



Wednesday, August 4, 2021
www.SteeleCountyTimes.com
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

BEATING THE HEAT

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

With a record number of days hitting 90 degrees or more this summer, 10-year-old Mason Peterson of Blooming Prairie found a way to forget the weather and stay cool. Here he slides down a water slide rented from B to Z Hardware. After a slight cool down last weekend, temperatures are expected to climb back into the upper 80s by Sunday.

Federated Challenge raises record \$3.3 M

It proved to be another record for this year's Federated Challenge. The 2021 Federated Challenge raised a record-breaking \$3,316,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters, during its 17th annual gala on July 25. During this sweet reunion, a record 67

prominent businesses and more than 500 generous people attended the gala to support youth mentoring in Minnesota and throughout America. "Last year was tough, but we delivered in a big way," said Federated Insurance Chairman Jeff Fetters.

"It was amazing to see everyone together, in person, rallying together for our nation's youth. It was truly moving. Each and every donor and business showed their drive, personal commitment, and heart." One hundred percent of the money raised will

be donated to Minnesota's three Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America®. These organizations are creating powerful one-to-one mentoring relationships between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles") – protecting

our next generation. A portion of the donations are earmarked for the Federated Challenge Scholarship Program which provides up to \$5,000 per year to qualified Littles or high school Bigs enrolled in a non-four-year program focusing on apprenticeship, certificate, trade

school, technical, or community college. Hundreds of students have benefited from this fund and are earning job-ready training degrees with little to no debt. "This year's theme, Stand by Me, was fitting," said Fetters. "You See **FEDERATED** on A8 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

A softball fan uses his credit card to buy some softball apparel at the 41st annual Corky's Early Bird Softball Tournament held in Owatonna this past weekend. Corky's announced Monday that the 42nd Annual Corky's Early Bird will be held April 28-May 1, 2022.

Corky's pumps big bucks into local economy

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

With some 200 softball teams in town, it's not surprising that all of the hotel and motel rooms in Owatonna were booked this past weekend. "It's a little crazy, but crazy is good," said Karen Pehrson, director of Conventions and Tourism for the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. "Every single hotel room is

full and if we had more hotel rooms, they'd be full, too." Tournaments, in general, occupy a lot of weekend hotel rooms, according to Pehrson. And, she said, the impact goes far beyond the lodging establishments. "For every \$100 visitors spend on lodging, they spend another \$222 in our community." Pehrson estimated that Corky's players and fans added \$250,000 See **CORKY'S** on A6 ▶

United Way names new prevention coordinator for BP

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

United Way of Steele County President Annette Duncan on Monday named Aron Welch coordinator of Positive Community Norms, the new drug and alcohol prevention program based at Blooming Prairie High School. He will begin his new role on Aug. 16. Welch has a bachelor's degree in public health education and promotion

from the University of Minnesota Duluth. He started his career in Winona Schools as an education and personal care assistant. For the past five years, he has been planning and managing projects that reduce and delay underage alcohol consumption at United South Central (USC) schools in Wells. Duncan said Welch comes to Blooming Prairie with a "wealth of knowledge, specifically

around coordinating the Positive Community Norms grant requirements." During his time at USC, Welch quickly learned what it takes to communicate with multiple sectors effectively and to empower students to develop unique tools and opportunities, she said. "With Aron's experience and previous successes with this grant, we are confident that he will prove to be an excellent resource in the Blooming Prairie com-

munity," said Duncan. Welch's first task will be to assemble the coalition to work alongside him to create positive community norms in Blooming Prairie. Various leaders and individuals representing different sectors within the community have already volunteered to be on the coalition. "Many community members have already volunteered to help, which is what made this grant possible," Duncan said. "This is what it

means to live united." Blooming Prairie has received a \$1 million grant over the next five years for the prevention efforts specifically targeted at youth. United Way successfully submitted the grant application earlier this year to curb youth drug and alcohol use within the community. United Way worked in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Blooming Prairie Schools on hiring Welch.



Aron Welch

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AREA DEATHS

Sharon Kruger, 77, Little Canada
Patrick Lehrer, 69, Owatonna
Jon Osmundson, 62, Owatonna

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
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BIG news
for Steele County Times!

Come visit us at our fair booth during the Steele County Fair where we will unveil the news!

OUR VIEW

Demand straight talk from schools

“You can’t wait out the clock on this [Delta variant]... You have a choice. Either get vaccinated and be largely protected, or not get vaccinated and run the risk of being hospitalized, in intensive care, or even dying. And even last – but not least – because we can’t vaccinate our kids right now, we want to bubble those kids as much as we can.”

• Epidemiologist Dr. Michael Osterholm
MSNBC, July 22, 2021

Make no mistake about it. Schools are going to be challenged this fall when students return to the classroom. Unlike earlier strains of COVID-19, the Delta variant is impacting kids. And while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status, neither is mandating that masks be worn in schools. That means it’s up to local school districts to determine whether they will or won’t require masks. As of now, area school superintendents are saying masks are optional but not required. Somehow the language used by the CDC and state health department is getting watered down. Nowhere in their respective recommendations does either agency use the word optional. Fact is: Both are recommending wearing masks in school. And that’s the language area school officials ought to be using. Providing a safe environment for our children to learn requires some straight talk. Of course, masks will be optional – but they should also be recommended. And that recommendation needs to be repeated often by those responsible for keeping them safe while in school. As Osterholm repeatedly says: We may want to be done with the virus, but the virus is not done with us. Masks may provide the bubble our children need to fend off the Delta variant – it does infect kids; it does make kids very sick; and, it is highly transmissible by kids. And that’s reason enough to demand straight talk on the issue.

YOUR VIEW

Wardlow wants politics out of AG’s office

To-the-Editor:
On July 19, Republican Candidate for Minnesota Attorney General, Doug Wardlow, presented his views in the Gainey Room at the Owatonna Library. He stated he would focus on three issues: law and order, big tech and election integrity. He stated our current Attorney General Keith Ellison is doing nothing about human trafficking in Minnesota and he would take politics out of the Attorney General’s Office. When he ran in 2018 for Attorney General he stated if he won the first thing he would do was fire 42 Democratic Lawyers in the Attorney General’s Office and replace them with Republicans. He stated he would not take Public Political Financing, which limits the amount a candidate can raise when running for office. Doug admitted to committing campaign finance violations in 2018 and was fined \$46,000. I wonder what outside sources Doug is counting on to finance his campaign. Doug stated if we had an honest media in this state people would be aware of the extreme left wing agenda and that big tech is impinging on

free speech and doing the bidding of the government. I guess Doug believes media should be obligated to share whatever a person says no matter how outrageous or how full of lies their comments may be. Doug also stated we need to get to the bottom of what happened in the past election similar to what is currently being done in Arizona. He also stated the League of Women Voters is a leftist group. Speaking to the people present he stated we have logic and truth on our side. After he was done speaking, I asked how many people actually believed there was widespread election fraud to which the majority of people present indicated they did believe that. A person present suggested I go to frankspeech.com because on the dates of Aug 10-12 the proof of election fraud in the 2020 election will be presented. I did go to the site and found out the sites’ main speaker is Mike Lindal, the Pillow Man. I encourage readers to go to this site yourselves and see what logic and truth is being presented and then decide for yourselves. **Philip Heim Medford**

Looks like a promising year for fairs



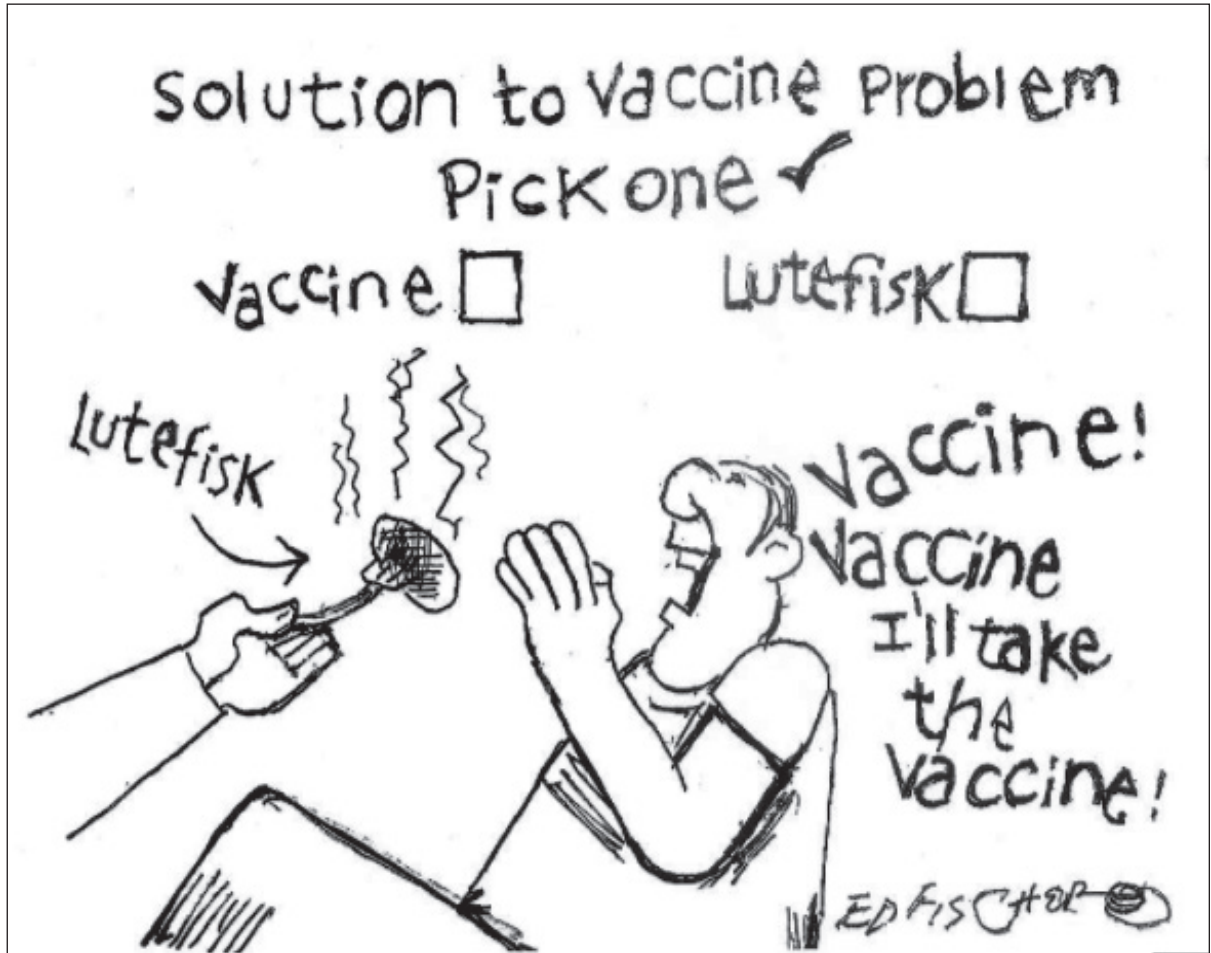
Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

It’s looking like a promising year for Minnesota fairs. Attendance at the Dodge County Fair in Kasson from mid-July was reportedly up substantially, easily surpassing 38,000 people. Like Steele County, the Dodge fair is also a free fair so counting heads is impossible. But Marilyn Leron, who serves as president of the Dodge fair, which is Minnesota’s oldest fair, said she was confident that they had more than 38,000 people come to the fair this year. Leron went on to say, “All of the fairs are reporting high numbers this year.”

It’s not just happening at fairs. Many community celebrations, festivals and events are reporting strong attendance throughout the summer. There are likely many factors leading to the high attendance. But I’d like to offer that the most significant factor is people are sick of being homebound after a year of battling the COVID-19 pandemic. I think people are finding a sense of relief in getting connected once again with their friends and neighbors. Every community celebration that I’ve been to so far, people have expressed how they are just thankful to be out and about enjoying life again. Steele County is gearing up for Minnesota’s largest county fair starting on Aug. 17. Barring any weather catastrophes, my hunch is that Steele County could see record numbers this year as well. But fair officials will tell you that people get

way too hung up on attendance figures. No one knows this more than Jerry Hammer, the general manager of the Minnesota State Fair, who happens to have connections to Steele County. He actually got his first taste of fair life at the Steele County Free Fair in 1977 when he was working for the Owatonna People’s Press as sports editor. A few weeks ago, I had a conversation with Hammer about attendance at the State Fair, which in 2019 attracted a record 2 million-plus people. While attendance is one barometer of the success of an event, Hammer said he has found that attendance becomes way more important than it should be. He said that for some reason, people often zero in on daily attendance and whether it’s up or down from the previous year. Scott Kozelka, manager of the Steele County Fair, also tends to shy away from the

attendance topic. He told me that the greatest satisfaction he gets is putting smiles on people’s faces with the activities that go on at the fair. He also enjoys hearing their comments about how much they enjoyed the fair. Regardless of what happens this year with attendance, one thing is certain. People will be afforded a great time with many fun activities to do. Perhaps more so than ever before, this year’s Steele County fair is loaded with family fun activities. Next week we will be publishing a special section as a tribute to the fair and everything going on at it this year. It’s definitely fair time once again, and the fun is about to begin. I hope you will plan to get out this year to make up for the time lost last year. Fair officials have been working extra hard at bringing back the fun in 2021 so now it’s up to us to go in hot pursuit of enjoying it!



