Fourth of July fun. They are Leah Krell, 5; Kaylee Krell, 2 and Emery Krell, 8 weeks. The Krell girls are children of Justin and Kristin Krell.

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County's new safety officer is on the job

◀ **COUNTY** from A1
Sailer is the first full-time county risk management director and safety officer, and she said she's grateful for the work Johnson did.
"Steele County has great programs and plans in place already," she said. "I'm working on meeting everyone, discussing their needs and expectations, and getting a feel for the future."
Sailer has more than 20 years of emergency management experience, handling disasters from flooding and tornadoes to landslides and extreme temperatures. She is, if you will, the director of the symphony of respond-

ers who arrive to help.
Nothing has been quite as far-reaching, of course, as the effects of COVID-19. Sailer most recently worked with the Southeast Minnesota Disaster Health Coalition on its response to the coronavirus.
"It's been difficult," she said, "and it's put a strain on everyone, but it's also brought forward what we do, what we provide. We also saw everyone pull together and do what was needed to keep each other safe."
And safety, of course, is the name of the game.
"Any time you protect the public, save lives, protect prop-

erty," it's a success, Sailer said.
Emergencies – anything from a building collapse like the one in Seaside, Fla., to the protests that erupted after the murder of George Floyd – require the same thing: Calm amid the chaos.
Sailer, with her soft, measured voice, said that comes with experience and comes down to coordination, "everyone, at every level."
She began college intending to become a nurse; when a temporary job with Homeland Security and emergency management opened in the Twin Cities. Now, 21 years later, Sailer has logged more than

500 training hours to be a certified emergency manager in Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as several leadership programs with FEMA and Homeland Security.
While dealing with people during a crisis is tough, Sailer said the reward comes with being able to offer real help.
"We talk with them, listen to them, and try to help them through the process," she said. "We know the resources available and what kind of help they can qualify for."
Sailer and her husband, Doug, live in Rochester and have three sons.

SITES TO SEE:

Steele County Emergency Management webpage: www.steelecountyemergency.com
Steele County Everbridge Emergency Notification, for specific emergency and weather alerts: www.member.everbridge.net (to sign up)
To volunteer in emergency management in your county: www.steelecountyemergency.com/volunteer-agencies/how-to-volunteer
To review the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan: www.steelecountyemergency.com/mitigation
To prepare your family for any disaster: www.ready.gov

Fair to celebrate COVID heroes

◀ **FAIR** from A1
Also, during last week's press conference, the fair announced it's teaming up with United Way of Steele County and Community Pathways for the special celebration. As part of the celebration, voluntary offerings can be made to the United Way and Community Pathways.
But the fair isn't limiting involvement and is

hoping other nonprofits or other organizations will jump on board to get involved in the celebration. Anyone interested can call the fair office at 507-451-5305.
Community Pathways co-director Nancy Ness said the celebration "an amazing surprise." She said for everyone to be recognized for what they did "is just such a gift."

United Way President Annette Duncan called the celebration a "natural opportunity" to recognize frontline workers. "What better way to break our isolation and celebrate all who helped us get through the pandemic than at the fair," Duncan said. "United Way is honored to partner with SCFF to thank our frontline workers

because they represent what it means to live united."
Pritchett is leading the charge for the New Revolution of country music. His first five radio songs blazed into the top 40 charts in record time.
Townsquare Media, Godfather's Pizza, Hy-Vee and Camping World are sponsoring the concert.

PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ **BLOTTER** from A4
June 28
Trespassing: Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 400 block of Elm Ave. N. at 12:10 p.m.
Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 1500 block of Cornerstone Lane SE at 3:46 p.m.
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Main St. W. and Oak Ave. S. at 4:57 p.m.
Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 11:03 p.m. They took a subject into custody.
June 29
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:36 p.m.
Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:14 p.m.
Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 200 block of Walnut Ave. S. at 11:45 p.m.
June 30
Thefts: Police received theft reports from the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:17 a.m.
Hit and Run: At 2:53 a.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.
Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 100 block of Phelps St. E. at 10:50 a.m.
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 1:04 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
June 27
Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 82nd Ave. SW and 81st St. SW in Lemond Township at 4:56 a.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Nicole Ann Schaub, 41, arrested at 2:28 p.m. June 25, domestic assault/assault, held for court.
John Matthew Allwood, 40, arrested at 11:19 p.m. June 26, DWI, held for court.
Anthony Emmanuel Gaytan, 19, arrested at 12:47 a.m. June 27, fleeing on foot, held for court.
Isai Carreon-Bautista, 25, arrested at 12:47 a.m. June 27, felony fleeing in a motor vehicle, held for court.

MN STATE PATROL
Guillermo Ortiz Zetina, 28, arrested at 2:15 a.m. June 28, DWI, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 13 with Judge Pamela King presiding:
Thane J. Robinson, 28, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony barreled shotgun violation. Robinson was sentenced to \$580, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, 50 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 13 – 20:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Zachary K. Athey, 24, Claremont, suspended license, \$280; Casscindra R. Every, 35, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Christian M. Gilliam, 34, Woodbury, theft, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 60 days of unsupervised probation; Benjamin J. Hoehn, 34, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Logan A. Holmes-Gertner, 18, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Anthony J. Menier, 31, North Branch, seat belt, \$105; Thomas J. Monson, 28, Kasson, speeding, \$280; Makayla R. Prokasky, 19, Owatonna, invalid license and speeding, \$230; Teresa Y. Sawyer, 50, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; John T. Thomforde, 41, Stewartville, registration violation and cancelled license, \$310; Avery E. Thompson, 24, Kasson, suspended license and speeding, \$340.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Rosa J. Catalan, 21, Mantorville, trespassing, stay of adjudication, \$50, no trespassing at Burger King and 60 days of unsupervised probation; Howard E. Head, 16, Mantorville, speeding, \$220; Logan A. Holmes-Gertner, 18, Kasson, hands free violation, \$130; Micah J. Judy, 28, Brownsdale, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Francisco Moreno-Castillo, 35, Rochester, revoked license and hands free violation, \$330; Michael J. Nelson, 28, Elgin, hands free violation, \$130; Susan M. Niemeyer, 40, Dodge Center, hands free violation, \$130;

Demonte L. Reynolds, 28, Kasson, domestic assault, \$380, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Brian D. Rohrs, 61, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Hunter M. Shadow, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Tim R. Stundahl, 45, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Jacquelyn M. Weatherly, 38, Rochester, DWI, \$980, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Lucas N. Berndt, 37, Waltham, seat belt, \$105; Tyler A. Bush, 26, Blooming Prairie, failure to obey traffic control device, \$130; Caitlynn J. Bussert, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Nathan R. Gransee, 39, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Beth M. Hansen, 35, Kasson, speeding and suspended license, \$340; Amanda N. Larock, 32, Dodge Center, speeding and no insurance, \$340; Nicholas J. Nicolazzi, 32, Austin, speeding, \$130; Benjamin R. Pater, 21, Waltham, speeding, \$280; Matthew R. Ross, 50, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Scott A. Sanvick, 43, Austin, license plate violation, \$110; Eric D. Thompson, 31, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Alexis E. Tufte, 18, New Richland, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; Terry L. Voeltz, 74, Aberdeen, SD, speeding, \$220; Thomas J. Wagner, 32, Cottage Grove, failure to yield, \$130.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
Diana A. Delgado, 55, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Isaiah J. Finger, 27, West Concord, attendance of fire, \$100; Charles T. Goodman Jr., 23, West Concord, invalid license, \$180; Cole R. McGuire, 24, Chatfield, revoked license, \$280.

Recipe
corner

Salted Nut Roll Bars

Mix:

1 yellow cake mix

1 stick butter (1/2 C)

1 egg

1/8 C water

Melt:

1 stick butter (1/2 C)

1 12-oz package Reese's Peanut Butter Chips

2/3 C corn syrup

Melt in a saucepan. Take off heat. Add two cups of Rice Krispies. Spread over marshmallows. Cover with finely chopped peanuts. Press with fingers.

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STEELE COUNTY

Times

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Don't let investments go on vacation

Now that we've gained at least some space from the COVID-19 pandemic, summer travel is heating up. But while you might be eager to hit the road, you won't want your investments to take a vacation – you need them to work hard for you consistently. But how can you make this happen?

Here are some ideas:

- **Know your destination.** "If you don't know where you want to go, then it doesn't matter which path you take." This bit of wisdom, paraphrased from the classic children's book, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, may be appropriate for, say, hikers exploring a new landscape. But as an investor, it matters a great deal which path you take. If you only dabble in investing, occasionally putting some money into one investment or another, it will be difficult to build a portfolio that's consistently working in your best interest. It's important to create a long-term investment strategy based on where you want to go in life – that is, how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.
- **Match goals with investments.** Some investments are designed to achieve certain goals. To illustrate: When you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan, you're investing for one specific, long-term goal: a comfortable retirement. While you can tap into these accounts for other purposes – though doing so might incur immediate taxes and penalties – they are designed to provide you with income during your retirement years. Similarly, you may have other investments for other purposes, such as a 529 education savings plan. Here's the key point: Goals-based investing, by its nature, can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.
- **Invest for growth.** Ideally, hard work produces results, and one of the main results you want from your investments is growth – that is, you want your investments to appreciate in value so they can eventually help you meet your goals. But if you are overconcentrated in vehicles such as certificates of deposit (CDs) and government securities, you may end up lowering your growth potential. That's not to say that CDs and Treasury bills are in some sense "lazy." They can provide you with income and help you reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. But to achieve most of your goals, you'll need a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments working for you, with the exact percentage based on your needs and life stages.
- **Check your progress.** How else can you ensure your investments aren't just taking it easy? By checking up on them. If you follow a buy-and-hold strategy, your portfolio shouldn't require many changes if it already reflects your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Too much buying and selling could jeopardize your ability to follow a consistent, long-term strategy. However, "buy and hold" doesn't mean "buy and forget." By reviewing your portfolio at least once a year, you can determine if your investments are performing as they should. If they're not working for you as you'd like, you may need to make some changes.

If you're traveling this summer, relax and enjoy yourself – but keep those investments working hard.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

Edward Jones. Member SIPC

Jeffrey M. Hall
Financial Advisor

143 W. Bridge St.
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-446-0150
jeffrey.hall@edwardjones.com

edwardjones.com
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BOOK NOOK

Graphic novels help develop literacy skills



While visiting the Blooming Prairie Branch Library, a pre-teen reluctant reader (i.e., someone who has not yet discovered the joy of reading) recently tried to find a book to read. He did not like anything he saw. His grandmother and I pulled out book after book that we thought would appeal to a younger reader. None caught his interest at all. Knowing that he had enjoyed the Dog Man series by Dav Pilkey in the past, I took him to our Graphic Novel section. There, his interest perked up and eventually, he found a book to read. His grandmother questioned if that would really help him learn to read better. Based on that experience, I would like to share more about graphic novels and reading.

So what is a graphic novel? Sometimes we refer to them as comic books, but that's not quite the case. Usually, comic books are published in a continuing series. Graphic novels are more often a novel told through pictures

and words. Resilient Educator.org recommends that teachers consider using graphic novels in their classrooms for several reasons. First, it helps students develop visual literacy skills. Readers who may have dyslexia can use the visual cues of the pictures to help them understand the material. Second, reluctant readers are often enticed by graphic novels. These visually compelling stories help them understand the text. As the website states, "These readers can quickly begin to develop literacy skills such as general reading comprehension, inference, and building new vocabulary, as they leap into the narrative without struggling with the format of a traditional novel."

