

BP awarded \$1M grant for drug prevention

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER]

Positive change appears to be on the horizon for Blooming Prairie as the community has been awarded a \$1 million grant over the next five years for drug and alcohol prevention efforts involving youth.

Annette Duncan, president of United Way of Steele County, announced this week

that Blooming Prairie received a Positive Community Norms state grant to facilitate youth substance abuse prevention efforts.

“The United Way was awarded this grant in large part due to the significant amount of support shown by the Blooming Prairie community toward the health of its youth,” said Duncan. “United Way is excited to partner with the Blooming

Prairie community on this very important endeavor.”

With the grant being awarded, Duncan is on a fast track to hire a positive community norms coordinator that will be stationed at Blooming Prairie High School beginning this fall. Duncan is taking applications until July 23 and hopes to have the position filled by Aug. 15.

Duncan said Austin High School has a

similar position offered through the same five-year grant. Bill Spitzer, a retired Winona County sheriff’s deputy, has been coordinating Austin’s program for the past several years.

In March, Duncan revealed she was seeking a grant to help with what she referred to as a serious drug and alcohol problem in the community. She pointed to the most

See BP on A3 ►

POSITIVE COMMUNITY NORMS COALITION

Parent	Melissa Madden (Hornell)
Underserved	Jim Barnes (Exchange Club Center)
Business	Emily Glaser (BP Chamber)
Media	Rick Bussler (Steele County Times)
School	John Worke (BP High School)
Youth Organization	Autumn Van Ravenhorst (BP Youth Club)
Law Enforcement	Greg Skillestad (BP Police)
Justice/Corrections	Sonja Trom Eayrs (Barnes & Thornburg)
Religious	Rev. Heidi Heimgartner (First Lutheran)
Healthcare	Kay Zellmer (nurse) and Pam Clark (Pharmacist)
Government	Andrew Langholz (BP City)
Civic	Daren Ryg (Yellow Ribbon)
Other	Nancy Vaillancourt (BP Library)

F&M BANK SOLD

Iowa institution purchases area banks

BY HOWARD LESTRUD AND RICK BUSSLER
STAFF WRITERS

A century-plus tradition is about to come to an end in Blooming Prairie.

Farmers and Merchants State Bank has been sold to an Iowa financial institution, bringing an end to 117 years of family ownership of the independent

See F&M on A7 ►



FILE PHOTO

Farmers State Bank of Blooming Prairie has been sold to MBT Bank in Forest City, Iowa. The Austin branch and Citizens State Bank of Hayfield, with branches in Hayfield, Dodge Center and Mantorville, have also been acquired.

Longtime customers react to bank sale

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“It’s a hometown bank where they know me and I know them,” said former Blooming Prairie businessman Alan Morton, 92, when learning of the sale of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie.

F&M State Bank was acquired by MBT Bank of Forest City, Iowa.

Morton said he was surprised by the announcement last Friday and said he has been very happy as a loyal F & M customer for more than 70 years.



ALAN MORTON

Morton carried a Master Plumber’s license and a refrigeration engineering certificate. He also has a pump and well license.

A handshake between Morton and an F&M loan officer proved that “your

“It’s a hometown bank where they know me and I know them.”

Alan Morton
Longtime F&M Customer

word was your bond,” said Morton, adding that he also was a customer at First National Bank of Blooming Prairie.

“Both banks have been good to me,” Morton said. “I’ve never thought of going to another bank

and everything has worked well here.”

Morton remembers former bank president Ed Haberstad as being a World War II hero. “He was quite the pilot and flew bomber planes,” Morton, a Korean War veteran, said. Haberstad was a major.

Some of Haberstad’s World War II history is still displayed in the bank.

Another longtime F&M customer is Evelyn Kubista, 93, a former teacher in Blooming Prairie. She has banked

See LONGTIME on A5 ►

Agreement dismisses BP police chief’s bad review

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It took the Blooming Prairie City Council only 26 minutes in a closed session Monday night at the City Government Center to resolve a performance evaluation appeal to the state by Police Chief Greg Skillestad.

Skillestad was appealing a performance review of him done a year ago by City Administrator Andrew Langholz.

Following the closed session, the council went into regular session and approved the settlement agreement.

Basically, the agreement absolves Skillestad of the written reprimand as long as he does not receive any further disciplinary action during a specified one-year period.

“I’m glad it’s over and we can put it behind us,” remarked Skillestad.

“The document speaks for itself,” said city attorney Jason Iacovino.

The settlement agreement states that Chief Skillestad’s performance evaluation of June 19, 2020 by City Administrator Andrew Langholz, be amended as follows:

“A written reprimand incorporating the terms of his Performance Evaluation was issued on June 19, 2020. If the employee that received the Written Reprimand does not receive any further disciplinary action beyond an oral reprimand any time during the one-year period following the issuance of the Performance Evaluation (through June

See AGREEMENT on A5 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

This one-third scale Cessna L-9 “Bird Dog” tow plane, built by Mark Robbins of South Dakota, made its maiden flight Friday at the Owatonna RC modelers field south of Owatonna.

Radio-controlled gliders fill the sky

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

They fly when the sun is shining and they fly when the rain is falling. This past weekend, they got both.

More than 30 radio-controlled glider enthusiasts participated in the Sled-Works four-day aerotow event at the Owatonna RC modelers field south of Owatonna this weekend.

They came from Texas, Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Radio-controlled gliders are remote-controlled aircraft controlled by pilots on the ground who work to keep the plane up in the sky as long as they can.

The longest flight of the weekend belonged to a 5-foot fiberglass Ventus, a German sailplane owned by Michael Fox of Illinois. It was in the air for one hour and nine minutes.

“Young people need to try this out,” said Dick Baumer of Owatonna, a longtime

member of the Owatonna RC modelers flying club. “The club has the equipment and members willing to train them.”

“This is a hobby and the event was a gathering of enthusiasts,” said Baumer.

As a tow plane took off, Baumer said it would take the gliders up to around 1,500-2,000 feet before releasing it to soar on its own.

And just like that, the two planes went their separate ways.

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AREA DEATHS

Jerris Hodnefield, 92, BP
Jean Shaw, 92, BP
Joseph “Joe” A. Brookins, 72, Ellendale
Vera Beers, 100, Owatonna
Bridget Johnson, 56, Owatonna
Betsy Kriesel, 78, Owatonna

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OUR VIEW

United Way strives to make Blooming a Prairie healthier

After a less than flattering report card from the state regarding drug and alcohol use by Blooming Prairie youth, the top leader for Steele County's United Way is rising to the occasion to make positive change in the community.

United Way Director Annette Duncan reported this week that her agency has successfully obtained a \$1 million grant over the next five years to help curb the drug and alcohol problem with youth in Blooming Prairie. This is wonderful news that the community needs to celebrate and rally behind. And it already has taken steps in the right direction.

As part of the grant application, Duncan solicited volunteers from 14 different sectors within the community to form a coalition to lead the prevention efforts. The strong cooperation she obtained likely was a key contributor to Blooming Prairie receiving the grant.

When Duncan issued the call for help in March, this newspaper quickly joined in and appealed to others to help make Blooming Prairie a healthy and safe place for its youth. We are happy to see this happened in relatively short order so that United Way could submit a strong grant application.

Blooming Prairie is headed in the right direction of reversing a disturbing trend. Like it so often does, the community rallies behind important causes and takes a bold stance to bring about positive change.

There is no place for excessive teen drug and alcohol abuse, which often leads to far greater problems like teenage pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, school dropouts and family issues.

The United Way's mission is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. It transforms lives by ensuring that everyone has access to the health, education and income resources they need to lead enriching lives.

One of the key values identified by the United Way is to offer programs that ensure youth have the skills and support needed to develop positive, healthy relationships, excel at learning and avoid using drugs and alcohol.

And, in this case, Duncan appears to be on the right track to succeed in hitting that mission, vision and values. She is passionate about helping the community's youth become better positioned to thrive as teenagers. We applaud her efforts to make Blooming Prairie healthier without drugs and alcohol being the center of our children's lives.

Helping our youth go down the right track is only going to make the community stronger for years to come.

GUEST COLUMN

Making Minnesota safer and stronger

BY GENE DORNINK

It has been a productive week at the Capitol with many long nights and robust debates. We came to an agreement and passed budgets to fund our state's needs for the next two years. Within these budgets are some great provisions that will make Minnesota safer, stronger, and prosperous.

Many provisions I authored were in the final budgets signed by the Governor. We got funding for Bridges to Healthcare, which is a great program for our community. I was especially proud to see the Hometown Hero's bill passed, funding to keep our DVS locations open, and a variety of services for our Agriculture community kept intact.

The Senate also prioritized the safety of Minnesotans in the Judiciary and Public Safety Budget. This bill ensures that basic public safety needs are met. We made

reforms to the front-end of the public safety system and sentencing, without defunding our police. We focused on improving protections for victims and making it easier to report crimes. There are changes to procedures for reporting within the National Guard, increased penalties for crimes against children, and a change in statute to close the "voluntary intoxication loophole" for victims of sexual assault. Keeping Minnesotans safe is the top priority for an elected official, and this bill brings safety throughout the state. As a major part of this bill, we honored Officer Arik Matson for his service to our state. I was happy to be a co-author on the bill named after him, which increases penalties for assaulting a Peace Officer, and I was glad to see it pass through the Legislature.

Another exciting budget item for See **MAKING** on A10 ►



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

For months and months, I have been thinking about how I need a bird feeder outside my house.

I splurged a few weeks ago and went out to finally buy a bird feeder, along with some birdseed. I also had to get an Audubon deck bracket to prop the feeder up on my deck to enjoy the birds from inside the house.

It was exciting for me to get my bird feeder up and running. I loaded it up with birdseed, got it properly mounted and carefully positioned it

Where are the birds?

on my deck under a tree notorious for having birds chirping away.

The excitement has quickly turned to frustration.

I have a wonderful bird feeder stocked with seed, but guess what? I'm missing the most important part – the birds.

Ever since I put up the feeder, I haven't seen a single bird. There have been signs of possibly something munching on the seed, but for all I know, it's probably a squirrel or some other rodent.

No birds to enjoy my bird feeder.

What adds to the frustration is when I sit out on my deck enjoying a refreshment, I hear birds singing away in the nearby trees as if they're making fun of

me by avoiding what I created for them.

Perhaps it's simply a case of bad timing. Perhaps, as the seasons change and food sources diminish, they will return.

I've also been told to be patient. Apparently, the virtue of patience is essential when using a new bird feeder.

Some other tips I've come across include, but really have me wondering more than anything:

- Avoid using chemical insecticides or fertilizers in your garden. I have no garden.

- Check the cleanliness of your bird feeder and the freshness of your seed. Brand new, don't know how much cleaner it can get.

- There will be fewer birds when it's raining.

The gauge is empty, haven't seen hardly any rain all summer.

- Check for a new predator in the area. I haven't come across one yet.

- Make sure the seed is dry and free from mold. It's fresh out of the bag.

Some sources say it can take as much as one month or even longer to get birds to a new feeder. So maybe I'm jumping the gun a little too quickly.

At any rate, my bird feeder is loaded and ready for lots of friendly birds. So I'll continue my stakeout and hope the word gets out that the feeder is ready for intruders of the tweeting kind.

I'm in hot pursuit of putting out bird calls to attract feathery friends to my neighborhood.



YOUR VIEW

Now THIS is a Newspaper

To-the-Editor:

Kudos to the Steele County Times on developing a LOCAL newspaper that we can all be proud of. It makes one reflect on times long-gone when the newspaper provided well-written, timely, relevant, and positive LOCAL news stories.

Seeing by-lines with the familiar names Deb

Flemming and now Kay Fate, and the occasional Guest Column by Jan Mittelstadt Tippet makes one harken back to the "good-ol days" when you actually looked forward to getting the paper and learning what was happening in our communities.

Thank you Rick Bussler (SCT Publisher)

for pulling together a team, and developing a newspaper that truly embodies the style that the citizens of Steele County appreciate and look forward to receiving.

If you are reading this, and haven't already subscribed to THIS newspaper, I highly encourage you to do

so. Share the idea with others... it is as important as "shopping local" and "shopping small" to support a quality, local newspaper. Whether it be with your advertising, or your subscription – this is exactly the type of paper we need to support.

Matt Kottke
Owatonna

Skip the milkweeds, save the monarchs

To-the-Editor:

If you have milkweeds growing in your yard, resist the urge to mow them until after Labor Day. On the milkweed leaves are the eggs that will become caterpillars that will become monarch butter-

flies that will migrate to Mexico this fall.

Every summer, several generations of monarchs hatch in Minnesota, each generation living from two to four weeks. The final generation is called the Methuselah

Generation, because those monarchs live for several months: flying to Mexico for the winter, and some even making it back the following year.

You probably saw many more monarchs as a child than you do

today. That's because the monarch population has decreased dramatically. Every milkweed saved will help restore the monarch butterfly: an iconic symbol of summer.

Susan Maricle
Dodge Center

Frustrated with cable service

To-the-Editor:

Are you as frustrated with your Jaguar-Metro-Net TV reception as I am?

In April we were assured that coverage would be as good or better with the new company. Repeated interruptions on all networks and channels have been my

experience. I have seen repeated notifications of problems instructing me not to call because they know about the problems; and technicians are working on the problem. This situation can go on for days.

When I talk to a Metro-Net Tech they say I need to talk to Jag techs.

When I talk to a Jag tech they say both Metro-Net and Jag techs are working on the problem. The notification telling me not to call is gone; but replacing it is a lack of signal notification.

I wonder if advertisers and networks realize their programming is not reaching the public.

I have been wondering what my options are. I have decided that if the problems continue I will estimate the percentage of TV coverage I get and adjust my monthly bill accordingly. Will they drop me as a customer? What do I have to lose?

Wally Wilke
Blooming Prairie

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2015—7 state and 4 national awards
2014—3 state and 3 national awards
2013—7 state and 2 national awards
2012—2 state awards
2011—4 national awards
(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Associations)

Steele County continues to look at options for Detention Center

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

It's back to the drawing board for the Steele County Board of Commissioners, as they look for more ways to use an under-capacity detention center.

The option of having neighboring counties participate in a sharing agreement – housing their offenders in Steele County's jail – didn't pan out.

County Administrator Scott Goldberg said in a statement that the commissioners have "asked staff to prepare

and present some operational options at a forthcoming meeting, probably in late August or early September."

Once the board receives the operational options, it will determine the best way to move forward with the jail.

Steele County reached out to Rice County in the spring in hopes of hammering out a deal; Rice County later chose to build its own detention center on a 3-2 vote.

The next step was to contact Dodge and Waseca counties; the board was optimistic

about finding a way to collaborate that would benefit all parties.

That, too, appears to be unsuccessful.

Board Chair James Brady and Commissioner Jim Abbe met with Dodge and Waseca county officials a couple of weeks ago.

"Dodge has no interest at all and Waseca has not responded yet but should have if they were interested," Brady said.

In the wake of that news, a work session held last week had the commissioners looking at options to maximize

the building and staff's potential, allowing the county to use the space more efficiently.

The Steele County Detention Center was built in 2003 when the landscape of criminal justice and reform looked much different than today. Its maximum capacity is 154 and its operational capacity is 136. It currently houses only 40 inmates.

According to Jail Administrator Anthony Buttera, criminal justice reforms such as an increase in the use of treatment programs, drug courts and pro-

bation are a big reason why many older jails are not close to their operational capacity.

"COVID 19 also had an effect on these numbers," Buttera said. "At the beginning of the pandemic, we worked with the county attorney's office to limit the types of crimes that we would allow to be held in the facility (only allowing immediate public safety risks). This was done specifically to keep populations low. At the time of implementation, we decreased the population by nearly two-thirds."

That has also affected criminal justice going forward.

"With the data that has been gathered over the last year and a half, it appears that restricting the types of jailable crimes has not had an adverse effect on crime rates in the community, so the goal going forward is to continue with the process as is until the data tells us otherwise," Buttera said.

Officials from Dodge and Waseca counties did not respond to inquiries about their decisions not to collaborate.

FOUNTAIN RETURNS

Water will be flowing soon in Central Park icon

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

City crews worked to reinstall the refurbished water fountain in Central Park last week.

"It hadn't been working at full capacity for some time," said Mary Jo Knudson of the Owatonna Parks and Recreation. "We didn't put any water in it this spring."

The centerpiece, which was originally installed in 1893, was last refurbished in 1977.

"We're hoping to have everything completed by Gem Days," said Knudson. That event is slated for July 22-24.

President of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Brad Meier called that good news.

"It's been like a missing piece of the puzzle all summer," said

Meier. "Central Park is such a key piece of our downtown."

Plans to refurbish the fountain were already in the works last summer when vandals damaged the crane that sat atop the fountain and the fountain's spray ring last July.

The Owatonna Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant to help refurbish the fountain, with the city contributing \$10,000 for materials, plus some labor costs.

The drinking fountains, initially installed in 1909, will not be redone, said Knudson. Instead, the city plans to install an ADA-accessible water fountain and a little doggie drinking fountain nearby.

According to Knudson, Metal Services Inc. of Blooming Prairie sandblasted the fountain and repaired its cast.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

City crews work to reinstall the refurbished fountain in Central Park in Owatonna. Officials are hoping the fountain will be in place and functional for the start of Gem Days on July 22.

Owatonna gets grant from DNR

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently awarded the City of Owatonna a \$99,950 grant to connect the south end of the Kaplan Woods Parkway bike trail to the west end of the 18th Street trail.

The city will provide a 25% match, or about \$25,000 for the project. The city also agreed to maintain the trail for 25 years.

The bike trail connection, less than a one-quarter mile long, will provide 17 miles of continuous bike trail. The area being connected will bypass a parking lot and will also be lighted.

"The goal is to loop everything together to take care of safety concerns," said Mary Jo Knudson of Owatonna Parks and Recreation. "Last year, we looped around Morehouse Park parking along the Straight River."

The state funds come from the Local Trails Connection Program established to provide grants to local units of government to promote relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations.

"Last year, during the pandemic, brought to light the popularity of the trail," said Knudson. Minnesotans sure love their trails and for good reasons, including the health benefits and just being out in nature."

The city's grant match will be included in the Capital Improvement Plan in the fall. Knudson said the before applying for the grant, the council approved the funds for the project.

City purchases more property for redevelopment

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

The City of Owatonna last week approved the purchase of the former Centro Campesino building located at 216 North Oak for \$75,000.

The city's Economic Development Authority (EDA) had approved the purchase earlier, according to Community Development Director Troy Klecker.

"The intention is to redevelop the parcel," said Klecker, adding that the building will be demolished. "Purchasing is just getting the ball rolling on something developing."

Buying properties in the downtown area isn't anything new for the city's economic arm. The hotel project is just one example.

"Once we close on the house, we will begin talks with the property owner of the old Freedom Gas Station [located on the corner of Hoffman Drive and Ted Ringhofer Drive] to see if there is a possibility of working together," Klecker said.

Again, this is an opportunity for redevelopment and the EDA's role is to see if it can get something going, Klecker said.

According to Klecker, EDA purchases are structured to get the money back and ensure that the city never loses money.

EDA funds are not generated through the tax levy, said Klecker. The funds come through state economic loan programs, which are paid back to the city, not the state.

Another tool used by the EDA is its Forgivable Loan Program, which offers loans for up to \$10,000 to renovate or upgrade the exterior or interior of downtown businesses on a 50-50 match.

"We leverage EDA money with private dollars," said Klecker, adding that the program has been ongoing since 2019.

There was \$30,000 in unused funds and we're making them available, said Klecker, adding that "very few of these projects will be fully funded by the loan program and match itself."

Ultimately, the city could benefit from the improvements made through the loan program through increased property values and increased property taxes because of the higher tax base.

"It's a byproduct of beautifying down," said Klecker.

Ellendale paves way for apartment complex

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The City of Ellendale has paved the way for a new apartment complex coming to the city possibly next year.

On July 1, the city closed on the purchase of property at 520 6th St. S., known as the Norby property on the west end of Ellendale. The council has already approved a Development Agreement with Stadheim Properties to build the complex.