GUEST COLUMN

We need to adopt ‘One bill, one vote’

BY GENE DORNINK

Now that session is over, I wanted to talk about one of the things I ran on, “One bill, one vote.” I got an in-depth look at the system this year and now more than ever I believe we need to work toward a system of straight up or down votes, without omnibus bills, without omnibus bills that force bad policy on Minnesotans. An omnibus bill is a collection of many pieces of legislation that are difficult to read thoroughly and understand. Policy that impacts everyday lives in our communities needs to be brought to the public’s attention, go through a hearing process, and have every representative decide if it’s best for their constituents. Rep. Peggy Bennett has been working hard

to find a solution to the tradition of omnibus bills. She has been a tireless leader and advocate for One Bill, One Vote, and I am thankful for the work done by her and her staff. Next session, Rep. Bennett plans to introduce a bill in the House which I will also introduce in the Senate to address these concerns. In the meantime, I will always support bringing stand-alone pieces of legislation to the Senate floor as opposed to adding them into a rushed omnibus bill at the end of session. The current system is broken. People wonder why we get bad legislation in Minnesota and these omnibus bills are a significant source. Separate from the omnibus bill, much of this bad policy would be voted down by the Sen-

ate. If the legislation is good, it can pass on its own. The omnibus bill system does not serve the people well, and it forces your representatives to accept some bad policy added in an otherwise good bill. The proponents of our omnibus bill system will say that without them, nothing gets done. I say that without them, the legislature will have to face the hard questions and address issues head-on rather than dumping everything into the omnibus trash can and forcing a last-minute vote. The benefit to the voters is real transparency. You’d be able to see exactly what your representative voted for and against. The current process allows representatives to hide their real voting records.

Strong leaders should all want one bill one vote! Sometimes when I vote for an omnibus bill, I have to pinch my nose so as not to smell the incredibly bad legislation included. With one bill one vote my constituents can see my voting record and I can explain why I have voted the way I did. As always, I am here for you if you have any comments, questions, or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me by email at Sen.Gene.Dornink@Senate.mn or call me at 651-296-5240. **Gene Dornink is a state senator for Minnesota District 27, which includes the City of Blooming Prairie, southern Dodge County and most of Freeborn and Mower counties.**

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MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
2021—16 awards
2020—9 state awards
2019—7 state awards
2018—6 state and 4 national awards
2017—2 state and 3 national awards
2016—8 state and 6 national awards
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)

Building pad in place at new high school



STAFF PHOTO BY JOEY BUNTON

With the building pad now complete at the new Owatonna High School construction site, work to install the rammed aggregate piers for foundation support is underway. Designed by Wold Architects and Engineers, the three-story, 317,000-square-foot high school located on a 90-acre site with parking lots for 890 vehicles, will accommodate 1,600 students. The project also includes a 3,451-seat football stadium, four-court gymnasium, eight tennis courts, four soccer/lacrosse fields, two softball fields, two baseball fields, and a synthetic turf field and full track at the stadium. Construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2023, with the school slated to open in the fall of 2023.

Owatonna Shoe celebrates its 75th anniversary

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Tom Brick's first memories of Owatonna Shoe involve sweeping the stairs, breaking down boxes and the smells of leather.

He was a youngster at the time and his father, Jim Brick, managed the store for Lorenz Schuster, the original owner.

Brick said his father purchased the store from Schuster in 1967.

"I'm the third generation of Bricks to dedicate my life to the success of downtown Owatonna," said Brick.

Brick's grandfather, John, owned Brick Furniture and Funeral Home on Cedar Avenue, just north of the former Jerry's Supper Club.

"He loved this town and so do I," said Brick, who purchased the company from his father in 1977.

Brick said he wasn't always sure he wanted to return to Owatonna to run and eventually purchase the store.

Two years after his father purchased the store, Brick said his father called him at college and asked, "Do you want this store?"

"When do you need to know?" the younger Brick asked.

"By Friday," his father said.

"That's a pretty big decision to make in two days," said Brick, adding that his dad was firm – he needed an answer in two days because he had an offer for the business from someone else.

Brick said he told his dad yes, thinking he could always change his mind.

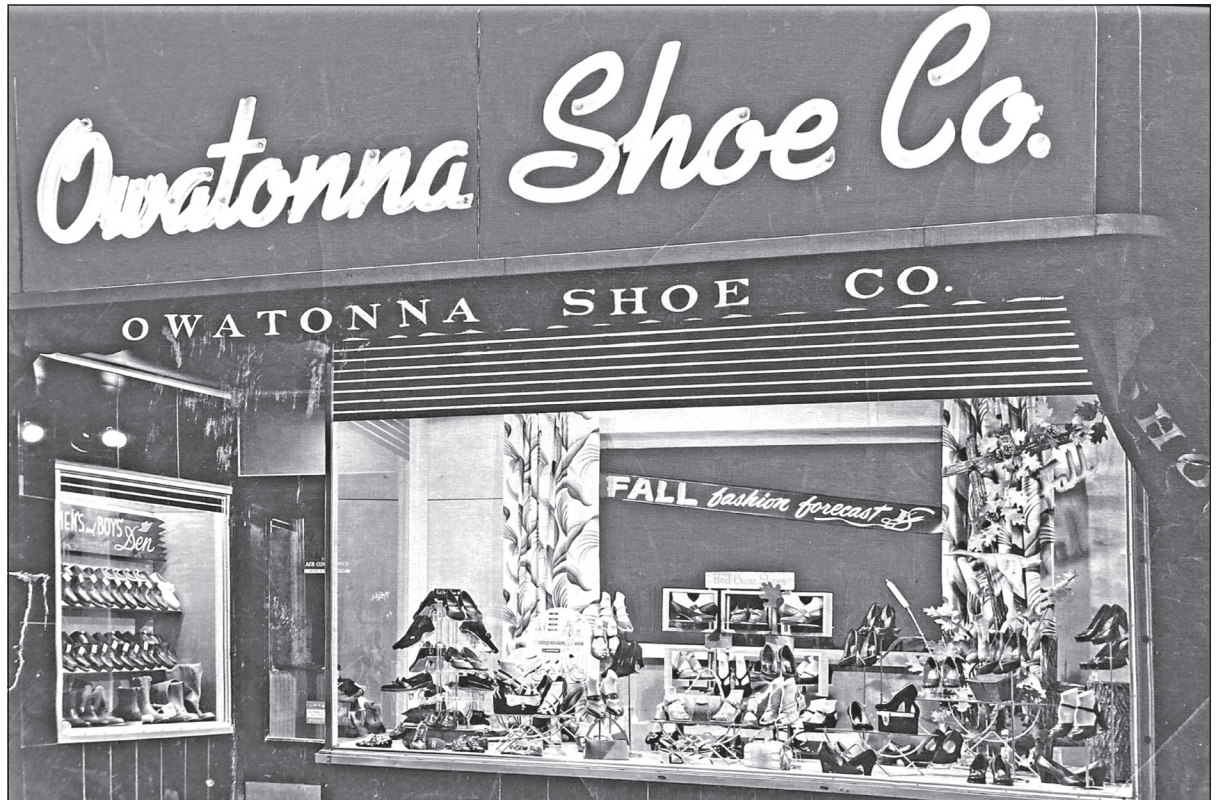
That didn't happen. In 1972, just days after Brick graduated from MSU, his father, Jim, had open-heart surgery.

"I ran the store from that point on," said Brick. "An it's been a great run."

And like Schuster and his father, Brick said he continued the tradition of carrying quality shoe brands.

"I've never stocked an inexpensive shoe," said Brick. "Quality shoes may cost more initially but save customers money in the long run."

Brick said he's incredibly proud of the renovations made at the store during the time he's owned it.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

This is what the front of the Owatonna Shoe store looked like until 1980, when current owner Tom Brick purchased the building to the north and renovated both buildings to create one larger shoe store.

"We are constantly remodeling," he said. Marie Larson of Cedar Frame and Gallery called it "creeping elegance." When you do one area, she told him there is always another one to do, said Brick, adding that Larson often assisted him in selecting the colors.

See **SHOE** on A7 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Tom Brick purchased Owatonna Shoe in downtown Owatonna from his father, Jim, in 1977. The store was founded in 1946 by Lorenz Schuster. Jim Brick managed the store and several others for Schuster before buying the Owatonna store in 1967.

MILESTONES

- 1946 – Lorenz Schuster opens Owatonna Shoe Co. at 121 North Cedar in downtown Owatonna
- 1967 – Jim Brick, one of Schuster's first clerks and later general manager, purchases the store from Schuster.
- 1972 – Tom Brick finishes college and begins working full-time at the store.
- 1977 – Tom Brick buys the store from his father.
- 1980 – Tom Brick purchase the building just to the north of Owatonna Shoe, combining the two buildings to create a larger store with a common entrance and front.

Drug court resumes in-person sessions

Family, friends able to attend graduation

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

For the first time since March of 2020, the Steele Waseca Drug Court resumed in-person hearings in Owatonna last week. And for Tyler Lutz that meant his family and friends could physically attend his graduation ceremony.

Like the proceedings themselves, drug court graduations took place via Zoom the past 15 months because of COVID-19 restrictions. According to Nicole Grams, drug court coordinator, the last in-person graduation

ceremony occurred in February of 2020.

"Graduations are for the graduates – to recognize their achievements – and it's exciting that their family members can attend," said Grams, adding that comparatively very few guests joined the Zoom graduations.

More than a dozen of Lutz's family members and friends attended Wednesday's graduation in person, with one joining via Zoom.

Drug court will be hybrid – using Zoom while holding in-person sessions – for an unspecified period.

Lutz is the 75th graduate of the Steele Waseca Drug Court.

"I was looking at four years in prison," said Lutz.

He entered the program in September of 2019 on two separate violations in Steele County – felony DWI and a probation violation on a gross misdemeanor DWI.

By completing the program, he will not serve the sentence on his probation violation and was given a stayed prison sentence on the felony charge.

"This is a wonderful program," said Lutz. "Earning

See **DRUG** on A5 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Chief Judge of the Third Judicial District Joseph Buetel, who presides over Drug Court in Steele County, presents Tyler Lutz of Owatonna with his completion plaque as part of the graduation ceremony. Lutz is holding his GED certificate, which he earned as part of the drug court's program requirements.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Trespassing: Owatonna Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:50 p.m. on July 24.

3 felony charges in Darts Park shooting

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

Three felony charges have been filed against the man arrested in what is believed to be a drug-related shooting at Darts Park in Owatonna on July 18.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Zachary Ryan Schultz, 18, of Northfield with dangerous weapons-drive by shooting, second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and dangerous weapons-reckless discharge of a firearm.

The most serious charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

Officers responded to Darts Park at about 5:30 p.m. on July 18 when citizens in the park reporting hearing two gunshots coming from vehicles that took off from the area at a high rate of speed.

Police identified Schultz's vehicle as being involved in the incident by reviewing video footage from cameras in the park. Investigators also determined the second vehicle involved. When they stopped the second vehicle later that night, the driver told officers, "It was a robbery gone wrong," according



Zachary Schultz

to the criminal complaint.

Investigators learned that teenagers went to the park to purchase some marijuana. A man told police that the marijuana they were trying to sell was junk. Some words were exchanged between both parties before one of them pulled out a handgun.

Northfield Police assisted with the investigation by securing Schultz's vehicle. Owatonna detectives conducted a search warrant on the vehicle in which they found multiple casings as well as a .22 round.

Schultz met with police detectives in which he admitted to coming to Owatonna for a potential marijuana deal and firing a .22 pistol at the victims as they fled, the complaint said. Schultz indicated to police his eyes were closed when he shot the gun and was unclear as to where he was aiming.

The complaint said Schultz later bleached the firearm and wrapped it in plastic before hiding it in the rafters of a garage in Northfield. Police drafted another search warrant and found the firearm tucked in the rafters of the garage where Schultz said it was hiding, court records said.

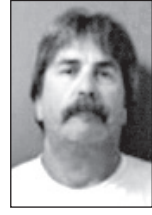
CRIME BRIEF

Wrong way driver nabbed for DWI in Owatonna

A driver traveling the wrong way has been arrested for drunken driving.

Owatonna Police arrested John Bennett, 56, of Des Moines for third-degree DWI-test refusal and fourth-degree DWI on July 24.

Officers saw Bennett operating a vehicle going the wrong way on West Park Square, according to police. When



John Bennett

the officers stopped the vehicle, they determined he was showing signs of intoxication.

Police said when Bennett was asked for his driver's license, he just handed over his entire wallet.

At the jail, Bennett is accused of refusing to follow directions for a breath test and manipulating the breath testing procedure and providing a deficient sample.

Milwaukee man gets life in prison for killing toddler's mom

A Wisconsin man who killed and dumped the body of his 2-year-old daughter outside of Blooming Prairie will be behind bars for the rest of his life.

Dariaz Higgins was sentenced on July 26 to life in prison without the possibility of parole for killing Sierra Robinson, 24, the mother of his daughter.

Higgins shot Robinson to death in March 2019 as she was walking toward an apartment.

"I can't imagine

anything more cruel than to have mom come to Milwaukee and lead her on a goose chase knowing the child is already dead," Circuit Judge Janet Protasiewicz told Higgins in court.

During the sentencing, the judge said she was taken aback by Higgins' comments when he said Robinson had stolen from him and was using their



Dariaz Higgins

child as a bargaining chip. "You're still blaming the victim," Protasiewicz said. "I was stunned to hear that come out of your mouth."

On March 15, 2019, Noelani's body was found wrapped in a blanket outside of Blooming Prairie. Minnesota authorities determined that Noelani had been killed at a hotel in Austin prior to being left in the ditch.

State courts modify face covering requirements

The Minnesota Judicial Branch has announced a modification to its guidance on face coverings in court facilities. District court judges may require face coverings in courtrooms and public spaces of court facilities.

Throughout the pandemic, the Judicial Branch has based its decisions for courthouse operations on the guidance of public health experts, the status of virus transmission in the state, and local conditions.

"Our top priority is to ensure access to justice while protecting the health and safety of our judges, staff, and all who may enter a courthouse,"

said Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea. "The new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the continuing spread of COVID-19 and variants, require us to take this precautionary step."

Under the new administrative order from Chief Justice Gildea, the chief judge of a judicial district may require face coverings to be worn in public spaces in courthouse facilities. In addition, a presiding judge, in consultation with the chief judge, may require individuals who participate in or attend an in-person proceeding to wear a face covering during the proceeding. These decisions

will be made at the local level and can vary by county. For information about local requirements for face coverings in court facilities, Minnesotans may contact their county courthouse.