Adults can also enjoy graphic novels geared to them featuring science or history. Subjects such as the Holocaust, the Japanese internment camps, and civil rights activism are powerfully told through drawings and text.

To help find a graphic novel you would enjoy, look up <https://www.npr.org/2017/07/12/533862948/lets-get-graphic-100-favorite-comics-and-graphic-novels-from-National-Public-Radio>. Or just stop in the library and see what is available!

Outdoor worship music for the Fourth



Members of the First Lutheran Church worship team sing praise songs at Central Park in Blooming Prairie for the enjoyment of visitors on Saturday night. The music was one of many activities going on around Blooming Prairie for the city's annual Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration throughout the weekend.

Fredin awarded scholarship from Cleary

Cleary Building Corp. recently awarded Samantha Fredin of Owatonna as one of the company's 2021 scholarship recipients.

Samantha is the daughter of Scott Fredin, branch manager at Cleary's Kasson office. The Cleary Scholarship is awarded to students with passion for community service, motivation for academic success, and drive to achieve an educational degree within a field of his/her choice with

hopes of advancing into a successful career.

Chosen among an outstanding field of candidates that applied for the 2021 scholarship, Samantha was selected for her numerous academic achievements and performance in her extra circular activities.

Fredin will attend Iowa State University in fall, majoring in dairy science and genetics.

She is currently a Steele County dairy princess.

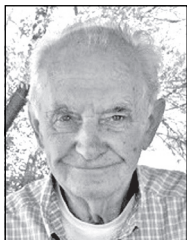


Samantha Fredin of Owatonna has been awarded a scholarship from Cleary Building. Shown with her is her father, Scott Fredin, who is the branch manager for Cleary in Kasson

OBITUARIES

Obituaries Sponsor:
LEGACY MONUMENT SALES
Leon & Lori Bohlman 507-456-7864 or 507-456-3735
landlbo@gmail.com

Lowell Wichmann, 81, Ellendale



Lowell Wichmann

A gentle soul of the Ellendale community, Lowell H. Wichmann, age 81, passed away on June 28, 2021.

Lowell was a loving husband, father, grandpa, brother uncle and friend.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Julia (Smith); children Barbara (Gary), Debra, Penny (Roger), Emily (Rashad) and Jamie (Jake); 11 beloved grandchildren; siblings Edward Wichmann, Carol (Ken) Killen, Linda Elstad, Sue (D.R Martin) Wich-

mann and Dawn Wichmann.

Lowell left school at the age of 15, but went on to earn his GED. He was offered a position to be a law enforcement officer for Wells and that started 31 years of dedicated service as a Steele County deputy (7407), stationed out of Ellendale. He lived a quiet life as a small-town deputy; exhibiting daily dedication to the safety of the public, which earned him Steele County deputy of the year 1985. Lowell believed his job was to listen to the people and bring peace to their household.

A lifelong interest in flea markets and "wheeling and dealing" gave life to a used-a-bit shop at his acreage. Lowell had a passion for vehicles whether it be tractors, trucks or cars. Many

afternoons were spent teaching grandchildren to shoot BB guns and archery, going to car shows, and fishing.

One of his most generous acts he did, was at the age of 44, adopting his baby daughter Jamie.

He was preceded in death by parents Harry and Shirley (Stevens), sister-in-law Sharon Wichmann, and wife Alice Wichmann.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, July 11, 2021 at the Ellendale Community Center from 1 to 3:30 p.m. A private interment will be held for the family at St. Ansgar Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to the Ellendale Community Foundation or to a charity of your choice. Visit www.boldtfuneralhome.com.

Charles Torres, 24, Owatonna



Charles Torres

Charles Torres, 24, was called home by our Heavenly Father, on June 21, 2021, unexpectedly surrounded by his family.

Charles was born on Feb. 17, 1997, to Margarita Hinojosa in Owatonna. He graduated from high school and was attending online courses with the aspirations of achieving a degree in fine arts.

Charles had many hobbies but his favorite one would have to be his love for painting. He enjoyed listening to music and letting the brush hit the canvas in ways that

expressed all his emotions. Not only did he love to paint but he also loved teaching others the joys of painting. He had a kind, and gentle heart, which had all the kids looking up to him. He loved to go fishing at the lake, playing basketball and getting his best shot at the gun range. In his free time, he also enjoyed playing video games and gathering with friends.

Charles was a loving brother, son, grandson, nephew and friend who will be dearly missed by those whose lives he touched.

He is preceded in death by his brother Pedro "Pete" Hinojosa, Jr. and nephew, Zane Bayardo who welcomed him at the gates of Heaven.

He leaves to cherish his memories his mother, Margarita

"Maggie" Hinojosa; maternal grandparents, Carlos and Emma Torres; three sisters, Norma Jean (Joe Valentin) Hinojosa, Julie (Loeb Leng) Bayardo, Nicole (Jaylah and Catalayah) Torres; two brothers, Richard (Ginnette) Bayardo and Ray (Brenda) Bayardo III, as well as 22 nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and numerous other relatives and friends.

The Funeral viewing was held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at Brick-Meger Funeral Home Chapel in Owatonna.

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BIRTHDAYS

July 7

Jill Trotman
Dawson Heuer
Tyler Bruggeman
Derek Levon

July 8

Tim Amberg

July 9

Liz Heiber

July 10

Skyler Coughlin
Renee Worke
Max Broten Anderson

July 11

Elle Master
Mark Romeo
Charlie Romeo
Sophia Esplan

July 12

Amanda Hocking
Kent Lea
Chad Gimbel
Bentley Ramsey
Tom Butler

July 13

Sandy Dallman
Allan Ramsey
Peggy Stensvold
Monica Anderson

ANNIVERSARIES

July 8

Derrick & Wendy Schewe

July 9

Jeff & Suzy Kramer
Jake & Calista Lembke

July 10

David & Pam Farr
Tim & Lori Pirkil

July 11

Kent & Kim Lea
Gina & Cory Hendrickson
Josh & Erica Toquam
Gloria & Greg Snider

July 12

Jeremy & Amy Doerhoefer

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Times

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Re-booting on what it means to love



Pastor Lisa Vick

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OWATONNA

Starting in July our church is embarking on a summer of love and no, not the 1960s version! 1John 4:8 says, “Whoever does not love does not know God, for *God is love*.” I have felt that with all

that has been happening in the last year maybe we need a re-boot on what it means to love like God loves us. During this time, Owatonna United Methodist will be looking at the different ways we can love God and the people around us by following the example and teaching of Jesus. So maybe we will embrace a little of our inner Hippie!

Love of Community will be the focus on July 18 seen through the eyes of the disciples and a young boy’s willingness to share what he had, as told in John 6:13 the feeding of the 5,000.

The feeding of the 5,000 is one of the signs in the gospel of John that witnesses to the identity of Jesus. Apart from the resurrection, it is the only miracle or sign that is found in all four gospels. The story is an example of the table fellowship that was at the center of Jesus’ ministry. Jesus invites the crowd to break bread with him. While Jesus could have performed this sign by himself, he chooses to use the as an example to others.

The disciples, though doubtful at first, witness the boy’s generosity and the way

Jesus transforms that generous, though small gift into something much greater. In asking the disciples to gather up the leftover bread, Jesus both emphasizes the miracle that has taken place and invites them to participate in the community of table fellowship. They become participants in Jesus’ work of serving and feeding.

So, how is God calling you to use your resources and gifts to build and serve the greater community? When we work together incredible things can happen. Through the

generosity and the gifts of the community, the crowd is fed. We witness to the identity of Jesus by serving the community in mission. When we share our gifts, we strengthen and build a loving community. We also claim our own identity as people who belong to Jesus’ community. We live in our hometown, but we also are Christ’s community.

A community characterized not as insiders and outsiders but, first and foremost by what it has received, the grace of Jesus Christ and secondarily by the way it witnesses

to that grace by serving others. It is important for us to recognize that Jesus understood attending to basic physical needs as a tangible sign of God’s grace.

When we help feed the hungry, giving to Pathways, Rachel’s light, the Hospitality House and driving for Meals on Wheels are just a few examples of how we witness God’s grace. When we are the hands and feet of Christ, we continue his mission here on earth. And that my friends is meaning of LOVE.

Have a blessed summer.

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
Pastor Kyle Smith
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., BP
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 – LCMS

2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Indoor Worship:
Sundays 9 a.m. & 10 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 – LCMS

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN-ELCA

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

ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Vicar Jackie Short
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA

2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Intern: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
507-451-2165
Sunday worship: 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 Oppgaard
Worship: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.- Sanctuary and 10:45 a.m.- Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m.- Live Stream at facebook.com/tlcowatonna and tlcowatonna.org/worshiplive
9:30 a.m.- Live broadcast on KRUE 92.1 FM
Video on Spectrum (Ch. 181), Jaguar TV (Ch. 900) and owatonnaalive.com
- Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS

108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday (Outdoors on south side of church)

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA

7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Intern: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday worship: 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

CHRIST THE KING
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., Blooming Prairie
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James 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.
Key fob required after hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT

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

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST

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

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST

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

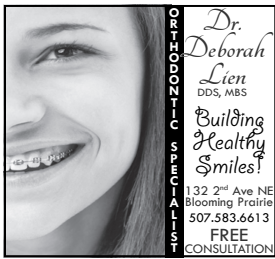
OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST

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.destinycc.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
6:30-7:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Wednesday

ELEVATION NORTH

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

NEW BEGINNINGS

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

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE

13638 750th St., BP
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.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Interim Pastor Wendell Anderson
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Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Kids Church: 9 a.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST

104 First Ave. NE, BP
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
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Church: 9:45 a.m.

FREE CHURCH

CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

1500 18th St. SE, Owatonna
Pastors Scott Sheets and David Shaw
507-446-5850
cornerstoneowatonna.com
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

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July 26-29, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. **includes lunch*

- Zoology (Entering Grades 1-4)
- Come to Your Senses (Entering Grades 1-8)

Aug. 2-5, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. **includes lunch*

- Intro to Photography (Entering Grades 2-4)
- Come to Your Senses (Entering Grades 1-8)

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Developing young 4-Hers



Steele Talkin'
TRACY IGNASZEWSKI

Do you know any kindergarten, first, or second graders? If you do, you know they are excited to try new things and be a part of their community.

Here in Steele County we have a large group of youth in grades Kindergarten through second grade who are having fun before they are “truly” 4-Hers! Youth can join in traditional programming once they enter third grade in the fall, but those younger siblings just can’t wait and are able to join 4-H through our Cloverbud program. The purpose of the University of Minnesota Extension 4-H Cloverbud Program is to support the positive development of youth as they explore their world, discover the possibilities, build self-esteem, and practice the basic social skills which will be the basis for a future where they will become competent, caring and contributing citizens.

This past year in Steele County we have had anywhere from 20-30 Cloverbuds attending our bi-monthly programs where they are able to explore projects such as cooking, crafts, science, songs, games, and teambuilding. Each meeting the youth and their families explore and have time to learn hands on about project areas they may consider when they become a third grader or older. Cloverbud programs are developmentally age appropriate with the following characteristics: fun, positive, activity centered, focused on See **STEELE TALKIN’** on B9 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Aracelis Sepulveda, of Geneva, takes an order at the counter from Sharon McCornack of Ellendale on the opening day of Noris Cuisine: Little Café in Geneva.