With the land purchased, the city now is applying for a housing grant, which would be beneficial in getting the development off the ground, according to Steve Engel, the city's deputy clerk. The city is seeking \$500,000 from the grant, which is due Dec. 15. Engel expects the city to find out if it's successful by late March.

Applying is nothing new for Ellendale, which tried this past year unsuccessfully for the same grant. However, at the time of the last grant application, the city did not own the property. And now Engel thinks the city will have a better shot at getting the grant because the property has been secured.

"We hope to get the grant this time around," Engel said. "Then we can start the ball rolling with the project," he said, adding construction at this point is contingent on the city getting the grant.

Before any new construction can occur, the city has

to clean up the property, including demolishing an old barn, Engel said. The city is applying for a different grant to help with the demolition costs. The deadline for the second grant is Sept. 1. Engel did not know when the grant would be awarded.

Not everyone in Ellendale is thrilled about the prospect of having a new apartment complex. One of them is Waylen Busho, who lives a couple of houses away from the proposed development.

Busho is concerned about traffic in the area, parking access and the likelihood of attracting low-income families.

"I don't think it's a good situation where it's going," said Busho. "I don't think it would be a good fit for our area or neighborhood."

City leaders have told Busho that they do not intend to bring in low-income residents. "But when they can't fill them, it will be filled with low-income," Busho said.

Busho said he voiced his concerns at a city meeting in June, but he was the only resident there. "There was no notice of the meeting," he said. "It's like they are trying to pull a fast one on us," he added.

"The neighbors are not happy about this," Busho said.

The development would include 20 units with a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, up to 850 square feet.

BP awarded \$1M grant for drug prevention

◀ **BP** from A1

recent Minnesota Student Survey completed in 2019 when Blooming Prairie was about 2 ? times higher than the state average for alcohol use in the freshman class and nearly double the state

average in the junior class.

To be eligible for the grant, Blooming Prairie youth had to be using at least one substance above the state average, and the community had to demonstrate that it was willing to support

the youth.

Despite the unflattering results from that survey, Duncan said one positive thing she has found is that most Blooming Prairie students are not using substances. "While there is concern that

there are youth who use substances, the reality is that most youth are not," she said, adding the strongest risk factor associated with youth use is the misperception of the number of students that use substances.

Duncan is also forming a Positive Community Norms coalition made up of representatives from various sectors of the community. Thirteen people have reached out wanting to be on the coalition. She hopes to bring the coali-

tion together for regular meetings beginning in September.

"It's all about the positives to make change," Duncan said. "I am super excited. I have seen the significant impact other coalitions can have on a community."

BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT

Disturbance: Blooming Prairie Police responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Highway Ave. S. at 10:54 p.m. on July 3. They took a subject into custody.

Court backlog keeps murder case in holding pattern

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

One year ago today, Hassan Nur Hassan, now 29, was charged with second-degree murder for his role in the stabbing death of Mohamed Aweis Mohamed, 32, of Owatonna.

Two days earlier, Owatonna police had responded to a 911 call to Dartts Park, where they found Mohamed lying on the ground. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hassan was arrested the next day in Minneapolis, and ultimately charged with three counts of second-degree murder and one count of felony motor vehicle theft. He has remained in custody at the Steele County Detention Center since; unconditional bail was set at \$1 million, conditional bail at \$500,000.

A contested omnibus hearing was held in April, court records show. Hassan's attorney, Frederick Goetz, challenged the probable cause on the first

count of murder, which alleges the murder was committed with intent. Goetz argued that charge should be dismissed.

Late last month, District Court Judge Joseph Bueltel denied the motion.

Christy Hormann, the chief deputy attorney for Steele County, said her office is still waiting for a settlement conference/jury trial date to be set by the Court.

"We're still in queue," she said Friday, "and right now there's been no hearing scheduled."

That's not necessarily unusual, Hormann said. "We've got trials set out as far as October and November," thanks to the backlog created by the postponement of court proceedings during the coronavirus pandemic.

While many proceedings continued remotely, jury trials were a different case.

Should Goetz request a trial be scheduled sooner

than the Court's calendar would suggest, Hormann said they are ready.

When asked Friday about the likelihood of requesting a trial date, "we're not in a position to comment," Goetz said.

There were at least three eyewitness accounts of the July 12, 2020 murder.

According to the criminal complaint filed against Hassan, one witness said he was at Manthey Park in Owatonna when Hassan and Mohamed began to argue. That witness and Hassan left and went to Dartts Park.

Eventually, Mohamed and two other men arrived at Dartts Park, the witness said, and a fight broke out between Mohamed and Hassan. After Mohamed was stabbed, Hassan allegedly drove away in the witness's car.

A second witness told police he was at Manthey Park with Mohamed when



Hassan Nur Hassan

CRIME BRIEF

Odd behavior leads to man's arrest



Colin Macquarrie

Some strange behavior exhibited by a man has led to his arrest.

On July 5, Owatonna Police responded to the Kwik Trip on NW 46th Street to check on the welfare of a man. A citizen reported the man was rolling around in the grass and walking in traffic.

When officers arrived, they found the man sitting in a running vehicle with the front and back wipers running on a sunny day. He also couldn't find the volume control on the radio, and instead used the AC controller. Police reported he was unable to put his vehicle in park.

Police arrested Colin Macquarrie, 29, of Edina for DWI-under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana. A blood test was taken from him to determine what he was under the influence of.

Police cracking down on excessive speeders

Minnesotans are once again hitting the road for summer vacations. While many Minnesotans take driving smart seriously, some fell into poor driving habits during the COVID-19 pandemic, and those bad decisions continue as restrictions end. Speed is the one poor choice driving traffic fatalities to numbers the state hasn't seen in a decade.

To keep families safe, the Owatonna Police Department will be spending extra time educating

and stopping speeders who jeopardize innocent lives. If you speed, expect to be stopped.

Owatonna Police will be joining police officers, sheriffs' deputies and troopers

from across the state to look for speeders jeopardizing the lives of themselves and others through the end of July. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) coordinates the extra patrols and education effort. DPS-OTS provides feder-

al overtime funding for law enforcement officers to conduct increased patrols.

Officers from Owatonna are stopping drivers who are excessively abusing the speed limit, putting countless lives in danger. Driving aggressively and speeding is a selfish decision that can affect families for the rest of their lives. Imagine if that was your loved one who was injured or killed, all because of another driver's decision to abuse the speed limit. Minnesotans can help

others get home safely by driving smart and obeying the speed limit.

In 2020, 122 motorists died in speed-related crashes, the most since 2008. In 2021, the trend continues. Through mid-June, there have been 70 speed-related fatalities.

Officials say by reducing speed, you can reduce the chance of a crash. A reduction in speed gives the driver more vehicle control, allows the driver to respond more quickly to road situations and decrease the severity of the impact during a crash.

Correction to Court News

In the June 23 edition, it was reported under the court news for Owatonna Police that Nash R. Dushek, 26, of Owatonna was fined for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. This information ran erroneously.

An officer with Owatonna Police contacted the Steele County Times indicating that a clerical error had taken place on their end allowing a citation to be issued in Dushek's name. The citation was then processed through the court system. The officer has met with Dushek and his family to explain what happened.

Dushek had no involvement in the offense listed in the June 23 edition.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 28 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Brandon C. Froid, 35, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violation of order for protection and felony mail theft. He was sentenced to \$125 and 27 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 28 – July 4:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Melissa A. Baldus, 42, Austin, speeding, \$215; Duane G. Lyke, 56, Claremont, no insurance, \$275; Tracye L. Ware, 33, Orchard, IA, speeding and suspended license, \$335; Dustin M. Yeager, 35, St. Paul, speeding,

\$115; Sarah L. Yetter, 41, Blooming Prairie, hands free violation, \$125.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Joshua A. Beyer, 44, Nicollet, speeding, \$135; Jennifer Boznos, 60, Hampshire, IL, speeding, \$125; Shane M. Bultman, 40, Fairmont, speeding, \$115; Michael J. Cajthaml, 65, Overland Park, KS, speeding, \$115; Nathan M. Downey, 29, Austin, speeding, \$135; Cody L. Komorowski, 28, Fargo, ND, speeding, \$135; Luke J. Loring, 20, Prior Lake, speeding, \$275; Nicholas R. Lotton, 31, Eagle Lake, speeding, \$115; Tyler E. Maas-Schlie, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$375; Tiffany D. Macy, 42, Medford, speeding, \$115; Sylvia N. Mayson, 42, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Ana I. Nolasco Molina, 36, Des Moines, IA, speeding, no insurance and no license, \$425; Alaura D. Patrick, 31, New Richland, speeding,

\$215; Boriette D. Pradel Arrieta, 19, Andover, speeding, \$125; Shane L. Sipiorski, 46, Norwalk, IA, speeding, \$125; Yesenia I. Tavizon, 37, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$135; Denise D. Telthoester, 57, Savage, speeding, \$125; Tu Tu, 23, St. Paul, speeding, \$115; Derrick A. Turner, 49, St. Anthony, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jeri B. Vandewalle, 37, Renwick, IA, speeding, \$215; Jessica C. Wishard, 27, Somerset, WI, speeding, \$135.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Isaac A. Barrow, 18, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Christian J. Beck, 22, Eufaula, OK, seat belt, \$100; Brian J. Bogen, 53, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Jayce M. Bogen, 23, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Carr Brazelton, 37, Owatonna, fleeing a

peace officer in a motor vehicle, \$125, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Mark A. Burciaga, 32, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Ray D. Cabrera, 23, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Nayeli Esquivel, 17, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Malen Galvan, 47, Owatonna, permit offense, \$175; Edgar J. Gonzalez Diaz, 20, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Lydia E. Greer, 17, Northfield, speeding, \$115; Victor Guerrero, 27, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$125, 2 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain

permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 18 months of supervised probation; Ryan J. Hermanstorfer, 20, Medford, speeding, \$135; Kathryn L. Koch, 64, Dundas, stop sign, \$125; David J. Lax, 63, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; James H. Minnick, 32, Lonsdale, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$75, 29 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation; Khadar A. Mohamed, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Wualter Perez, 54, Rochester, invalid license, \$175; Michael S. Pieper, 53, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Christopher L. Redding, 42, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Roxanne H. Rezac, 34, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Blake O.

Robinson, 37, Rochester, theft, \$1,599 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Yulissa S. Rocha, 24, Faribault, possession of marijuana and no insurance, \$425; Jennifer L. Schroeder, 54, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Tyler S. Severson, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Mason J. Sonsteng, 20, Zimmerman, speeding, \$135; Nicole B. Torres, 26, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Aubreona A. Vannet, 27, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Jacob L. Wheeler, 31, Eden Prairie, harassment, \$200, 30 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission

See **BLOTTER** on **A8** ►

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

1. James Lambert – revoked license – no bail

2. Matthew Lewis – DWI - \$12,000 bail

3. Elliot Lightbourne – forgery - \$10,000 bail

4. Herasmo Lino-Crisanto – false name – no bail

5. Ever Lopez-Verde – DWI - \$12,000 bail

6. Leah Ludwig – theft - \$2,000 bail

7. Gary Luedtke – DWI – no bail
8. Shonice Lumpkins – speeding - \$400 bail

9. Freddy Lwin – DWI - \$5,000 bail

10. Robert Lyons – DWI – no bail

11. Irving Madison – DWI - \$500 bail

12. Caleb Malek – drugs – no bail

13. David Martinez – DWI - \$500 bail

14. Felipe Martinez – DWI – no bail
15. Victor Martinez - obstruct legal process - \$12,000 bail

16. Jessica Martir Velazquez – theft - \$500 bail

17. Shemika Mason – give false name - \$3,000 bail

18. Lakia Massey – counterfeiting – no bail

19. Emmanuel Mata – burglary - \$10,000 bail

20. Robert Mattson – revoked license – no 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.

The hidden dangers of sleep apnea

Dear Savvy Senior,
How can you know when someone has sleep apnea? My husband has become such a terrible snorer that he wakes himself up at night, and he keeps me up too.
Tired Teri



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington
583-4434

Dear Teri,
If your husband is a loud snorer who wakes himself up during sleep, he probably needs to be tested for sleep apnea, a dangerous disorder that affects more than 22 million Americans, but often goes undiagnosed.

Sleep apnea is a disorder that causes a person to stop breathing during sleep, hundreds of times during the night, for 10 seconds or more at a time. Left untreated, it can cause extreme daytime sleepiness, as well as a host of serious health conditions like high blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, diabetes and dementia. In fact, it's estimated that every year, around 38,000 Americans die in their sleep from a heart attack or stroke because of sleep apnea.

But the good news is that sleep apnea is very treatable and most insurance companies, including Medicare, cover it.

Who Has It?
There are three types of sleep apnea: obstructive, central and mixed. Of the three, obstructive sleep apnea (or OSA) is by far the most common and occurs when the throat muscles relax during sleep, blocking the airway. While anyone can have it, sleep apnea is most common in people who are overweight, male, middle-aged and older. For women, the risk increases after menopause. The symptoms

include loud snoring (however not everyone who snores has apnea), long pauses of breathing, gasping or choking during sleep and daytime drowsiness. But because most of these symptoms happen during sleep, most people don't recognize them. It's usually the person they're sleeping with who notices it.

Diagnosing Sleep Apnea
To help you get a handle on your husband's problem, the American Sleep Apnea Association has several diagnostic tests he can take at SleepApnea.org/treat - click on "Test Yourself."

If the screening indicates that he may have sleep apnea, make an appointment with his doctor or a sleep specialist who will probably recommend an overnight diagnostic sleep test called polysomnography, which can take place at a sleep center lab (see SleepEducation.com), or at home using a portable device.

Treatment Options
Your husband is at greater risk for sleep apnea if he's overweight, smokes, and/or consumes excessive amounts of alcohol. Excess weight, especially around the neck, puts pressure on the airway, which can cause it to collapse. Smoking can increase the amount of inflammation and fluid retention in the upper airway. And alcohol and sleeping pills can

relax the muscles in the back of his throat, interfering with breathing. Addressing these issues, if necessary, is usually the first line of treatment.

If that doesn't do the trick, mild cases of sleep apnea may respond to oral devices that fit into the mouth like a removable mouth guard or retainer. These devices work by positioning the lower jaw slightly forward to keep the airway open during sleep.

Another noninvasive treatment option to consider is the new FDA approved eXciteOSA device (eXciteOSA.com). This treats sleep apnea and snoring by improving tongue muscle function by delivering electrical stimulation to the tongue through a mouthpiece that's worn for just 20 minutes during the day.

If none of these options work, the most effective and commonly prescribed treatment for OBA is a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) device. This involves sleeping with a snorkel-like mask that's hooked up to a machine that gently blows air up the nose to keep the passages open.

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

County Road 98 to close for bridge construction

County Road 98 from County Highways 21 and 49 to County Highway 13 will be closed for bridge construction starting Monday, June 14 with a detour posted. The road up to the bridge will remain open to local traffic. Crews will be constructing new concrete

box culverts to replace a structurally deficient and load posted bridge carrying the highway over a Rush Creek. Construction is expected to last about a month. All dates are subject to change due to weather or other factors. Steele County advises

motorists to drive with caution and slow down through work zones for their safety and for the safety of the construction crews. For updates on this or other Steele County Highway construction projects, visit: www.co.steele.mn.us/highway_construction

Agreement dismisses BP police chief's bad review

◀ **AGREEMENT** from A1 19, 2021), the written reprimand will expire and would no longer be used as a basis for

future disciplinary action." "Greg's doing a good job," commented Iacovino.



The motion and second to approve the settlement were made by the two newest council members, Greg Johnson and Marcy Sundine. The council decision was unanimous.

In separate action, the council voted most recent evaluations of city employees Tony Motl, Nancy Vaillancourt, Greg Skillestad and Terri Zwiener.

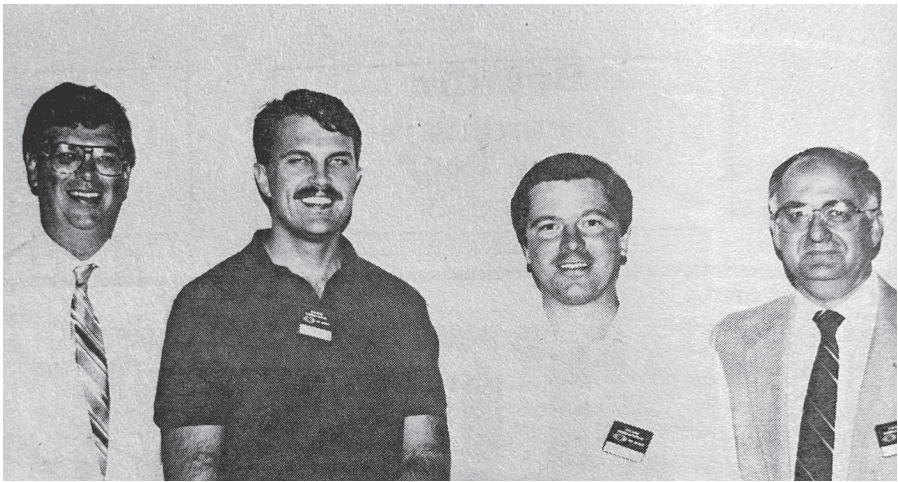
"I'm glad everyone had positive reviews," said Langholz.

The agreement, which is signed by Skillestad, Langholz, and Mayor Curt Esplan, says the chief must withdraw and dismiss his appeal to the state. The agreement also states that it does not constitute an admission by either party of any wrongdoing and is a settlement of disputed claims concerning said Performance Evaluation."

Point No. 5 says, "The parties confirm that this agreement does not require the payment of money by any party."

History from the News Archives

Noon Kiwanis club organized



FILE PHOTO

A new Kiwanis Club in Owatonna was officially organized on Wednesday, July 18, 1990. The group of 25 people met at a luncheon meeting at the Elks. The Kiwanis elected its officers, from left: Ken Bloomenrader, treasurer; Jeff Soloman, president-elect; Craig Wahl, secretary and Richard Pedersen, president. Not pictured was Gary Noble, vice president.

10 Years Ago July 12, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Casey's General Store is open and operational, though it may not look like it. The local gas station is in the beginning phase of replacing gas pumps and adding extra pumps and replacing the canopy. Manager Kay Helkenn said, "They are considering it a petroleum upgrade as it has been a long time since the pumps were put in." The news pumps should be ready for use the week of July 25. "The project needed to be done and we are happy our loyal customers are bearing with us during the construction," Kay stated.

CEDA CEO Ron Zeigler honored two local businesses from Blooming Prairie for their improvement of economic vitality for our community. TT Motorcycles was recognized for expanding its business into a new facility in downtown, which included remodeling an old building. Minimizer also received a recognition award for expanding its office headquarters and remodeling a building on the north edge of town. Both expansions happened in 2010.

20 Years July 14, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

College news of local students. Christy Olsen of Blooming Prairie has received a Bachelor of Arts Magna Cum Laude degree in Russian from University of St. Thomas. Academic honors have been received by Rachel Kramer of Blooming Prairie from UW-River Falls. Tina Pirkel has received academic distinction at UW-Eau Claire Megan Gifford, Blooming Prairie, has been accepted at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato.

DiaServe, Inc. is the new venture of Gary Noble, formerly of Blooming Prairie, and Jerry Barry, both currently living in Owatonna. Their new business is located on East Hwy 30. Theirs is a diverse company providing services in the areas of engineering, project management, sales and marketing services and business and project consulting. They currently have 12 employees with a plan to add four more in the near future. We want to thank all those who have helped us get our new business off the ground in Blooming Prairie.

50 Years Ago July 14, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Gene Francis, adult agriculture instructor at Blooming Prairie High School, has won first place in the Farm Management Exchanges of Ideas Contest at the state meeting of Minnesota Vocational Agriculture

Instructors. Entries in the contest had to be ideas used for instructional purposes. Mr. Francis' idea featured the use of an inexpensive slide projector in the exchange between farmers.