If a county in which a courthouse is located mandates the use of face coverings in county-owned buildings, the district court in that county will require the use of face coverings consistent with the county's decision. Individuals may choose to wear face coverings in any court facility. Judges may direct people to remove face coverings as necessary to conduct court hearings.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 26 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Ley E. Ortiz Calleja, 25, Byron, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. The defendant was sentenced to \$1,081, 1 year in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, predatory offender registration, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of pornography, attend sex offender program, submit to polygraph

exams as directed, no access to Internet without approval and 10 years of supervised probation. Lesly L. Wadley, 45, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault and felony violation of no contact order. Wadley was sentenced to \$125, 60 days in county jail, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 5 years of supervised probation. Stephanie A. Wilson, 35, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession

of cocaine or meth. She was sentenced to \$131, 6 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 26 - Aug. 1:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joshua B. Anderson, 34, Bagley, hands free violation, \$125; Richard Dominguez, 48, Austin, violation of no contact order, \$75 and 149 days in county jail; Tabatha R. Katzung, 30, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Elijah S. Alsop, 18, Forest City, IA, speeding, \$125; Amy D. Alvarez, 43, Wichita, KS, speeding, \$115; David W. Benson, 58, New Prague, unsafe lane usage, \$125; Holly N. Bergman, 36, Britt, IA, speeding, \$125; Justin B. Blank, 26, Albert Lea, no license and no insurance, \$375; Roger D. Buker, 57, Waseca, unsafe

change of course, \$125; Luke A. Busby, 18, Grimes, IA, speeding, \$215; Lon R. Carnahan, 73, Shakopee, hands free violation, \$125; Sorcha M. Carpenter, 31, Cannon Falls, speeding, \$125; Vinit S. Chopade, 45, Overland Park, KS, speeding, \$125; Frankie J. Correa, 41, Northwood, IA, speeding, \$115; Sampath De Silva, 57, Austin, hands free violation, \$125; Austin M. Dessner, 25, Byron, speeding, \$115; Cortney J. Espe, 19, Blooming Prairie, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$275; Jeffrey W. Espeland, 43, Albert Lea, speeding, \$135; Dalona M. Ethridge, 36, Minneapolis, speeding and child passenger restraint system violation, \$265; Kendall L. Finne, 40, Minneapolis, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$115 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Michael L. Guentzel, 58, Lake Elmo, speeding, \$135; Cierra M. Haas, 26, Owatonna, following vehicle too closely, \$125; Alexa M. Labraaten, 18, Bartonville, IL, speeding, \$215; Tevin R. Lestrud, 29, Alden, speeding, \$215; Francisco D. Maldonado, 30, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$215;

Christopher E. Malsam, 28, Elkhorn, NE, speeding, \$135; Thomas J. McDermott, 27, Minnetonka, speeding, \$215; Ryan J. Newman, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Michelle Phan, 41, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; Yorman Ortiz, 25, Austin, revoked license, \$275; Roberto Patriciolum, 19, West St. Paul, speeding and revoked license, \$315; Cain P. Portuguese Cux, 20, Faribault, speeding and no license, \$235; Jamie L. Robinson, 36, Owatonna, no license, \$175; Luciano J. Rodriguez, 30, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Leann R. Rushing, 35, Naperville, IL, speeding, \$115; Sekeriyeh M. Saleban, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Sangva S. Sam, 44, Alamogordo, AK, speeding, \$135; Harold M. Schlichter, 71, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Alysabeth G. Shealy, 25, St. Charles, speeding, \$135; Nunser J. Sherman, 37, Dallas, TX, speeding, \$135; Tory A. Stone, 43, Minneapolis, speeding, \$125; Erin R. Stresow, 36, Sandstone, speeding, \$215; Gina S. Verduzco, 53, Apple Valley, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jeremiah S. Virgil, 20, Westminster, CO, speeding, \$125; Aaliyah T. Weston, 17, Ellendale, speeding, \$275; Byron S. Whitt Miller, 27, Broomfield, CO, speeding, \$215; Dustin J. Wipf, 35, Ankeny, IA, no license, \$175; Kiflezghi N. Zewde, 41, Gahanna, OH, unsafe lane usage, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Osman A. Adan, 25, Faribault, suspended license, \$275; Zachary R. Allen, 21, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; John D. Bennett, 56, Des Moines, IA, DWI, \$400, 3 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jason D. Crone, 36, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$375, chemical dependency evaluation, no trespassing, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 30 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Nicole M. Dahl, 45, Owatonna, DWI, \$575, 5 days in county jail, Ignition Interlock program, chemical assessment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Daniela Gallegos Mariscal, 38, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Kathleen A. Gardner, 76, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Donnie D. Jones, 41, Owatonna, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$155, Ignition Interlock program, 5 hours of community service and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Noah A. Lambert, 25, Owatonna, DWI, \$375 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ebony M. Lawson, 19, Coon Rapids, theft, stay of adjudication, \$1,888.07, psychological evaluation, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, See **BLOTTER** on **A6**

Advertisement for Steele County Times subscription. Includes text: 'SUBSCRIBING MADE EASY!', '4 convenient ways to subscribe:', and contact information for Steele County Times.

Advertisement for Muth Electric Inc. Includes text: 'ELECTRICIANS! WE'RE HIRING!', 'Offering TOP Wages • Full Benefits Package • Strong Workload', and contact information for Muth Electric Inc.

Advertisement for Federated Insurance. Includes text: 'FEDERATED INSURANCE', 'It's Our Business to Protect Yours', and 'Visit federatedinsurance.com for COVID-19 resources.'

Does medicare cover home health care?

Dear Savvy Senior, How does Medicare cover in-home health care? My husband has a chronic health condition that makes it very difficult for him to leave the house, so I'm wondering if he could qualify for Medicare home health care.
Seeking Help

THE SAVVY SENIOR
Brought to you by:
Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Seeking, Medicare covers a wide variety of part-time or intermittent in-home health care services to beneficiaries in need, if they meet Medicare's criteria. Here's how it works.

In order for your husband to secure coverage for home health care, Medicare first requires that he be homebound. This means that it must be extremely difficult for him to leave home, and he needs help doing so either from another person or medical device like a cane, wheelchair, walker or crutches.

He will then need to have a face-to-face meeting with his doctor to get a home health certification confirming that he needs skilled-nursing care or skilled-therapy services from a physical or speech therapist on a part-time basis.

His doctor can also request the services of an occupational therapist and a personal care aide to assist with activities of daily

living such as bathing, dressing and using the bathroom. His doctor must renew and certify his home health plan every 60 days.

He will also need to use a home health agency that is certified by Medicare.

If he meets all of the requirements, Medicare should pay for his in-home health care.

But be aware that Medicare will not pay for personal care aide services (for bathing, dressing, using the bathroom, etc.) alone if he does not need skilled-nursing or skilled-therapy services too. Homemaker services, such as shopping, meal preparation and cleaning are not covered either.

If your husband has original Medicare, you can locate a Medicare-certified home health agency by calling 800-633-4227 or by visiting www.Medicare.gov/care-compare. If he has a Medicare Advantage plan, you should contact his plan directly and ask which home health agencies work with the plan and are within the plan's

network of providers.

Other Options

If your husband does not qualify for Medicare home health care coverage, there are other coverage options depending on your situation. Here are several that may apply to you:

Insurance: If you happen to have long-term care insurance, check to see if it covers in-home care. Or if you have a life insurance policy, see if it can be utilized to pay for care.

Medicaid: If your income is low, your husband may qualify for Medicaid, which offers different home and community-based services that can pay for in-home care. To investigate this, contact your local Medicaid office.

Also see if PACE – which stands for “Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly” – is available in your area (see [NPAonline.org](http://www.NPAonline.org)). PACE provides in-home care, including help with activities of daily living, such as meals, dental and medical care, among other benefits.

History from the News Archives

Fire destroys town hall



FILE PHOTO

Arson was determined to be the cause of a fire that destroyed the Deerfield Town Hall on Aug. 4, 1990. Authorities determined the fire was set after breaking into the building. A reward of \$1,000 was offered leading to the arrest of the arsonist.

10 Years Ago

Aug. 2, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church extended its call to Lindsay Marie Stolen to become the new pastor. After an extensive search to replace retiring Pastor Gene Leiter, the rural church believes they have found the perfect fit. Pastor Stolen is a 2006 graduate of Luther College with a teaching degree, worked in children's ministry and ordained in 2010. Stolen will begin in a few weeks at the church and Pastor Leiter is thrilled with the committee's choice.

The Steele County Fair has something for everyone. For people looking for delicious homemade wines and flavor packed beers, the fair can't be missed. Ruth Bullock, superintendent for the Homemade Country Wines states, “I am excited for this year's fair. We have many very skilled winemakers coming to showcase their various wines.” According to Gary Muchow, co-superintendent for Homemade beers, “Many of the beers we are judging weren't around 15 years ago.”

sponsored “Play Day” on July 25 at the Dale Branderhorst farm. The event was a huge success with many horsemen participating. Winners were as follows: Pole Bendeing-John Gehling; Pole Bending (juniors)-Terry Pogones; Cloverleaf Barrels (Senior)-Vickie Wallace; Cloverleaf Barrels (junior)-Sara Jensen; Bareback Rescue (Seniors)-Keith Phillips and John Gehling; Bareback Rescue (juniors)-Terry Pogones and Connie Pogones; Bat Race (Seniors)-Joanne Pogones; Bar Race (juniors)-Terry Pogones; Scoop Shovel-Dale Branderhorst; Crawl Through-Mark Pogones.

75 Years Ago

Aug. 7, 1946

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

A big gala bingo party was held in the Times Triangle just north of the printing office. A large stand was erected to accommodate about 75 people, according to Master of Ceremonies, Claude Grandprey. Several pairs of precious nylon stocking given away as prizes.

The Blooming Prairie Softball team defeated Ellendale 3-2 before a crowd of about 400 people and also won the honor of playing Geneva in the playoff of the Bi-county League.

The Blooming Prairie Fire Department answered a call to extinguish a blaze at the Donald Grap residence, Maple View addition. The Austin firemen were not permitted to fight fires not confined within the incorporated boundaries of Austin.

Owatonna Photo News

31 Years Ago

Aug. 2, 1990

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

“Where Memories are Made” is the theme of the 1990 Steele County Free Fair in Owatonna. This will be the 72nd annual edition of the late summer feature during the week of Aug. 14-19. Some 6000 people will be actively involved in exhibits, concessions, entertainment, food-handling and maintenance. There will be full competition in all 18 different departments. Premiums offered will exceed \$22,000 for an all-time high.

Melanie Berg taught a five-day Spanish class for children in kindergarten through third grade. The children learned the Spanish words for numbers, colors, phrases and crafts, and had a fiesta the last day of class. Offered through Community Education the class met from June 25 to 30 for 1? hours per day. The children who participated included: Cyrus Anderson, Like Berg, Erin Burbank, Paul Drube, Derik Gustafson, Sarah Kennon, Else Klein, Nathan Mccann, Laurie Schmitt and Sean Skalisky.

20 Years

July 23, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

It may be getting old hat, but it still brings a big smile to Rick Krejci's face. Winning their sixth consecutive President's Award from Ford Motor Company was still a big deal. The fourth plaque will hang beside the previous three- the first two awards were beautiful trophies and are sitting on a pedestal in the local car showrooms.

Four Steele County farms have been named as “Century Farms” in 2001 and will be honored at the Steele County Fair on Aug. 16. The farms include those of Wayne and Mary Sommers of Ellendale, Evelyn B Pike of Owatonna, Eugene and Janet Krause of Medford and Mildred L. Ditlevson of Blooming Prairie. Century Farms are those that have been in the same family for 100 years.

50 Years Ago

Aug. 4, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Winners at the Ladies' Day activities at the Blooming Prairie Country Club on Tuesday were as follows: Morning golf, low score on odd holes – Helen Fjone, Championship flight and Afternoon golf, Championship flight. Bridge winners: Judi Shelton, high; Bonnie Johnson, 2nd high; Joan Peterson, 3rd high; Agnes Bray, low. The Rough Riders Saddle Club

Drug court resumes in-person sessions

◀ **DRUG** from A3
my GED was the last thing on my mind, but I did it.”

During the hearing, Lutz's grandmother said he was “quite the little guy.” But, he's grown up to be an excellent grandson who will do anything for you, she said.

Later Lutz described himself as “a little hellion” as a kid. “I thought I could do anything I wanted,” he said, adding that he was in trouble with the law at an early age.

He said he dropped out of school in ninth grade and still wouldn't have his GED if it weren't for the drug court requirements.

Since its inception in July 2014, Gram said, the drug court program has served 215 participants, with 113 of them either withdrawing – to serve their jail or prison time or transfer to another drug court – or being terminated because of new criminal behavior or rejection of services.

As an alternative to incarceration, drug

courts throughout the country reduce the costs of repeatedly processing high-risk, high-need substance abusers through the courts, jails, and prisons while providing offenders a pathway to recovery.

Participants are required to abstain from substance use, to be accountable for their behavior and to fulfill the legal responsibilities of the offenses they have committed.

There are currently 41 participants in the local drug court.