New Geneva café fulfills owner’s lifelong dream

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Noris Hemingway’s lifelong dream of opening a restaurant came

true last week when she opened the doors to Noris Cuisine: Little Café in Geneva.

“My passion is cooking,” said Hemingway,

who is no stranger to the kitchen or restaurants.

She grew up working in her family’s restaurant in Vene-

zuela, along with her mother, father, brother and sister.

She came to Minnesota about 20 years ago to visit friends and

never left.

“I love Minnesota, but I hate winter,” said Hemingway.

About five years See **NEW GENEVA** on B3 ►

LTO’s ‘Frumpled Fairy Tales’ opens next week

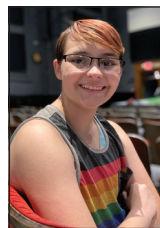
BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Director Sarah Friesen said she picked the play and promises the audience lots of laughter when her cast performs William Springer’s “Frumpled Fairy Tales” — a hilarious version of three Grimm fairy tales: Rumpelstiltskin, Rapunzel, and Little Red Riding Hood.

“We don’t take ourselves too seriously,” said Friesen, who is directing her first play for Little Theatre of Owatonna.

“I picked this play because it’s the first play I ever performed in,” Friesen said. “I was the narrator in the Little Red Riding Hood [episode] in junior high in Owatonna.”

In this play, Avery Dunn and Ivy Duneman will be the narrators for the Little Red



Jean Emmons

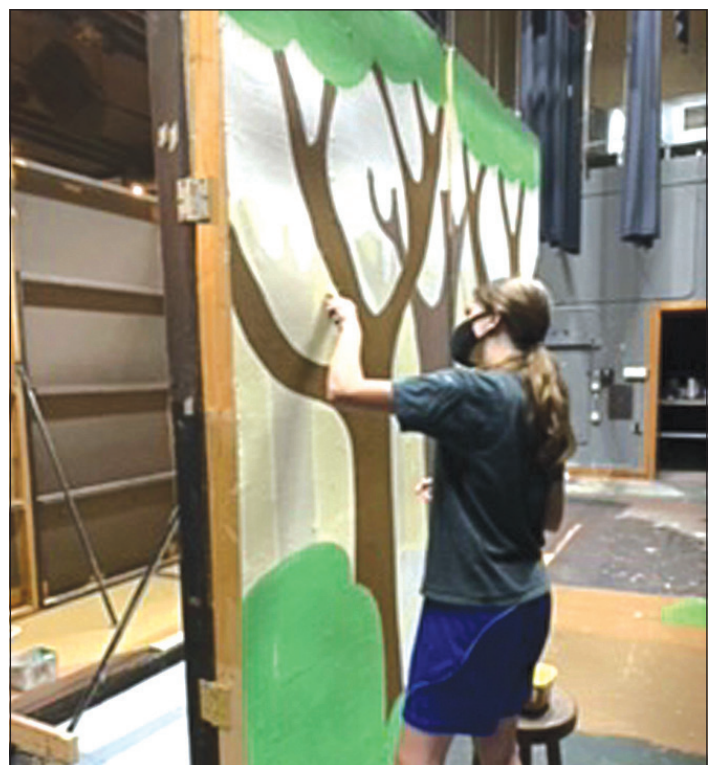


Hank Bell

Riding Hood episode.

The plays 29 cast members from Owatonna, Kasson and Waseca range in age from 7 to 17 years old. There is a separate cast for each fairy tale — times two. Friesen chose to cast two casts, allowing more young people to perform. Only the Big Bad Wolf, played by 16-year-old Hank Bell, will perform in all of the shows. The other cast members will perform during one of the play’s two-weekend run.

See **LTO’S** on B3 ►



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Avery Dunn, one of the narrators for the Little Red Riding Hood episode of the one-act play “Frumpled Fairy Tales,” helps paint the set for Little Red Riding Hood. Hank Bell, who is playing the Big Bad Wolf, sketched the scene from an illustration created by his mother, Melissa, the scenic design head for production.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Kayleen McGarheran manages Travelpoint Tours in Owatonna. She will be leading short one or two-day trips finding unique places around Minnesota and Iowa. Travelpoint is a subsidiary of Cavalier Coaches, which is owned by Bill Regan.

‘Take a Bus... It’s a Trip’ Travelpoint offers short bus tours around state

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

While travel became essentially non-existent over the past year because of COVID-19, Kayleen McGarheran is ready to get people going again with some places off the beaten path around Minnesota and Iowa.

McGarheran says people are chomping at the bit to get out. “They

“I hope to bring adventure and offer things people didn’t even know about.”

Kayleen McGarheran
Travelpoint Tours Manager

are busting wanting to get out,” she said.

And she thinks she has developed the perfect solution in her role as manager of a new company, Travelpoint Tours, whose slogan

is, “Take a Bus... It’s a Trip.” Travelpoint is a subsidiary of Cavalier Coaches in Owatonna. Bill Regan owns Cavalier as well as various school and charter bus companies around

southern Minnesota.

“People are saying get me on a bus and let me talk to other people,” McGarheran said. “We’ve been cooped up way too long.”

Travelpoint primarily specializes in one-day trips, said McGarheran, adding that there will also be some two-day overnight trips. The first trips offered are a Sunday Wine Escape on See **TRAVELPOINT** on B2 ►

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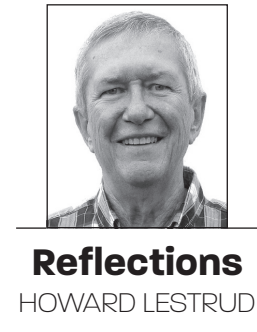
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Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Successful Blooming Prairie entrepreneur Craig Kruckeberg says it so well.

Summer 2021 brings return to fun

“There’s nothing like a small town.” This statement of eloquence was clearly seen and heard this past weekend with Blooming Prairie’s weekend July 4th celebration. Blooming Prairie was hit hard like many other small towns during COVID-19. However, this small,

southeastern community has survived because of its deep roots. Blooming Prairie residents and business associates refuse to give up when they are dealt a serious blow. This past weekend, we saw Blooming Prairie people come forward with a willingness to return to the days when

a Fourth of July celebration brought people together. There are still people who are not quite willing to become part of the active way of life. It will take more time for everyone to realize that the pandemic will soon be no threat. Kids activities were back, the pancake

breakfast drew over 400 people and the parade, shorter than usual with 62 units, still put a flutter to one’s heart. “We’re back,” some people said, explaining that it’s only because a small town’s bonding of its residents has injected us with a strong desire to overcome. Blooming Prairie has

flexed its muscles once again and has proven that small towns can survive a pandemic. Our community looks much like the community of pre-COVID. It is strong and resilient. Thanks, Blooming Prairie for bringing our patriotic Fourth of July celebration back to stay.

Emerging from COVID

Ole and Lena’s back to offering cheese curds

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

That old-fashioned Norwegian couple, Ole and Lena, have emerged again with COVID-19 taking a back seat. Renae Jenö, who owns the Ole and Lena food stand with her husband, said she was happy to see customers come out in droves last weekend at the Fourth of July celebration in Blooming Prairie. “People are extremely happy to be out and about, and we are happy to see them,” said a gleeful Renae Jenö. Jenö flashes that friendly smile and drive to sell her main products to the customer. On this given weekend in Blooming Prairie over the Fourth of July, Jenö said she was pleased to see people eager to come outdoors and become involved

in community celebrations once again. She said their success story can only be told because of the involvement of family members. On this day, Tucker Jenö and Alyssa Bok, grandchildren of the Jenös, ran the onion ring and cheese curd business mostly by themselves, with Renae Jenö helping when needed. Tucker Jenö has worked in the Ole and Lena stand for about eight years. He is a student at the University of Minnesota Duluth in accounting and finances. Alyssa Bok is a ninth-grade student at Owatonna High School. Granddaughter Madison Jenö will be a sophomore at Owatonna High School and Carson Bok, a seventh-grader, also help the food operation. In addition, Stacy Burton,



It’s a family affair for Ole and Lena’s food stand of Owatonna. Shown with owner Renae Jenö are two of her grandchildren, Alyssa Bok and Tucker Jenö.

no relative, helps run the food stand. Ole and Lena can be found at major events like the Steele County Fair in Owatonna and the Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul. At the State Fair, Ole and Lena change their menu with their hot dish on a stick being a popular offering. This entree on a stick features meatballs, tater tots put together on a cornmeal batter and deep-fried. Ole and Lena can be found at the State Fair by the Midway and horse barns.

Another menu item includes a deep-fried banana split. In the early days, Renae said she served krum kakka, rosettes and lefse. Renae Jenö said she has a secret recipe for her onion rings and cheese curds. But she won’t reveal it. Renae and her husband are involved in other business ventures, too, including the grain bin business. Oldest son Jessy and wife Jamie run this business. Son Lucas and wife Jenny also are in the



grain bin business in Fairmont. COVID-19 is no longer a menace and it’s

time to return to community celebrations. Of course, ole and Lena might be there, too.

Medford begins replacing water meters

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

After a city-wide failure and water meter shutdown in late January the Medford City Council opted to replace 150 of the city’s water meters while also updating the software used to read the meters for a total cost of \$36,000. The city purchased those meters in February and now the meters are finally starting to come in and are ready for installation. The council also passed an ordinance that discontinued averaging sewer rates, which had caused an unbalance in funds due to the old software being used. “Because of our old software, we would average out the winter months usage and use that as the flat rate for the year,” Jed Peterson, administrative director of operations said. Because some residents are gone for the winter, averaging their rates based on winter usage the rate didn’t accurately reflect their water usage. Council Member and Water and Wastewater Commissioner Chad Langeslag also said that the new meters also provide more accurate readings. “Starting last year, we had several water meters that weren’t reading anymore,” he said. “So, what the city currently did was averaging

January, February, and March. They took those three bills and averaged them together and that was the rate for the remainder of the year,” Langeslag said. “The problem we had there is that a lot of meters weren’t reading correctly so a lot of the numbers were skewed.” This resulted in very low sewer revenue numbers for the year so far despite usage being consistent with past years. “We discussed it with the Capital Advisory Board about implementing new irrigation meters,” Langeslag told the council. “It does two things: it actually gives you a true reading of water being consumed and yet allows the people not to have to pay for the sewer.” “Once the irrigation meter is in the house people are free to use water as much as they want,” Langeslag said. “They’ll still be charged for the water but we’ll take the number off that meter and then you won’t be paying for sewer on that one.” The city will install the meters free of charge, but they will cost residents \$200 to purchase. If plumbing needs to be done the resident will also have to pay for that as well. According to Peterson this policy is consistent with other communities in the region.

Medford council discusses Main Street Project financing

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Medford Council last week decided to seek a 10-year bond to fund its portion of the Main Street project. Earlier in June, the council approved bids for the project during a special session. The city also approved a loan application for the project through the Minnesota Rural Water Association as recommended by Mike Bulbany of

David Drown Associates, the city’s public financial adviser. With the project and bids approved by both the city and county, the 2021 Mainstreet Project will be moving forward and is scheduled to be completed by the fall. The project is in cooperation with Steele County, having been approved by the commissioners on June 8. “This project has been a long road, but we are at the point

where the city council has approved the co-operative agreement,” County Engineer Greg Ilkka told the board during that meeting. “I want to thank the citizens of Medford for coming together finally and making a proposal that works and that they’ll be happy with so we can get that road fixed,” Commissioner Greg Krueger said. The county opted to go with the low bid of \$1,886,304.90 from RAW Construction. The cost

will be split with the City of Medford. The county will pay 75% and the city will pay 25%. During Medford’s special session on June 15, the council voted to approve the bid for their stretch of the project, with Council Member Chad Merritt voting against it. The city plans to finance the project with a 10-bond and is considering delaying the assessments for homeowners another five years.