A daylight burglary occurred at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 8 at the Prairie Farm Service's Fertilizer Plant, located on Hwy. 218 in Blooming Prairie. According to police Chief James Merritt, a truck pulled into the fertilizer plant lot and a man picked up an equipment jack and drove away. The jack was valued at \$50.

75 Years Ago July 11, 1946

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER.

The United States Army has released the number of dead war heroes for World War II. These figures only include Army dead and not Navy or Marine dead. The Army has listed its dead as 308,978 dead and missing. This casualty list covers the period from May 27, 1941 through January 31, 1946. Steele County has the following record: 26 killed in action; 6 died from wounds; 8 died from non-combat causes; 3 finding of death and 1 missing in action. Freeborn County lost 84 men: 51 killed in action; 12 from wounds; 18 non-combat causes and 3 finding of death. Mower County had a total loss of 88 soldiers: 52 killed in action; 12 died of wounds; 19 non-combat deaths; 4 finding of death and 1 missing in action.

Owatonna Photo News

31 Years Ago July 12, 1990

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

The Owatonna American Legion Post 77 Marching Unit won first place Color Guard Award at the Independence Day Parade held in Blooming Prairie July 4. This is the first year the award has been given and the judges were from four states outside of Minnesota. The award-winning group included: Bob "Fuzz" Martin, chairman, Mike Bock, LaVerne Drache, Dave Hickman, Ken Huber, Mickey Johnson and Larry Reese.

The VFW Post #3723 and Ladies Auxiliary recently announced the winners of the American Creative Patriotic Art Program. The first place went to Kyle Degen, Owatonna and second place to Kevin Bronner, Claremont. Both young men attend Owatonna High School. The winners from Owatonna Christian School are Annalisa George, Owatonna and Dawn Blackman, Morristown. The entries are judged at the local level and the the district level and are based on originality, patriotism expressed, content and clarity of idea, and use of color and technique. Kyle Degen's entry went on to win 3rd place at the district level.

Longtime customers react to bank sale

◀ **Longtime** from A1 with F & M State Bank since 1953, a total of 68 years.

"I've been very happy with the F & M bank, she said. She said she came to Blooming Prairie in 1950 as a high school teacher. She married a local resident and stayed in BP.

The bank's familiarity with customers has left a powerful impression on Kubista.

"F&M Bank employees have a real concern for their customers," said Kubista.

Banking, Kubista said, has changed over the years.

"Technology has brought many changes," Kubista said. Financial reports are now done on computers and this makes a difference," she said. She praised F&M employees for providing friendly

and personal service.

"I still prefer going into the bank to do business," said Kubista, adding she was very impressed with the service provided by F&M during the pandemic. The bank lobby was closed for several months and recently reopened.

"At F&M, we can have a little conversation while doing business," Kubista said.

STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS



Sportstitch owner announces sale of business

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

If ever there was a perfect storm, Linda Klemmensen found it, in the form of a catastrophic fire, a world-wide pandemic and a trusted friend. Throw in some grandchildren, and there was really no better possible outcome.

The longtime owner of Sportstitch is selling the business, saying the sale is “kind of how it all just lined up.”

Becky Miner will take the reins Sept. 1 as the owner of Sportstitch & More, Inc., opening at 623 Sixth St. SE in Blooming Prairie. Klemmensen will continue to work with Miner through the end of the year “to help her learn the business and to ensure that the transition is flawless,” she said.

Miner, a registered nurse and care coordinator at Owatonna Hospital, is taking her first steps in the embroidery and screen-printing business – much like Klemmensen when she started the business with two sisters-in-law in September of 1994.

What started as a joke during the family Christmas of 1993 – “we should just print our own shirts!” – turned into a thriving hometown business.

Then came Jan. 28, 2020, and the early morning fire that destroyed the building that housed Sportstitch and The Bakery on Main Street.

Klemmensen salvaged what she



Sportstitch owner Linda Klemmensen, right, has sold her Blooming Prairie business to Becky Miner. The sale is effective Sept. 1; Klemmensen will stay on for the first few months to ease the transition. Sportstitch & More will be at 623 Sixth St. SE

could, including the embroidery machine and the screen printing equipment, but nearly everything else was lost to smoke and water damage. It was less than two weeks before the wedding of their only daughter.

“So I moved everything here,” she said, standing in the garage of the home she shares with her husband, Randy. “We got through that, and the wedding, then COVID hit, and every order I had got canceled.”

In hindsight, Klemmensen said, “it was a blessing in disguise,” allowing her time to itemize everything she’d lost in the fire for the insurance adjustors.

Soon enough, she’d condensed her 300 square-foot business into a three-stall garage and was back in business. She started a “shop local” program, printing shirts encouraging people to do just that, and gave half of the proceeds from each shirt to the business of the buyer’s choice.

“That kind of let everyone know that yes, we’re open,” Klemmensen said. The program sold more than 500 T-shirts, helping not only spread her message, but helping her fellow business owners.

In February, there was an announcement from that daughter who’d gotten married in the aftermath of the

fire: Grandchild No. 5 was due this summer.

“I just want to be able to help out with the babies,” Klemmensen said, and the idea of setting up the business in another Main Street location was daunting.

“It’s sad, but it just seemed like time,” she said of the decision to sell.

She called Dan Miner, who she’s known for years. He and his wife, Becky, had shown interest in buying the business, and Klemmensen asked if they were still in the market. They were, and the plan was set into motion.

It’s definitely a life change for the Miner family – which includes daughters Raylee, 11,

and Elaina, 4.

“I’ve asked myself, am I doing the right thing? Am I doing what’s right for my family?” Becky Miner admitted, quickly adding, “I do think it is.”

She grew up in Blooming Prairie and is looking forward to working in town, as well as having the flexibility of being self-employed.

Buying Sportstitch “really stuck out” as the right choice, Miner said, “because Linda has built such a great name, with great customer service and the quality that she always represents.”

Much of what happens at Sportstitch & More “will emulate what Linda already

started,” Miner said.

“I’m just following in her footsteps. Even if it’s two years down the road, I know I can call Linda and ask her” for business advice.

“I’m very thankful that Linda will be showing me the ropes” as she settles into her new role, Miner said, “and I think it’ll be OK; I’m a hands-on learner.”

“Randy and I are just so happy that Dan and Becky are doing this,” Klemmensen said. “They have the morals; they closely resemble the team effort and joint support that we’ve put into this business. They’ll take care of it like we did.”

Miner will continue to work with all current vendors, she’ll be the headquarters for Awesome Blossom gear and is working on getting an online store up and running.

The products and services will remain the same; logos and company information will be safely passed along, too, Klemmensen said.

“But be on the lookout for new ideas and products as Becky takes the reins and makes the business her own,” Klemmensen said.

She spoke several times of her gratitude for the support of her customers and the community.

“I’ve always said Sportstitch is sort of my fourth child,” Klemmensen said. “My daughter is 29, and I’ve been doing this for 27 years, so it’s bittersweet, letting it go, but it’s time for me to be a grandma.”

Friends and fellow gardeners open Starry Blooms

BY LOLA SHAFFER
TIMES INTERN

“We jumped in feet first,” said Shelley Pederson about her journey with Kim Stollard of opening Starry Blooms, a greenhouse and nursery just outside Blooming Prairie.

After leaving a job of more than 20 years last February, Stollard said she needed something to do with her time. Being an avid gardener, Stollard said she thought of opening her own greenhouse. So in April, she approached Pederson, a friend and fellow gardener, with the idea.

Having opened and managed a greenhouse in Oklahoma City, Pederson already had contacts to reach out to, she said. However,



Kim Stollard, right, and Shelley Pederson stand in Starry Blooms’ greenhouse.

there were obstacles to overcome, including buying supplies “late in the game” and keeping plants happy in the cold, wet spring, according to Pederson and Stollard. Nonetheless, in May, Starry Blooms opened for business.

Pederson said that, in addition to excellent plant quality, Starry Blooms specializes in what she calls “easy-to-grow perennials.” They said some of their most interesting plants for sale are Amsonia, Mexican Hat, Datura, Baby Tut, Angel Wings, and the list goes on.

The most rewarding part of this journey has been the community response, both women said. Customers return multiple times a week,

BY LOLA SHAFFER
TIMES INTERN

Local photographer Laura Charles, also a wife and mother of five children, says she’s committed to celebrating family through her art.

For her, family is always at the forefront of her mind.

And Charles said her family supports her through every adventure, describing them as the “arms and legs” of her business, Laura Charles Photography.

According to Charles, her husband helps her prepare for photoshoots – from setting up studio lights to rounding up wedding guests. Her children tag along as well, encouraging the little ones to smile for photos.

“They make my dream work,” she said.

Charles said her experiences as a mother, photographer, and business owner all intersect and build on each other. Taking photos requires her to be present; it teaches her to stop, appreciate, and capture those special moments with her children, she said.

“Every shot is unique,” she said, adding that they keep a moment frozen in time.

Photos encourage reminiscing and storytelling, she said. Moreover, Charles said that, for some clients, the family photos she captures are the last ones with a loved one who passed away. She said that those photos are priceless.

Professional photographers can be expensive, Charles said, so some families do not consider hiring a photographer to be a practical priority. She said that she tries to keep the cost down for her clients because she does not want them to choose between feeding their families or capturing their memories.

To get to know her clients, Charles said that she asks them questions regarding what they want, such as backdrops or props. She said that she tries to keep her clients involved throughout the entire process.

She said her photography consumes a great deal of her time. To edit photos from a family

See **PHOTOGRAPHER** on A7 ▶

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Collision Specialists chosen as certified repair shop

Collision Specialists, Inc. of Austin is now a certified collision repair shop, which ensures customers that their collision repairs will adhere to the latest industry quality and safety standards. This new certification guarantees that collision repairs will be performed according to the manufacturer's repair protocol by a properly trained and qualified technician, using the correct tools and equipment for the job. This certification was provided by Assured Performance Collision Care of Aliso Viejo, Calif., a nonprofit consumer advocacy

organization that promotes automotive safety within the collision care industry. The new certifications for Collision Specialists come with industry recognition by the top automotive manufacturers including Assured Performance, FCA, Hyundai, Kia, and Nissan. Collision Specialists is now an integral part of the most advanced repair-capable and efficient collision care network in the world. This certification supports our reputation for serving our community with superior customer service. We believe in providing our customers with



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Collision Specialists of Austin has been named a certified collision repair shop by a national consumer advocacy organization.

the peace of mind that their vehicles are being repaired properly by highly trained professionals who genuinely care about them. The automotive collision repair cer-

tification process is rigorous; less than 5% of all body shops in the U.S. are able to meet the stringent requirements imposed by the manufacturers to ensure quality and safety in

their repairs. "Newer vehicles are manufactured with durable, lightweight materials and advanced technology, which means that a repair performed in

accordance to the manufacturer's specifications is more important than ever and ensures the safety and proper performance of the vehicle," explained Scott Biggs, CEO of Assured Performance Collision Care. "Consumers need the confidence and peace of mind to know their vehicle is being repaired by a shop that has what it takes to ensure vehicle safety. We have certified more than 3,500 shops across the country to make sure consumers can have their vehicle repaired by a certified shop wherever they live, work, or travel."

Dietz joins RE/MAX Venture

Matt Gillard, broker/owner of RE/MAX Venture, is pleased to announce Stephanie Dietz as the newest agent to join the Owatonna RE/MAX office. "It seems I have been on a journey toward real estate for a long time, starting with my choice to shadow a local realtor for a high school

assignment," said Dietz. "Later, while working in sales of high-rise luxury apartments in Minneapolis, I realized how much I loved helping people achieve their dreams of home ownership." Dietz said, "I have gained so much experience in my 15 years of consultative selling and customer service in oth-

er industries, and I am excited to apply these skills to helping clients during the milestone events that often accompany the decision to buy or sell a home." She added, "I met Matt Gillard when he helped us with our own Owatonna home search years ago. He and Deb are great people build-

ing a great real estate team that I knew I wanted to be a part of." Gillard said he has been talking with Dietz about becoming an agent off and on for several years. "Stephanie was born and raised in Owatonna so she has strong local family and friend connections," he said. "She is a go-getter

who will take excellent care of her clients. She'll represent our office well." RE/MAX Venture is located at 118 N. Cedar Ave. in Owatonna and serves the surrounding areas, specializing in residential, small acreage, investment and commercial properties.



Stephanie Dietz

F&M Bank in BP is sold

◀ **F&M** from A1 bank. The sale also includes F&M's Austin branch and Citizens State Bank of Hayfield with branches in Hayfield, Dodge Center and Mantorville. MBT Bank of Forest City announced late Friday it has entered into an agreement to acquire the banks. The sale, pending federal approval, is expected to close in September. In making the announcement, Dennis Busta, president and CEO of MBT Bank, said, "For over 75 years, we have served our communities and customers the way F&M and CSB

have. We are excited to have these two family-owned banks and their employees become part of MBT Bank." F&M Bank President Jim Fiebiger, who has worked at the Blooming Prairie location since 1983, said, "Our identical banking philosophy will provide more and better banking products for our customers, but will also maintain the local, friendly banking environment our customers have grown accustomed to." Mark Miedtke, president of CSB, said the sale is a great opportunity for the banks, staff and communities

to move forward. "Like MBT Bank, our dedicated employees take pride in offering personal customer service," he said. MBT Bank, which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year, has branch offices in Forest City, Clear Lake, Lake Mills Rochester. CSB has assets of \$130 million, while F&M has assets of \$110 million. Upon the closing of the sale, MBT Bank will have total assets of \$680 million. F&M has been a fixture on Blooming Prairie's Main Street since 1904 when Oscar Habberstad led a group of individuals in opening the bank. The bank has been housed in several downtown locations. It moved to its current location at 245 E. Main St., in 1981. The Austin branch was built in 1998. Both the Blooming and Hayfield banks

"We are excited to have these two family-owned banks and their employees become part of MBT Bank."

Dennis Busta
MBT Bank President

BANK SALE AT GLANCE

- MBT Bank of Forest City has purchased F&M Bank of BP and Citizens State Bank of Hayfield
- F&M assets- \$110 million; CSB assets- \$130 million; After sale, MBT assets- \$680 million
- Terms not disclosed
- Sale pending federal approval
- Expected to close in September

Friends and fellow gardeners open Starry Blooms

◀ **FRIENDS** from A6 needing more flowers to complete their projects. "We thank the community for welcoming us." Community is important to Pederson and Stollard. For example, Starry Blooms donated flowers and pots to NRHEG for students. Stollard also recently worked with children from the Blooming Prairie Youth Club planting flowers and vegetables; the children will sell the vegetables to raise money for the Youth Club.

"I like to grow things," said Pederson, adding that goes for a plant, business, or friendship. On a typical workday, Stollard wakes up at 5:30 a.m., and it isn't until 8 p.m. that she heads inside. Pederson said that she spends several hours calling people and making orders to arrange plants and supplies, plus more. Since opening Starry Blooms, Pederson said they have used one pallet of soil, which holds about

60 30-pound bags. She estimated that they also bought about 650 plastic pots—not including the smaller, 4-inch pots or other plastic containers. Pederson and Stollard have reused, recycled, and repurposed materials to minimize the business' start-up costs and their impact on the environment. They said they built the greenhouse at Starry Blooms from items found on Stollard's property, including a round pen used for horses.

And, according to Pederson, undamaged plastic pots are sanitized and used to replant starters taken from their gardens; any remaining plastic is recycled. Both invite customers and other gardeners to join Starry Blooms' group on Facebook. With more than 400 members, the group is like another community, only online, said Stollard. There, gardeners ask questions, share tips, and post photos of their plants or yard projects.

Photographer celebrates family through the lens

◀ **PHOTOGRAPHER** from A6 session, Charles said she spends about four hours total, while those from a wedding session take about 12 to 24 hours to edit. Charles said that she is thankful for her clients, who quickly became friends, and tries to stay in touch with them. "Laura Charles Photography is here for the people of Steele County," Charles said, adding that "it's a blessing to share my gift." Having grown up in New York, Charles said that she developed good people skills, which is

crucial to being a photographer and running a business. "I love meeting new people and visiting new places," she said. Traveling across the United States and the Caribbean, Charles has been taking photos for more than 25 years. She has taken both college and freelance classes on photography. In 2020, Charles was also published in The Creative Collective Magazine for its Women Empowerment issue. To contact Charles said people can visit her website or look for Laura Charles Photography on Facebook.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Laura Charles celebrates family through the photos she takes and feels honored to capture people's special moments.

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State courts lift face mask mandate

Face coverings are no longer required in Minnesota's courts.

Beginning on Tuesday, the Minnesota Judicial Branch lifted the face covering requirement that has been in place throughout the pandemic.

"As the pandemic's impact on Minnesota continues to recede, so too will some of the health and safety protocols that were in place in our district and appellate courts," said Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea.

Judges, employees, and courthouse visitors

will still be allowed to wear face coverings in court facilities if they choose to do so, although judges may direct people to remove face coverings as necessary to conduct court hearings.

There will continue to be limitations on the types of in-person activities that take place at court facilities through Sept. 6. The following is summary of current court operations:

• **In-Person Hearings and Trials:** Criminal Jury Trials; Civil Jury Trials; court trials in Major Criminal,

Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Protection (including Child in Need of Protection or Services and Permanency case types); Criminal Settlement Conferences; and Grand Jury Proceedings continue to take place in-person. Mandatory misdemeanor criminal trials and contested hearings in these cases can be held in person beginning Aug. 2.

• **Remote Hearings:** All other district court proceedings are being held remotely unless the chief judge of the

judicial district grants permission for an in-person proceeding based on extenuating circumstances.

• **Appellate Courts:** Proceedings in appeals before the Minnesota Court of Appeals and the Minnesota Supreme Court will continue as scheduled by those courts.

• **Civil Commitment:** Proceedings before the Commitment Appeal Panel will continue as scheduled by the Panel, and may be conducted by remote technology.

• **Public Service Counters:** At least one public service counter in each county, and one in the appellate courts, will be accessible between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, excluding court holidays. Counter service can be provided remotely, by appointment, or in person.

• **Self-Help Services** continue to be conducted by remotely, by appointment or by telephone.

• **Courthouse (public access)Terminals** are available based on

hours established by the local district court.

The presiding judge may limit the number of persons in attendance at an in-person proceeding, other than the parties, attorneys representing the parties, and necessary court staff, if required by local conditions.

The Judicial Branch has also suspended requirements in its COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and Jury Management Resource Team recommendations for jury trials during COVID-19.

PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ **BLOTTER** from **A4**

to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Daniel J. Wolfe, 65, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Yony J. Zavala Garcia, 34, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cody T. Becker, 22,

Rochester, speeding, \$135; Mara P. Dealing, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Douglas C. Deitert, 54, Waterville, cancelled license, \$250, 100 days in county; Jerith D. Ellis, 25, Janesville, hands free violation, \$125; Shawnna M. Fox, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Rodolfo Garciaresendiz, 21, Hawthorne, CA, speeding, \$135; Diego C. Hernandez, 22, Mankato, speeding,

\$115; Kristen R. Huseby, 39, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; Roy M. Johnston, 72, Punta Gorda, FL, speeding, \$135; Nathan H. Knutson, 34, Burnsville, speeding, \$275; Brandon L. Link, 44, Big Lake, speeding, \$115; Trent K. Lueth, 30, Byron, speeding, \$115; Michelle R. Lund, 41, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Hannah A. McDonald, 23, Bettendorf, IA, speeding, \$115; Carla L. Miska, 44, Elysian, speeding, \$135; Jansean T. Morales, 34, North Mankato, speeding, \$135; Morgan N. Morehead, 28, Dallas, TX, speeding, \$135; Maria L. Paz-Munguia, 62, Pharr, TX, speeding, \$125; Tamunoiminabo M. Roberts, 22, Woodbury, speeding, \$135; Michael T. Schmitt, 44, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Sara M. Schumacher, 42, New Richland, speeding, \$115; Jason R. Scinto, 35, Kenyon, revoked license, \$275; Siah M. Tamba, 22, Brooklyn Park, revoked license, \$275; Dezray A. Unverzagt, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Andrew R. Wilson, 29, Austin, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 200 block of 4th St. NE at 11:56 p.m.