PUBLIC RECORD

Steele County Births September 2020

Isla Jean Mongeau, Parents: Tera Jean and Joseph, Sept. 1.
Nora Noelle Snyder, Parents: Jeana and George, Sept. 3.
Sebastian Nicholas Trocinski, Parents: Aurora and Tyler, Sept. 7.
Jonah Ellis Maloney, Parents: Andrea and Kyle, Sept. 9.
Bexton Antonio Serrano, Parents: Kelsey and Juan, Sept. 10.
Rhett Edward Manges, Parents: Nikole and Johnathan, Sept. 10.
Noah John Eiler, Parents: Fawn and Kevin, Sept. 11.
Wyatt James Swanson, Parents: Katie and Ryan, Sept. 11.
Jessica Julia Zavaleta, Parents: Jenny Contreras and Noe Zavaleta, Sept. 12.
Kinley Sage Knutson, Parents: Kylie and Jediah, Sept. 13.
Arlo Ray Helton, Parents: Chelsey Ulferts and Dennis Helton, Sept. 14.
Maryam Abdifatah Jama, Parents: Muna Asker and Abdifatah Jama, Sept. 14.
Elias Eliseo Zetino, Parents: Narda and Antonio, Sept. 16.
Eloise Jo Frie, Parents: Alysha and Graham, Sept. 16.
Nelliam Marie Rodriguez, Parents: Rosantina and Nelson, Sept. 17.
Bailey Grace Carlson, Parents: Kelsey and Daniel, Sept. 18.
Ryker James Quint, Parents: Megan Lysne and Andrew Quint, Sept. 24.
Ayden Silas West, Parent: Jessica Hannon, Sept. 25.
Jaina Lizzy Hall, Parents: Megan and Dylan, Sept. 27.
Mason Cole Rolfes, Parents: Debra and Alex, Sept. 29.
Lauren Ann Louise Sunnarborg, Parents: Melanie and Joseph, Sept. 30.

Steele County Deaths September 2020

Susan Mary Kramer, 73, Owatonna, Sept. 1.
John Louis Huper, 76, Owatonna, Sept. 2.
Marilyn Joan Hora, 81, Faribault, Sept. 3.
Marie Ethel Pannett, 91, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 4.

Susan Margo Ouellette, 57, Waukesha, WI, Sept. 4.
Jean Marie Miller, 90, Waseca, Sept. 4.
Carroll Richard Carlson, 92, Owatonna, Sept. 5.
Mina Jean Johnson, 89, Owatonna, Sept. 5.
Dean Edward Budde, 87, North Mankato, Sept. 5.
James Arnold Macosky, 80, Owatonna, Sept. 6.
Betty Lou Taggart, 90, Ellendale, Sept. 6.
Emalou Van Osdale, 84, Owatonna, Sept. 6.
Richard Arthur Weber, 94, Medford, Sept. 10.
Lorraine Alice Brown, 85, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 10.
Mark Stephen Morley, 63, Owatonna, Sept. 10.
Loyal Lester Merritt, 83, Owatonna, Sept. 14.
Darlene Ann Steinberg, 81, Faribault, Sept. 16.
Patricia Janell Decker, 85, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 16.
William Alfred Ernst, 72, Owatonna, Sept. 16.
Kenneth W. Olson, 67, Owatonna, Sept. 17.
Russell Allen James, 82, Geneva, Sept. 18.
Frances Clara Krieger, 74, Austin, Sept. 18.
Samuel Alexander Woods, 70, Owatonna, Sept. 19.
Terry Lee Howe, 67, Owatonna, Sept. 19.
Robert John Hollinger, 91, Owatonna, Sept. 20.
Steven Edward Hodapp, 58, Owatonna, Sept. 20.
Rita Jean Warrington, 82, Owatonna, Sept. 23.
Margaret Louise Kirby, 74, Owatonna, Sept. 24.
Charles Martin Coughlin, 89, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 26.
Myron Lyle Ellingsen, 91, Owatonna, Sept. 27.
Eileen Lorraine Ptacek, 83, Owatonna, Sept. 27.
Evelyn Martha Buelow, 88, Owatonna, Sept. 27.
Rodney Gene Hatle, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 28.

Steele County Marriages September 2020

Olivia Jean Rasmussen and Lucas Kenneth Eggebraaten, Sept. 4.
Derek Dale Harvey and Emily Schroeder, Sept. 5.
Courtney Lee Ahern and Tyler David McGowan, Sept. 5.
Denell Marie Merryman and Robert David Kennedy, Sept. 5.
Phillip Dale Ramsey and Carissa Ellen Nappin,

Sept. 5.
Bobbi Jo Stordahl and Joshua Gordon Gwilt, Sept. 11.
Lynda Marie Levine and Jeffrey Thomas Schwering, Sept. 12.
Alexa Marie Kadlec and Erik Anthony Wencil, Sept. 12.
Tyler David Dodd and Janna Lynn Hislop, Sept. 12.
Ellin Marie Stolp and Blake Robert Arett, Sept. 12.
Sydney Lynn Williams and Jonathon William Francis, Sept. 16.
Ashley Irene Von Ruden and Vincent Ray Garr Jr., Sept. 18.
Sydney Faye Towle and Patrick Morgan Jacobs, Sept. 18.
James Stanley Dahlgren and Jessica Ann Webber, Sept. 19.
Kassidy Connie Schelling and Nicolaus Andrew Thamert, Sept. 19.
Arganna Marie Kreutter and Aaron Benjamin Kreutter, Sept. 19.
Shamiso Kundai Barbara Madzivire and James Kelly Kirkland III, Sept. 19.
Cory Heath Westphal and Michelle Sue Miller, Sept. 19.
Kristina Lea Craig and Blair Curtis Mutcher, Sept. 21.
Briana Marie Yanke and Dustin David Houglum, Sept. 26.
Tess Catherine Heyer and Justin David Brown, Sept. 26.
Caron Christine Kispert and Andrew Charles Fischer, Sept. 26.
Natalie Ann Velzke and Drew Darren Roemhildt, Sept. 26.
Dawn Marie Wiggins and Aaron Gerhart Canny, Sept. 26.
Mackenzie Grace Iverson and Creighton Vincent Soukup, Sept. 26.
Henry Courtney Fox and Shawanna Marie Schiell, Sept. 28.

Steele County Divorces September 2020

Judith Fay Oeltjenbruns and Ronald Lee Oeltjenbruns, Sept. 9.
Jackieleyndrea Martinez and Jesus Jonathan Simon Martinez, Sept. 23.
Korie JoLynn Guggisberg and Skylar Alexander Guggisberg, Sept. 30.

PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ BLOTTER from A4

obtain and maintain employment and 3 years of supervised probation; Amber M. Nelson 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Nicole A. Schaub, 41, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Bruce M. Schmoll, 67, Claremont, speeding, \$135; Kelsey L. Schueller, 29, St. Paul, trespassing, \$181, 10 hours of community service and 17 days in county jail; Brady D. Seitz, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Patricia A. Simonette, 56, Claremont, speeding, \$125; Angel Torres, 34, Faribault, theft, \$175 and 1 day in county jail; Anthony J. Villarreal, 18, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Nicholas L. Zvorak, 43, Owatonna, tumultuous conduct, \$175.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sonya M. Baird, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Keith A. Bowers, 38, Stewartville, revoked license and no insurance, \$475;

Elizabeth C. Burch, 39, Rochester, speeding, \$215; Jeremy A. Eggert, 40, Kenyon, speeding, \$115; Eliza Farris, 36, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; Chloe L. Gelhage, 19, Shakopee, speeding, \$275; Steve J. Hackett, 62, Ellendale, speeding, \$125; Steven P. Jensen, 62, Ellendale, violate restraining order, \$375 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Christa J. Kain, 28, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Jennifer S. Kinkade, 45, Waseca, speeding, \$135; Riley A. Kryzer, 19, Faribault, suspended license, \$275; Fritz D. Levai, 21, Austin, speeding, \$215; Jeremiah J. Lynch, 35, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Charlie L. Mack Jr., 35, Minneapolis, speeding, \$215; Richard A. Millsap, 60, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$135; Emily B. Morse, 36, Fairmont, speeding, \$135; Trista R. Motl, 16, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Verne F. Olson, 34, Austin, speeding, \$115; Hector R. Perez, 53, Faribault, invalid license, \$175; Lee D. Ramsey, 33, Blooming Prairie, DWI, \$400, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, no alcohol or

controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; David Sanchez Barreto, 43, Waseca, invalid license, \$175; Kathryn L. Schabert, 47, Farmington, speeding, \$135; Ethan R. Secord, 18, Bellingham, WA, speeding, \$275; Edward A. Thomas, 44, Mapleton, DWI, \$375, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 232 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Horacio Trejo Vargas, 34, Irving, TX, invalid license, \$175; Ean S. Wahl Mullins, 28, Denver, CO, speeding, \$125; Mohamed A. Welli, 24, Faribault, suspended license, \$275.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

July 23
DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 3:27 a.m.
Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 800 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:52 a.m.
Theft: At 3:36 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 1400 block of Hayes Ave. SE.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:57 p.m.
July 24
DWI: Police made a DWI arrest at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. at 12:54 a.m.
Domestic: Police arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 1100 block of School St. E. at 1:26 a.m.
Theft: At 1:54 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from Bridge St. W. and Park Dr. NW.
Arrest: Police arrested a motorist for a traffic stop at Oak Ave. S. and School St. W. at 10:55 p.m.
July 25
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 2300 block of 43rd St. NW at 4:05 a.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:24 p.m.
Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Pearl St. E. at 2:04 p.m. They took a subject into custody.
Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 3:30 p.m.
July 26
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1000 block of 28th Ave. NW at 1:59 a.m.
Restraining Order: Restraining order violations occurred in the 300 block of Vine

St. E. at 11 a.m., the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 3:35 p.m. and the 400 block of School St. E. at 4:15 p.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 7:28 p.m.
July 27
Restraining Order: At 11:35 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 300 block of 16th St. NE.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 400 block of Pearl St. E. at 3:39 p.m.
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of McKinley St. SW at 11:15 p.m. They issued a citation.
Hit and Run: At 11:48 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 200 block of Southview St. SW.
July 28
Restraining Order: At 9:51 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 200 block of Woodland Dr. SE.
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at North St. W. and Hoffman Dr. NW at 10:50 a.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Valley View Place NW at 11:55 a.m.
Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 100 block of 24th Place NW at 3:03 p.m.
July 29
Theft: At 1:03 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 1000 block of Grandview Ave. SW.
Property: Police arrested a subject for possession of stolen property in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE at 8:49 a.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 12:27 p.m.
Theft: At 5:30 p.m., identity theft occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.
Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 8:41 p.m.
Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 300 block of Vine St. E. at 11:44 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

July 24
DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at Crane Creek Road and 82nd Ave. NW in Meriden Township at 5:24 a.m.
Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 8900 block of 37th Ave. SW in Somerset Township at 10:59 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.
July 25
Trespassing: Deputies arrested a subject for trespassing in the 4000 block of Highway 30 E. in Blooming Prairie Township at 12:52 p.m.
Theft: At 1:21 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 5500 block of Kenyon Road in Merton

Township.
July 26
Domestic: Deputy arrested a juvenile for a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of School St. in Ellendale at 12:25 p.m.
July 28
Mental Health: Deputies responded to a mental health incident in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. in Owatonna at 4:54 p.m.
July 29
Animal: At 3:36 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 500 block of 7th Ave. W. in Ellendale.
Fight: Deputies responded to a fight in the 400 block of 7th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 3:51 p.m.
Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 9500 block of County Road 3 in Somerset Township at 7:09 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Zachary Ryan Schultz, 18, arrested at 12:15 p.m. July 23, felony drive by shooting, held for court.
John Dewayne Bennett, 59, arrested at 1:09 a.m. July 24, DWI-test refusal, held for court.
John Leo Haas, 46, arrested at 2:22 p.m. July 25, domestic assault/assault, held for court.
Jorge Luis Acosta-Valdez, 55, arrested at 1 p.m. July 26, warrants arrest, held for court.
Caleb James Malek, 23, arrested at 11:28 a.m. July 27, warrant arrest, held for court.
Richard Allan Miller Jr., 44, arrested at 9 p.m. July 27, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.
Ayden Wallace Parker, 18, arrested at 10:25 a.m. July 29, felony possession of stolen vehicle, held for court.
Jake Michael Karow, 35, arrested at 10:31 a.m. July 29, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Eric Lee Perkins, 39, arrested at 5:45 a.m. July 24, DWI, held for court.
Reinaldo Quesada, 46, arrested at 9:36 p.m. July 24, domestic assault, held for court.
Jannifer Lyne Miller, 37, arrested at 10:50 a.m. July 26, warrants arrest, held for court.
Lorenzo Markey Cook, 30, arrested at 6 p.m. July 29, warrants arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 11 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:
Kyle B. Kuchenmeister, 43, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. He was sentenced to \$1,080,

34 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 11 – 18:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cody J. Bennerotte, 19, Stewartville, careless driving and speeding, \$380; Wyatt T. Boynton, 17, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Reilly P. Brennan, 33, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Hailey M. Davidson, 20, Kasson, speeding, \$280; Andrew P. Geronime, 44, Onalaska, WI, speeding, \$140; Norma E. Martinez Acosta, 54, Austin, invalid license and speeding, \$320; Christopher J. Moeller, 39, Eyota, speeding, \$120; Jacqueline E. Monson, 28, Austin, speeding, \$140; Jamell N. Owens, 34, Stewartville, speeding, \$280; Brandon D. Schmoll, 26, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Tanner J. Young, 47, St. Charles, seat belt, \$105.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Keith A. Bowers, 38, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Shylah N. Bowling, 32, Dodge Center, hands free violation; Seila A. Ibrahim, 21, Burnsville, revoked license and speeding, \$420; Ashley M. Larson, 36, Sergeant, theft, \$455 and 1 year of supervised probation; Yaris Lazo-Enriquez, 39, Kasson, invalid license and no insurance, \$380; Elijah J. Lowell, 18, Owatonna, hands free violation and seat belt, \$155; Jennifer E. Newlan, 38, Hayfield, DWI, \$455, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 30 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Catherine M. Wallace, 47, Byron, speeding, \$140; Riki J. Weitzenkamp, 35, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Maxwell D. Anderson, 31, Dodge Center, speeding, \$220; Jessa D. Cummings, 17, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Treyton A. Jacobsen, 23, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Jose J. Jimenez Duran, 33, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Daniel Lopez Fuster, 34, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Gretchen E. Resch, 19, Mantorville, speeding, \$130; Matthew D. Scherger, 37, San Diego, CA, speeding, \$380; Gaia Templer, 21, Fond du Lac, WI, speeding,

Corky's impacts local economy

◀ CORKY'S from A1 to the Owatonna economy this past weekend. And the reach goes far beyond the city limits. Loren Dietz, the tournament's director, said the event generates close to one-half million dollars for southern Minnesota businesses, with games played in Faribault and Waseca, as well as Owatonna. A non-profit organization itself, Corky's Early Bird Softball Tournament Inc., generates \$50,000 for a local charity each year, according to Dietz. This year's beneficiary is We All Play, an all-inclusive playground and Miracle Field that recently opened in Manthey Park. Corky's non-profit also donates more than \$5,000 to Owatonna and Farib-

ault youth scholarship funds, which helps underprivileged kids participate in youth sports. According to data compiled by Explore Minnesota, tourism generated more than \$71 million in sales in Steele County in each of the three years preceding the pandemic. According to the Small Business Economic Impact Study from American Express, about 67-cents of every \$1 spent at an average at small businesses in the U.S. stays in the local community. In addition, every dollar spent at small businesses creates an additional 50 cents in local business activity due to employee spending and businesses purchasing local goods and services.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Are trust services right for you?