Travelpoint offers short bus tours around state

◀ TRAVELPOINT from B1 July 11, Field of Dreams baseball and Dyersville Cathedral in Iowa on July 22 and Day Trippers Theater in Shakopee on Aug. 25. McGarheran said she is working with local chambers to map out schedules of the day trips. “People are so graciously helpful when you go into other towns,” she said. Since the COVID restrictions are loosening up, she has found people are even more helpful in wanting others to come into their communities. Besides coordinating the trips, McGarheran said she will be making each trip to offer her insight and help those who travel to ensure a quality experience. She laughed about how she will have a microphone on the buses to host the

trips. Someone once recommended she try stand-up comedy. “This might be a good venue for that,” she said. “I hate talking in front of people,” she said. “The more nervous I get, the more animated I get and chatty.” McGarheran worked for 23 years in youth ministry at St. Joseph’s and Sacred Heart Catholic Churches in Owatonna before her job was eliminated last July. “The kids thought I was the goofy lady,” she said. She began with Travelpoint last September during COVID by researching tours on her own and preparing for the day people could travel again. Since then, McGarheran has traveled on her own to find trip adventures to offer now. “I went to

a lot of cool places in Iowa,” she said, adding she has done her homework. There is so much to see around Minnesota and Iowa that often goes unnoticed with many people, McGarheran said. “We can drive to so many places and make a day of seeing cool things,” she said. Travelpoint plans to work with all age groups for tours. McGarheran will also help corporations coordinate business trips for their employees. McGarheran is excited about her new role as a travel coordinator. “I love it when people have an experience and adventure,” she said. “I hope to bring adventure and offer things people didn’t even know about,” she added. She has found

there is so much to see around Minnesota and Iowa. Travelpoint will offer trips to a wide variety of places, including theatres, sporting events and religious places. “Bill (Regan) is very passionate about the church pilgrimages and shrines,” McGarheran said. She is also open to suggestions on where people would like to travel. “We want to offer what people want to do,” said McGarheran. Traveling, she said, will help people’s mental health, especially after being locked down for more than a year. “Being with others is a huge piece,” McGarheran said. “Talk to people and stay connected.” Travelpoint is located in the J.P. Kreutter State Farm Insurance Building at 203 S. Oak Ave. in Owatonna.

Bird's eye view



As reconstruction of Bridge Street from I-35 to 24th Avenue continues, this aerial drone shot shows the aggregate road base and work along the north road ditch. Phase 1 work began on May 1 and all work is scheduled to be substantially complete no later than Oct. 30.

New Geneva café fulfills owner's lifelong dream

◀ NEW GENEVA from B1 ago, Hemingway took a partial step toward fulfilling her dream. She began serving Venezuelan and other Latin American food from the Noris Cuisine: Food Truck seasonally. She and the food truck regularly travel to Northfield, Owatonna, Mankato, Rochester and the Twin Cities. And she's built quite a clientele. Nearly 2,500 people follow her on Facebook and on the opening day of the café, there was a steady flow of customers. Reactions, which could be overheard from a neighboring table, ranged from: "The food is really good" to "Wow. This is way too cool for Geneva."

Hemingway's daughter, Aracelis Sepulveda, works with her mother at the café. The 19-year-old University of Minnesota student manages the café's baristas and front end

of the café. She also said she is responsible for the café's décor. Hemingway is the chef and in charge of all things related to the kitchen, said Sepulveda. "We wanted to bring a 'Cities feel' to Geneva," Sepulveda said. "We wanted to bring something new. There's nothing like this around here."

All but three of the menu items are gluten-free, and there are vegan and vegetarian options. Items specific to her mother's Latin American roots include Arepas, Chachapas and Empanadas. The café also serves an All-American breakfast and a variety of hot and cold drinks, including lattes, cappuccino, macchiato drinks. Sepulveda plans to come home every other weekend during the school year to work in the café. The café hours are 7



Noris Hemingway is happiest in the kitchen, where she prepares Venezuelan and other Latin American food. Fulfilling on a lifelong dream, Hemingway recently opened Noris Cuisine: Little Café in Geneva.

a.m.-3 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. It is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Hemingway co-owns the building that houses the café. Her partner, Kathy Wayne, is a nurse practitioner and plans to open a wellness center that offers massage and possibly acupuncture in the other half of the building in the fall.

LTO's 'Frumpled Fairy Tales' opens next week

◀ LTO'S from B1 One of the narrators for the Rapunzel episode of the one-act play is 17-year-old Jean Emmons, who will be a senior at Owatonna High School in the fall. "Entertaining people is something fun to do," said Emmons during a recent rehearsal. "I'm

passionate about theater, writing and art." Emmons has performed in three plays at Owatonna High School. Bell, who is playing the Big Bad Wolf, said he shared Emmons' passion for theater. He started performing with Little Theater when he was 12-years-old and

this will be his 13th play with the community theater group. "The Big Bad Wolf is a fun character," said Bell. "It's an animal." "Working with two casts can be tricky at times," said Bell, adding that his biggest challenge is having to mimic Little Red Riding

Hood's grandmother in an attempt to trick the Little Red Riding Hood. LTO's production of "Frumpled Fairy Tales" opens at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 16. The only other evening performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on July 23. Matinee performances are scheduled for 2 p.m.

on July 17, 18, 24, and 25. Attendees will be required to wear masks during the performances because the theater will be open at full capacity and many of the cast members aren't old enough to be vaccinated against COVID-19, said Friesen. Online tickets are

now available for the public. Phone-in orders at the LTO Box Office (507-451-0764) start July 12, with walk-in availability July 15-18 and July 23-25. The adult ticket price is \$17; student ticket price is \$14. The technical director for this play is Sandee Hardy-Hagen.

PUBLIC RECORD

Steele County Births August 2020
Wilbert Mitchell Berg, Parents: Elizabeth and Mitchell, Aug. 1.
Hannah Maria Gilmore, Parents: Jennifer and Joseph, Aug. 1.
Dalmar Abdirashid Mohamed, Parents: Rahma Sheikhamin and Abdirashid Osman, Aug. 1.
Hamza Mohamed Bille, Parents: Fowsia Ali and Mohamed Muse, Aug. 3.
Adler Zane Tomlinson-Hughes, Parent: Autumn Hughes, Aug. 4.
Francesca Lane Svien, Parents: Lindsay and Jeffrey, Aug. 6.
Adrian Aaron Waters, Parents: Angela and Jared, Aug. 7.
Lainey Renee Perkins, Parents: Kelsey and Lance, Aug. 10.
Landon Jon Warnke, Parents: Krystle and Adam, Aug. 11.
Alakai Arturo Thomas Lopez, Parents: Katherine Davis and Adam Lopez, Aug. 11.
Marian Clare Kortuem, Parents: Mary and Caleb, Aug. 12.

Grant Michael Dickinson, Parents: Lynn and Geoffrey, Aug. 13.
Grey Michael Clayton, Parents: Katy and Michael, Aug. 13.
Philip Edward Bushlack, Parents: Kari and Coleman, Aug. 16.
Gunnar Lane Auen, Parents: Jenna and Chad, Aug. 17.
Willow Harper Steiskal, Parents: Simone and Ryan, Aug. 17.
Briella Marie Larson-Mills, Parents: Chelsey Larson and Christopher Mills, Aug. 18.
Hunter Henry Hayes, Parents: Bridget and Shawn, Aug. 20.
Bryson Yens Fogal, Parents: Krista and Dustyn, Aug. 28.
Fischer Russell Toavs, Parents: Connie and Andrew, Aug. 28.
Caine William Rogers, Parents: Brittany and James, Aug. 31.

Steele County Deaths August 2020
David John Cameron, 66, Owatonna, Aug. 1.
Delores Ardella Parrish, 90, Rochester, Aug. 2.
Carl Fred Drache, 85, Owatonna, Aug. 2.

James Louis Wanous, 87, Owatonna, Aug. 3.
Paul Thien Tran, 92, Owatonna, Aug. 3.
Monte Chris Evans, 64, Medford, Aug. 5.
Donald Albert Nechville, 81, Owatonna, Aug. 6.
Thomas Richard Haberman, 79, Owatonna, Aug. 6.
Donald Charles Teeters, 89, Owatonna, Aug. 6.
Velma Eileen Wayne, 95, Ellendale, Aug. 7.
Gregory George Amazi, 68, Owatonna, Aug. 7.
Janet Marie Fandel, 71, Owatonna, Aug. 9.
Carsten Olaf Bjornstad, 82, Scranton, PA, Aug. 11.
James Osborne Partridge, 91, Owatonna, Aug. 15.
Howard Lee Wolf, 84, Medford, Aug. 17.
Lewis Harvey Blood, 89, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Alvin Joseph Gilbertson, 83, Owatonna, Aug. 18.
Gloria Caroline Timm, 96, Medford, Aug. 18.
Carol Nadine Green, 82, Owatonna, Aug. 19.
Susan Lee Paul, 67, Medford, Aug. 20.
John Edward Butler, 71,

Owatonna, Aug. 20.
William Howard Grimes, 85, Ellendale, Aug. 20.
Darlene Ann Sedivy, 84, Medford, Aug. 24.
Madison Day, 19, Owatonna, Aug. 24.
Leslie Leory Getting, 62, Owatonna, Aug. 27.
William Joseph Thomas, 89, Owatonna, Aug. 30.
Kenneth Michael Teeters, 91, Owatonna, Aug. 31.

Steele County Marriages August 2020
Brandon De La Rosa and Abigail Flannery Hansen, Aug. 1.
Kabree Cindy Krier and Neil Scott Webster, Aug. 1.
Cynthia Jolise Butler and Pedro Martin Ortega, Aug. 1.
Amber Jo Ahrens and Mark Carl Dobberstein, Aug. 7.
Sarah Lynn Mulert and Dylan Jensen Young, Aug. 8.
Kirsten Teresa Conry and Matthew Thomas Gwin, Aug. 8.
Brittney Lee Resler and Jacob Kurtis Cole, Aug. 8.
Jacob Capra Tschann and Sarah Marie Moenkedick, Aug. 8.

Devin Sarah Schultz and Zachary David Nelson, Aug. 14.
Matthew John Brekke and Kellie Jean Kiefer, Aug. 14.
Brandon Scott Parker and Amy May Blanchette, Aug. 15.
Melissa Mae Blackstad and Brandon Daniel Boone, Aug. 15.
Shane Norman Radke and Amanda Dawn Wacek, Aug. 15.
Hannah Jean Haroldson and Ryan David Spatenka, Aug. 15.
John Michael Hensrud and Kayla Jo Bergerson, Aug. 15.
Jessica Ruth Henderson and Peter Alex Seifert, Aug. 15.
Margierie Kristal Soto and Luis Alberto Arroyo, Aug. 21.
Brandie Jo Wroblewski and Devin James Prissel, Aug. 21.
Haley Marie Lenz and Seth Angel Ponce, Aug. 22.
Kayla Jane Kinniry and Daniel Jay Kropp, Aug. 22.
Jacob Timothy Jensen and Ingrid Tudy Nycklemoe, Aug. 22.
Anna Kate Peterson and Casey James Martin, Aug. 22.
Bridget Danielle Marie Gartmann and Joseph Noel

Hoaglan, Aug. 23.
Paul Curtis Oeltjenbruns and Breana Lynn Michel, Aug. 29.
Ryan David Emanuelson and Katie Renee Noshush, Aug. 29.
Sara Jo Bucher and Maclan Andrew Bushlack, Aug. 29.
Alicia Jo Vick and Nathan Richard Rolli, Aug. 29.