July 4

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 300 block of Highway Ave. S. at 11 p.m.

July 5

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Highway 218 and 123rd St. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 1:42 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

July 2

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 10:31 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. at 12:03 p.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest at Highway 14 E. and Cedar Ave. S. in Owatonna Township at 10:11 p.m.

July 3

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:36 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:20 p.m.

Burglary: Officers began a burglary investigation in the 500 block of Kim Lane SW at 8:05 p.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 10:59 p.m.

July 4

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 11:16 a.m.

Crash: Police responded to motor vehicle accidents with injuries at Rose St. E. and Grove Ave. N. at 11:33 a.m. and at Park St. SE and Austin Road SE at 10:35 p.m.

July 5

Hit and Run: At 7:40 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 8:38 p.m.

July 6

Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 300 block of Main St. E. at 11:25 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 2400 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:08 p.m.

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 600 block of Rice Lake St. E. at 6:12 p.m.

July 7

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:41 p.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 10:34 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

July 8

Shoplifting: Shoplifting incidents occurred in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 7:21 a.m. and the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:51 a.m.

Crash: At 10:09 a.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 2400 block of Stony Creek Dr. NE.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 1000 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:09 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

July 2

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 3200 block of Cedar Ave. N. in Clinton Falls Township at 9:44 a.m.

July 4

Burglary: Deputies

responded to a burglary in the 400 block of Main St. S. in Medford at 3:27 a.m.

July 5

Hit and Run: At 12:53 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred at Highway 14 E. and County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township.

July 6

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 300 block of 2nd St. SE in Medford at 10:39 a.m.

Restraining Order: Deputies arrested a subject for a restraining order violation in the 6300 block of 62nd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 1:37 p.m.

July 7

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 1:29 a.m.

July 8

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:35 a.m.

Animal: At 2:17 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported at Crestview Lane NE and Edgewood Dr. NE at 6:55 p.m.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Antonio William Gavitt, 24, arrested at 12:35 a.m. July 8, felony domestic assault and terroristic threats, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Michael John Bolton, 36, arrested at 3:40 p.m. July 6, order for protection violation, held for court. Skylar Allen Johnson, 20, arrested at 1:29 a.m. July 7, warrant arrest, \$300 bail.

Shelly Ann Barbian, 44, arrested at 12:30 p.m. July 7, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 20 – 27:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Tosha M. Abel, 40, Owatonna, speeding, \$280; Andrew E. Dolney, 46, Medford, speeding, \$120; Danny L. Freier, 65, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Sophia K. Gossard, 20, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Roger W. Johnson, 63, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Mitchell A. Mart, 23, Rochester, speeding, \$280; George L. Overturf, 40, Clarks Grove, speeding, \$140; Cole W. Rasmussen, 21, West Concord, expired tabs, \$110; Garrick R. Sneed, 47, Grand Meadow, revoked license, \$280; Brian L. Trevino, 28, Mantorville, suspended license, \$280; Daniel J. Vicker, 41, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Joseph D. Wilcox, 46, Rochester, seat belt, \$105.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Whitney M. Bartley, 33, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Steven L. Bays, 52, Gahanna, OH, seat belt, \$105; Matthew A. Johnson, 20, Coon Rapids,

distribute via electronic communication material that relates/describes sexual conduct to a child, stay of adjudication, \$1,075, no contact with victim, write letter of apology, no access to Internet without approval, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend sex offender program, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Aidan M. Hugeback, 18, Hayfield, speeding, \$130; Matthew M. Murphy, 35, Rochester, speeding, \$80; James V. Parker, 57, Brownsdale, seat belt, \$105; Tyler W. Remold, 33, Byron, speeding, \$220; Jesus A. Rodriguez Floriano, 23, Kasson, speeding, \$380 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Skye T. Ronken, 40, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Alexander K. Saunders, 16, Waltham, speeding, \$130; Jose A. Zavala, 54, Rochester, speeding, \$140.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Eddie J. Burks III, 36, Inver Grove Heights, revoked license, \$280.

OWATONNA FIRE

July 2

Crash: At 12:04 p.m., fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Hoffman Dr. and North St.

Spill: At 2:29 p.m., a gas spill occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Fire: Fire personnel responded to a dumpster fire in the 400 block of Elm Ave. S. at 10:33 p.m.

July 3

Crash: At 6:48 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 700 block of State Ave. NW.

Fire: Firefighters responded to a dumpster fire in the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 11:04 a.m.

Grass Fire: Fire personnel responded to a grass fire in the 7500 block of U.S. Hwy. 14 W. at 1:32 p.m.

July 4

Crash: Fire rescue responded to motor vehicle accidents with injuries at Rose St. E. and Grove Ave. N. at 11:35 a.m. and at Park St. SE and Austin Road SE at 10:36 p.m.

Fire: At 11:54 p.m., a dumpster fire occurred in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW.

July 5

Crash: Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 500 block of 24th Ave. NW at 5:35 p.m.

July 6

Gas Leak: At 7:47 a.m., a gas leak occurred in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N.

July 7

Medical: Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 2400 block of 4th Ave. NW at 8:40 a.m.

Gas Leak: At 10:54 a.m., a gas leak occurred at Truman Ave. SE and Phelps St.

Crash: At 11:26 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at Cedar Ave. and Park St.

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

How does Social Security fit into retirement?

Here's something to think about: You could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. To meet your income needs for all those years, you'll generally need a sizable amount of retirement assets. How will Social Security fit into the picture?

For most people, Social Security won't be enough to cover the cost of living in retirement. Nonetheless, Social Security benefits are still valuable, so you'll want to do whatever you can to maximize them.

Your first move is to determine when you should start taking Social Security. You can begin collecting benefits when you reach 62 – but should you? If you were to turn 62 this year, your payments would only be about 71% of what you'd get if you waited until your full retirement age, which is 66 years and 10 months. ("Full retirement age" varies, depending on when you were born, but for most people today, it will be between 66 and 67.) Every month you wait between now and your full retirement age, your benefits will increase. If you still want to delay taking benefits beyond your full retirement age, your payments will increase by 8% each year, until you're 70, when they "max out." Regardless of when you file, you'll also receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

So, when should you start claiming your benefits? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. If you turn 62 and you need the money, your choice might be made for you. But if you have sufficient income from other sources, you're in good health and you have longevity in your family, or you're still working, it might be worthwhile to wait until your full retirement age, or perhaps even longer, to start collecting.

Another key consideration is spousal benefits. If your own full retirement benefit is less than 50% of your spouse's full retirement benefit, you would generally be eligible to claim spousal benefits, provided you're at least 62 and your spouse has filed for Social Security benefits.

Survivor benefits are another important consideration. When you pass away, your spouse would be able to receive up to 100% of your benefit or his/her own retirement benefit, whichever is higher. Thus, delaying Social Security could not only increase your own benefit, but also the benefit for your surviving spouse.

An additional issue to think about, when planning for how Social Security fits into your retirement, is your earned income. If you're younger than full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced by \$1 for each \$2 you earn above a certain amount, which, in 2021, is \$18,960. During the year you reach full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced by \$1 for each \$3 you earn above a set amount (\$50,520 in 2021). But once you hit the month at which you attain full retirement age, and from that point on, you can keep all of your benefits, no matter how much you earn (although your benefits could still be taxed).

One final point to keep in mind: The more you accumulate in your other retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan, the more flexibility you'll have in managing your Social Security benefits. So, throughout your working years, try to contribute as much as you can afford to these plans.

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

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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Vera Beers, 100, Owatonna



Vera Beers

Vera Irma Beers, age 100, died Saturday, July 3, 2021 at Homestead Hospice House of Owatonna.

She was born May 26, 1921 in Altoona Township to Clarence and Velma (Scholl-jegerdes) Priem. Her family bought a farm and moved to Somerset Township of Steele County when she was age 7. She attended District 22 and completed the eighth grade. She was confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca and in later years faithfully attended Trinity Lutheran Church.

Vera married Arthur C. Beers at the Little Brown Church in the Vale in Nashua, Iowa on Jan. 7, 1940 and they were blessed with two children, Karen (Beers)

Matson and Larry Beers. They later divorced and she continued to live in Owatonna.

Vera worked for many years as kitchen staff at Jerry's Supper Club in Owatonna. She enjoyed playing cards with several card clubs, caring for chickens as a farmer's wife and homemaker, baking pies for the Beers Cafe and homemade angel food cakes, prayer group and bible studies at Trinity Lutheran Church, making morning coffee for her building mates at Maple Trails and enjoying many lifelong friendships in Owatonna. She also LOVED her cats and was never without them!

She is survived by daughter Karen (Beers) Matson of Wayzata; grandchildren Kristen Numedahl (and Gary) of Bigfork, Minn., Nicole Melgaard (and Cordell) of Owatonna, Bridgette Ray (and Dennis) of Lehigh Acres, Fla., Benjamin Imker (and Curt Lund) of Minneapolis, and Randi Beers (Daniel Campbell) of Yellowknife, Northwest Territory, Canada; great grandchildren: Taylor Numedahl,

Lauren Numedahl, Isabella Melgaard, Liam Melgaard, and Wally Campbell; daughters-in-law Genelle Ann Pafko and Jodi Beers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Velma and Clarence Priem, ex-husband Arthur Beers, brother Carroll Priem and wife Ann, son Larry Beers and son-in-law Gary Matson.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at Trinity Lutheran Church. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m., Monday, July 19, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church of Owatonna with Pastor Amanda Floy officiating. Interment will be at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

Memorials preferred to Our Savior's Lutheran Church Weekend Pantry Children's Food Program or Trinity Lutheran Church Student Pantry.

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

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Joseph "Joe" A. Brookins, 72, Ellendale



Joseph Brookins

Joseph "Joe" Allen Brookins, 72, of Ellendale, died Thursday, July 8, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

He was born Aug. 18, 1948 in Cresco, Iowa the son of Robert and Isabelle (Drewelo) Brookins. He grew up in Cresco and graduated from Cresco High School in 1966.

Joe was a dairy farmer, worked for his brother Roger, worked in maintenance at Jennie-O in Medford and part-time at

Cabela's in maintenance.

On May 31, 1997, he married Georgyann Piepho at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna.

Joe enjoyed fishing trips up north, hunting, vegetable and flower gardening, playing cards (Polish Pfeffer) with friends, and spending time at the time-share in Detroit Lakes.

He is survived by his wife, Georgyann Brookins; children, Kevin Brookins, Jody (Jill) Brookins, Peggy Ahmetasevic, Barbie (Dean) Hofschulte, Rodney (Stephanie) Brookins, Angela (Robert) Carr, Dupree (Will) Tesmer, Matthew (Tiffany) Tuftte and Dustin (Ashley) Tuftte; siblings, Art (Doris) Brookins, Val Pettit, Judy Brookins, Joann (Ron) Brookins, Bonnie Dawley and Alberta (John) Linneman;

sister-in-law, Elaine Brookins; grandchildren, Wonice, Dakota, Dalton, Makayla, Marshal, Wyatt, Lincoln, Alexandria, Nova, Madelyn, Cailey, Colton, Raya, Ava, Troy, Logan, Cooper, Brandy, Macey, Katie, Brooke and Blake; great-grandchildren, Wonice, Jr., Cora and Layton; step-children, Heather Cox and Angel Piepho and step-grandchildren, Elijah and Abigail.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Isabelle; brother, Roger and granddaughter, Amanda.

A Celebration of Life was held at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Rev. Kyle Smith officiated. Interment was in Owatonna Memorial Gardens in Owatonna.

Michaelson Funeral Homes of Owatonna handled the arrangements.

Jean Shaw, 92, Blooming Prairie



Jean Shaw

Jean Shaw, 92, of Blooming Prairie passed away peacefully in Olympia, Wash., on June 30, 2021.

Jean was born on July 4, 1928 in Dover, Minn., the daughter of Hazel and Fred Hein. She attended country school through eighth grade and graduated

from Plainview High School. Jean attended Winona State Teachers college and continued her education at the University of Colorado, Boulder, graduating with a B.S. degree.

Jean married John "Jack" Shaw in 1951. After teaching in Owatonna and Anoka, she and Jack returned to Blooming Prairie. Jean taught for 42 years in the Blooming Prairie school system from kindergarten to second grade, and in the Chapter 1 program. She retired from teaching in 1990, and traveled yearly with Jack to visit their children in Olympia and Boulder.

Jean was a member of the First Lutheran Church, and loved to

garden, sew, quilt and visit with her friends at The Bakery. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Jean is survived by her children, Sandy (Brian) Kerrigan of Olympia, and Marty (Robin) of Broomfield, Colo.; five grandchildren, Rosalie, Katherine, Jason, Joshua and Jennifer; nine great-grandchildren; and niece, Mary (Jerry) Lowery of Winona, Minnesota.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack; her parents; and her brother, Donald Hein.

There will be a private family gathering.

Please leave condolences for the family or share memories at www.FuneralAlternatives.org.

Betsy Kriesel, 78, Owatonna



Betsy Kriesel

Betsy Kriesel, 78, of Owatonna passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020 at Mill City Senior Living in Faribault after a lengthy battle with dementia.

Betsy was born on June 15, 1942 to William and Eleanor Hinchley in Morristown. She attended country school in Deerfield and then graduated from Medford High School in 1960.

On Nov. 28, 1964, she married Billy Kriesel Jr. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Owatonna.

Following their marriage, they settled on the Kriesel family farm in rural Owatonna. For many years, Betsy supported her husband on the family farm. Later, she managed the Pizza Hut in Owatonna

for many years.

In 1987, she and Billy moved to a home on State Avenue in Owatonna. After retiring from the Pizza Hut, Betsy worked as the secretary at Medford Public Schools until a brain tumor sidelined her career. With the support of her husband, Betsy made a full recovery from her surgery and subsequent stroke. Betsy was an avid antique collector and was passionate about decorating her home. She loved country decor, visiting craft shops, and her blue PT Cruiser. She took pride in her well-manicured yard, flower beds, and pergola built by Billy.

Later in life, Betsy loved all things purple... including the purple streaks in her hair! And of course, she was a self-proclaimed "chocoholic"! Betsy's greatest joy in life, however, was her family and her grandchildren!

Betsy is survived by her two daughters, Terri (Brad) Reis of Forest Lake and Traci (Erik) Danley of Frapp Island, S.C.; three grandchildren whom she loved dearly, McKenna (Dan)

Mollet, Madison Reis, and Spencer Danley. Brothers and sisters include Yvonne Green, William (Genelle) Hinchley, Anita (Bob) Willhite, Rick (Patty) Hinchley, Sandy Wolters, and Bob (Pam) Hinchley.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Billy, her parents, and her brother Jim (Pat) Hinchley.

The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to the staff of Mill City Memory Care and Brighton Hospice for their amazing love and care.

Betsy's life will be celebrated Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. with a memorial gathering of family and friends at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home. There will be a visitation prior to the memorial service beginning at 12:30 p.m. Interment will be in St. John Cemetery in Owatonna immediately following the service.

Memorials are preferred to the family through Brick-Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Bridget Johnson, 56, Owatonna



Bridget Johnson

Bridget C. Johnson (Murphy), age 56, of Owatonna, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 3, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital surrounded by family.

Bridget was born on July 17, 1964 in Minneapolis to Gene and Mary Murphy. She grew up in Crystal. For the last 11 years, Bridget enjoyed being a registered nurse and

caring for others. Bridget was a free spirit, and loved to have a good time. Some of her favorite things to do were spending time with her children and granddaughter. She loved being at the cabin, having bonfires, and spending time with her six animals. Bridget not only had a kind and generous heart for her loved ones and patients, but also opened her arms and welcomed many pets/strays alike that needed her help.

Bridget was a loving daughter, sister, mother, wife and grandma.

She was preceded in death by her father Gene Murphy, sister Patricia, and grandpa Patrick Murphy who welcomed her at

the gates of heaven. She leaves to cherish her memories her mother, Mary Murphy, sister Jeanne McKasy (Murphy); two brothers, Steve Murphy and Dan Murphy; daughter, Hannah Johnson; son, Jordan Lingenfelter; granddaughter Sophia Garza; husband, Steven Johnson and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The celebration of life was held on Friday, July 9, 2021 at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to an animal shelter.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Jerris Hodnefield, 92, Blooming Prairie



Jerris Hodnefield

Jerris Louise Boeke Blome Hodnefield was born Jan. 30, 1929 at home on the farm to Louise Augusta Matilda (Mannetter) Boeke and Russell Ruby Boeke in Hubbard, Iowa.

She passed away on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie at 92 years old.

In 1999, Jerris was diagnosed with stage four melanoma and given approximately a year to live. With God's grace the Holy Spirit spoke to Jerris and she was healed. Because of this miracle we have been blessed with her presence for an additional 22 years. Praise and glorify God for His love and mercy.

Jerris attended Grant #3 Country School at the age of six in Hubbard. This was the same school her father and his mother had attended. She transferred to the Hubbard Public School in town for junior and senior high school. She grew up in a loving home and had many cousins.

She married Martin Wayne Blome in Hubbard on Dec. 6, 1946. They rented different farms in the Hubbard area for 13 years. In 1959, they bought a farm near Waltham. After 15 years, they

sold the farm and built a home in Blooming Prairie.

They built a Casey's convenience store in Hayfield, in 1979, and Jerris helped run the store with Martin. After moving to town, Jerris decided to sell Avon door-to-door. It got her out of the house and she was able to use her "gift of gab" with her customers, friends, and neighbors. Martin and Jerris were blessed with four children. Martin died on April 29, 1998.

Jerris married Wilbur (Bill) Hodnefield of Radcliffe, Iowa, on Nov. 20, 2006 at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. Bill passed away April 30, 2017.

Since she was a girl, and throughout her life, Jerris always had a pet as her companion. She especially loved her dogs and felt life was not worth living without one. In the early years of being married to Martin, she started raising and selling Boston Terriers and later on expanded to Saint Bernards and Schipperkes while they lived on the farm.

Another favorite part of Jerris's life is that she loved camping. Even after Martin passed away, she bought herself a camper she could drive and manage on her own. Additionally, Jerris was an avid reader; a book or magazine was never far from her hands.

She is survived by her three sons: Thomas (Doreen) Blome, Kurtis (Barbara) Blome and Joel (Linda) Blome of Blooming Prairie, one daughter Cynthia (Dennis) Branstad of Owatonna, and her loving caregiver, Sadie

Steele. She had seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Kay (Boeke) Johnson of Union, Iowa, as well as sister-in-law Irma Blome of Hubbard, and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents Russell and Louise Boeke; husbands Martin Blome and Bill Hodnefield; brothers-in-law Lynn Johnson, Harold Blome, Jerry Hindman, and Irvin Ritland, sisters-in-law Arlene Hindman and Doris Ritland, and nephew David Ritland.

Jerris's faith and love of Jesus has been shared with many. Even during difficult times, she was uncompromising and stayed positive. Her cheerful, optimistic outlook on life and Boeke sense of humor will be missed by all.

Funeral services were held at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, on Monday, July 12, 2021. Interment was in First Lutheran Cemetery, Blooming Prairie.

The family would like to thank Prairie Manor Care Center and St. Croix Hospice for the wonderful care they provided Jerris. Services are prearranged and performed by Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

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BOOK NOOK

Tails and Tales
going strong



NANCY
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As we approach the midway mark of summer, our Tails and Tales program is going strong at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

We have enjoyed having kids at our weekly story times in the park. Others view story times via Facebook at their convenience. Take & Make bags based on our story time themes are available weekly. You can also go on a bear hunt downtown with the StoryWalk beginning at HomeSellers.

You can also join us on Facebook to see our four special virtual programs that will be online for a short time more. Just look for the ZooMan, the National Eagle Center, and Bazillions. We learned things about how animals use their tails and how amazing eagles are. The Bazillions' songs put a smile on our faces and a dance in our steps. We look forward to next year with hopes that these same groups can join us in person.

There is one more virtual program coming up on Wednesday, July 14, at 10 a.m. Our favorite magician, Greg Skillestad, will be performing Mystifying Magic on Facebook Live.