If you're extremely busy with your career and family and you've accumulated a fair amount of assets, you might be concerned about a variety of issues related to financial management and legacy planning. Specifically, you might think you don't have the time or expertise to deal with these matters effectively. If this is the case, you might want to consider using a trust company.

You might think you need to have a large estate or millions of dollars to benefit from working with a trust company, but that's not the case. And if you're not familiar with what a trust company can do, you might be surprised at all the services it can provide, including the following:

- **Wealth management** – Typically, when working with a trust company, you'll receive investment management designed to help you achieve various goals, such as a comfortable retirement and college for your children. The company can manage retirement accounts, monitor investments and disburse funds, make changes as needed and ensure compliance with government reporting for contributions, withdrawals and rollovers. While different companies operate in different ways, you may have an arrangement in which you work with a personal financial advisor and a separate portfolio manager.
- **Financial management during incapacity** – If you were to become incapacitated and couldn't make financial decisions, a trust company can step in, giving you peace of mind from knowing that your financial assets will be managed by a team of professionals, helping protect you and your family from potentially dire consequences.
- **Trust administration** – A trust company can perform several essential tasks related to administering your trust. The company can act as trustee for a trust you've established, such as a revocable living trust, which can allow your estate to avoid probate while providing you with great control over how your assets will be distributed at your passing. Alternatively, the trust company can work alongside an individual you've designated to execute the terms of a trust. If your selected trustee resigns or becomes unable to make decisions, the trust company can serve as successor trustee. When it's time to settle your estate, the trust company can handle the valuation, dispersion and re-titling of assets, pay off any debts and expenses, and complete any tax returns related to your estate.
- **Bill payment and record keeping** – A trust company can keep up with all the trust's bills (household maintenance, medical bills, etc.) and provide statements summarizing receipts, disbursements and the value of assets within the trust.

In addition to providing these practical services, a trust company may benefit you in a more intangible way. It's unfortunate but true that, in many families, dividing up assets can cause conflict and bitter feelings. But when a trust company serves as trustee, it impartially administers distribution of the assets based on the instructions you've provided in the trust – helping minimize family disputes over inheritances.

If you ever feel like the complexities of wealth management and trust administration are getting to be more than you can handle – or perhaps more than you want to handle – consider contacting a trust company. You might find that it can make your life a lot easier.

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

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Sharon Kruger, 77, Little Canada



Sharon Kruger

Sharon Mae Kruger, 77, of Little Canada, formerly of Blooming Prairie, died Monday, July 26, 2021, at Regions Hospital, St. Paul.

Sharon was born on Dec. 10, 1943, to Clayton and Clara (Nelson) Kruger in Blooming Prairie. She grew up one of four children. After graduating from Blooming Prairie High School in 1961, she attended Mankato State University where she received her bachelor's degree in business education.

Sharon began teaching in Butterfield, before

moving to Caledonia to teach as well. While living in Caledonia, she had the love of her life, her son Jesse. Later on, the two of them moved up to St. Paul where she worked at Rothschild Mortgage before going back to teaching at the college level at a private school.

After her teaching days were over, she took a job at Greentree, which became GE, where she worked until her retirement. She was active in the St. Paul Jaycee's and was the editor of their monthly magazine for two years.

In her free time, she loved spending it with the stars of her life, Jesse and his wife Lisa. Sharon also enjoyed traveling with her sister, Barb as they would take trips to various places. She was a very kind, loyal person. Once you became friends, you were friends for life.

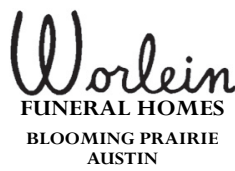
Survivors include her son, Jesse (Lisa) Ohl;

brother, Roger (Karen) Kruger; sister, Barb Born, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clayton and Clara Kruger; sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn (David, Jr.) Brazell; and nephew, David Brazell III.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, July 31, 2021, at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home Chapel in Blooming Prairie. Burial followed at First Lutheran Cemetery, Blooming Prairie.

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home of Blooming Prairie is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



Jon Osmundson, 62, Owatonna



Jon Osmundson

Dear Honey,
 Thank you for loving me for 38 years and blessing me with four wonderful children, their wives and husbands, and our five beautiful grandbabies and one on the way. It always made me smile knowing that your ring tone was "Brown Eyed Girl" and that you'd always answer saying "hello my brown eyed girl."

Thank you for dressing up in ridiculous outfits for our Christmas cards, which made so many amazing memories for all of us. You were king of the air guitar and the life of any party. The video of your performance at Drew

and Kristy's wedding is my favorite memory. I have watched it every night and will continue to watch it with a heavenly kiss goodnight. You touched so many lives and truly made a difference in this world. We will forever remember to never take the highs too high and the lows too low. I love you always.

Your brown eyed girl,
 Lor

Jon Osmundson unexpectedly passed away July 27, 2021 in Owatonna. Born Aug. 4, 1959 to Leleann "Lee" and Lois Osmundson of Adams.

Jon will be missed by the love of his life, Lori, and children; Brittney (Shelby) Thorne, Brady (Samantha) Osmundson, Libby (Zak) Allen, and Drew (Kristy) Osmundson. He was a devoted Papa to his grandchildren: Zoey and Koby Thorne, Oakley Allen, Lillian Osmundson, and Addy Osmundson. He is survived by his sisters: Carol, Linda (Don), Susie (Steve), Kathie (Ron), and many nieces and nephews. Jon will also be

missed by Lori's parents Russell and Karen Anderson and their families.

Jon had a tremendous passion for life. Loyal to his family and friends, Jon was always the first to help anyone in need. His vivacious smile would light up a room and his jokes could make that same room roar.

Jon's private memorial service will be held at their home in Owatonna. His wish to have a private funeral is in recognition of his community benefit and all the love he felt by the community while he was alive. His wish is for his friends and family to remember the love and joy felt that night and treasure those memories in your hearts. Memorials may be directed to Owatonna Chamber Foundation in care of (We all Play Owatonna) 320 Hoffman Dr., Owatonna, MN 55060. To leave an online condolence please visit www.megercares.com.



Patrick Lehrer, 69, Owatonna



Patrick Lehrer

Patrick Lehrer of Owatonna died July 27, 2021 at his home after a 12-year battle with cancer with his family by his side.

Mass of Christian Burial was Saturday, July 31, 2021 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Owatonna. Interment followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery with a reception at the Owatonna Eagles.

Patrick was born April 25, 1952 in Springfield, the son of Otto and Audrey (Plamann) Lehrer. He was a graduate of Marian High School in Owatonna 1971.

Pat worked in construction as a plasterer for all of his working life and was forced to retire do to health reasons. He owned his own Lehrer Plastering for 36 years.

He married Georganne in 1972 in Owatonna and together they had three daughters. They made their home in Owatonna for all their married life. Pat was a member of the Owatonna Eagles and served as past president and was a son of the American Legion.

Life interests included hunting, fishing trips, shooting pool, bowling and storytelling. His

favorite thing in life was hanging out with friends and family.

Pat will be missed by his wife of 49 years Georganne; daughters Jessica (Doug) Brase and Mandy (Dan) Langer both of Owatonna, Justine (Sean) Flanagan of Fairmont; nine grandchildren: Ashlee, Brennon, Alex, Logan, Connor, Jordan, Niko, Keara and Kylie; brothers: Otto, Dan, Tom and Paul; sisters: Patty, Margaret and Cathy.

Preceded in death by parents, mother and father-in-law.

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



Closed for construction



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Main Street in Medford from Fifth Avenue Southeast to Central Avenue is closed for construction. Detours using County Highways 9, 22, and 12 (Central Avenue) are posted. The project, being led by the City of Medford, will replace the city water main, construct a sidewalk, make other minor improvements, and resurface the road. Most of the construction is expected to be completed by fall. A final pavement surface will be completed next spring.

Medford secures DNR grant for park and pool upgrades

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
 STAFF WRITER

Come next summer, Medford's Straight River Park and adjacent city pool might look a bit better, thanks to a DNR Grant accepted by the city council during this month's regular meeting.

The \$21,600 grant will require the city to match dollar-per-dollar. There will be several avenues available for this dollar match, including fundraising and working with the Steele County Electrical Coop to lower the price of burying electrical lines.

Burying electrical

lines was a requirement for the grant but will also help spruce up the park's appearance. Other updates will include a paved walkway between the park and the pool and patching up some cracked concrete at the site.

Former Council Member Marie Sexton, who sits on the city's park board, applied to the grant in March and has made it clear that she intends to continue to apply for additional grants to help the city's park. These might be used to purchase and install benches and plants in the area.

The council also authorized the issuance, sale, and delivery of the bond for the 2021 Main Street project. With a 1.61 % interest rate, the loan totals \$1.7 million and will be used for the city's portion of the CSAH 45 project in concordance with the county.

The meeting also marked the six-month review for Administrative Director of Operations Jed Peterson.

Mayor Danny Thomas and those on the council said they were more than happy with Peterson's performance during his first six months and opted to give him a raise of \$5,000.

Owatonna Shoe celebrates its 75th anniversary

◀ SHOE from A3

During one of the remodels, Brick said he was thinking of using the color teal because it was one of his favorite colors at the time. He said Larson told him to buy a new teal shirt but that the store structurally needed to be green and rust.

"She was right," he said.

In 1980, when Brick purchased the building immediately to the north of the original store, he said it was important to him that the combined structure be restored to its original look using Kasota stone and brick.

The store's most recent remodel took place last year.

Throughout the years, Brick said he's been involved with the numerous Chamber and downtown business groups. He also spearheaded efforts to raise funds for new Christmas lights in downtown Owatonna 40 years ago.

His specialty: "Mostly fun events that promote downtown Owatonna."

His best memory: "Right now." "Good grief, everything's getting fixed up. We are going to have the prettiest downtown," said Brick.

Brick said he isn't sure when he'll retire but said he has a great crew and he's working on exit strategy. His wife, Anna Marie, retired last week from Federated.

"Stay tuned," he said.

Owatonna Shoe is known for its semi-annual shoe sales – one right after Christmas and one right after the 4th of July.

To celebrate the company's 75th anniversary, Brick said the store's sale rack will be 75% of the regular price this Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Aug. 5-7).

FUNERAL NOTICE

Ann Anderson

In remembrance of Ann Anderson (Oct. 29, 1936 – March 11, 2020), her family will hold a memorial service on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at Geneva Community Lutheran Church, 106 3rd St SE, Geneva.

Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service. The family invites you to celebrate this extraordinary person.

FREELANCE WRITER WANTED

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

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NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Who is your favorite president?

Ever since I was small, my favorite has been Abraham Lincoln. Perhaps it was the tales about his log cabin days, but most likely it was because he valued books and the education he received from reading.

Stories are repeated that he would walk miles to return a book after he read it or would go out of his way to borrow a book he wanted to read. His legal studies were centered around books that were read.

While growing up, there were no libraries around for Abraham to use, but if there had been, I

think he would have been a regular!

Over the last few days, I had the opportunity to see and experience the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. My daughter, son and I each chose one museum or place to visit. The memorial was my choice.

Having read many books about Lincoln over my life, being in the memorial at night was amazing. There was a quiet reverence among those inside.

I invite you to think about some of your favorite historical figures or people who you admire now. We have a wide biographical section at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. If we do not have a book about your favorite president or favorite person, we will do our best to find one in another library. The more you learn about people, the more compassion and understanding you can develop.

See you at the library!

Local priest says goodbye to parishioners

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

The Rev. John Wilmot, who served the parishes of St. Columbanus in Blooming Prairie, Holy Trinity in Litomysl and Sacred Heart in Hayfield, has retired after 28 years in the Winona Diocese.

He was reluctant to speak about himself before serving his final Mass in Hayfield Saturday evening, saying, "I've really enjoyed my time here, and enjoyed the people very much."

He was named senior priest for the local cluster on Oct. 1, 2019.

Wilmot said he'll still be available for supply ministry, fill-



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUJ

The Knights of Columbus Honor Guard flank the Rev. John Wilmot at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl on Sunday, July 25. The service featured a Polka Mass, which was followed by Litomysl Summer Festival.

ing in for vacationing priests when needed. He will live in Wabasha, according to his

farewell message in the weekend bulletins. Peter Martin, director of communi-

cations for the diocese, said Wilmot's successor has not yet been named.

Crisis Center opens serving 10-county area

BY RENEE BERG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"This has been a community lift and a regional lift."

Tim Hunter
Crisis Center Coordinator

Steele, Dodge and Olmsted county residents are among those who have another place to go for receiving care for a mental health crisis.

Through unprecedented collaboration between 10 southeast Minnesota counties, Mayo Clinic, Olmsted Medical Center, the southeast Minnesota NAMI chapter, health plan partners and many other community partners, the Southeast Regional Crisis Center had its ribbon cutting on July 26 and officially opened for business on July 28.