Steele County Divorces August 2020
Lori Ann Barwick and Eugene Verle Barwick, Aug. 3.
Bradley John Prokopec and Holly Lin Prokopec, Aug. 4.
Timothy Nicholas Talbert Jr. and Amber Lee Talbert, Aug. 5.
Jenna Tlusty and Colten Tlusty, Aug. 6.
Mary Lou Jane Davidson and James Myron Davidson, Aug. 14.
Julie Ann Smith and Kevin Robert Smith, Aug. 17.
Michala Christine Romero and Shawn P. Romero, Aug. 21.
Jesse David Braaten and Crystal Kay Braaten, Aug. 26.
Steven Thomas Bessette and Jennifer Rose Bessette, Aug. 27.



Jerry's Supper Club had been a fixture in downtown Owatonna since 1960 before closing in 2009. Even though the historic building has been vacant for years, it will not be torn down as part of the hotel complex construction next door this year.

Chamber: Jerry's building to stay

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It's been more than 12 years since last call for food and drinks at Jerry's Supper Club in downtown Owatonna, but the last call for the historic building isn't on anyone's radar. Despite some misperceptions circulating throughout the community, the his-

toric Jerry's building will not be demolished, according to Brad Meier, president of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce. Since the downtown project began a few weeks ago, many people have been questioning the fate of Jerry's, which served as a downtown eating establishment since 1960 before closing in 2009.

"There is no intent to get rid of Jerry's," said Meier. "There is a misperception about the project downtown that everything is going to be demolished and replaced." While Jerry's will remain standing, there are a couple of buildings that will face the wrecking ball. They include: Flooring Frenzy, a storage building

behind Flooring Frenzy and a house next to the storage building. Meier said the existing plan is to renovate Jerry's building with another "high-end restaurant" coming in, though no specific restaurant has yet to be identified. "Jerry's will be renovated and it will be a huge improvement," he said, adding it will still have

the historical significance from the past. He said it's important for the city to maintain the historical value of buildings like Jerry's. "They add to the flavor of the downtown. It takes money and resources to make it happen," Meier said. Renovation on Old Time Bagels, Meier said, will begin this

week. Old Time's space will be doubled to allow it to offer ice cream in addition to bagels. The streetscape will be done this summer while the hotel complex is expected to open by next summer. Residents can monitor the progress of the downtown project with live cameras offered through the chamber or city websites.

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STEELE COUNTY Times

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JULY 12
7 p.m. — City Council Meeting

JULY 13
10:30 a.m. — Storytime, BP Central Park or Library Facebook Page
2:20 p.m. — BPPU Commission Meeting
4 p.m. — Fire Commission Meeting

JULY 14
Hawaiian Golf Fun Day

4:30 p.m. — EDA Meeting

JULY 20
5 p.m. — Ambulance Commission Meeting

JULY 21
Noon — Chamber Meeting, City Center
4 p.m. — Police Advisory Meeting Tails & Tales: Mystifying Magic with Greg Skillestad

JULY 24
Ribfest, Youth Club

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JULY 9
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

JULY 12
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

8 p.m. — Berlin Township Meeting, Community Building

JULY 14
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JULY 10
7 a.m. — Farmer's Market, Central Park
10 a.m. — Kid's Fishing Day, Fleet Farm

JULY 11
Noon — Extravaganza, Village of Yesteryear

JULY 12
4:30 p.m. — Owatonna Park Board Meeting, River Springs Water Park
5:30 p.m. — Moonlighters Exchange Club Meeting, Owatonna VFW
7 p.m. — Medford Park Board Meeting, City Hall

JULY 13
10:30 a.m. — Online

Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook
11 a.m. — Healthy Seniors of Steele County Golf Classic, Owatonna Country Club
5 p.m. — Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. — Owatonna Human Rights Commission Meeting, City Hall
5:30 p.m. — Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall

JULY 15
10:30 a.m. — Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook
7 p.m. — 11@7 Concert Series, Central Park



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members at the Blooming Prairie Youth Club learn how to make cookies with Amy Chladek from Chladek Cookies. Pictured from left are Skylar Zylstra, Ellie Huffman, Kendra Long, Opal Vincent, Ryker Long, Kori Horan and Sawyer Michel.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Area youngsters take part in storytime at the park offered by the Blooming Prairie Library. Pictured from left are Sawyer Michel, Liesel Swanson and Lennex Spitzer.

Ribfest to benefit BP Youth Club

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

COVID-19 put the kibosh on a bash to help a local youth organization, but with restrictions loosening in recent months, another popular event is replacing the bash, at least for this year.

The Blooming Prairie Youth Club will host its 10th annual Ribfest on Saturday, July 24, at the Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie.

In the past, the youth club has sponsored a benefit bash usually in February and the Ribfest in the summer. This year the two events

have been combined into the Ribfest. And organizers hope for the same result that it has realized with the bash: \$30,000 for the youth club.

Autumn Van Ravenhorst, president of the club, said there are many different activities planned for this year's Ribfest. Among them are live entertainment, silent and live auctions, dunk tank and activities for children, including a bouncy house, obstacle course and face painting.

Ribfest will offer larger cash prizes and trophies for best ribs, best sauce and people's



Autumn Van Ravenhorst

choice. "We're hoping to have more cooks than ever before," Van Ravenhorst said.

While chefs will be cooking ribs all day, the event will open to the public beginning at 3 p.m.

The cost to attend

the Ribfest will be \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. There will be a family maximum of \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. The fee will allow everyone access to all activities going on throughout the day, Van Ravenhorst said.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the youth club, Servicemen's Club, U.S. Bank, Vandal's Family Market and J&H Liquor.

Van Ravenhorst said 100% of the proceeds from the Ribfest goes back to the youth club, which serves about 60 Blooming Prairie area youth ages kindergarten-

See RIBFEST on B9 ▶

Albert Lea Community Theatre announces 2021–22 season

After more than a year of no performances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the spotlight is returning to the stage as Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT) announces its 2021–22 season.

ACT will open its 56th season with "Doublewide, Texas," a hilarious, fast-paced comedy written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten, and directed by Brian Mattson, which will be performed Sept. 23–Oct. 2, 2021. The inhabitants of one of the smallest trailer parks in Texas are thrown for a loop when they realize the nearby town of Tugaloo is determined to annex them. The rollicking mayhem of this flat-out funny comedy escalates as the residents attempt to secede from the state of Texas.

The second show will celebrate the holiday season with "A Christmas Story, The Musical," written by Joseph Robinette with music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Directed by Glen Parsons, this musical about the movie classic will run Dec. 2–12, 2021. It's based on the movie that runs round-the-clock on TV every Christmas. Set in the 1940s in the fictional

town of Homan, Indiana, the show follows 9-year-old Ralphie and his quest for the Holy Grail of Christmas gifts — an official Red Ryder carbine-action 200-shot Range Model air rifle.

"Deathtrap" is a drama written by Ira Levin and directed by George Favell, and will be performed March 17–26, 2022. This classic thriller provides twists and turns of devilish cleverness that leaves

audiences spellbound until the very last moment. Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell which has resulted in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student from one of his seminars — a thriller that Sidney recognizes immediately as a potential Broadway smash. Sidney's plan, devised with his wife's help, is to offer collaboration to the student for co-credit. Or is it?

For its final production of the 56th season,

ACT will present "Willy Wonka" from June 16–26, 2022. Directed by Gordy Handeland, this fantastic musical is based on the book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl with music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, and adapted for the stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy Allen McDonald. The delicious adventures experienced by Charlie Bucket on his visit to Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory will light up the stage, featuring the enchanting songs from

See ALBERT LEA on B9 ▶

Sudoku Corner

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

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

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Community Pathways brew event scheduled

Community Pathways will host a fund-raising event on July 17 at the Steele County Fairgrounds from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The event will feature a special brew from local breweries, Foremost Brewing Cooperative and Mineral Springs Brewery. All proceeds will be going toward Community Pathways' Capital Campaign, which is focused on raising \$2.6 million for a new building. Launched in January, the campaign has raised about \$1.75 million to date.

The night will be filled with the musical stylings of No. Coast and Steel Canyon, food by El Rey Del Taco, Brat Dogs and True Smoke BBQ.

There is no fee for entry, but monetary donations are welcomed.

Founded in 2020, Community Pathways of Steele Co. is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization based in Owatonna, providing supplemental food and clothing as well as other services for qualifying families.

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Thursday, July 15 Thunderbird Open Stock Car Races	Sunday, July 18 Dodge Mayhem Trailer Races
Friday, July 16 Rice Bull Riding Challenge Mutton Busting	

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Caden Beauvais, right, finished the Minnesota State High School League state individual tournament with a total score of 93. He is shown with his father Matt Beauvais, who is also the assistant coach.

NRHEG clay shooter earns top 50 at state

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

There are thousands of clay target shooters across the state of Minnesota yet one of the state’s best, Caden Beauvais, hails from the NRHEG school district.

He recently affirmed his status as one of the state’s best by finishing tied for 49th place out of 92 participants at the Minnesota State High School League clay target state tournament on Friday, June 25. In order to even qualify for the individual state tournament, NRHEG Head Clay Target Coach

Dan Sorum said Beauvais had to be in the Top 100 averages in the state for the season and he achieved that by being ranked 52nd out of over 10,000 athletes.

While tying for 49th place would be a great finish for most shooters, he mentioned that Beauvais could have done even better.

“Caden will tell you he did not do really well. His score, in fact, was below his season average. Still, getting to this level is in itself an accomplishment to be proud of,” Sorum said.

He noted that one of the things that has helped Beauvais, a senior, reach the state

tournament level and become such a good shooter is his experience.

“He has numerous rounds under his belt and this has allowed him to become very good in his sport,” he said.

With years of clay target shooting under his belt, Sorum said Beauvais has improved over the course of this season by focusing on his consistency.

“Caden came into this season shooting at the level he is at. The big challenge for athletes like Caden isn’t as much about increasing his average round as maintaining it.

Granted, if an athlete’s average is not 25 out of 25, there is always room for improvement but in Caden’s case it’s about the ability to shoot his average, 23.9, or better every round and with an average that high there is very little room for error,” he said.

The state tournament is now behind him, but Beauvais’ high school career isn’t over yet. He’ll compete in the USA Clay Target League National Championship, which starts today, Wednesday, July 7, in Michigan. Sorum said he’ll compete against 2,500 other athletes from various parts of the country.

Sparks of a different kind at Chateau

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

Chateau Speedway kicked off the Fourth of July weekend with some exciting racing action Friday. Six classes of cars set off their own kind of fireworks as 100 cars filled the pits for the night’s action.