Skillestad is well-known in our town as our police chief but it's fun for the kids to see him in his magic role. It will be different without the kids in person, but it is guaranteed to be entertaining!

Finally, keep on reading so that you can choose books at our Book Fair the week of Aug. 24. See you at the library!

New drug-free coordinator reaching out to youth about risks of drinking

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Mackenzie Snow plans to talk with young people – early, often and openly – about the risks of underage drinking, tobacco use and drugs. It's her mission as coordinator of the Steele County Safe and Drug-Free Coalition.

"Most kids aren't drinking," said Snow. "It's not the norm. But that's not to say there isn't a problem."

And for those who do, Snow's message is simple: You don't need alcohol, tobacco or drugs to have fun or fit in.

Statistically, Steele County teens are slightly above the state average when it comes to alcohol use. According to the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey, 16% of Steele County students in grades 8, 9 and 11 reported drinking alcohol on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey, compared to 13% statewide.

"My goal is to reach as many kids as possible and to make a difference," said Snow, who's been on the job for about three months.

"I have cousins still struggling with addiction and was married to a meth addict for four years before I got the courage to leave," said the 28-year-old. "We need to reach our youth."

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 90% of Americans with a substance abuse problem started smoking, drinking or using other drugs before age 18. The age someone starts to use substances increases the risk of developing addictions and other health problems later in life.

One of Snow's first projects was the Sticker Shock Campaign, designed to reach adults who might purchase alcohol legally and provide it to minors.

Snow said she put stickers on cases of beer and boxes of wine – products that might appeal to underage drinkers – at seven liquor stores in Blooming Prairie, Medford and Owatonna.

This summer, Snow said she's spent a lot of time at community events – meeting kids.

And, she said, she's looking forward to the Steele County fair, where the group will display a teen's bedroom set up with drug paraphernalia "Hidden in Plain Sight."

The booth gives parents an idea of what they could be missing in their child's bedroom, said Snow. For example, the display includes a bottle of suntan lotion that's really a flask.

Anyone interested in volunteering to work at the fair booth can email Snow at safedrugfree@united-waysteelecounty.org.

In the fall, Snow plans to work with schools and the Students Helping Others Choose (SHOC) organization to get her message out to students.

"I love how much I get to be out with the people and in the community," said Snow. "I've always loved helping people."

Before joining the Steele County Safe and Drug-Free Coalition, Snow worked as a pharmacy tech for Mayo in Rochester. She earned her Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts from Rochester Community and Technical College with an emphasis in special education and course work in chemical and mental health.

The Steele County Safe and Drug-Free Coalition was founded in 2009 and is funded by a Drug-Free Communities Grant through SAMHSA. United Way of Steele County serves as the organization's fiscal agent.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Steele County Safe and Drug-Free Coalition Coordinator Mackenzie Snow loves attending community events to talk with young people and their parents about the risks of underage drinking, tobacco and drug use.



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BIRTHDAYS

July 14
Josh Walerius
Kendyl Sunde
Marilyn Wagner
Pat Njos
Kyler Christianson
Bradley Simon
Zachary Koster
Jeffrey Bruns



July 17
Emmett Bruggeman
Marcy Sundine

July 18
Peter Iversen
Sandra Novak

July 19
Andrea Butler

July 20
Jean Schwartz
Luke Krebs
Alan Morton
Mary Kittelson

July 15
Bill Noble

July 16
Jeff Glynn
Amber Konz
Bruce Christianson
Judy Schafer
Justin Munson
Janis Lueth



ANNIVERSARIES

July 13
Tim & Sandy Bass

July 14
John & Lisa Bruns

July 15
Chad & Tara Gimbel

July 16
1. & Jean Peterson

July 17
Eric & Shawn Johnson
Orlo & Kay Toquam

July 18
Randy & Linda Klemmensen
Craig & Robyn Kruckeberg
Danielle & Roger Hein

July 19
Charlie & Mary Wallace
Pam & Tom Johnson

July 20
Dean & Joleen Zilm
Jerry & Carol Ingvalson
Lisa & Steve Vaith



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Stepping back in time

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

More than 1,000 people took part in the annual Steele County Historical Society Extravaganza on Sunday. The annual event, started in 1987, celebrates the heritage and history of Steele County's past. The Skally Line from Sandstone, right, entertained the crowd with their Americana music filled with stories about life in the area more than 100 years ago. Steve and Nancy Hunt of Medford, below, provided wagon rides around the Village of Yesteryear throughout the day

Making Minnesota safer and stronger

◀ MAKING from A2

Minnesotans is the significant tax relief we passed. Not only are there no increases to your taxes, but there are also nearly \$2 billion in tax cuts. These aren't going to only big corporations, but also to small-town mom and pop shops we know and love in our communities. Even after the last year of loss and hardship, the Democrats advocated for raising taxes. We said no. The tax budget prioritizes the needs of Minnesotans and the recovery of our state. We finally got PPP tax conformity passed by the entire Legislature, which greatly benefits our small business community who relied on this aid throughout the last year. I heard a lot about how important this was from our local communities, and I strongly advocated for it all the way through.

Last, but not least, after 15 months of operating under unilateral decision-making, the Senate ended Governor Walz's Emergency Powers. He tried to use this step as a negotiating tool for further demands, but we did not agree to his terms 15 months ago, and certainly did not agree to his last-minute demands. Minnesota is back to operating with three equal branches of government, something everyone should be very pleased about. The citizens, through their state senators and representatives, again have a voice in our state's direction. Rest assured the Governor's Emergency Powers will be a hot topic in our next session. We all agreed that at the beginning of the pandemic this was a positive step, but NO Governor should be able to use emergency powers as a tool to make policy "unrelated to the emergency".

On Wednesday, July 7, 2021, the Senate adjourned sine die (with no further meetings this year), and just like that, my first Session as your State Senator is finished. While this year had many challenges between Zoom hearings and being a new legislator, I am proud of the work we were able to accomplish. Being on the ground at the Capitol and being the voice of our communities is truly an honor.

While session may be over, my work is not done. Now I will have the chance to stay in district, meet with my constituents, and gear up for another Session in 2022. I would be happy to hear from you on any legislative or local issues you may have! You can reach out to my office at Sen.Gene.Dornink@Senate.MN or call me at 651-296-5240.

Gene Dornink is a Minnesota senator representing District 27, which includes the City of Blooming Prairie, southern Dodge County and most of Freeborn and Mower counties. He lives in rural Hayfield.



**Pastor
Matt Fennell**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

The concept of a “foundation” is indeed a most crucial matter indeed. It matters not if one is discussing education, finance or indeed the entirety of the world of construction or architecture this singular subject stands out as primary.

Why is it so important? Quite simply for the simple reason that if one gets the foundation

wrong, everything built upon it will be compromised, vulnerable and unstable. The child who fails to gain a firm grasp of the foundational concepts such as reading and basic math will struggle their entire academic career until such errors or omissions are properly addressed.

A business model that is laid on an unstable footing is destined for perilous struggle in a best case scenario, and more likely than not will suffer ultimate failure and collapse. The worst news a homeowner can be given is that their foundation has been compromised. Unless such concerns are addressed quickly and properly the entire building, no matter how grand the edifice that has been erected is, faces certain collapse.

The church is no different.

Paul tells us plainly in I Corinthians 3:11 “*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*” For both the Church corporately and for the believer individually we must be certain that the actions, philosophies, values, priorities and all such matters are firmly attached and in line with the only foundation God guarantees. Paul was not alone in this assertion. The Apostle Peter is commended by Christ for the foundational realization of Jesus identity. Peter declares to Jesus, “Thou art the Christ, the son of the Living God.” This foundational truth is repeated in all four Gospels. Moreover the other disciples add their

voices in a unanimous declaration of the same truth. It is repeated by others including Martha, Phillip, The Apostle John in his epistles, and the author of Hebrews. The Apostle Paul both at his conversion and again in the text we first referenced declares that Jesus is our only foundation. The Apostle John goes so far as to say that the adherence to the belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is the defining attribute of all true believers.

The texts I have referenced include: Mt 16:16-18; Mr 8:29; Lu 9:20; John 6:69; 11:27; Ac 8:37;9:20; Heb 1:2,5; 1 Jo 4:15; 5:5 if you would like to read them for yourself.

This being the case it is imperative that we build our lives and indeed our churches on this non-ne-

gotiable fact of faith. The churches foundation cannot be numbers, or whatever political or socially charged agenda or ideology is popular at the time. The church must take each issue, philosophy, ideology, etc. back to one question and one question only that being how does the matter in question square with the Lord Jesus Christ as described and revealed in Holy Scripture.

How timely to the Church of Jesus Christ and to believers is Paul's last admonishment to young Timothy found in II Timothy 4:1-4. Paul states, “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be

instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Do any of us carry out this mandate perfectly? I daresay that we do not. Yet, this always was and still is the sacred duty of every believer in Jesus Christ. May we conscientiously strive to build all our endeavors upon the foundation of our blessed Lord and Savior who gives us comfort in our failures and inspires us to strive ever more diligently for Him.

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 Oppegard
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 owatonnaive.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. Sunday
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

702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Interim Pastor Wendell Anderson
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com

Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Kids Church: 9 a.m.

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

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- Zoo Design (Entering Grades 4-8)
- Farm to Table (Entering Grades 2-4)

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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Let's Raise the Roof



Steele Talkin' ROBIN STARR

Community Pathways' big summer event to Raise the Roof is just a few short days away! The party starts at 6 p.m. this Saturday, July 17 at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

Come out and have some fun while supporting Community Pathways' New Building Project. All proceeds from the event will be going toward the construction and operation of a second building to allow Community Pathways to provide services to even more residents of Steele County. So far this year, we have provided food security to more than 2,800 families through The Marketplace while Unique Finds has offered clothing and household supplies to another 4,400 individuals! We have been able to accomplish this with the generous support from our local businesses and community members.

Raise the Roof will feature the musical stylings of No. Coast and Steel Canyon playing in the Beer Garden. Also in the Beer Garden will be a very special brew, created specifically for the event, in partnership by Foremost Brewing Cooperative and Mineral Springs Brewery! As described by the team, "Pathways Pilsner is a bright, refreshing beer with a slight hop bitterness that gives way to the delicately balanced malt flavors. This Helles inspired beer has been crafted in harmony by the brewers of Owatonna's two breweries and it will be sure to keep you wanting more!" We cannot thank our friends at Foremost and MSB enough for this amazing support of our programs.

Nothing pairs better with cold beer than great food! Outside the Beer Garden will also be a treat with food trucks from True Smoke BBQ, El Rey Del Taco, & Brat Dogs. While you're enjoying a snack, you can stop by and check out the Nail Driving Competition!

If you want to show off some skills in the challenge, please call us at Community Pathways by Friday to get registered

See STEELE TALKIN' on B2 ▶

Mayo names staff for new mobile clinic

Mayo Clinic Health System recently launched its mobile health clinic, a large commercial vehicle featuring two exam rooms, an on-site laboratory and pharmacy services, and telemedicine capabilities.

Mayo Clinic Health System Physician Assistant Emily Majerus and Nurse Practitioner Lynsi Romportl will join the mobile health clinic team. They will be available for primary care visits in Blooming Prairie and Kenyon.

Majerus earned a bachelor's degree in health sciences from the University of Minnesota, Rochester. She received a master's degree in physician assistant studies from Saint Catherine University. Majerus is a member of the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of PAs. Majerus' professional interests include rural medicine



Emily Majerus



Lynsi Romportl

See MAYO on B5 ▶



FILE PHOTO

The Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Corp. has frozen the cost of pavers on the veteran's memorial at \$350. However, after Sept. 1, the price is expected to jump significantly because of increased material costs. Below is a close up of the wall.

Paver cost for BP Vets Memorial to jump

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

People wishing to honor veterans with a paver on the Blooming Prairie Veteran's Memorial are encouraged to do so soon before pricing skyrocket.

Tom Peterson, chairman of the memorial, said the board has put a price freeze of \$350 on the pavers until Sept. 1, at which time the price will increase dramatically. "The board has not made a final determination as to what the new pricing will be," he said, adding it's expected to be a hefty increase.

The memorial stands as

a loving testimonial to the 488 veterans, both men and women, who adorn its walls. The memorial was dedicated on Veteran's Day in 2019 at the Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie.

Forty spaces remain on Wall IV, with the Vietnam Reflections Wall mural, which faces Hwy. 218, according to Peterson. When Wall IV is filled, the board will have additional room for more pavers on Wall V, with the Korean Conflict mural, and then Wall VI, with the Iwo Jima mural.

Peterson said the pricing of pavers is increasing because the cost of the rare, black granite from India has



jumped up. "And the cost of etching the granite with the names of our veterans has increased dramatically," he said.

The mission of the memorial is "to honor all the men and women throughout our nation that have served, are serving and will serve in the armed forces of the USA. We are dedicated to encourage and foster patri-

otism and provide recognition to all veterans for their courage and willingness to give all for their country."

Anyone who would like to reserve a paver at \$350 should contact Peterson at 507-456-2017.

The Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Corp. is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, and any contributions are tax-deductible.



RIDING FOR MS Wiemans bring in \$80K to fight disabling disease

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

What do a love for motorcycling and a passion to raise funds for a worthy cause yield?

In the case of an Owatonna couple, more than \$80,000 over two decades.

Carl and Denise Wieman have been riding their motorcycle for multiple sclerosis for the past 20 years. And this year will be no different. They will be hitting the back roads of Minnesota in August to raise more money for MS.

The 36th annual MS River Road Run will take place Aug. 21-22. It starts at Leo's South in Lakeville and heads toward the central part of the state, including

"We ride for one reason: to help those with MS."

Carl Wieman MS Run Coordinator

Jordan, Monticello, Dassel, Cokato, Spicer lakes area and St. Cloud. On Sunday, Aug. 22, the run will feature more scenic roads as the group travels back to the Twin Cities area.

The Wiemans designed this year's route along with a friend. They traveled the route before finalizing it.

The Wiemans are in the process of fundraising for the run. As of early July,



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Carl and Denise Wieman of Owatonna have been riding for multiple sclerosis for the past 20 years. And this year will be no different. They are hitting the roads in August to raise more money for MS.

they had raised \$1,890 for this year, bringing their total to \$80,375 since they began in 2001. They have set

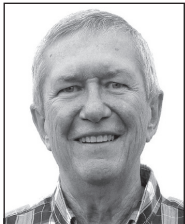
a goal of \$4,000 for this year. Money raised from this fundraiser will be used

See RIDING on B5 ▶

MS RIVER ROAD RUN

- Benefits multiple sclerosis
- Donations can be sent to: Carl and Denise Wieman 524 Glendale St. Owatonna, MN 55060

* For more information, go to www.msmotorcycleride.org



Reflections

HOWARD LESTRUD

The coronavirus has taken a whack at many industries, including the bicycle industry, during the past many months.

If you're still trying to purchase a bike, used or new, GOOD LUCK.

I'm in the market for a new bike and have been told by many bicycle shop owners that it is very difficult to find a used or new bike for purchase.

Bicycles are a popular means of transportation for some people in Blooming Prairie. Judy and I each had a bicycle but during a weak moment at one of our garage sales, we sold the bikes.

Blooming Prairie is the home of many bicycle enthusiasts. It's

enjoyable to see the different bicyclists go by. All have their different bikes, two-wheel, three-wheel, electric and recumbent. Riders also have different riding styles.

I remember learning how to ride a bicycle, borrowing my older sister's bike, a rather large bike with lots of miles on it. I picked up some road rash in the process of learning some riding skills.

Since we lived on a small dairy farm just two miles west of Corning, I had lots of open land in which to practice bike riding.

As I came to an end of my ride, I dismounted bravely by jumping off and dropping the bike to the ground. As I became more confident, I was able to engage the broke by standing and hitting the bike.

I even learned some tricks while bike riding and often would give my pet pigeon "Fred-dy" a ride on the bicycle seat. I would even

give some neighbor friends a "buck" on the handle bars.

My bike riding days diminished as I learned how to drive a car.

As we had children, Troy and Tammi, it was a must to get bikes for them. Both got high-speed bikes and bicycled circles around mom and dad.

Maybe, the most fun I have had in my later years has been teaching the grandchildren how to ride a bike. It was stressful but at times very rewarding.

Our oldest granddaughter Kaley quickly picked up the knack of staying on the bike for a long length of time.

I remember having both of them on bikes and trying to carefully maneuver their bikes.

One time, both were headed in opposite directions when Kaley decided to turn and then ended head-on with Jenna. I thought the crash killed them both. Thankfully, it only hurt their pride



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Nels Lee of Blooming Prairie strongly endorses the recumbent bicycle. He is shown taking a stroll down the streets of Blooming Prairie on a recent day. His wife Vonnie also has a recumbent bike.

and mine, too.

Our third grandchild, Ryan, decided to learn how to ride

bike on his own. That was maybe a good idea since he didn't pick up any of our riding

habits.

I'm still searching for a bike and have seriously been looking at a recumbent bike. Friends Nels and Vonnie Lee both have recumbents and Nels graciously let me ride his recumbent. I love it.

A recumbent road bike is a bike that has a reclining seat and backrest that makes the rider lean on the seat completely. The pedals of the bike are placed in front of the feet, instead of right below the seat, so it needs you to extend your legs in order to reach the pedals.

Wikipedia says recumbents are available in a wide range of configurations, including: long to short wheelbase; large, small, or a mix of wheel sizes; overseat, underseat, or no-hands steering; and rear wheel or front wheel drive. A variant with three wheels is a recumbent tricycle.

Clear out the bicycling paths. Here I come on my???

Fair board makes last-minute tweaks

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Sponsorships and vendors for the 2021 Steele County Fair have been rolling in, as have ticket sales, according to Manager Scott Kozelka.

Ticket sales are way higher than 2019 at this point," Kozelka said of the enthusiasm for this year's fair, which will include all of the old staples and some fun new attractions, including an electric train, stunt dog shows, and chainsaw woodcarving.

"It's rocking!"

The fair will be held Aug. 17 -22 at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

The fair board marked its monthly meeting last week with some last-minute touch ups concerning each director's role as preparations for this year's event kick into overdrive.

"We've got a brand new grounds crew this year," Kozelka said of some of the youngsters who help get the fairgrounds ready for the celebration. "They're adapting and they're overcoming." Each year the board and the grounds crew prepare the Steele County Fair Grounds for the events held throughout the summer, including the fair.

Part of this year's preparations included the newly acquired building from the Izaak Walton Club,

now dubbed the Great Outdoors Center. The board was in agreement that the building should continue to offer an outdoors feel with some fun additions.

While the Great Outdoors Center will be fully loaded for this year's celebration, the board is looking to continue to add to the building's offerings in the future.

"The building will represent more than just game and fish," said President Dan Deml.

Some of this year's attractions in the Great Outdoors Center include the University of Minnesota Raptor Center for two days, the National Eagle Center from Wabasha for another two days, and a newly installed camera in the fish pond to allow fairgoers to see the fish swim by on a television screen.

To celebrate front-line heroes and all of those who helped maintain a sense of normalcy during the pandemic, the fair will be offering a free concert by Jason Pritchett and Travis Thamert on August 18 at the Grandstand.

"This is a way for all of Steele County to say thank you to all those people on the frontlines," Director Wayne Steele said of the free concert.

United Way of Steele County and Community Pathways will be partnering with the fair for the event.

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

For a first step back into community festivals after a year-long hiatus, Blooming Prairie's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration was a success, city officials said.

"I think for coming back from a year off, we had great participation from the community and out-of-towners," said Emily Glaser, executive director of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

"It did seem smaller, compared to other years, but since the State opened so late, we had a lot of vendors that didn't have the time to prepare," she said of the reduced number of food trucks.

"The folks that did come could set up quickly and be here."

Another crowd favorite, Stix of Fury, was also absent. The performing drumline and color guard work in concert with the Blooming Prairie High School marching band, but neither group had time for the practice required to put on a show, Glaser said.

Fourth of July: A look back, a look ahead

Her ballpark guess of the weekend's attendance? Between 5,000 and 7,000 people — most of them well-behaved, said Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad.