"We are covering gaps in access to care," said Tim Hunter, regional program coordinator for the Crisis Center. "We are trying to provide

access to people in real-time who are in a crisis. We are aiming at access and providing quality."

The Crisis Center will operate 24/7 "without as many barriers as possible," he said. "It's not prohibitive. We provide the right care that's trauma-informed and recovery-oriented. We're trying to address those gaps for people in a mental health crisis."

Located on the Olmsted County government campus in Rochester at 2121 Campus Dr. S.E., the Crisis Center is a much-needed, 24-hour mental health facility serving the region.

It's expertly staffed by mental health professionals ready to address the immediate needs of individuals in crisis.

Sean Kinsella, executive director for NAMI SE MN in Rochester, said one of the biggest problems that exist for people experiencing a mental health crisis is gaining timely access to professionals. "The waiting list for psychiatrists is often over a 6-week wait," he said. "Too often, the only way for people to get immediate access is to either call 911 or drive themselves to the emergency room."

"We have known for a long time that the emergency room is not the best place for people experiencing a mental health crisis. People have waited for days in the emergency room waiting for a psychiatric bed to open up."

The new Crisis Center will serve people of all ages, regardless of the type of mental health crisis they're experiencing or their financial situation or insurance status. Offering a safe, calm environment, the Crisis Center will provide both a 24/7 walk-in clinic for mental health crises and 16-bed, short-term residential areas for youth ages 10+ and adults who require longer stabilization. Programming there is operated by Nexus Family Healing, an organization that

See CRISIS on A10 ▶

Recipe Corner

Frothy Orange Soda

1 cup orange juice
1 cup vanilla ice cream
1 cup lemon-lime soda

Place orange juice and ice cream in a blender; cover and process until smooth. Stir in soda. Pour into glasses. Yield: 2 servings

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BIRTHDAYS

<p>Aug. 4 Melody Amberg Linda Kittleson Ian White Iris Krueger Samantha Hardecoph Katie Winzenburg Katie Wencl</p>	<p>Aug. 8 Jan Wayne Bronson Lee Cheryl Klug John Rumpza Lisa Cochlin Kale Swenson Scarlett Wondra</p>
<p>Aug. 5 Russia Smith Vern Krebs Craig Kruckeberg Richard Symes Hannah Freese Harrison Sundline Isabel Gardner Alex Peterson</p>	<p>Aug. 9 Bonnie Coughlin Gloria Dennis Wayne Williamson Sydney Basnes</p>
<p>Aug. 6 Herm Claussen</p>	<p>Aug. 10 Lloyd Prihoda Sue Swenson Gloria Salinas Lianna Doocy Nina Mae Rogers Betty Herdina</p>

ANNIVERSARIES

<p>Aug. 4 Dean & Marilyn Meshke Tony & Jess Motl</p>	<p>Aug. 8 Jared & Deb Brown Neil & Julie Horn Dawn & Dwayne Gross Dave & Rita Goodnature</p>
<p>Aug. 5 Vern & Beth Krebs Gary & Susan Thorson</p>	<p>Aug. 10 David & Joan Hagen Chad & Julie Eischens Roger & Sharon Anderson</p>

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Federated Challenge raises record \$3.3 M

◀ **FEDERATED** from A1 could feel the energy in the room – everyone standing side by side, all in support of an organization that changes lives by creating strong bonds and long-lasting friendships. Because, that's what our kids need – someone to continue to stand by them, so they are not alone."

The gala – hosted by co-chairs Jeff and Marty Fetters – featured retired WCCO veteran broadcaster, Dave Lee and long-time auctioneer, Glen Fladeboe. Guests were wined and dined, and dazzled by the musical stylings of up-and-coming singer-songwriter from Nashville, Tennessee, Jazz Davis. They also had the opportunity to hear powerful messages by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America President and CEO Artis Stevens and former Little, Isaih Handy. Also recognized during the event was Sit Investment's Chief Exec-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Showing off the record \$3,316,000 check raised during the 2021 Federated Challenge are, from left: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota Executive Director Michelle Redman, BBBS of Central Minnesota Executive Director Jackie Johnson, BBBS Twin Cities CEO Patrick Sukhum, BBBS of America President and CEO Artis Stevens, and Federated Challenge co-chairs Marty and Jeff Fetters.

utive Officer Roger Sit. As a leading supporter of the annual event, Sit was recognized as this year's Federated Challenge Honoree.

On July 26, Federated Challenge attendees reconvened for a round of golf at the famed Interlachen Country Club in Edina.

"Once again we were overwhelmed and humbled by everyone who supported the Federated Challenge and Big Brothers Big Sisters," said Fetters. "Every individual that came was challenged to help lead change, and they succeeded. The funds we raised during this year's event will have a direct and lasting impact on young people

across the country and in our own backyards"

The Federated Challenge was founded in 2005 as a two-day fund-raising event hosted by Federated Insurance, a commercial insurance company headquartered in Owatonna. Now in its 17th year, this event has raised more than \$44 million for youth mentoring programs.

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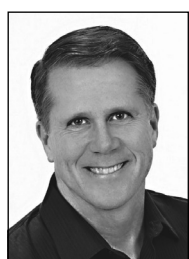
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Advance tickets are available prior to show day. Tent Raising 9:30 am

Critical Race Theory in our schools?



Pastor Scott Peterson

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Critical Race Theory is more than a curriculum. CRT is a mindset. It is a pervasive spiritual attitude attacking our nation. And this is just one of the things our spiritual enemy (Satan) wants to use to take this nation down.

CRT's grandfather, Critical Theory (CT),

dates to the 1930s but is fathered by the 1980's Critical Legal theory. CT offered a false polarization, or should I say victimization, as the lens through which to view life and economic status.

Proponents of CT started with Karl Marx and his beliefs. He saw there was a dispute between the working class, or the proletariat—and the capitalist leaders, the bourgeoisie. The proletariat consisted of a social class of citizens who owned little or no property and worked for the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie was a sociologically defined social class equivalent to the middle or upper-middle class; many were business owners or employers. At that time, you were either rich or poor.

This dispute based on economic differences created a power vacuum resulting in revolutions. But this was based on economic positions alone—not on race. And now today, in 2021, they want to use this theory of oppression based on the color of our skin, which could lead to socialistic racist Marxism, which pushes for economic equity for all (income equally distributed no matter how hard or smart you work to make a living). Not equality.

Marxism has led to the most extreme forms of authoritarianism. Examples include the Soviet Union, North Korea, China, Nazi Germany, and Cambodia. With this, there have been genocides and

more extreme forms of government control than in any other type of political system.

Similarly, CRT is attempting to force upon the American population a single false victimization attitude when it comes to certain people groups. But this time, it's not socioeconomic status divisions but race divisions: whites vs. minorities. CRT divides based on two negative outlooks: either you are the oppressed or the oppressor, and it's all based on your race. CRT wants reparations made by white people based on the actions of some of our forefathers.

How many of you really think you are actively oppressing other groups of people today? When was the

last time you oppressed another race? Or maybe you think you are the oppressed. How many reading this feel you are being oppressed by the white race?... that they have held you down? But who is really oppressing you? Most likely, you are. You are the one holding you down because America as a country is not racist. You can be anything you set your heart to be and no one is stopping you. But this unhealthy teaching of oppression is what some are trying to push through our education system into our children's precious hearts.

This modern-day rendition of this bias spirit is pitting minority groups against majority groups by forcing people to choose between the

minority groups, which are oppressed, or the majority groups, which are the oppressors. I think it is time to stop this harmful teaching before it's too late. We should continue to judge people by their character and not by their skin color. Are you with me? If you don't want this in our schools. Then stand up and be counted and let your voice be heard.

Here is what the scriptures say... *Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*

1 Sam 16:7
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Gal 3:28

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FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct. – Ellendale
Pastor Kyle Smith
507-684-2451
Men's Bible Study:
Saturday 8 a.m.
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m.
Call to Prayer: Monday 7 p.m.
Bible Study:
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
Youth Group:
Wednesday 7 – 9 p.m.
Vacation Bible School:
July 26 – July 30
5:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Ages Pre-K through 6th Grade
Registration at the church

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Vicar Jackie Short
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMC
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Intern: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
507-451-2165
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler; Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Worship: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.- Sanctuary and 10:45 a.m.- Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m.- Live Stream at facebook.com/tlcowatonna and tlcowatonna.org/worshiplive
9:30 a.m.- Live broadcast on KRUE 92.1 FM
Video on Spectrum (Ch. 181), Jaguar TV (Ch. 900) and owatonnaalive.com - Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m.

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

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Intern: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m.

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Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
Visitation Pastor:
Rev. Ron Huber
Summer Worship: 9:15 a.m.
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507-451-4845
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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

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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)
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Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL
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Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

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507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
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Pastor Randy Kirksena
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

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www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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Pastors Rich and Amy Pettet
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www.destinyucc.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

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Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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Bishop Dennis Martin
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Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

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Bishop Rick Bremner
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Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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Pastor Brian Beavers
651-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

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Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The staff at Nexus Family Healing celebrate the new crisis center's opening during a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week. The center will provide a 24/7 walk-in clinic for mental health crises and 16-bed, short-term residential areas for youth ages 10+ and adults who require longer stabilization.

Crisis Center opens serving 10-county area

CRISIS from A8 has a 50-year history serving individuals and families struggling with behavioral and mental health issues.

"We now have a beautiful facility in southeast Minnesota that's open to serve people," Hunter said. "It's geared toward helping people where they are at, which is unprecedented for the state and the region. This has been a community lift and a regional lift, with ongoing discussions with lots of partners."

The 10 counties served by the Crisis Center are Steele, Dodge, Waseca, Mower, Olmsted, Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston and Fillmore. In addition, Hunter said the Crisis Center staff work closely with area emergency departments and hospitals, including Mayo Clinic's Generose Hospital, in providing a welcoming and community-based service.

He said the goal was

to have a comfortable, private space with well-trained staff working with emergency departments and other mental health community partners.

"We want to offer something in the community; a warm and welcoming and very safe environment for individuals to go into and receive treatment," Hunter said. "Forty-eight percent of those who are living with mental health symptoms aren't getting care. We wanted to respond to that at the right time with an integrated, community-based, warm and welcoming center. It's really unique and really new to our region."

The residential area is set up for stays for up to 10 days. "That allows time to work with staff, coordinate care and bridge services not otherwise available or that people are aware of," he said. "They get help navigating the mental health system

while being in a really safe place."

The Crisis Center's opening is the culmination of years of hard work by lawmakers and local and regional partners to expand options for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis beyond local emergency rooms. In 2018, the Minnesota Legislature approved \$28 million in funding to build crisis centers across the state.

The Southeast Minnesota center received \$5 million from the state and is the first such center to be completed. Sen. Dave Senjem, who championed funding for the center, led the Crisis Center's ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 26.

The Crisis Center will help citizens receive "the right care, at the right time in the right place. Those are the three pillars we based this on," Hunter said. "It's an integrated community setting and approach with a setting that's warm and safe."



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Local gardens shine in annual BP flower show

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

If ever there was a person best equipped to enter a flower show, it would be a flower shop owner — unless you're Leanne Hanson.

She owned A Touch of Charm, a Blooming Prairie floral and gift shop, for 30 years and never felt quite right about entering the American Legion auxiliary's annual flower show.

But three years after

selling her business, Hanson decided it was finally time. She had three entries in last week's show, including a house plant and a succulent, planted in a tiny Red Owl tin, an ode to her father.

"I never had as much time as I wanted" to spend in her own garden, she said, "but now I'm out there every day, weeding, dead-heading. And I'd like to get in these people's gardens, too."

See LOCAL on B2 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Flower show judges Sharon Schroeder, left, Julie Easton and Gretchen Boldt, with her back to the camera, assess the qualities of a display of outdoor potted plants. They must have liked what they saw, because Deb Lindquist's entry won Reserve Grand Champion.

2021 WINNERS:

Grand Champion: Darlene Noble, centerpiece
Reserve Champion: Deb Lindquist, outdoor potted plant
People's Choice: Joanne Sorenson, outdoor potted plant

Loverink steps down as clerk after 28 years at BP post office

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

When it came time to retire, Eileen Loverink said she thought about her aunt.

"She told me I'd know when it was time," Loverink said, "and I did."

An "exhausting" Christmas season and

the retirement of her two work buddies earlier this spring sealed the deal, and last Saturday, Loverink made it official.

For 28 years, she'd been the part-time, flexible clerk at the Blooming Prairie Post Office, "and it has been just that," Loverink said. Some weeks might

see her behind the counter just a few days; others, she was there for 40 hours.

It fit her style, she said.

"I like routine, but it's nice to have the time off" during the week, too.

Jim Tlougan was postmaster when Lov-

See LOVERINK on B7 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

Eileen Loverink is retiring after spending 28 years as a clerk at the Blooming Prairie Post Office. She hopes to spend more time with her three sons and 11 grandchildren and work in her gardens.

Medford Firefighter's Dance



Medford firefighters Nick Goodnature and Mark Ristau, above, hand out coolers and sell raffle tickets at the Medford Fire Department Relief Association's dinner and street dance Saturday evening. Music by Wicked Garden entertained the large crowd. Funds raised will be used to offset equipment purchases and training. Before the dance, Rita Martini, right, of Hudson, Wis., bites into one of the department's pork sandwiches. And Bryan and Shelby Hauge of Medford, far right, keep a watchful eye on their daughters, 1-year-old Leighton and 3-year-old Kendall.



STAFF PHOTOS
BY DEB FLEMMING



To mask or not?

Schools try to make solid decisions in fluid situation

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

As the new school year approaches — and breakthrough COVID cases climb — school superintendents around the country are keeping an eye on the health recommendations and requirements.

To say the situation is fluid is an understatement.

"As of today, July 30th, it's our intention to move forward with no mask requirement

in the buildings," said Michael Meihak, superintendent at New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva School District.