Highlighting the night was the seventh different feature winner in seven weeks in the USRA B Mod Class. Garitt Wytaske of Austin kept the string going of a different feature winner each week as he lead flag to flag to take the USRA B Main Event. Brandon Maitland of Waterloo, Iowa in his first visit kept the pressure on

him but could never put together the move to get by him. Wytaske also took a heat win on the night giving him a sweep for the evening. Noah Grinstead and Matt Brooks, both of Austin, also posted heat wins.

In Skjeveland Sanitation and Roll Off Service WISSOTA Hornets, Shawn Poston of Red Wing scored his first Chateau feature win. Nick Sillman of Janesville, who had a heat win earlier in the night, came home in second followed by Zach Korpi of Ellendale. Bo Noble of Faribault who led early in the feature before a flat tire ended his night had the classes other heat win.

Greg Pfeifer, Jr. of Austin scored his first feature win of the season in the Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Modified Class. Pfeifer jumped from row two to the front on the first lap and lead flag to flag for the win. Shane Howell of Buffalo who had a heat win on the night chased Greg home finishing second. Dan Wheeler of Savage and Trevis Underdahl of Northfield garnered heat wins as well.

Ryan Wetzstein of West Concord scored his third feature win of the year in the French’s Repair and Fabrication USRA A Mods. Wetzstein jumped to a big lead only to get slowed up by traffic and ended

up winning by just a few car lengths over Jason Cummins of New Richland. Cummins had one of the classes two heat wins, the other going to Charlie Steinberg of Kasson.

Zach Elward of Hayfield grabbed the

feature win in Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks with a late pass of Jason Newkirk of Austin. Ross Spitzer of Blooming Prairie and Stacy Krohnberg of Walters took the heats.

In Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stocks,

Andrew Eischens of Taopi chalked up another feature win. Brady Krohnberg and Kyndra Guttormson nabbed the heat wins.

Next week it’s another regular night of racing with the first green flat at 7:15 p.m.

Chateau Speedway Results

July 2

USRA B MODIFIED

A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 35JR-Garitt Wytaske-Austin [2]; 2. 2-Brandon Maitland-Waterloo IA [4]; 3. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin [11]; 4. 22T-Tyler Tesch-Lennox SD[12]; 5. 27S-Jason Schlangen-Cresco IA[10]; 6. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield [17]; 7. 45-Cole Lonergan-Dexter[6]; 8. 4C-Brayten Cisneros-Blooming Prairie[5]; 9. 35X-Phillip Dunbar-Rushford[14]; 10. 64-John Ross-Mankato[15]; 11. 33-Corbin Ludemann-Grand Meadow[13]; 12. 81K-Caleb Korpi-Clairemont[23]; 13. 21-Taylor Ovrebø-Wells [20]; 14. 75-Tyson Boge-Orchard IA[25]; 15. 7M-Matt Tighe-Austin[21]; 16. 0D-Thomas Rolfes-Carpenter IA[16]; 17. (DNF) 14M-Mike Orozco-Mason City IA[24]; 18. (DNF) 4-Greg Brooks-Spring Valley[26]; 19. (DNF) 83-Braeden Allen-Ostrander [19]; 20. (DNF) 20S-Kevin Johnson-Austin [1]; 21. (DNF) 21T-Trevor Tesch-Lennox SD[18]; 22. (DNF) 83R-Kullen Kath-Owatonna [8]; 23. (DNF) 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin [9]; 24. (DNF) 22C-Michael Johnson-Austin [7]; 25.

(DNF) 30-Scott Demmer-Ellendale[3]; 26. (DNS) 55-Serathia Nipp-Mason City IA
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 99-Noah Grinstead[2]; 2. 22C-Michael Johnson[3]; 3. 30-Scott Demmer[4]; 4. 22T-Tyler Tesch[8]; 5.

33-Corbin Ludemann[5]; 6. 0D-Thomas Rolfes[1]; 7. 83-Braeden Allen[6]; 8. 7M-Matt Tighe[9]; 9. (DNF) 14M-Mike Orozco[7]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 44-Matthew See CHATEAU on B8 ►

GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK



July Gardening Tips

- Harvest – Pick some flowers and make an arrangement inside your home. Check vegetable gardens and harvest as needed.
- Fertilize – Add water-soluble fertilizer to your watering can before watering your annuals to give them a mid-summer boost.
- Water – Established plants and lawns need at least 1 inch of water a week when it doesn’t rain. Potted plants need water when dry in the top few inches of soil are dry.
- Pests – Japanese beetles arrive and are asleep in the early morning and evening. Knock these pests into a pail of soapy water. Check plants for other pests and use insecticidal soap as needed.

Becki Tindall, Steele County Master gardener

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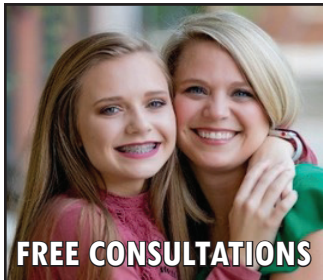
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- **July 22** - Field of Dreams Baseball and Dyersville Cathedral
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The magic is back



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER
AND HOWARD LESTRUD

COVID-19 may have stopped the parade in 2020, but the magic is back this year. Top: Members of the Blooming Prairie Honor Guard march with the flags behind a police car to kick off the Fourth parade. Middle: The Steele County Dairy Princesses ride on a float. The princesses include, from left: Hailey Rysavy, Maggie Bruns, Samantha Fredin, Courtney Kath, Katelyn Rysavy, Kylie Kruckeberg and Lilly Zollner. Bottom left: There's not much more fun than to see son challenge father on the tennis courts. Meeting at the net over the Fourth of July weekend are Luke and Vern Krebs. Bottom middle: Doug Miner, owner of Miner's Outdoor whips through the parade riding on one of his lawn mowers. Bottom right: Mike's Repair of Owatonna shoots water from a hose to cool down the parade goers.



Chateau Speedway Results

◀ **CHATEAU** from B7 Brooks[3]; 2. 45-Cole Lonergan[2]; 3. 20S-Kevin Johnson[7]; 4. 27S-Jason Schlagen[4]; 5. 35X-Phillip Dunbar[6]; 6. 15-Zach Elward[5]; 7. 4-Greg Brooks[8]; 8. 55-Serathia Nipp[1]; 9. (DNF) 75-Tyson Boge[9] Heat 3 (8 Laps): 1. 35JR-Garitt Wytaske[1]; 2. 2-Brandon Maitland[7]; 3. 83R-Kullen Kath[4]; 4. 4C-Brayten Cisneros[3]; 5. 64-John Ross[6]; 6. 21T-Trevor Tesch[2]; 7. 21-Taylor Ovrebø[8]; 8. 81K-Caleb Korpi[5]

FRENCH'S REPAIR USRA A MODIFIED
A Feature 1 (25 Laps): 1. 90-Ryan Wetzstein-West Concord [1]; 2. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richland [6]; 3. 24-Charlie Steinberg-Kasson [3]; 4. 4-Ryan Maitland-Waterloo IA[2]; 5. 83-Kylie Kath-Claremont[12]; 6. 4A-Joel Alberts-Mantorville [9]; 7. 55H-Aaron Hoff-Mantorville [4]; 8. 77-Jacob Stark-Austin [10]; 9. 72-Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie[8]; 10. 33-Joe Ludemann-

Grand Meadow [11]; 11. 1A-Dwaine Hanson-Lakefield [5]; 12. (DNF) 15-Chris Loberg-Elma IA[7] Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 71-Jason Cummins[1]; 2. 55H-Aaron Hoff[4]; 3. 90-Ryan Wetzstein[2]; 4. 4A-Joel Alberts[6]; 5. 1A-Dwaine Hanson[5]; 6. 77-Jacob Stark[3] Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 24-Charlie Steinberg[3]; 2. 4-Ryan Maitland[1]; 3. 72-Doug Hillson[2]; 4. 15-Chris Loberg[4]; 5. (DNF) 33-Joe Ludemann[6]; 6. (DNF) 83-Kylie Kath[5]

POWER 96 WISOTA PURE STOCK
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 7X-Andrew Eischens-Taopi [8]; 2. 31S-Jack Maas-Faribault[5]; 3. 17P-Jack Paulson-Morristown [13]; 4. 1-Troy Maas-Faribault[1]; 5. 17-Michael Wick-Faribault [6]; 6. 26-Brady Krohnberg-Walters[7]; 7. 00-Bobby Crews-Austin [4]; 8. 101-Michael Grover-Chetek WI[11]; 9. 75N-Dylan Nirk-Blooming Prairie [15]; 10. 33-Jim Briggs-Waseca [2]; 11. 35-Levi Buckley-Dundas[9]; 12. 96-Kyndra Guttormson-Chatfield [3]; 13. 36-Andy Krohnberg-Walters [16]; 14. (DNF) 44-Trey Hoppe-New Richland [14]; 15. (DNF) 08-Kyle Kotek-Owatonna [10]; 16. (DNF) 88S-George Schrupf-Rochester[12] Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. 26-Brady Krohnberg[7]; 2. 33-Jim Briggs[2]; 3. 17-Michael Wick[4]; 4. 1-Troy Maas[3]; 5.

35-Levi Buckley[6]; 6. 101-Michael Grover[5]; 7. 17P-Jack Paulson[1]; 8. (DQ) 75N-Dylan Nirk[8] Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. 96-Kyndra Guttormson[1]; 2. 00-Bobby Crews[2]; 3. 7X-Andrew Eischens[4]; 4. 31S-Jack Maas[6]; 5. 08-Kyle Kotek[7]; 6. 88S-George Schrupf[5]; 7. 44-Trey Hoppe[3]; 8. 36-Andy Krohnberg[8]

ADAMS GRAPHIX WISOTA STREET STOCK
A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield [8]; 2. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin [6]; 3. 16K-Kevin Vogt-Rose Creek[5]; 4. 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca[11]; 5. 36-Ross Spitzer-Blooming Prairie[3]; 6. 46-Stacy Krohnberg-Walters [4]; 7. 147-Brent Holland-Glenville [10]; 8. 16-Jacob Bennett-Austin[9]; 9. (DNF) 43-Tony Shaner-Owatonna[1]; 10. (DNF) 39J-Dan Klingfus-Austin [2]; 11. (DNF) 01-Kory Adams-Stacyville IA[7] Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 36-Ross Spitzer[2]; 2. 01-Kory Adams[3]; 3. 15-Zach Elward[4]; 4. 16K-Kevin Vogt[6]; 5. 16-Jacob Bennett[1]; 6. 42-Cody Hyatt[5] Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 46-Stacy Krohnberg[1]; 2. 39J-Dan Klingfus[2]; 3. 32-Jason Newkirk[3]; 4. 43-Tony Shaner[5]; 5. 147-Brent Holland[4]

ACTION BUILDERSWISOTA MIDWEST MODS
A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 00JR-Greg Pfeifer Jr-Austin [3]; 2. L1-Shane