"For the most part, it was a peaceful weekend," he said. "It was fantastic. A few arrests, unfortunately; all alcohol-related." That includes a few DWIs and an assault at the street dance that resulted in minor injuries.

Members of the Merry Lane 4-H Club walked the parade route and cleaned up the garbage left behind. They also cleared the trash from Central Park. The cost of hauling away the garbage — as well as the rental cost for the portable toilets used for the event — is split between the city and the chamber.

The city budgeted \$3,000 for its share this year; a final bill hasn't been received, said Terri Zweiner, the deputy city clerk.

The planning for next year's celebration has already begun for Glaser, "but the

hardcore planning starts in January," she said, then quickly listed off several of her own ideas for new offerings, including a family movie night and carnival rides.

"The Old-Fashioned Fourth of July is built on tradition," Glaser said. "Tradition is good, but it's also good to build new traditions. Next year, the fourth is on a Monday, and I'd like to see a full weekend of activities for the community to do. What that looks like, I don't know, but I'd like to start it on Friday, July 1."

Those decisions are made by the Fourth of July Committee, which meets every month, all year.

"It's a collection of ideas and processes to make it successful," Glaser said, "but it cannot be done without volunteers."

They are an integral part of the celebration, she said, but more are always needed. There were between 150 and 200 people helping this year.

"They make the entire weekend possible," Glaser said, "but we

weren't at full capacity. We couldn't do the 5K run because of a lack of volunteers. That was a big one."

And there are some big spots to fill for the 2022 event, including a parade coordinator and someone to head up the button sales.

"Nothing's ever done by yourself," Glaser said. "You'll have multiple hands to help you."

The committee would also like feedback from the public and has set up a poll to allow people to weigh in. It can be found on the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, or by going to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehwE5Dlbd-fz7KWt6OZCtyYy-FVY-OMHR8Sow-w5kJGFFtPo4Q/viewform>

The short poll is designed to help the members "get an overall sense of what the community wants," Glaser said, adding her own idea:

"I would've liked it to be about 20 degrees cooler and a lot less humid."

Let's Raise the Roof

◀ STEELE TALKIN' from B1 before the event. We can be reached at 507-455-2991 on Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Please join us for this night of beer, food, music, games, community, and fun! There is no entry fee for the event, but we do welcome at-will donations to help support our project. Mixed drinks and beer, featuring the *Pathways Pilsner*, will be available for purchase to those 21 or older in the Beer

Garden. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase from the wonderful vendors who have dedicated their time to support our mission.

We are excited to see everyone on Saturday night! Let's Raise the Roof!

Robin Starr is the marketing and outreach coordinator for Community Pathways of Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

BP Pedal pull draws 110 contestants

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Even though last year's Kids Tractor Pull as part of the Fourth of July celebration was cancelled because of COVID-19, there was significant interest for bringing the pull back in 2021.

Kid Power Pedal Tractor Pulls, owned by Rick Scholbrock, and the Blooming Prairie Lions sponsored the pull.

Local pull coordinator Pam Ingvalson said there were 110 entrants from ages 4-11.

Here are the results:

AGE 4 — 1) Dylan Pell, Austin; 2) Landon Kiefer, Brownsdale; Ad-delyn Morris, Kasson



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Kinsley, 5, managed to smile as she competed in the 2021 Pedal Pull Contest on Saturday, July 3, during the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July celebration.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| AGE 5 — 1) Jacob Deml, Owatonna; 2) John Rundle, Austin; 3) Giatlyn Pitzer, Manona, Iowa | Prairie; 2) Levi Kiefer, Brownsdale; 3) George Herget, Owatonna | Levi Staska, Blooming Prairie |
| AGE 6 — 1) Parker Ringhofer, Owatonna; 2) Westin Hoebling, Hayfield; 3) Ethan Hulloper, Blooming Prairie | AGE 8 — 1) Mason Johnson, Blooming Prairie; 2) Jenna Herget, Owatonna; 3) Lando Lindell, Rosemount | AGE 10 — 1) Jace Berndt, Adams; 2) Eliot Schiller, Blooming Prairie; 3) Bailey Arnold, Kenyon; 3) |
| AGE 7 — 1) Bennett Wencil, Blooming | AGE 9 — 1) Weston Johnson, Blooming Prairie; Bradley Arnold, Kenyon; 3) | AGE 11 — 1) — Alexandra Herget, Owatonna; 2) Jacob Dulas, Medford; 3) Max Sorenson, Waltham |

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JULY 20
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Central Park or Library Facebook Page
5 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting

Sillestad, BP Library Facebook
Noon – Chamber Meeting, City Center
4 p.m. – Police Advisory Meeting

JULY 21
10 a.m. - Mystifying Magic with Greg

JULY 24
Ribfest, Servicemen's Club

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JULY 16
11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JULY 21
11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JULY 19
11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JULY 22
8:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JULY 16
7:30 p.m. – Frumpled Fairy Tales, Little Theatre of Owatonna

Magic Online, Owatonna Library Facebook

JULY 17
7 a.m. – Farmer's Market, Central Park
2 p.m. – Frumpled Fairy Tales, Little Theatre of Owatonna
6 p.m. – Raise the Roof, Ye Olde Beer Garden

10:30 a.m. – Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook
4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Hall

JULY 18
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Secret Garden Tour, Start at Art Center

2 p.m. – Frumpled Fairy Tales, Little Theatre of Owatonna

JULY 19
4:30 p.m. – Miracle Field Grand Opening, Manthey Park
7 p.m. – Medford Planning & Zoning Meeting, City Hall

JULY 20
10 a.m. – Mystifying

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

JULY 21
4 p.m. – Owatonna EDA Meeting, City Hall

JULY 22
Gem Days, Downtown Owatonna
10:30 a.m. – Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook
7 p.m. – 11@7 Concert Series, Central Park \

JULY 23
5 p.m. – World Foods and Brewfest, Oak View Weddings and Events

Miracle Field to mark grand opening

A community celebration of the Inclusive Playground and Miracle Field in Owatonna is planned on Monday, July 19. The Miracle Field ribbon cutting will take place at 5:30 p.m. with the first ball game to follow the ceremony at Manthey Park, 225

24th Street N.E. A tailgating party is also planned from 4:30-7 p.m. There will be games, ball game and food for all ages. The rain date for the event is Wednesday, July 21. Owatonna Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the event.

Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

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

Litomysl's summer festival is back

Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Litomysl will be showing off its country church pride at the 49th annual Summer Festival on Sunday, July 25. The 150 families of the parish will host the event, which is one of the largest summer parish festivals held in Minnesota each year. The country style festival draws people from all over. Litomysl is Czech

for "wistful thoughts." Holy Trinity Church dates back to 1878, when settlers in the Litomysl community built their first church. The community is actually named after the original Litomysl, located about 100 miles east of Prague. In 1940-41, they built the stone church that parishioners worship in today. It is one of the largest stone churches in the nation;

members of the parish brought over 600 loads of rock from their fields to build it. Czech traditions, from delightful pastries to polka music will be alive and well once again in Litomysl located south of Owatonna on July 25, where can you combine Mass, music, games, silent auction, eats and treats, a used a bit sale, face painting, live pony

rides, raffles, pull tabs, and wagon rides. You may not be able to find Litomysl on a map, but miles and miles of motor vehicles will line County Road 4 and 24th Avenue S.E. in rural Owatonna for the annual Litomysl Summer Festival. At 10 a.m. in the air conditioned, handi-capped accessible, Holy Trinity Church, there See LITOMYSL'S on B9 ►

Republicans to host AG candidate

Minnesota Attorney General candidate Doug Wardlow will be at the Owatonna Public Library on Monday, July 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for a Meet-and-Greet event, including an opportunity for questions and answers. The public is invited to this free event.



Doug Wardlow

Doug Wardlow was born and raised in Minnesota. He graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University and earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Wardlow has spent his entire career defending constitutional rights and promoting

conservative principles and the cause of freedom. He began practicing law fighting for property owners in eminent domain cases. He served as a Minnesota State Representative from 2011 to

2013. He also practiced international trade litigation under Robert Lighthizer (who became President Trump's U.S. Trade Representative), fighting China's practice of unfairly dumping subsidized Chinese steel into the United States. Wardlow is also a constitutional lawyer. He spent several years practicing law with Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian public interest law firm, where he successfully defended free speech and religious freedom in cases all across the country. In 2018, Wardlow was the Republican nominee

for Minnesota Attorney General. His campaign ignited excitement across the state and focused interest on the office of Attorney General in an unprecedented way, coming within a few points of victory despite unprecedented DFL turnout in a very difficult year. He received a record 1.15 million votes, which is more votes than any Republican candidate has ever received in a midterm election in Minnesota for any office, state or federal. Wardlow and his wife, Jenny, live in Prior Lake with their three children.

Car show coming to Gus' Station

The seventh annual Gus' Car Show and Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, July 24 at the Steele County Historical Society in Owatonna.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Registration gets underway at 8 a.m. with show time from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Voting will end at 11 a.m. There will be an awards ceremony at 12 p.m. Registration will be \$10 per vehicle. Free admission is offered to attendees.

Awards will be given out for top 15 vehicles, mayor's choice, people's choice, best modern car, best pickup, best paint job, best engine, best wheels and best motorcycle. Dash plaques will be given out for the first 100 vehicles. Souvenir items

will be on sale at Gus' Station. Food and drink

will also be available. A rain date has been selected for Aug. 7. The event is sponsored by Honest-1 Auto Care, Lerberg's

Foods and Steve's Meat Market. The historical society is located at 1700 Austin Road in Owatonna.

Car shows are a popular Minnesota summer activity. The Steele County Historical Society's seventh annual Gus's Car show will be held on July 24 in Owatonna. Last month, at a car show held during Ellendale Days, Bodie Ladwig, 6, of Ellendale was able to see his image clearly in a 1954 Ford truck owned by his dad Travis.

Farm connections
Thursday Evenings, 7:30

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Minnesota Corn GROWERS ASSOCIATION
MINNESOTA STATE Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence
KSMQ TV The Better Choice Public Television
Southeastern MN / Northeastern IA

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BAR & OFF-SALE HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday: 11:30 am to close
Tuesday-Thursday: 10 am to close
Saturday: 9 am to close
Sunday: CLOSED

Bar closes at 1 am Off-Sale closes at 10 pm

Saturday July 24th:
22nd ANNUAL B.O.B. RIDE
Cycle/car cruise

Ride for a cause will benefit "Toys for Tots"
Registration: 9 - 10:15 AM - J & H Liquors

Fee: \$15.00 (includes 1 meal ticket)
Ride: Ride will leave at 10:30 am SHARP!
Meal: 5 pm J & H Liquors - Public Welcome

Any questions contact Harvey or Nancy at 507-583-7557

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AUGUST 11
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Grief support group to meet in Austin

A five-week bereavement support group for those who have experienced loss will begin on Tuesday, July 27 and continue through Tuesday, Aug. 24. This education and support group will provide materials and discussions on a variety of topics to assist people in their grieving process. The group will meet weekly in the conference room at the Mower County Senior Center in Austin. The meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. with a different presenter each week and will be followed by an informal lunch gathering for anyone interested. The group is open to the public and all who feel this might be beneficial to their healing and all who are supporting them are invited to attend. For more information, contact Mary Kittelson at Worlein Funeral Home at 507-433-5000 or 507-483-7561.

A FOOTBALL CAREER CUT SHORT

Williamson takes medical retirement from Gophers

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gophers red-shirt-sophomore Jason Williamson, who was the workhorse running back of Owatonna's back-to-back state titles in 2017 and 2018, has left the University of Minnesota's program after medically retiring.

The NCAA has granted Minnesota's 2018 Mr. Football a Medical Exemption, which is also beneficial for Minnesota because as it does not count toward their total scholarship limit, and it allows him to continue to pursue his education while the Gophers are free to sign another student-athlete in his place.

Williamson, posted the following message to his Twitter page on Thursday, July 8: "Since I was a little kid it was always my dream to play college football in MN. I am so thankful for being able to have the opportunity by Coach Fleck and all

the coaches and staff to be able to live out my dream for how long I did, But unfortunate injuries and many surgeries in the last 2 years I have decided to medically retire."

He went on to say, "Football has given me the most memorable moments in my life and I have made lifelong friends playing the greatest sport ever created. I want to thank everyone who has supported me so much throughout my athletic career and shown me so much love throughout the years. I will continue my academics at the University of Minnesota and get my degree in business marketing. I will continue to apply everything that football has taught me and all of the lessons that have molded me into the man I am today. THANK YOU EVERYONE!! Row the Boat, Ski-U-Mah, Go Gophers!"

Although Williamson's career was cut short he made a lasting



FILE PHOTO

Former standout Huskies football player Jason Williamson has medically retired from the University of Minnesota's Gophers football program. He was the workhorse running back behind back-to-back state championships for Owatonna in 2017 and 2018.

impression on nearly everyone he encountered during his time with the team.

While policies and procedures prohibit university officials from sharing details about an athlete's decision

to leave, many around the program praised Williamson for his work ethic and character.

"Jason is a terrific young man," said Minnesota Associate Athletic Director Paul Rovnak.

Williamson battled multiple serious injuries starting the summer before his senior season of high school. While playing in a seven-on-seven camp at the University of Notre Dame in South

Bend, Ind., Williamson heard a pop from his left foot. He didn't think too much of it as a trainer diagnosed it as a muscle strain. However, the pain increased and he had to make an emergency visit to the hospital the following morning around 4 a.m.

Williamson was diagnosed with compartment syndrome, where athletic exertion can create pressure in an area of an extremity, which affects muscles and nerves. In severe cases, surgery is required before a limb could be lost.

Surgery was performed the next day and Williamson had an open surgical cut in his lower (left) leg that had to remain open for four days. He was able to walk for eight weeks following the surgery.

In 2018, despite the injury Williamson ran the ball 313 times during his senior season at Owatonna, and was named Mr. Foot- See **FOOTBALL** on B10 ►

A freshman phenom for Blossoms

Forsberg becomes one of state's best in short time

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Blooming Prairie freshman Annaka Forsberg had no idea she'd be competing in the high jump when this past track and field season began, but in one season she not only learned the event, she transformed herself into one of the state's best high jumpers, winning fourth place at the state tournament.

Originally, she was only going to run the 100-meter dash and the 4x100 and 4x200 meter relays but a couple meets into the season her coaches were looking for more athletes to compete in field events. After some encouragement from her dad, a "very good" high jumper in high school, she decided to compete in the high jump and the rest as they say is history.

Despite her inexperience, she cleared 4'10" at her first meet, just four inches shy of the automatic state-qualifying height.

Forsberg said her success was very surprising since she had no background in the high jump and no idea what she was doing at first.

"I definitely surprised myself, my coaches and teammates, but I do have a gymnastics background so I'm able to pick up on things so it came naturally to pick up the high jump that early," she said.

However, it took a lot more than natural talent to become one of the state's best.

"I definitely worked on my form and put a lot more practice into it. My coaches were definitely a huge part of that – they taught me what track was about, helped me not be nervous and just try my best even if it wasn't winning," she said.

"I definitely surprised myself, my coaches and teammates."

Annaka Forsberg
BP Track Star



Annaka Forsberg captured fourth place in state track this year as only a freshman.

In addition to those lessons, Forsberg mentioned that two other valuable pieces of instruction that led to her high jump success were learning and practicing her form and her parents' support.

"My dad helped me a lot on form and technique, how to do it and to ask my coaches about doing high jump without being scared," she said.

Not only did this tutelage from her dad and her coaches help her become a better high jumper, it also helped her be more confident in herself in individual events.

Forsberg's self-confidence was key when she competed at her first Section 1A Track and Field Championships on June 8.

"It was very nerve-wracking going up against people older than me," she said.

On top of competing against high jumpers, who have more experience, she also had to reach a certain height in order to advance to the state tournament.

"I had to jump 5-foot, 2-inches and that's what my PR (personal record) was, so that was very nerve-wracking to

See **FRESHMAN** on B10 ►



David Fromm



Debby Gleason

New coaches named for Owatonna hockey, track

The Owatonna High School Activities Department announces David Fromm as the new head coach for boys hockey and Debby Gleason as the new head coach for girls track and field.

Their new positions are pending school board approval.

Coach Fromm comes to Owatonna with a wealth of hockey experience. Most recently serving as head coach for the Colorado Thunderbirds AAA program from 2011-2020. Coaching the Thunderbirds, Fromm worked with groups from U11 through U18AAA, earning multiple state championships and national appearances. Before beginning his coaching tenure in Colorado, Fromm served as head coach for Minneapolis South High School from 1996-2000.

Fromm also has extensive experience at the international level of inline hockey, serving as Team USA head men's coach from 1997-1999. He directed Team USA to two World Championships ('97 Austria and '98 Canada) and a Pan American Championship ('99 Canada).

"We are very excited to have Coach Fromm take over as Head Boys Hockey coach at Owatonna High School. Coach Fromm brings a tremendous amount of hockey knowledge and experience to the position. Dave will be a great mentor and leader, helping devel-

op great student-athletes on and off the ice," said Activities Director Marc Achterkirch.

Fromm earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Minnesota State University-Mankato and he and his wife, Crystallina, have two daughters, Skye, 21, and Ava, 16.

Coach Gleason is no stranger to Owatonna having served as the Kids First/Middle School head coach from 2016-19, as well as serving as the high school boys and girls high jump coach in 2020-2021. Prior to her coaching career, she was a three-time NCAA Division II National High Jump Champion and a six-time NCAA All-American Track & Field athlete at Augustana College.

"We are very pleased to have Coach Gleason join our head coaching ranks at Owatonna High School. Debby brings a tremendous amount of track & field knowledge to the position. Coach Gleason has experience coaching our girls in the program and has built great relationships with our students. Coach Gleason will help develop great student-athletes, but more importantly, great individuals," Achterkirch said.

Gleason earned her exercise science degree with a sports management minor from Augustana College. Along with her husband, Joey, they have four children, Jenna, Justin, Jackson and Jordan.



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Rain cancels Chateau, two shows ahead this week

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

The weather man will tell you it has been a dry summer and we are still experiencing drought conditions, but you couldn't tell by what Mother Nature has done to the 2021 race season at Chateau Speedway. With seven shows in the books so far this season, the track was forced to cancel racing action last weekend because of rain for the fourth time this year.

As far as the schedule goes the upcoming week is a big one on the schedule. Along with the regular Friday Night show next week, officials will also be helping with the 2021 Dodge County Fair Thunderbird Open on Thursday night. It will be the start of back-to-back nights for the staff and also for the

Mid-American Renegade Sprint Series. The Non-Wing Traditional Sprints will headline the Thunderbird Open in Kasson Thursday and then return to the Chateau on Friday for the second of three appearances at Lansing this season.

The Thunderbird Open at the Dodge County Fair will be an Open Wheel Show. Along with the MARS Sprints the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, USRA B Mods, USRA A Mods, and the Drury Outlaw Mini Mods will bring the fairgrounds to life.

When action returns to Lansing on Friday the Renegade Sprint Series will be featured along with the track's regular six classes: WISSOTA Hornets, Pure Stocks, Street Stocks, Midwest Modifieds and the USRA A and B Mods.

RIDING FOR MS

◀ **RIDING** from B1 for research to find a cure for MS, which is a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, but the unpredictable physical and emotional effects can be lifelong.

Carl and Denise have a personal stake in this ride. Denise's niece, Lori Serbus, had MS for about 23 years before passing away in 2004 from complications caused by MS.

"We want to help others like Lori that have this devastating disease," said Carl. "We ride for one reason: to help those with MS."

The MS Ride did not happen in the typical format last year because of COVID-19. But that didn't stop the Wiemans. They still rode the route on their

own and raised \$3,142.

"We believe in the quote of W. Hall Wendell, Jr., 'Work hard, play hard and give generously,'" said the Wiemans. "We ride because we can, and for those that can not."

New research shows that nearly 1 million people are living with MS in the U.S. The money raised goes to the National MS Society, Upper Midwest Chapter, a nonprofit, voluntary health organization dedicated to advancing the cure, prevention and treatment of MS.