"Masks are mandatory on (school) transportation, but that comes from higher up," he said, referring to the federal mandate in place for all public schools in the country. The mandate will end Sept. 13, but may be updated based on case numbers.

See TO MASK on B7 ▶

Helping students transition back to school



Steele Talkin'
BOBBI MATHERN

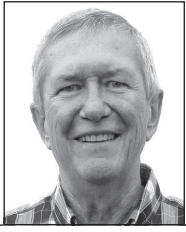
It's that time of year again! The fair is just around the corner and before we know it school will be starting. This year seems to be more on track for a traditional experience than last year, so far anyway. Many families are counting on a return to school, in person, full time. Other

families have learned, through the experience of living through a pandemic, that online schooling is the best option for them and are glad that this is a permanent option.

Regardless of whether your child will be returning to in-person or learning on-line, the beginning of school will be a significant transition. While we prepare, we can't help but have some apprehension. In addition to the usual nervousness about returning to school, learning, and increased interaction, this year we reflect on the past and are more aware than ever that certainty is not a guarantee.

See STEELE TALKIN' on B7 ▶

Beatle George Harrison rocks in Albert Lea



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

He might have been known as the least popular of the four Beatles, but on this particular night George Harrison (aka Aron Helm) stole the show at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center in Albert Lea.

Helm (aka George Harrison) is part of the Beatles tribute group called A Hard Days Night.

As George Harrison, Helm looked identical

to the mop head of the early 1960s. He grew a mustache, let his locks grow for the other role he plays when doing Sgt. Pepper's Band music.

He was indeed the center attraction, perfectly strumming every guitar he would pick up. He also floated and rocked across center stage.

There are many Beatles tribute groups out there, and Judy and I have seen most of them. The A Hard Days Night group is led by Joe Covert who plays Paul McCartney. Covert is from Minneapolis.

It was very refreshing to see the Beatles tribute group performing once again. We saw them the first time two years ago at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center. We were impressed with them

then and even more impressed when we saw them last Friday night.

The rockin' music caused many in the crowd at the Marion Ross center to dance in their seats.

COVID-19 shut down the Marion Ross theatre and also silenced the A Hard Day's Night group.

The arts center was not packed on this hazy night in Albert Lea, but those in attendance, representing those mostly over 60, liked what they saw and heard.

Each of the four Beatles made their appearance real. Paul McCartney (Joe Covert) was excellent in sound and only cast a blip because he plays the guitar right handed rather than left handed like the real McCartney.

John Lennon (Jeff Boxwell) started the

show with his rendition of "Twist and Shout."

Ringo Star (Kevin Fansen) made those percussion instruments hum. He also had the Ringo smirk down pat.

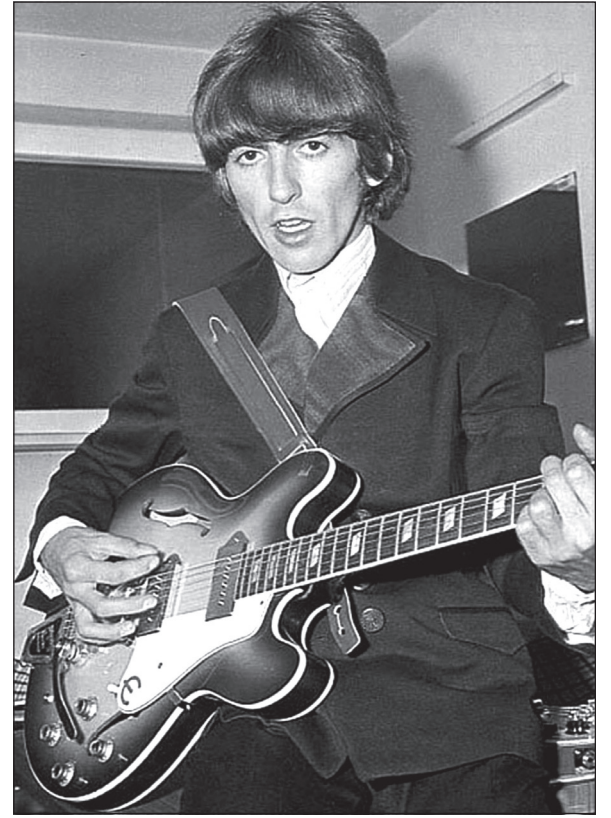
George Harrison (Aron Helm) is the youngest of the crew and he did a superb job on the guitar. He also took time to reminisce with Judy and me about our last place of residence in Lino Lakes. Helm said he golfs at Chomonix, which is right across the road from our previous home.

Let's go back to Harrison. He often would harmonize with McCartney as they backed up Lennon on some popular Beatles tunes.

While Covert was constantly displaying that effervescent smile, Helm was hitting the high notes with his magical guitar and prancing across the center stage. He also teased fellow Beatle (Boxwell) about wanting to do more vocals. The teasing resulted in Lennon flipping him off in fun.

In real life, Harrison was born Feb. 25, 1943 in Liverpool, Lancashire, England and died at age 58 of lung cancer on Nov. 29, 2001 in Los Angeles.

From Wikipedia, we read: Although the majority of the band's songs



There were two parts to the Beatles tribute group's performance at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center on Friday, July 29. Here, members of the group called A Hard Days Night do music from Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. The Beatles from left to right are: Paul McCartney (aka Joe Covert), Ringo Star (aka Kevin Fransen), George Harrison (aka Aron Helm) and John Lennon (aka Jeff Boxwell).

were written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, most Beatles albums from 1965 onwards contained at least two Harrison compositions.

His songs for the group include "Taxman", "Within You Without You", "While My Guitar Gently Weeps", "Here Comes the Sun" and

"Something."

We got to know George a little better at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center on this July 29 night. George and all of the Beatles will live forever even though only Paul and Ringo are alive.

It was indeed A Hard Day's Night.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

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58						59			60	61		
62					63				64			
65					66				67			

ACROSS

- 1 Palpitate
- 6 Commanded
- 10 Exultation
- 14 Laughing scavenger
- 15 50-50
- 16 "Arrivederci ---"
- 17 Stimulant
- 18 Gives added assurance
- 20 Episcopate
- 21 Crackpot
- 23 "... Sleepin' in the --- sun!" (Mercer/Carmichael)
- 24 Powerful chopper
- 27 Bad toupee
- 28 Apparel
- 30 Field or box sport
- 35 Hot iron
- 36 "Good Time Charlie's got the ---" (Danny O'Keefe)
- 37 "Iron Man" Ripken
- 38 Bunyan's ox
- 39 Change
- 40 Defeat decisively
- 41 Be unwell
- 42 Slumbered
- 43 As before
- 44 Asks Rene about footwear
- 46 Tune in
- 47 Sugar spirit
- 48 Wipes clean

DOWN

- 1 In this way
- 2 Promote to excess
- 3 Not just one-shot
- 4 Unity
- 5 Seven Sisters NYC college
- 6 Shelf-like sleeping space
- 7 "---, Caesar!"
- 8 Faculty head
- 9 Implements
- 10 "Old ---" (1989 Gregory Peck/Jane Fonda movie)
- 11 Conrad's "--- Jim"

ACROSS

- 50 "--- of the Cave Bear" (Auel)
- 54 Chicken precursor, or not
- 55 "Runaway" singer --- Shannon
- 58 Retail soy all over the place for ongoing income
- 60 Long-continued practice
- 62 Kind of tournament
- 63 Concerning, in legalese
- 64 Literary miser --- Marner
- 65 "There is a --- in the affairs of men ..." (Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar")
- 66 Category
- 67 Former Senate majority leader --- Lott

DOWN

- 12 "Nanny McPhee" star Thompson
- 13 Piece of cake
- 19 Bridge teams
- 22 Spam
- 25 Loblolly, for example
- 26 Orbital path
- 28 PLO Chairman Mahmoud ---
- 29 Bridal follower
- 31 Bertie Wooster's Agatha, for example
- 32 Talliesin West locale
- 33 Fry briefly over high heat
- 34 John with an Oscar and a Tony
- 36 Transvaal trekker
- 39 Virgin's bower
- 40 All do this in court
- 42 Brain box?
- 43 Revulsion
- 45 Known to just a few
- 46 Barrel stave
- 49 Bowling alley button
- 50 Hurry
- 51 Kachina maker
- 52 Inspected
- 53 Barcelona boy
- 56 Alaska's first governor
- 57 "--- we forget" (Kipling)
- 59 Sin
- 61 Respectful form of address

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Holiday Stationstores continues work on former county shop site

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

After flooding damaged the old county shop site in 2010 and with the construction of new public works building in 2019, the site has remained relatively vacant.

During last week's regular county board meeting, County Administrator Scott Golberg informed the board that Holiday Stationstores, LLC is continuing to study the downtown site for the eventual construction of a gas station.

"Holiday Stationstores has exercised their right to extend the contingency date for another 90 days to Oct. 18," Golberg informed the board. "I think that's overall good news as they're continuing to do their discovery work on that site."

Much of the discovery is related to the prevention of future flooding at that site. "I think mostly it's probably involving engineering related to the flood plain fill they essentially have to demonstrate that they are filling that

site to get above the regulatory flood protection elevation," Golberg said.

"It's going to require them to prove that they are not going to cause problems downstream for property owners due to a city ordinance," Golberg said of the discovery work on the site. "I think that's probably what's taking some time."

The county's website has also undergone some changes, according to Golberg. "Our website was recently updated thanks to the efforts of my executive assistant Rebecca

Kubicek and our IT guy Dave Purscell," he said. "They were the two key coordinators on that."

"It's been a long time in the making; we started this before the pandemic," Golberg said. "We were trying to get a website updated so that it would be more friendly to the citizens to use it. Before, it was rather difficult to figure out what department to go to and where to get information. So, we broke it down by departments versus divisions."

The website's front page has also been updated.

COUNTY OKS SETTLEMENT IN CASE AGAINST SHERIFF

Following its regular meeting last week, the Steele County Board met in a closed session to discuss and approve a settlement agreement in a federal lawsuit that named Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele as the respondent.

The lawsuit, filed in October by two former inmates at the correctional center, alleges that funds had been wrongly withheld from their jail accounts and used instead for their pay-to-stay fee. Although Thiele had requested a jury trial, an out-of-court settlement was reached in mid-July and approved by the board during Tuesday's closed session. Further information and details on the settlement and the case are expected to be made available to the public after being accepted by the court sometime in late August.

Local gardens shine in annual BP flower show

LOCAL from B1
Hanson was talking about the rest of the competition, who combined to bring 71 different displays to the flower show luncheon and basket raffle, now in its 12th year.

The event is one of the auxiliary's major fundraisers. The money raised is used to support the community, as well as the American Legion Auxiliary programs, including Veterans' Rehabilitation; American Legion Auxiliary Hospital; Girls State; scholarships; Fisher Houses; the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club and other programs that help active military members and veterans.

Making the difficult decisions were judges Gretchen Boldt, Julie Easton and Sharon Schroeder.

"I think we're the only ones who've done it now for a few years," Easton said, but it's clear they enjoy the work.

"This is the best thing ever," Boldt said. "It's such a community thing; anyone can come, anyone can enter. They bring the people over from the nursing home, and they stay and play cards later — what a great thing for everyone."

What makes them good judges? "We're willing," Boldt said, "and we do it for the love of flowers and community."



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Darlene Noble of Darlone Noble is the Grand Champion at the American Legion Auxiliary's Flower Show Luncheon & Raffle. She won with her centerpiece of lilies, dahlias and greens.

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Jennifer Walsh REAL ESTATE

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jenwalsh.kw.com

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- AUG. 9**
7 p.m. — City Council Meeting
- AUG. 10**
10:30 a.m. — Storytime, BP Central Park or Library Facebook Page
2:30 p.m. — BP Utility Commission Meeting
4:30 p.m. — Fire Commission Meeting
- AUG. 11**
4:30 p.m. — EDA Meeting
- AUG. 18**
Noon — Chamber Meeting, City Hall
- AUG. 24**
5 p.m. — Ambulance Commission Meeting
- AUG. 25**
4 p.m. — Police Commission Meeting

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

- AUG. 6**
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building
- AUG. 9**
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building
8 p.m. — Berlin Township Meeting, Community Building
- AUG. 11**
11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building
- AUG. 12**
8:30 p.m. — Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- AUG. 7**
7 a.m. — Farmer's Market, Central Park
9 a.m. — Job Fair, Four Seasons Centre
- AUG. 9**
4:30 p.m. — Owatonna Park Board Meeting, Manthey Park
5:30 p.m. — Moonlighters Exchange Club, VFW
- AUG. 10**
10:30 a.m. — Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook
5 p.m. — Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. — Owatonna Human Rights Commission Meeting,
- City Hall
- AUG. 11**
5:30 p.m. — Medford EDA Meeting, City Hall
- AUG. 12**
10:30 a.m. — Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook
5 p.m. — Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge
6 p.m. — Meat-a-palooza, MN Agricultural Interpretive Center, Waseca
7 p.m. — 11@7 Concert Series, Central Park
- AUG. 17-22**
Steele County Free Fair

BP Cancer Group unveils plans for auction; eyes set on million mark

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There will be a “whole lotta” stuff going on and aimed at preventing cancer. Blooming Prairie Cancer group volunteers have been working all summer on plans leading up to the 20th Annual Cancer Auction on Friday, Sept. 10 and Saturday, Sept. 11.

Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the BP Cancer Group, said the million-dollar mark for raising funds during this 20-year span is within reach this year. The annual auction once again will be held under THE BIG TENT next to The Cue Company in Blooming Prairie.

In preparation for the big weekend, board members are selling pink flags to be placed on the vacant lot just south of Main Street. The flag price is still \$10. This promotion is called Paint the Town Pink.

The flags will be posted on Sunday, Aug. 29. Flags will be posted until Sept. 13. Contact Krejci at 507-438-6895 or any volunteer to buy a flag. The plan is to sell 250 flags.