Howell-Buffalo [5]; 3. G12-Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA[8]; 4. 1M-Josh Mattick-Rose Creek[2]; 5. 83X-Kadden Kath-Ellendale[11]; 6. RED1-Dan Wheeler-Savage[6]; 7. 97-Cory Asmussen-Gary SD[7]; 8. 98D-Christopher Deno-Kasson[10]; 9. 38-Michael Wytaske-Hartland [12]; 10. 17-Trevis Underdahl-Northfield [4]; 11. 79-Jeremy Misgen-New Richland[1]; 12. 83-Billy Steinberg-Kasson [21]; 13. 22H-Jayme Hiller-Waterville[13]; 14. 79H-Luke Hainka-WWannamingo[15]; 15. 29G-Bobby Gullickson-Kasson[22]; 16. 5-Tyler McFarland-New Richland[14]; 17. 97X-Don Schaefer-Eyota [9]; 18. 44Z-Anton Nelson-Hayfield [17]; 19. 33-Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo [18]; 20. 86-Noel Hoppe-New Richland [16]; 21. (DNF) 40-Colton Kramer-Pine Island[19]; 22. (DNF) 66R-Weston Voeltz-Claremont [20] Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. RED1-Dan Wheeler[2]; 2. 79-Jeremy Misgen[1]; 3. 1M-Josh Mattick[4]; 4. 98D-Christopher Deno[3]; 5. 22H-Jayme Hiller[7]; 6. 86-Noel Hoppe[5]; 7. 40-Colton Kramer[8]; 8. (DNF) 83-Billy Steinberg[6] Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 17-Trevis Underdahl[1]; 2. 97-Cory Asmussen[2]; 3. G12-Ryan Goergen[3]; 4. 83X-Kadden Kath[4]; 5. 5-Tyler McFarland[5]; 6. 44Z-Anton Nelson[7];

7. (DQ) 29G-Bobby Gullickson[6] Heat 3 (8 Laps): 1. L1-Shane Howell[3]; 2. 00JR-Greg Pfeifer Jr[5]; 3. 97X-Don Schaefer[6]; 4. 38-Michael Wytaske[1]; 5. 79H-Luke Hainka[2]; 6. 33-Darryl Hainka[4]; 7. (DNF) 66R-Weston Voeltz[7]

SKJEVELAND SANITATION AND ROLL OFF SERVICE WISSOTA HORNET
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 511-Shawn Poston-Red Wing [4]; 2. 5S-Nick Sillman-Janesville [3]; 3. 20K-Zach Korpi-Ellendale[10]; 4. 97X-Josh Winsky-Rochester[13]; 5. 3D-Daniel Bjornfald-Bloomington [9]; 6. 18-Nathan Braaten-Austin [11]; 7. 77-Aaron Morgan-Albert Lea [2]; 8. (DNF) 15-Bo Noble-Faribault[8]; 9. (DNF) 6-Timothy Barnett-Owatonna [5]; 10. (DNF) 511JR-Maison Poston-Red Wing [1]; 11. (DNF) 169-Taylor White-Rochester [6]; 12. (DNF) 42-Travis Hyatt-Waseca [7]; 13. (DNS) 21S-Brian Schott-Red Wing Heat 1 (5 Laps): 1. 15-Bo Noble[7]; 2. 77-Aaron Morgan[1]; 3. 511JR-Maison Poston[2]; 4. 6-Timothy Barnett[4]; 5. 3D-Daniel Bjornfald[6]; 6. 18-Nathan Braaten[3]; 7. (DNF) 97X-Josh Winsky[5] Heat 2 (5 Laps): 1. 5S-Nick Sillman[4]; 2. 511-Shawn Poston[6]; 3. 169-Taylor White[3]; 4. 42-Travis Hyatt[1]; 5. 20K-Zach Korpi[5]; 6. (DNF) 21S-Brian Schott[2]



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Developing young 4-Hers

◀ **STEELE TALKIN'** from B1 life skills, non-competitive, incorporating cooperative learning and designed to manage risk.

With the Steele County Free Fair just around the corner, our Cloverbuds are also busy making plans for projects they will participate in this coming August. Cloverbuds can exhibit non-competitively and will work with older members or parents to showcase their projects. There are many opportunities for them from fashion to livestock.

Cloverbuds may bring up to five projects to the 4-H Building the Monday of fair to conference judging and share one on one with the judge. Some

may bring a painting, a simple cookie to taste, even vegetables they have grown, or even a poster about their pet. You will also see many Cloverbuds at our livestock shows, they will be at the end of the lead as an older 4-Her is helping them through the motions presenting their animal. Becoming comfortable with answering questions from the judge and being a part of the fair fun. Plan to come and check out the abundance of cloverbud projects you will see in the 4-H Exhibit Building at the Steele County Fair, you will be impressed with their showcase!

4-H is a family affair and offers something for everyone young and

old. This past year it has been fun to watch our large group of Cloverbuds and their families become a part of our larger Steele County 4-H program.

I'm looking forward to next 4-H year to meet new Cloverbuds and their families as we explore more project areas.

For more information contact us at the Steele County Extension Office at 507-444-7685.

Tracy Ignaszewski is the 4-H program coordinator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Ribfest to benefit BP Youth Club

◀ **RIBFEST** from B5 ten to 12 years old with before and after school programming and summer care.

She said all of the club's full-time spots have been filled. "We have such a niche at the youth club with the kids we serve," Van Ravenhorst said, adding the club offers reasonable rates to accommodate area families.

Van Ravenhorst, who has two of her own children enrolled at the club, is impressed with the way things came out at the club during

the pandemic. "It was such an unpredictable and rough year for all the kids," she said. "The club provided them with consistency."

Even though no fundraising has taken place in more than a year, the club is holding its own financially, according to Van Ravenhorst, who moved to Blooming Prairie in 2017. She has found the support shown by the community to be nothing short of amazing. "It's very eye-opening once you become a board member seeing

all the support out there," she said.

"Considering there hasn't been a lot for people to go to, we are hoping for a good turnout," said Van Ravenhorst, who joined the board in March. "We encourage people to attend and support the event," she added.

The current program director is Alicia Ptacek and the program coordinator is Abby Vylstra.

For more information go to www.bpyouthclub.com and click on Ribfest 2021.

Albert Lea Community Theatre

◀ **ALBERT LEA** from B5 the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder. "Willy Wonka" is a scrumdiddlyumptious musical guaranteed to delight your sweet tooth and take you on a fantasy ride into the land of pure imagination!

Season tickets can be purchased at

actonbroadway.com or by filling out a season ticket brochure form, available at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center box office or at the Albert Lea Convention and Visitors Bureau. The box office is open Thursdays from 3:30—5:30 p.m. A season ticket is \$60 for all four

shows — a savings of \$10. Beginning Aug. 1, individual show tickets may be purchased online, at the box office, or by calling 1-877-730-3144, a toll-free, 24/7 automated service.

For more information go to actonbroadway.com or find ACT on Broadway on Facebook.

DNR stresses need for water safety

It's been a deadly start to the open-water season in Minnesota.

By mid-June, as many as nine people fell victim to boating fatalities. That number, which is preliminary, marks the most fatalities at this point of the year in more than a decade.

In addition, a higher-than-average number of people also have drowned at places like beaches and swimming pools.

Officials with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are reminding everyone who's around the water to make safety their first priority.

The beginning of the summer season is traditionally a busy time of year on the water. This year has been even busier than usual — particularly in recent days as people sought respite from an abnormally long string of above-average temperatures.

Unfortunately, the increase in activity also has resulted in unusually high numbers of people who didn't make it off the water.

"There are too many families who won't be seeing their loved ones again," said Lt. Adam Block, boating law administrator for the DNR Enforcement Division. "It's up to everyone who heads for the water to double-down on safety and

See **DNR** on B10 ►



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Red Cross facing severe blood shortage

The American Red Cross continues to experience a severe blood shortage that is negatively affecting blood product availability across the country. Donors of all blood types — especially type O and those giving platelets — are urged to make an appointment to give now and help ensure hospital shelves are stocked with blood products over the Fourth of July holiday and beyond.

While summer is traditionally a time when blood donations decline, this year is particularly challenging as many Americans receive their vaccinations and resume summer activities after more than a year of limited interactions and travel, leading to lower donor turnout. The need for blood

doesn't take a holiday break — patients still depend on lifesaving transfusions.

To schedule an appointment to give blood now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities July 7-July 15 in the Steele County area are:

DODGE COUNTY

Mantorville
July 14: 12 p.m. — 6 p.m., First Congregational Church, 515 Walnut St.

FREEBORN COUNTY

Albert Lea
July 14: 1 p.m. — 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 702 Highway

69 S. Geneva
July 13: 1 p.m. — 6 p.m., Geneva Community Center, 314 1st Ave. SE

MOWER COUNTY

Austin
July 12: 1 p.m. — 6 p.m., Austin Eagles Lookout Arie 703, 107 11st NE

July 14: 10:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m., US Bank's Front Line Heroes Blood Drive, 301 Main St.

STEELE COUNTY

Medford
July 9: 9 a.m. — 3 p.m., Medford Outlet Center, 6750 W. Frontage Road

Owatonna
July 7: 12 p.m. — 6 p.m., Owatonna VFW, 135 Oakdale St.

July 8: 9 a.m. — 2 p.m., Owatonna VFW, 135 Oakdale St.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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ACROSS

- 1 Butter units
- 5 Au naturel
- 9 Sea state 5
- 14 Brusque
- 15 "... --- slayeth the silly one" (Book of Job)
- 16 Crackshot Oakley
- 17 Speech of violent denunciation
- 19 Bequeath
- 20 Least happy
- 21 Linked
- 23 Egyptian sacred bird
- 24 Jaunty rhythm
- 25 What's coming down the pike
- 28 Conniption
- 30 Winter time in Halifax
- 33 Turned Samoa upside down to find a terrorist
- 34 Not very enthusiastic
- 35 Cost-of-living indicator
- 36 Hindrances
- 37 Al ---, baseball's "Hebrew Hammer"
- 38 Zachary Taylor was one
- 39 Cowpoke's sweetheart
- 40 Not so many
- 41 Chessman
- 42 Shout to a matador
- 43 Foam at the mouth
- 44 Cowcatcher
- 45 Cool, sartorially
- 47 Scrabble piece
- 48 Signs up
- 51 Under close scrutiny
- 55 Idiots
- 56 State with a pelican flag
- 58 Be relaxed
- 59 Fine, black or liberal, maybe
- 60 Federal anti-discrimination agency
- 61 Deathly pale
- 62 Synchronize
- 63 Compos mentis

- 13 Observe
- 18 "Black Widow" lead --- Winger
- 22 The --- Marbles, from the Parthenon
- 25 Do without
- 26 Customary
- 27 Crumb catcher
- 28 Put back to zero, for example
- 29 Impressionist
- 31 Extra interest
- 32 Possessor of "fearful symmetry" (Blake)
- 34 Hall, crier, car or house, perhaps
- 37 Give feedback
- 38 Erie wins scramble for beverage producers
- 40 Shiver of excitement
- 41 Raw hides
- 44 Polish off, or polish?
- 46 Depend
- 47 Talks up
- 48 Scat queen
- 49 Those opposed
- 50 Taking all the tricks
- 52 UN body promoting peaceful nuclear power
- 53 In a little while
- 54 Spike
- 57 Such as cinnabar

DOWN

- 1 Mount for electronic components
- 2 Experienced by migraine sufferers
- 3 Stepped
- 4 Play grounds
- 5 Scottish legend
- 6 Single things
- 7 Movie medium
- 8 Onlooker
- 9 Came from behind
- 10 "Paper Moon" Oscar winner
- 11 Loose
- 12 "Out with it!"