Donations may be sent to Carl and Denise Wieman, 524 Glendale St., Owatonna, MN 55060. Checks should be made out to MS River Road Run. Contributions are tax-deductible. For more information, contact the Wiemans at deniseandcarl@yahoo.com.

Mayo names staff

◀ **MAYO** from B1 and preventive care. She lives in Austin. Majerus joined Mayo Clinic Health System in 2019.

Romportl, D.N.P., earned a Bachelor of Arts in nursing from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter. She later graduated from the Doctor of Nursing Practice — Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Romportl, who is certified through the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, cares for patients and families throughout their life span. She grew up in New Richland, where she developed a professional interest in rural medicine. Also, she holds a Certificate of Advanced Education in Obesity Medicine through the Obesity Medicine Association. Romportl enjoys partnering with patients to help them achieve their health goals. She lives in Mantorville with her husband Mark

Romportl, D.N.P., who is a Mayo Clinic nurse practitioner, and their 1-year-old daughter. She joined Mayo Clinic Health System in 2009.

The mobile clinic travels to Blooming Prairie and Kenyon.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

The mobile health clinic is at Fourth Street S.E. behind Blooming Prairie Ambulance Service on Tuesday and Thursday every other week. The clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling Mayo Clinic Health System at 507-433-8758.

KENYON

The mobile health clinic is at 806 Second St. in front of Central Farm Service at the intersection of Highway 56 south and Second Street on Monday and Wednesday every other week. The clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling Mayo Clinic Health System at 507-451-1120.

Secret Garden Tour set for Sunday

The Secret Garden Tour is set for Sunday, July 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Owatonna.

Many types of gardens will be featured this year. Some of them include a water element, one that

grows plants that butterflies like and raises chrysalis's, original clay sculptures, wild flowers and a vegetable garden.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour.

Tickets may be purchased at Kottke Jewelry or the Owatonna Arts Center.

On Sunday, participants can pick up the names and addresses of the gardens at the Arts Center before

venturing out.

In 2020, many individuals started gardens to relax with nature, to create one's own serene natural space or to grow nutritious fresh vegetables.

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Field of Flags at Field Crest
July 13-17
Ceremony
11 am on Sat., July 17th
Galen Bungum 507-365-8935



Viking Pride Golf Tournament
Friday, July 16th – Oaks
10:00 am Shot Gun Start
Lana 507-272-9891
Oaks 507-477-3233



Miss Hey Days Pageant
Friday, July 16
7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
Missy 507-272-3171

FIRE HALL
Beer Garden & Full Bar

Friday: 5:30 pm - 1:00 am
Saturday: noon - 1:00 am

Omelets & Bloody Marys
Sunday morning
American Legion
9 am – noon, July 18th

Pork Sandwiches served Friday
night beginning at 5:00 pm at
the fire hall until gone.

Bingo
Friday & Saturday
6:30 pm
Hayfield Legion
All Ages Welcome!



5K WALK/RUN
Earl Himle Park
7:30 am registration
Kathy Demmer 507-477-3655
Fee: Bring food for food shelf.

Lion's Volleyball
Tournament
All day Saturday
Earl Himle Park
JEN 507-273-2419

Ice Cream served during
Chicken Fry by Hayfield
Community Food Pantry.
Free-will donation

Boy Scout Pancake Feed
7:00 am to noon
Sat., July 17th - Fire Hall

Parade – 2:00 pm
Saturday, July 17th
Nicole 507-273-1307



Kid Activities
Games/Bounce House
Saturday, July 17th
Earl Himle Park
After the parade until dark
Run by Out Back Bowl
Dancers and HHS baseball

FRIDAY NIGHT
STREET DANCE
FEATURING:
DJ Chris Nelson
July 16th
8:30 pm-12:30 am
Must be 21
FREE ADMISSION

Lion's Bean Bag Tournament
Saturday, July 17th
9 a.m. Sign Up
Earl Himle Park
Chad O'Connor 507-273-5624

SAT. NIGHT
STREET DANCE
Fire Hall
8:30 pm – 12:30 am
Music by
TIME MACHINE
Must be 21
FREE ADMISSION

Fire Works at Dusk
Saturday, July 17th
Pool Park softball field



Community Worship Service
Sunday, 9:30 am - outdoors,
bring a lawn chair.
Vet's Park & Trinity Lutheran
If rain, service is at Sacred
Heart Catholic Church

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STEELE COUNTY **Times**

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Lowell Miller and Linda Breyer have been named the top senior citizens in Steele County. They recently rode in the Fourth of July parade in Blooming Prairie. They will be honored during the Steele County Fair in August.

Breyer, Miller honored as top senior citizens

The Steele County Exchange Club, with cooperation of the Steele County Free Fair and the West Hills Social Commons, is proud to announce Linda Breyer and Lowell Miller as recipients of the 2021 Senior Citizen Volunteer Award for Steele County.

Breyer is director of Grandparents for Education where she works with teachers and administration to identify the classrooms and activities where volunteers could lend a hand to assist students who need help.

She has volunteered or is a member of many other organizations in Steele County:

- President of Senior Place Inc.
- Secretary for Senior Place Inc.
- Cultural Diversity Board Member
- Somali Am. Cultural Society Volunteer
- Owatonna Park and Recreation Volunteer Coach
- Little Theater Usher and Painter
- ACT Testing Coordinator for Owatonna High School

A fellow board member shared, “Linda is the kind of volunteer who never complains, shows up early and stays late. When Linda says she is going to do something, you can always count on it.”

See BREYER on B7 ►

Mega ride tickets go on sale this week



Steely's Insights

WAYNE STEELE

It's fair time in southern Minnesota, and the Steele County Free Fair is home to some of the best free kids entertainment in all of Minnesota.

Mega ride tickets for the 2021 Steele County Free Fair go on sale Thursday, July 15 through 5 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Hy-Vee store in Owatonna. Tickets are \$55 and entitle the wearer of the wrist band to unlimited rides the entire week of the fair on the Goldstar Midway. Wrist bands will be attached on the first day of the fair beginning at 1 p.m. at the midway ticket office. Mega ride tickets must be purchased by 5 p.m. on the first day of the fair and can be redeemed throughout the week of the fair.

Log on to the new official Steele County Free Fair website: www.scff.org. The website has entry forms, schedule of events, grandstand entertainment, beer garden entertainment, free stage entertainment, food vendors and sponsors.

The Elmer Reseland Stage, in the Town-square Media area, is home to some great children's entertainment. The Moogician returns Tuesday through Sunday with some great comedy and some down-home banjo pickin'. Sing, dance and laugh with the Dollipops Tuesday—Thursday. Friday Jerry Frazier will entertain with some magic and comedy.

The Reseland stage is a great place to go when you are tired and need a place to relax while the kid's play and color the mural in the fenced area next to the stage.

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

A newly improved Steele Saloon planned for this year's fair

BY ALEX NUEHRING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After its inaugural appearance at the 2019 Steele County Fair, the Steele Saloon is back and better than ever.

Doug Meier, fair board member and director of Steele Saloon, said there are four main ways it'll be better this year.

First, they'll have an additional serving line this year after the lines got too long during the inaugural year. Second, there will be more food vendors down by the saloon. Third, they're expanding services so fairgoers can get mixed drinks in the grandstand for the concerts on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Fourth, it's a newer, bigger tent with no poles in the middle.

He added that a couple things that won't change this year are the Steele Saloon's location and its atmosphere.

“I don't believe we're going to do any music down there this year just so we can keep it a nice, quiet place where people can talk,” Meier said.

Meier noted that another reason the Steele Saloon was a hit in 2019 is because fairgoers were able to get a mixed drink instead of just beer and wine.

Due to that extra variety and being a quiet place to talk with friends, it was a surprising success two years ago.

“It went way better than

“It went way better than what we thought it would. I don't believe we'll ever get rid of it after how well it went over in 2019.”

Doug Meier
Steele Saloon Director



The Steele Saloon was new to the 2019 Steele County Free Fair on the east side of the fairgrounds. The saloon will be back again this year, but in a bigger and better format than 2019.

what we thought it would,” he said. “I don't believe we'll ever get rid of it after how well it went over in 2019.”

While it was a success two years ago, Meier mentioned that there is still room for improvement.

“We learned that we need to have more serving lines because we couldn't keep up,” he said.

One reason there was so much foot traffic in 2019, he explained, is because the Steele Saloon is over on the east side of fairgrounds and people down in farm area don't have the time to go across the fairgrounds to the beer garden.

See A NEWLY on B7 ►



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Lilly Zollner of Owatonna has been involved in showing dairy at the Steele County Fair for years. Though she has graduated from 4-H, she will still show dairy in open class.

A fair perspective: In their own words

Editor's Note: This week on our countdown to the fair, we begin offering some insights from current and former 4-H members on what the fair means to them during their 4-H days. For years, 4-H has been an instrumental part of both the county and state fairs.

BY LILLY ZOLLNER

I am a 20-year-old 4-H graduate, a former member of the Pratt Commandos 4-H Club and an avid supporter of 4-H programs and livestock involvement. My 4-H involvement started when I was in fifth grade. It

See A FAIR on B9 ►

HAIRBALL

THURSDAY, Aug. 19th at 8:00 PM

STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR GRANDSTAND

HAIRBALL

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Pollinator plants for consideration



On The Farm
MERCEDES MOFFETT

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful Independence Day and was able to spend some quality time outdoors. I got to enjoy the fresh air and the beautiful weather we had and couldn't help but notice all the butterflies and other pollinators flying around as they fluttered

from flower to flower in my garden. I found great satisfaction in knowing the plants I have can draw in the pollinators and be beneficial for them too. Pollinators aren't just bees and butterflies that everyone thinks about, but moths, bats, and all sorts of other insects are considered pollinators too. Having a safe garden space for pollinators to be drawn to, as well as have a safe haven for them, is a win-win for us all. Plants that have pollen provide protein, and the nectar provides carbohydrates for insects as they go from one plant to another. Pollinators help carry pollen from

plant to plant, which in turn helps the plant reproduce. Without pollination we wouldn't be able to have and enjoy all the plants that we love to see in our Minnesota landscapes. If interested in attracting more pollinators to your own garden, perhaps consider adding in a few new plants. Pollinators are attracted to things that they know and that have color that can pull them in. Incorporating some native plants to your garden is a great way to start. Wild Lupine, Goatsbeard, Purple Coneflower, and Beebalm are all native plants to Minnesota. These are common

plants to find in many people's gardens, and not only help pollinators, but can add color and texture. When the greenhouse season opens, not only are we drawn to what we know, but typically we pick out annuals by what we like to see. While these may not be native to Minnesota, pollinators still won't shy away from them. Annuals that have bright colors and scents are going to attract more pollinators than others. Lantana is a great way to pull in pollinators with its citrusy scent and clusters of small flowers. Verbena has the same cluster like flowers, but

vine more abundantly. Salvia is a classic flower choice that will also make the pollinators gather around. Not everyone is keen on gardening, but even without a garden there are plant selections that are beneficial. One of the first blooming flowers of summer grows on a bush. Lilacs with their wonderful scent and large growing capacities, are not only great for privacy, but for pollinators too. Other classic ornamental bushes such as spirea are a great choice with their dainty white flowers. If one wanted a bush that was a statement piece, a butterfly bush is worth the investment.

Overall, whether you want to plant an elaborate garden or not, considering pollinators while you make foliage selections is recommended. Pollinators help our ecosystem run, and just considering a small plant for decoration can help. For more information on how to help our pollinators check out the UMN Bee Lab and UMN Extension website.

Mercedes Moffett is the interim extension educator with the University of Minnesota for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

Who is visiting your garden?



Mastering Gardening
LORRIE RUGG

What a summer this is turning out to be, from frost Memorial Day weekend to 10 plus days above 90 degrees with no rain and drought. Every gardening year is a challenge and we always have new things that we have to deal with in our gardening world. To me, gardening is an adventure and we all embrace those challenges to

learn new things about our world. Nature is amazing, beautiful and wondrous all rolled into one. But this year there has been lots of chatter about some particularly nasty visitors to our gardens. I hope to give you some information to help you with those visitors. Colorado potato beetles have been flourishing in our Community Garden. Most pesticides are virtually ineffective because of pesticide resistance of this nasty fellow. Good pest management tactics can reduce their numbers. They will attack eggplant, tomatoes, pepper and ground cherries in addition to potatoes. One thing to consider is to plant early maturing vari-

eties to escape some of the damage caused by adults emerging. Growing potatoes every other year may help reduce beetle population. Handpicking the beetles in a small garden is most effective. Drop them in a bucket of soapy water and remember to look on the underside of the leaves to remove or crush the yellowish orange eggs. Neem oil can be used but it is only effective for a couple of days and repeat applications are necessary. But remember to watch the days between application and harvest. The dreaded Japanese Beetles have made an appearance. I was hoping the cold weather we had last winter would help our cause, but not sure

it helped. They can feed on 300 different species of plants! Most of us are aware of the damage they can cause. They skeletonize leaves by feeding on tissue between the major veins. Healthy, mature trees and shrubs can tolerate a lot of feeding without long term injury, however if you are like me, you don't like it! Hand picking them into a bucket of soapy water is best. You need to check your plants daily. Remember beetle-damaged leaves emit air-borne chemicals that will attract more of their friends. Evening or early morning when the little buggers are still cool and sluggish is the best time to remove them, but anytime also works!

Don't use traps, they attract more of them to your yard and garden. Neem oil can be used, but repeat applications are needed. This product is low risk to bees and other beneficial insects. Watch your turf grass for dead patches that are caused by the white grub larvae. These beetles can fly quite a distance, so if you treat your lawn they can still fly in from the neighbors. I also must mention the Emerald Ash Borer. Owatonna has lots of ash trees growing, so if you have Ash trees in your yard the best thing we can do is just watch our trees. Pay attention to the canopy of the tree, if something doesn't look right or you start to see some dieback of the

tree it might be time to call in some experts. There are pro active things you can do for your trees, meaning chemical applications, but best to find an arborist to help with that. The University of Minnesota has great fact sheets available with additional information on all of these visitors to our yards and gardens. Visit the U of M Extension website and click on the Yard and Garden tab and you will find a lot of useful information. I hope this information will help in the battle with those visitors.

Lorrie Rugg is the coordinator of the Steele County Master Gardener program. She lives in Owatonna.

Breyer, Miller honored

◀ **BREYER** from **B6**
Miller loves to be out and about with people and is always willing to help those in need. He spends several hours a week hauling food from various stores in Owatonna to the Steele County Food Shelf. He has loaded and unloaded hundreds of pounds of boxes of food while at the Steele County Food Shelf. He also volunteers or is a member of other charities within Steele County:

- Volunteers to help various charities working at the Cash-wise food stand
- VFW breakfast
- Active member of the Exchange Club
- Drives people to medical appointments and church
- Volunteers at Golf to Prevent Child Abuse
- Active member and

Trustee at Christ Community Covenant Church and sound technician
Miller has received awards for All American Volunteer Minnesota District Exchange 2009, Salvation Army Bell Ringer Award and Most Social Award SWCE Coal Creek Bus Tour.
The top senior not only volunteers his time but his vehicle to drive for the food shelf. A friend of Miller's says, "Lowell has always been a people helper, whether helping a neighbor with a project, mowing a neighbor's lawn, driving people to medical appointments in Rochester or giving someone a ride to church, Lowell will be there for you."
They will be recognized next month during the Steele County Free Fair.

A newly improved Steele

◀ **A NEWLY** from **B6**
den to relax so it gives them a chance to do that without going all the way across the grounds. Whether fairgoers are on the east side or the west side of the fairgrounds, it doesn't matter what kind of ticket they have as Meier said the saloon uses the same tickets as the beer garden so they can use their ticket in either place no matter where they buy them. Some fairgoers may want to use their ticket on Saturday or Sunday morning, when the Steele Saloon will be holding a Bloody Mary bar. The bar is sponsored by the Breakthrough Beverage, Tito's Vodka, Backwoods Sauces and Seasonings

and Amish Annie's Pickled Items. The saloon will also be serving the Steele County Moscow Mule special again this year.
No matter why or when fairgoers enjoy the Steele Saloon, Meier said what makes it all possible is the volunteers who help set it up and serve beverages throughout the fair. He noted that 100% of the help is volunteers.
The Steele Saloon will be open from 2 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.
In order to enter the Steele Saloon, everyone must have an ID on them. No one under 21 will be allowed inside.

STEELE'S FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Waynes

For 40 years, four brothers have teamed up to farm 6,000 acres in southern Steele County near Ellendale. They are Greg, Brian, David and Tom Wayne. "Pretty rare" is how Brian refers to the partnership he has with his three brothers. "It's pretty amazing," Brian says. "People have wondered how we have been able to do it. We have been fortunate to stay together as a family."

The Waynes' unprecedented accomplishment has earned them the honor of being Steele County's Farm Family of the Year for 2021. "It is quite an honor to be nominated and selected," Brian said. The operation got its early beginnings from their grandfather, Manford Wayne, in 1943. Manford's son, Lyle, purchased the adjacent farm in the 1950s and it is currently the main location for the Wayne Brothers' operation.

Within a 10-year span, the Wayne brothers came together to farm. It started out with Greg in 1970 followed by Brian in 1976, David in 1978 and Tom in 1979. Three of Brian's nephews are now helping with the operation.

Over the years, farming has changed significantly for the Waynes. Brian recalls the days of planting crops with a 4-row planter. Today, the Waynes use a 24-row planter, which he calls "more efficient." Brian said he believes farming practices have changed for the better.

The Waynes credit their father, Lyle, for getting them to where they are today. "He gave us good advice," Brian said. "He was always there—right, wrong or indifferent."

Brian attributes their success to "being able to work together with the farm practices we have adapted." For the Waynes, farming brings them pure joy. "We enjoy being able to work together as a family unit and for the joy of agriculture," Brian said, adding they also enjoy being their own bosses and have their own set of responsibilities.

Brian wants people to know that farmers are consciousness of the environment and being a good steward of the soil and land. He also points out that farmers provide food for the entire U.S. and world. In addition to farming, the Waynes are proud of their civic involvement. They have been involved in school boards, the Ellendale Economic Development Council and Ellendale and Geneva Commercial Clubs. Each year they sponsor an agriculture scholarship at NRHEG School. In addition, they are involved in the Camp Courage corn drive and the local food shelf.

The Waynes hope the hard work and teamwork amongst their family will continue on for years to come. "We hope we can continue on with good farming practices in the future," Brian said.

Tom, David, Brian and Greg Wayne farm 6,000 acres near Ellendale. The red Wayne Grain trucks can be see every fall around the countryside hauling corn and soybeans to local elevators.

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History Center to host Legion Boys and Girls program

The Steele County Historical Society announces a presentation from 12 to 1 p.m., Saturday, July 17, at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna.

This presentation will be a panel discussion of the stories of past Boys and Girls State representatives. Differences and similarities from their individual experiences will be high-lighted in this program as well as a brief history of the over-all program. The Boys and Girls State Programs are in conjunction with the American Legion exhibit featured in the SCHS Exhibit Hall at this time.

This event is free to members, \$5 for non-members. SCHS memberships will also be available to purchase on this evening.

The exhibit hall will be open Saturday before and after the presentation until 3 p.m. Call 507-451-1420 if you have any questions regarding this Society event for the community.



Rainbowatonna's first event, a PRIDE picnic held in Morehouse Park Saturday, was attended by more than 100 people.

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Turnout pleases organizers of Owatonna PRIDE picnic

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

More than 100 people turned out Saturday for the Owatonna PRIDE picnic organized by Rainbowatonna.

"I am thrilled," said Nathan Black, one of the people who helped organize the celebration.

"We wanted to create a family-friendly, community-friendly celebration, and we did."

According to the group's Facebook page, Rainbowatonna is a new LGBTQ+ organization that hopes to foster education, advocacy, social activities, PRIDE events, youth programming, and faith community outreach.

"I'm hoping this is the beginning of an LGBT community in Owatonna," said Black, adding Rainbowatonna plans to serve as the umbrella group.