E	N	A	S		H	S	E	M		N	E	H	S	A
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NOTICE

**Proposed
City of Blooming
Prairie
City Council Meeting
Agenda
July 12, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of Agenda
- 2. Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2021 – Regular City Council Meeting
- 3. Approval of Gambling Permit – BP Cancer Group – 9/16/2021
- 4. Approval of Permit to Consume Liquor in the Park – Betti Johnson

**Financial Report
Committee/Commission
Reports**

- 1. B.P. Public Utilities
- 2. B.P. Economic Development Authority
- 3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
- 4. B.P. Fire Commission
- 5. B.P. Police Commission
- 6. B.P. Ambulance Commission

Business

- 1. Approval of Resolution to Accept ARPA Funding

**City Administrator's
Report**

- 1. 4th of July Review

- 2. 2022 Budget Season
- 3. Purple Heart City Proclamation Discussion
- 4. BPF Brat & Corn Feed – August 28, 2021

City Attorney's Report
Council Members' Reports

Closed Session:
MN. Statute 13D.05, sub. 3(a) – Performance Evaluation: Discuss settlement offer from Chief Skillestad regarding a performance evaluation, written reprimand, and performance improvement plan administered on June 19, 2020.

Closed Session: MN Statute: 13D.05 Subd. 3(a) – Performance Evaluations:
Tony Motl
Nancy Vaillancourt
Greg Skillestad
Terri Zwiener

Adjourn

Agenda is subject to change

7/7

NOTICE

**6/30/21
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT
#756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917**

**MONDAY,
JULY 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER**

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

**6:00 a.m. Thursday,
July 15, 2021**
***Regular School Board
Work Session - High
School Media Center**

**7:00 p.m. Monday,
July 19, 2021**
***Open Public Forum
High School Media
Center**
**7:15 p.m. Monday,
July 19, 2021**
***Regular School Board
Meeting - High
School Media Center**

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL –

- CLERK
 - IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
 - VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
 - A. Consent Agenda Minutes Bills Treasurer's Report Resignation/Termination Donations
 - B. Employment
 - C. School Board Meeting Dates
 - D. Work Sessions
 - E. School Board Per Diem
 - F. Public Hearing on Property Tax Levy Payable 2022
 - G. Health & Safety Policy
 - H. LTFM Plan
 - I. District Audit
 - VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
 - A. Long Range Planning
 - B. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
 - C. Committee Reports
 - D. Enrollment Data
 - E. Dates to Note
 - VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
 - IX. ADJOURNMENT
- *Agenda may be subject to changes

7/7

GUEST COLUMN

Love The USA

In my dream last night,
I saw an awesome sight,
millions of Veterans,
from every war,
marched down the street,
past my front door.

From the Revolutionary War
they marched,
with life and drum,
carrying at the ready,
their black powder guns,
I saw the British on the run.

There were women and men,
from all the many wars,
since way back then,
we've been at war,
time and time again,
that's so hard to comprehend.

Though in sound sleep,
I could clearly see,
those Veteran's fight,
to keep our nation free.
We fought great wars,
and won those wars,
to enjoy sweet liberty.

Then I woke up to this day,
I'm at a loss for words to say,
I see a world so very divided,
when we all should be united,
I yearn for the days of long ago,
when on the street, folks said hello.

What does the future hold for us,
something our leaders won't discuss,
they believe in divide and conquer,
many say those folks are bonkers,
it is very hard to dispute that fact,
when you hear and see the way they act.

Today, we are in a difficult conflict,
too many people have been tricked,
into believing that the USA is bad,
some think they have reason to be mad,
but there is no other nation, I will say,
that provides for all, like the USA.
God Bless the USA!

**Bud Peka
Owatonna**

DNR stresses
need for water safety

◀ DNR from B9 prevent what should be a fun experience from turning tragic."

The people who've drowned so far this season span the age, gender and swimming ability spectrum. DNR safety officials offer the following tips for staying safe around the water.

- Wear a life jacket. All children, and adults should wear a life jacket anytime they're around the water. Each year even adults who are good swimmers go under the water and never resurface.
- Avoid alcohol. Its effects are magnified on the water and the consequences can be deadly. About 40 percent of boating fatalities include alcohol.
- Designate a "water watcher." This person

puts down their cell phone or other distractions and focuses only on watching the water to ensure everyone is safe.

- Wade feet-first into the water to avoid jumping into an area where the current, depth and other conditions are unknown.
- Constantly supervise children while they're in or near the water. Looking away even for a moment is enough time for tragedy to strike. Drowning often doesn't involve yelling, screaming and waving of the arms. Rather, it often occurs silently.
- Swim only in designated swimming areas.

For more information about staying safe on the water, see the DNR's boat and water safety pages.



Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2004 GMC Yukon and I'm having a 4x4 problem. The system will work one time then not the next. When I take it to the shop it seems to be the time that it is working correctly. The problem it has is when I switch to 4x4 high the light just blinks then it stays in the 2wd position. Sometimes when I switch to low 4x4 then back to high it will work just fine until I put it back in the 2wd position.
Jack, in Charleston West Virginia

Dear Jack,
Problems with systems that seem to always work when you have it in the shop are as big a pain for the mechanics as it is for you as the driver. The systems have computers that can often give codes which can help with the diagnostics but they don't always indicate the exact cause and without the system actually failed at the moment it's being inspected makes it hard to diagnose and confirm repairs. The most often found issue we see when a 4x4 system in a GM truck of your model year fails like this is a failed shift motor or shift module. Both parts can be expensive so if you can get it to happen while at a shop so they can give a 100% accurate diagnosis it will go a long way to helping you save money and get it repaired right on the first visit.
Take care, the Motor Medics

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7/8T2

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7/8T2

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7/8T2

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6/17TFN

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3/18TBTFN

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6/17T4pd

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5/6Tnpd

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7/1T6pd

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7/8T3

Administrative Assistant-The

Owatonna Foundation is seeking to fill their part time Administrative Assistant position. The Administrative Assistant reports the Board of Trustees and eventually to the Executive Director and manages the efficient operation of the Owatonna

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6/30T2

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7/1T3pd

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6/24T4pd

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6/17T4pd

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6/17T4pd

OLD DODGE COUNTRY

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6/17T4pd

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6/17T4pd

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6/24T4

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7/8pd

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7/1T1pd

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7/8

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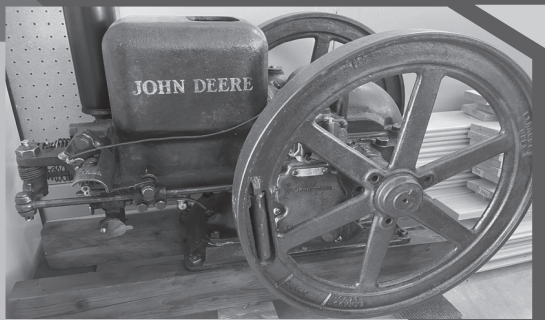
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Ripping off the old



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER
Scott Seykora and Brandon Guse of the grounds crew at the Steele County Fair tear off the siding on the Fish and Wildlife Building, formerly known as the Ikes Building, last week. They found a date written on the wood under the siding, which shows construction took place in 1938. The crew plans to have new siding on the building by the time fair begins next month.



Capturing the fair's magic starts this week

Bringing back the fun will likely never have as a great of a meaning as it will this year. After the past 16 months of fighting the pandemic, people are thrilled to be bringing back some fun into their lives.

The Steele County Free Fair, Minnesota's largest county fair, is gearing up for its annual run next month. And this week we begin a countdown to all the fun. The Times is devoting extra space to the fair as a way to showcase what goes on behind the scenes to bring this annual extravaganza to life. We will be using photos, stories, columns and other special features to tell the fair's story.

The fair runs Aug. 17-22 in Owatonna.

For the past 12 years, the Times has offered expanded coverage of the fair. Staff members will be focusing on human-interest stories related to the fair as part of the newspaper's hometown coverage.

Besides the weekly coverage leading up to the fair, the Times will be publishing a special section devoted exclusively to the fair on Aug. 11.

For 150 years, the fair has played a key role in the social fabric of Steele County as well as the surrounding counties. The fair has been located at the current fairgrounds for 103 years.

"We would be remiss to not highlight this fair with the extra coverage we plan to provide our readers," said Rick Bussler, publisher of the Times. "The Steele County Fair is rich with tradition and people who love to volunteer to make it the best fair in the state. This is who Steele countians are."

The Times hopes to capture some of the magic through its special stories on people who are devoted to making the fair an extraordinary experience for others to enjoy.

New events abound at the fair



Steele's Insights
WAYNE STEELE

It is that time of the year and the Steele County Free Fair is just around the corner Aug. 17-22. The fair board is excited to bring back all the rides everyone enjoys plus that good, old tasty fair food.

The fair board is also bringing several new entertainers to the fair along with some of the old favorites. New to the fair this year is Jurassic Kingdom sponsored by RE/MAX and the Hometown Credit Union. Jurassic Kingdom brings life size dinosaurs that the audience can touch and interact with throughout the show. The Steele County American Dairy Association and the Southwest Dairy Farmers brings the Mobile Dairy Classroom. The Mobile Dairy Classroom features a 32-foot classroom featuring a fully operational milking parlor. The classroom carries a live cow, milking equipment and highly trained instructor for the presentation.

Returning this year is the ever-popular All Star Stunt Dogs sponsored by Fleet Farm, Bushel Boy Farms and Farmers Feed and Pet Supply.

Wayne Steele is the vice president and publicity director of the Steele County Free Fair.

Prokopec finds a new way to support Steele County Fair

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

In one way or another Josh Prokopec has been working on the Steele County Fairgrounds for the past 28 years and this year is no different. After about 20 years as the buildings and grounds director, the newest fair board member has been volunteering his time for the past three years.

However, in order to serve on the fair board, he had to give up his paid position as the buildings and grounds director.

So why'd he step down from a paid position for an unpaid one? Prokopec explained that he took a new job as a gas/water design engineer at Owatonna Public Utilities and with that job came more responsibilities.

"I was focusing more on my career and didn't have the time to commit to working on the fairgrounds daily anymore. I knew I would be hurting the fair more by not being able to give it my 100% commitment and they needed someone who could be on the job daily," he said.

While stepping down from his post, it freed up the fair board to hire a new buildings and grounds director who can give it their 100% commitment, he still wanted to



Josh Prokopec

be involved with the fair and he decided he could do that by serving on the fair board.

"Since the fair has been a big part of my life, I didn't want to get out of it entirely, so I thought it would be a good time to transition to a board position, be an asset to the fair with all the talent and knowledge I've acquired and give the time I can rather than have

the fair sacrifice to keep me around," he said.

As a fair board member, Prokopec noted he takes a more hands-off approach and is involved in more supervision and planning than he was the buildings and grounds director.

In addition to supervision and planning, he said every board member is assigned to certain committees. He's been on the buildings and grounds committee, the technology committee and the sanitation committee.

"It's a huge asset for the city and county. It brings attention to Steele County and Owatonna and it obviously helps local businesses because visitors are renting hotel rooms and visiting

restaurants and gas stations, which brings extra revenue into town that you wouldn't typically get," he said.

Prokopec is excited to see the Steele County community return and enjoy the fair.

"People are really excited to get back to it and have a normal year," he said. "I see it being a banner year for the fair."



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Even though he's no longer the buildings and grounds director, Josh Prokopec still works in the barns and on the grounds as needed. In this case, he's using the skid loader to push old bedding out of the barn. He said they typically need to do this once a day in different barns for different animals.

HAIRBALL

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