And, he said, he was pleased that Saturday's picnic attracted young and old alike.

When asked what the best thing about the event was, Coqui Conkey of Owatonna said: "That it happened; that people came."

Organizers of the picnic held at Morehouse Park treated the crowd to hotdogs, chips and cookies.

Also at the event were representatives of local United Way and Let's Smile, Inc.

Annette Duncan, president of United Way, and Holly Jorgensen, executive director of Let's Smile Inc., handed out informational materials, toothbrushes and toothpaste to the attendees.

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- **Aug. 25** - Day Trippers Theater "Bench in the Sun!"
- **Sept. 23** - Collegeville Tour St. John's Abbey and St. Benedict's Church tours and more.

Watch for more fall trips coming soon!

For more information, call **507-214-7447**
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GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK

Mid-July Gardening Tips

- Deadhead – Pinch off dead flowers and cut back heat stressed plants such as alyssum and lobelia. Continue to water them and they will come back in cool weather.
- Root vegetables – Thin carrots, beets and other root vegetables so they have room to grow.
- Mowing – Set the mower to no less than 3 or 3.5 inches. Taller grass is more drought and heat tolerant.
- Prune – Cut back spring blooming plants like tulips and daffodils. Prune bleeding hearts to ground level. Prune shrubs that have faded flowers or sent out shoots.
- Dig and Divide – It's OK to divide spreading plants but keep new plantings watered so they can establish their roots.

Becki Tindall, Steele County Master gardener

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TICKETS

Online & Tri M Box office for members opens on June 26.
Online general public ticket sales start July 3.
In-house box office opens July 12- 25, Mon-Weds 5-6:30 (By Phone Only)
Thurs-Fri. 5:30-7:30, Sat 12:30-2, Sun 12:30-2 (In-Person or By Phone)

Little Theatre of Owatonna • 560 Dunnell Drive **LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org**

Litomysl's summer festival is back

◀ **LITOMYSL'S** from B3 is the traditional Polka Mass that has participants sing traditional hymns to the beat of polka music, led by the Litomyslaneous Polka Group. Also participating in the morning Mass will be the Owatonna Knights of Columbus #945's Fourth Degree in full regalia.

Music will echo throughout the grounds. Before the Mass the Owatonna Knights of Columbus Choir will perform in the church. Hans Hohrman will dazzle visitors with his accordion near the school building, while the "Dan Stursa Band" will entertain the crowd when they grace the stage north of the church. The Klecker Band, who have played at all of the past 48 Festivals, will delight listeners in the afternoon inside the church.

The festival brings several thousand people to one small spot in Steele County for fundraising, music, food, games and per-

haps most importantly, fellowship. The Litomysl Summer Festival, a Steele County tradition, is always held on the last Sunday in July. People come from all over as they look forward to this as something fun to do every year.

The Czech and non-Czech community alike can look forward to activities offered at Litomysl. By 11 a.m. all outdoor activities begin with many food booths available to delight anyone's appetite. Festival-goers won't leave hungry, as the Holy Trinity community will be stocked with pork rib sandwiches, pork burgers, brats, hot dogs, walking tacos, root beer floats and refreshments to quench the thirst of all ages.

In the church basement, pie and ice cream will be available, as well as a place to sit and relax.

Everyone will have the opportunity to view the old gas engines and water pump action between the school and the garage.

In the school building, there will be a silent auction, along with a used-a-bit sale, with bargains galore. A country store with garden produce will be by the church.

People of all ages will be eager to await their turn to partake in the many games they choose from plinko, bingo, spin the wheel, fish pond, dime toss and the ever popular root beer barrel game. As has been the case in years past, many local businesses and individuals have donated thousands of items to be used for prizes in the games. Thousands of items have also been donated for the used-a-bit sale in the school and for the Silent Auction. The annual "Big Ticket" raffle, has many prizes (with a value of over \$5,000), the first 5 prizes being \$500. The drawing will be at 3 p.m.

The ladies of the parish will make many, many dozen prune, poppyseed and apricot biscuits (or "buchty" in Czech). They will go on sale at 11 a.m. in

the church basement. Buchty, is a traditional Czech biscuit filled with prunes, apricots, or poppy seed. The women make sweet yeast dough, roll it out, cut it into small squares and fill the squares with prune, poppy seed or apricot filling. The corners of the square of dough are lifted up kitty-corner and folded in the middle and dough is pinched together. The dough has four eyes on top with the filling peeping out: these eyes are called the four eyes of God.

A tractor pulling a tram will help people get to the Festival more quickly, when they park their cars on the roads surrounding Litomysl.

For more information, go to www.litomysl.webs.com.



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A fair perspective: In their own words

◀ **A FAIR** from B6 came after I had been involved in cow camp for four years. I spent two years in novice cow camp and two years in pro cow camp. I had grown to absolutely love working with heifers and calves and showing them at the fair. And with the help of my parents, my sister and I joined the Pratt Commandos 4-H Club.

Joining 4-H gave me another opportunity to show my animals at the fair. I could do three shows instead of just two open class shows. It was extremely hard work. Multiple nights a week of trying

to catch heifers and walk them, washing and clipping them and not to mention the 4 a.m. mornings at the barns during the fair week. But I'm so glad I got to experience that because it gave me an amazing work ethic that has helped me through high school, college and finding a job.

The other value that I gained from being in 4-H and showing at the fair is a love for animals. That love that I gained for animals and agriculture helped me to decide on a career path. I knew that I wanted to work with

animals or agriculture, and I decided on becoming a veterinary technologist, which I am currently going to school for at University of Wisconsin River Falls.

My life has been changed for the best since I became a 4-H member and showed livestock. It has given me a hard work ethic, a love for animals, and a support system made of amazing kids and adults who I know I can always count on.

Lilly Zollner of Owatonna also serves Steele County as a dairy princess.

Brewfest to feature foods, brews from around the world

The 12th annual World Foods and Brewfest is coming to Steele County on Friday, July 23.

The event will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. at Oak View Weddings and Events, 7921 S. County 45, Owatonna.

Samples of foods and brews will be available

from various countries, including Turkey, Germany, Mexico, Vietnam, England, Venezuela, France, Ethiopia, Norway and Korea.

There will be a silent auction.

For the preceding 11 years, the Brewfest was sponsored by the

Cultural Diversity Network, which has now merged with Better Together and become the Alliance for Greater Equity.

Only 300 tickets are available for the event. For more information, go to www.allianceforgreaterequity.org.

Picnic planned for Betterlife members

An annual picnic is planned for members of Betterlife Lodge 127.

It will be held on Monday, Aug. 9 at 5:30

p.m. at the Izaak Walton Building by Owatonna. Entertainment will follow the meal.

Reservations for the

picnic are required by Aug. 1. To make reservations call Julie Kriesel at 507-451-0325 or Steve Wencil at 507-583-7697.



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ACROSS

1 Old computer dial-up device

6 Adjust

10 Impertinent person

14 Fort Utah, formerly

15 Food scraps

16 Cheat

17 Go-ahead

19 Subject of study

20 Mazuma

21 Baseball scorecard listing

23 Scott Pelley's employer

27 Into a state of decline

28 Melts together

29 Airline perks

32 Bankrupts

33 Turns on the waterworks

34 --- Arbor, MI

35 Utter a shrill cry

36 Panamanian singer --- Blades

37 Gumbo essential

38 Second sight

39 Point of a tale

40 Seen by those with 38

41 Went home to disrupt a play with no men

43 Volkswagen classic

44 Prima donnas

45 Mischievous ones

46 Horse that has not won a race

48 Broadcasts

49 'It --- rocket science!'

50 The Martian --- (Ray Bradbury)

56 "Star Wars" monastic warriors

57 Send forth

58 GWTW's Scarlett ---

59 New Mexico artists' colony

60 In order

61 Course halvens

24 Slightly off-color, I'm in red

25 Put on top, wavy lines dip badly

26 Not one

27 Pitch

29 Name of eight popes

30 Register

31 Winds

33 Prepares for keeping

36 Wines and dines

37 Crude cartel

39 Chess turn

40 Official sitting

42 Side-to-side measurements

43 Where the cows come home to

45 Commotions

46 Spray finely

47 Largest of seven, round the world

48 Any of 44 Across could sing one

51 Care plan

52 Greek X

53 Intra-office computer system

54 Before

55 Carrier to Copenhagen, briefly

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Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2005 Dodge grand Caravan and the power operated side door doesn't always work. Sometimes when you close the door it will almost move to the full closed position then it reverses and fully opens. If I try it several times it sometimes closes. I have been told by two dealerships that it needs a new ribbon cable and its hundreds of dollars. Is this common?

Margaret in Fargo North Dakota

Dear Margaret,
This is a common problem in many of the vans using a power sliding door system. They have to make a connection between the door and the body and many do it with a cable. The cable moves back and forth every time the door slides and with enough time it can be rubbed through or break one of the wires in the cable. If either of these things happens it can act just like yours is operating. Other issues like programming can be a factor and less expensive than a new cable so make sure that they give it a proper diagnosis and guarantee their work. A good thing to remember is the most expensive repair is always the one you don't need. Make sure that the shop doing the repairs has had experience with the system used on your vehicle. If it is a cable they are expensive to replace mostly due to the time involved for the labor which can take several hours of work.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
I listen to Under the Hood Here in Salida Colorado and I drive a Chevy S10 with a manual transmission. Recently the transmission has become hard to put into reverse and also first gear unless the engine is turned off. When I try to engage it the gears grind and if I force it I can get it to go eventually. Once it is in gear it seems to work ok. What can you tell me?

Kelly in Salida Colorado

Dear Kelly,
It sounds like the clutch is not completely disengaging. To smoothly engage without gear clash, the input shaft of the transmission needs to stop moving and this occurs when the clutch is pressed down. Many things can cause it to keep moving like a warped clutch disc or pressure plate or the pilot shaft dragging on the crankshaft but the most common item is worn clutch hydraulics. The vehicle will need to be properly diagnosed to verify which component is the cause before repairs. The one thing to note is that if that if it is being operated in this condition it can cause damage to occur to the transmission very quickly and increase repair costs. The grinding can cause gear wear internally and if the clutch is dragging due to a hydraulic problem then heat will be built up which can burn up clutch friction parts or cause warpage which will mean having to replace the clutch parts.

Take care, the Motor Medics

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A FOOTBALL CAREER CUT SHORT

◀ **FOOTBALL** from B4 ball, Associated Press Player of the Year and Gatorade Player of the Year. He rushed for a total of 3,012 yards and 46 touchdowns in addition to catching nine passes for 108 yards and another score. The Huskies also called upon Williamson to play defense in certain situations. He totaled 24 tackles and

two interceptions on the season and helped Owatonna claim its second consecutive state championship. The injury bug stung Williamson again the following season when he tore his ACL while competing in spring practice at the University of Minnesota. He redshirted 2019 after missing the entire sea-

son due to the injury. Williamson saw his first action for the Gophers in 2020, where he completed in two games. He made his collegiate debut in a 24-17 win at Nebraska on Dec. 12, 2020. He also registered a tackle in Minnesota's 20-17 overtime loss at Wisconsin on Dec. 19, 2020. In February 2021, Williamson went under the knife again. This time for labrum shoulder surgery, according to his father Rich Williamson.

"It was a very difficult decision for him," Rich Williamson said. "But for his physical body condition in the future he feels he had to do it. He feels he can no longer physically play. I hope he changes his mind."

The Gophers still have a strong stable of running backs with All-America Mohamed Ibrahim, Treyson Potts and Cam Wiley leading the group.

A freshman phenom for Blossoms track

◀ **FRESHMAN** from B4 have to tie a PR in order to go to state," she said.

Thanks to her improved form and technique, Forsberg was able to do just that and she was one of just two Section 1A high jumpers who reached the state tournament.

Reaching the state tournament in just her first season as a high jumper meant a lot to her.

"I was very happy and very proud of myself making it to state during my freshman year," she said.

However, she wasn't satisfied with just making it to state, she wanted to PR at the biggest meet of the year.

That wasn't going to be easy as Forsberg was competing on a much bigger stage and in front of a much bigger crowd that what she was used to but that didn't bother her.

"I'm definitely used to being put under pressure so I work better under pressure. I think that definitely helped me reach a new PR, 5-foot, 3-inches, at state," she said.

In addition to achieving a new PR, she earned fourth place making her the fourth-best female Class A high jumper in the state.

Given her success in her first season high jumping, Forsberg said she's definitely going to put more time and practice into her craft.

"I want to keep getting better, make it to state again and hopefully get to the point where I can get a college scholarship for track and field," she said.

FREELANCE WRITER WANTED

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

If interested, please email
Rick Bussler at bprick@frontier.com.

NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION

State of Minnesota
County of Steele

Laura Ihrke
County Auditor

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE

You are hereby notified that the parcels of real property described below and located in Steele County, Minnesota, are subject to forfeiture to the State of Minnesota because of the nonpayment of delinquent property taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest and costs levied on those parcels. The time for redemption from forfeiture expires if a redemption is not made within 60 days after service of this notice on all persons having an interest in the parcels.

The following information is listed below: the names of the property owners, taxpayers, and interested parties who have filed their addresses under M.S. 276.041; the addresses of the parties at the election of the county auditor; the legal description and parcel identification number of each parcel; and the amount necessary to redeem a parcel as of the date listed below.

NAMES/ADDRESSES	PID AND DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DUE
David H & Jane E Diffendorfer 2657 SE 54 th Avenue Owatonna, MN 55060	07-021-3303 Commencing at a point 716 feet North of the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 107 North, Range 19 West, and running thence south to the gas pipe where the same runs thru said above described land approximately in an Easterly-Westerly direction, thence East 1 rod, thence North to a point 1 rod East of the point of beginning, thence West to the point of beginning.	\$104.72
Heather A Johnson 101 W. Main St. Blooming Prairie, MN 55917	14-107-0101 Lot 1, Block 1, Virtues Addition to the Village, now City, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, Steele County, Minnesota	\$3,765.93
David E Kranda 2330 Kenyon Road Owatonna, MN 55060	17-002-4101 The North 81 feet of the East 165 feet of the S½ of NE¼ of NW¼ of Section 2-107-20, EXCEPT: The North 10 feet thereof.	\$7,239.98
Nicolas A & Jaimie K Leiven 426 Sylvan St. Owatonna, MN 55060	17-009-1308 All that part of the N½ of the SW¼ of NE¼ of Section 9-107-20, Steele County, Minnesota, described by: Commencing at the SE corner thereof; thence N 90° W, assumed bearing, 535.88 feet along the South line to the True Point of Beginning; thence N 90° W 126.62 feet along the South line thereof; thence N 1°00'30" W 158.50 feet along a line parallel with the West line thereof; thence N 90° E 126.62 feet, thence S 1°00'30" E 158.50 feet to said True Point of Beginning; subject to a public street easement along the South 33 feet thereof.	\$4,066.71
Cecelia Ecklund 11601 County Road 26 Verndale, MN 56481	17-265-0107 The West 62 feet of the South 35 feet of Lot 6, Block 1, Radel Addition No. 2, Owatonna, Minnesota	\$523.84

FAILURE TO REDEEM THE LANDS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE LAND AND FORFEITURE TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

The amounts listed above must be paid to redeem if paid on or before July 30, 2021. Please contact the Steele County Auditor's Office to verify the amount due if paid after July 30, 2021.

Inquiries about the delinquent tax proceedings described above can be made to the Steele County Auditor at the address listed below.

Witness my hand and official seal this 8th day of July, 2021.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor
Steele County Administration Center
630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 444-7410

(County Seal)

7/14/21

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KASSON RENTALS

2 bd smoke free apt open July. Rent based on income. Month to month leases & deposit payment plans. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 7/8T2

DODGE CENTER RENTALS

2 bd smoke free apts open August. \$755 p/mo + elec. Garages also open to rent. Minutes from Hwy 14 & Rochester. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO 7/8T2

DODGE CENTER:

1-bedroom upper apartment in house, with private entrance. Stove, refrigerator, water and garbage serv. incl. Nonsmokers only. No pets. Available now. \$550 per month, plus deposit. 507-374-6747. 6/17TFN

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FOR SALE: Rifle Ammunition. Factory new

Remington .22-250 (20 rds.) \$25; Federal 300 Win.Mag. 180 grain soft point \$45; 7 boxes New Components 22-250 CCI 200, 33.1 GR IMR 4064, 55 Hornaday V-Max 140 rounds \$15/20 rounds or all for \$95; 100 rounds of .300 Wby. Magnum cartridges \$100; .223/5.56 bulk ammo (50-1,000 rounds) \$1.10/round. 763-226-9775 for information. 5/8TFNpd

COINS

NEED CASH? I give free appraisals of your older coins from 1964 and older. I am also looking to buy older coins such as silver dollars, halves, quarters, dimes and Indianhead cents. Please call Ron from Hayfield at 507-477-2427 or 507-259-6460. 7/1T6pd

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED COOK to work evenings and weekends. Experience helpful. Must be 18 and a team player. Apply at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club or call 507-319-2070 for more information.

Zumbro Valley Golf Course is seeking an individual to assist in mowing the grounds. 15-20 HRS per week. \$12/hr. Experienced preferred. Call the Clubhouse at 507-635-2821 7/8T3

PART-TIME ASSISTANT COOK: Are you looking to make a difference in the lives of seniors in your

community? Semcac Senior Nutrition is looking for a **Part-Time Assistant Cook** for our site in Rochester, MN. Approximately 5 hours per day, M-F (no weekends!) Semcac offers a great benefit package including paid holidays, sick, and vacation leave. Application and additional information are available at www.semcac.org or contact Semcac Senior Services at seniorservices@semcac.org or 507-864-8231. Applications must be postmarked by **July 30, 2021**, or until filled. EOE 7/8T3

CAREGIVER NEEDED for disabled female. Every other Saturday days, or every other Saturday overnight. 9-12 hour shifts. \$13.25 per hour. NW Rochester. Will train. 507-289-2756. 7/1T3pd

BARGAIN FINDERS

KITCHEN DINING TABLE: comes with 5 padded chairs, with arms and wheels. Good condition. \$50 Owatonna. 507-451-1182 7/14T4pd

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PAYING CASH FOR OLD ADVERTISING SIGNS, oil cans gas pumps, thermometers, clocks etc. Always looking for gas & oil signs, marine signs, soda signs, anything old and unique to advertising. Also willing to pay a find-

er's fee if it leads to a purchase. Brand examples include Mobil, Phillips 66, Sinclair, Coke, Crush, Shell. Feel free to call or text 651-269-8259 or email PikeRelicRescue@gmail.com 6/24T4

GARAGE SALE

BYRON Garage Sale. Fri., July 16, 8-4, Sat., July 17, 8-noon. 817 2nd St. NW. Longaberger baskets, games, books, kitchen item, clothing, misc. Prices slashed on Saturday. 7/15pd

Freelance Writer Wanted

The Dodge County Independent is seeking a freelance writer and photographer to cover area news. This is a perfect opportunity for a retiree who loves to write and attend community events or someone entering the profession desiring hands-on experience.

Please email Karen Jorgensen, editor at
editordci@kmtel.com

GOT NEWS? EDITORDCI@KMTTEL.COM

NOW HIRING**POSTIVE COMMUNITY NORMS COORDINATOR**

This position will support Youth Substance Abuse Prevention in Blooming Prairie. If you have:

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This may be the career for you! This is a full-time position with benefits. Visit www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org or call 507-455-1180 for more details.

Those interested may email their resume and cover letter to Annette Duncan at president@unitedwaysteelecounty.org and add PCN Coordinator to subject.



United Way
of Steele County

HELP WANTED | DAIRY FARM

Afternoon **calf feeder** and **calf care** person for our family dairy farm in northeast corner of Dodge County.

- Experience helpful but will train.
- English required for this position.

.....
CONTACT LAURA AT 507-269-3418.

TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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EOE



7/15

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7/8T2

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Registration begins at 2:30 p.m.

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Live Auction

Begins at 7 p.m. | Silent Auction to take place throughout the day

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TICKETS!

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Gets you a plate of food, sampling, entry to our silent auction & access to all of our activities!
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