A new twist will be given the pink flag promotion this year. Krejci said 3 by 5 pink flags will be available for public sale at \$25 each. “This will put more color in town and the flags can be kept forever,” she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A pink pressure washer with a list price of \$5,000 will be raffled off by Express Pressure Washers of Blooming Prairie for the benefit of the BP Cancer Group. Tickets went on sale Aug. 2 and are available at Express Pressure Washers, or from a BP Cancer Group member. Displaying the pink washer manufactured by Alkota are Brent Ingvalson, left, owner-manager of Express Pressure Washers and Lloyd Prihoda, BP Cancer Group member.

Three raffles will be featured this year, according to Krejci. They are:

- Steve Prihoda raffle, \$10 each, sponsored by family and friends of the late Steve Prihoda. First prize is \$1,000; second \$300 and third is \$200. The drawing will be at 10 p.m. on Sept. 11.

- Maynard and Robin Akkerman of Brownsdale have donated a 100th anniversary Harley Davidson motorcycle to be raffled. Tickets cost \$10 each or 3 for \$20. The black, 2003 Road King Harley Davidson has 23,000 actual miles. Drawing will be on Sept. 11.

- Express Pressure Washers of Blooming Prairie will be raffling off a pink power washer, following sales of other



FILE PHOTO

Cancer flags for promotion of Paint the Town Pink are now on sale by contacting any member of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Cheri Krejci, treasurer, says 250 flags will be sold at \$10 each

pink washers. Tickets are \$10 each and will be on sale beginning Aug. 2 at Express Pressure Washers or from a BP Cancer Group member. The drawing will be Sept. 16 at Gun Bingo. Proceeds from the first Alkota washer go to the BP Cancer Group.

Four pink washers have been created by Alkota: First one went to the Hayfield Fire Department, second went to Stinar with a \$300 donation to the BP Cancer Group, third was purchased by Robert Panuska of New Richland and fourth was designated for the BP Cancer Group raffle,

100% going to the Cancer Group, said Brent Ingvalson, owner-manager of EPW.

The first live auction will be at 7 p.m. on Friday night, Sept. 10.

Three events are planned for Saturday, Sept. 10.

Mandy Doocy is chair of the Running Over Cancer 5K Run/Walk that starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10. Entry fee is \$30 including a t-shirt and medal. Deadline to guarantee a shirt is Aug. 31. The race begins and ends at Central Park. Register online at www.bpccancergroup.org.

See **BP CANCER** on B7 ▶

SUMMER CANCER EVENTS

- Aug. 2** — Raffle tickets go on sale for pink pressure washer.
- Aug. 29** — Paint the Town Pink, put up cancer flags
- Sept. 10** — Live Auction, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 11** — Running Over Cancer, 10 a.m.
- Sept. 11** — Family Bingo, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 11** — Live Auction, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 16** — Gun Bingo, Servicemen's Club

History Center hosts award-winning author

The Steele County Historical Society announces a program, Conversations with Peter Razor-State Schooler and Award-Winning Author, beginning at 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 5, at the Steele County

History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna.

This is a rare opportunity to hear from someone who grew up at the State Public School in Owatonna. In 1930, Razor arrived in Owatonna at less than 2 years of age. His memories are captured in the book “While the Locust

Slept,” published when he was 73, after years of learning to deal with the trauma of his youth. You are invited to join us for this conversation.

Razor will have copies of his book to be autographed and purchased this evening. If you have already purchased the book, he will autograph these too.

This event is free to members, \$5 for non-members. SCHS memberships will be available to purchase on this evening. As a reminder, the exhibit hall will be open before and after the presentation until 8 p.m.

Call 507-451-1420 if you have any questions regarding this event.

Arts Center to feature Class of '71 artworks

Two artists from the Owatonna High School Class of 1971, Ann Grano and Gail Thompson, will be exhibiting their paintings in the Owatonna Arts Center gallery Aug. 8 — Aug. 29.

There will be an

opening reception on Saturday, Aug. 14 from 2 p.m. — 4 p.m. Both artists are creative and have been drawing and painting all their lives. Both artists have asked their classmates who have artistic interests to be a part of the exhibi-

tion.

Richard Borchert will be showing his photography, Deb Rysavy Lien will be displaying quilts and Cathy Martin will exhibit textiles. A quilt made by Julie Kaplan commemorating their class reunion and featuring Owatonna images and vintage fabric also will be displayed.

OHS Class of '81 reunion set for Aug. 28

The Owatonna High School Class of 1981 will be holding its 40th Reunion at the Riverbend Music Festival on August 28th.

Dinner held from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. A bonfire will be held at 9 p.m., weather permitting.

The reunion is being held rain or shine. For more information, contact Tracy Steinberg at 507-213-1154.

Farm connections

Thursday Evenings, 7:30

Southeastern MN / Northeastern IA

Sudoku Corner

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

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

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September 18th
9 am to 2 pm

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- In-store Sales – Sidewalk Sales
- Local Vendors
- Grand Opening of “Pumpkin Patch” Kids Games

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Tuesday-Thursday: 10:00 AM – Close
Saturday: 9:00 AM – Close
Sunday: CLOSED
Bar Closes at 1:00 am Off-Sale Closes at 10 pm



Michelle Warner cleans up one of two flower boxes in front of the Flower Building dedicated to Michael Seykora.

Hall of Fame winners picked



Steely's Insights
WAYNE STEELE

The Livestock Hall of Fame will be held in the show arena at the Steele County Free Fair at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17. Inducted and honored will be Glenn Johnson and Deb McDermott-Johnson and Richard Steinberg.

THE JOHNSONS

- Founded "Cow Camp" for Steele

County youth through the Community Education Program.

- Member and supporter of Steele County American Dairy Association and the Steele County Dairy Herd Improvement Association.
- Hosted June Dairy Month "Breakfast on the Farm" multiple times.
- Deb served as Director of Community Education for Owatonna Public Schools.
- Deb served as Secretary of Minnesota Brown Swiss Breeders Association and was instrumental

in bringing the national convention to Steele County.

- Bred an outstanding herd of Guernsey, Holstein and Brown Swiss cows.
- Exhibited 30-40 head of cattle from their herd at the Steele County Fair with "Cow Camp" students.

RICHARD STEINBERG

- Founding member of the Owatonna Rabbit Club and has served as president, vice president, secretary/treasurer and show superintendent.
- Responsible for numerous state conventions and served

See STEELY'S INSIGHTS on B10 ▶

A fair perspective: In their own words

BY MAGGIE BRUNS

I am a member of the Merry Lane 4-H Club. I just graduated from Blooming Prairie High School and plan to attend Gustavus-Adolphus College in the fall to major in nursing.

At the Steele County Free Fair, I show dairy cattle that I have been fortunate enough to lease from Discovery Genetics and Demmer Farms. Since I do not live on a farm and never have, my journey in the dairy industry has been different than most, but I wouldn't want it any other way.

I am looking forward to the Steele County Free Fair this year more than most years because with all the uncertainty last year, I was unable to show dairy cattle at the fair and was only able to help out in the ring at the show. Showing at the fair is one of the things I look forward to the most each year and it was



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Maggie Bruns of Blooming Prairie has been active in the dairy project through 4-H. She shows cows at the Steele County Fair that are leased from Discovery Genetics and Demmer Farms.

very disappointing to not be able to do that last year, so it will be awesome to get back in the ring this year and do one of the things I love the most.

4-H has given me so many amazing opportunities, but I think the thing that has had the biggest impact on my life has been giving me the opportunity to be part of the dairy industry. Because I have been able to be involved in the dairy industry,

I have strengthened many relationships with people I was pretty close too, and I have also met some of my very best friends. There have been many late nights and early mornings along the way, but I have had the best people by my side the whole way and I wouldn't change any of it for the world.

Maggie Bruns of Blooming Prairie also serves as a dairy princess for Steele County.

Warner and team care for 1,500 flowers on fairgrounds

BY LOLA SHAFFER
TIMES INTERN

It takes a village to grow, plant, and maintain the more than 1,500 flowers at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

As the superintendent of Groundskeeping and Landscaping at the fairgrounds, Michelle Warner said that she is responsible for most of the flower planting, watering, and other maintenance. However, she said, the landscaping program would not be possible without teamwork and collaboration: her "team" includes members of the Fair Board, Cedar Valley Services, and the Owatonna community.

"She does an amazing job for us," shouted Scott Kozelka, the Steele County Free Fair manager, as he climbed into his car parked nearby.

According to Warner, the Fair Board contracts with Cedar Valley Services "to take care of the plants at the fairgrounds." The agency provides the necessary seeds, soil, and other gardening supplies.

As part of a senior consumer-based program, they grow the flowers themselves in a small, on-site greenhouse. "The consumers take a lot of pride" in growing these flowers and then seeing them around the community, said Warner. "We start about 95% of these plants from seed."

Typically, Warner said she tries to plant all flowers in Fair Square by Memorial Day and the remaining flowers by June. To ensure that they are ready by that time, she and the consumers start planting seeds in late December or early January.

With COVID-19, the consumers were not able to return to work for several months, said Warner. Cedar Valley Services had to be cautious of exposing them to COVID-19 because many have weak or compromised immune systems.

Cedar Valley also restricted its consumers to working exclusively in the greenhouse or the community to limit cross-exposure when

they returned to work. Since fewer individuals were working in the community, Warner said she did much of the planting alone.

On average, Warner said that it usually takes her about four hours to water, fertilize, and deadhead the flowers, adding that she does not roll into her driveway until 6 or 7 most nights. In past years, the rain gave her a break from watering but "not this year," said Warner adding that she has been to the fairgrounds watering plants every day, despite the heat.

As far as watering, Warner said that they only use hoses around Fair Square. A water truck with a big tank is used to water everything else, averaging about 300 to 350 gallons of water a day, she said. Fertilizing happens weekly, while deadheading happens daily to promote new growth and blooms for the fair.

Warner said the late Dick Reinhardt is responsible for getting the Groundskeeping and Landscaping Program up and running.

LOOK WHO'S BRINGING BACK THE FUN IN 2021!

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021

STEELE COUNTY TIMES **B5**



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

This past weekend's Corky's Early Bird Softball Classic provided a great opportunity for Steele County residents and visitors, young and old, to see some of the best softball teams in the country compete against each other.

'An Owatonna softball tradition'

Ferch likes the hometown flavor of Corky's tourney

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna native Ryan Ferch has been playing in Corky's Early Bird Softball Classic for 10 years now and he has no plans on stopping anytime soon.

"It's just the tradition of our hometown tournament. There's been ups and down the last couple years, but it's something to look forward to every year. It's kind of an Owatonna softball tradition so that's why I do it," he said.

Another reason he enjoys being a part of it year after year is because, "It's a ton of fun." "Just being able to be outside, play some softball and enjoy some good food. It's just a great time all around," Ferch said.

It also provides him the chance to reconnect with friends from around the state of Minnesota, Nebraska and Illinois who also participate in the tournament.



Ryan Ferch

When he's not reconnecting with friends or playing, he brings his two kids down to the field and watches the

guys who play in the top division.

When he is playing softball, Ferch enjoys having a lot of people watching and cheering them on.

"It's a completely different atmosphere than anywhere else. It's fun to hear the cheering and the people talking. Most of the time it's quiet when we're playing but [this tournament] is a lot of fun," he said.

He noted that another advantage of

Corky's Early Bird Softball Classic over other softball tournaments is it takes place in his hometown of Owatonna.

"It's nice to have your family and friends watch you and it feels good to be part of your hometown and be able to play," he said.

While softball is a competitive game, Ferch doesn't feel any pressure to win for the hometown fans.

See **SOFTBALL** on B6 ▶



Summer youth softball



Thirty-two girls in grades 2 and 3 from Blooming Prairie take to the great outdoors this summer for some youth softball action with help from several coaches, including Tina Quail, Josi Christy, Monica Anderson and Hilary Jones. Top: Tina Quail helps a second grade softball player by giving her some batting tips. Coach Quail has her hands on the bat, ball and glove. Left: Third grader Harper Hansen focuses on the softball on the tee during her turn at bat. Top right: Sometimes the ball snuck past and had the girls wondering, "Where's the ball?" Bottom right: Emily Kasperek connects on a pitch.



STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Mother Nature takes another racing night at Chateau

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

Nobody wants to complain about any rain that comes our way this summer, but for the fifth time this summer it has picked a Friday to drift through and took out another night of racing at Chateau Speedway in Lansing.

With just nine nights of racing in this summer because of the sporadic weather, Chateau's attention now turns towards a very busy August.

The month kicks off next week with Chateau hosting the Mid-American Renegade Traditional Non-Wing Sprints for the third of its three specials this summer. All six regular classes will also be a part of the show. The show is actually one week sooner than the original schedule indicated as a late scheduling conflict came up.

The fireworks will remain on Aug. 13.

One of the favorite events of the season will take place in three weeks on Aug. 20. It will be Kids Night with rides in the stock cars beginning at 6:15 p.m. There will be bicycle giveaways as well as fire ice cream treats for children 12 and under.

On Aug. 27 it's the rescheduled "Spirit of 83" Memorial Race featuring the Mike Guttormson Memorial A-Mod Feature event with the big payday wraps up the month of August. The event was supposed to run back on Memorial Day weekend, which is its traditional spot on the schedule but Mother Nature had other ideas that weekend.

The action continues into September with Season Championship Night and a National Points Special the first two weeks of the month before wrapping up with the fourth annual Autumn Extravaganza the first weekend of October with two full nights of racing action.

'The cherry on top'

NRHEG's Sophie Stork earns first-team all-state honors

BY ALEX NUEHRING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was something New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva pitcher Sophie Stork never saw coming.

But after pitching every inning of every game and leading the Panthers to a 22-4 record, the best in school history, she was one of just 14 Class AA softball players named first-team All-State by the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches' Association.

"It is honestly humbling to be a part of such an honored group. There are a lot of great pitchers let alone other positions in our section and Class AA," she said.

NRHEG Head Softball Coach Wendy Schultz agreed.

"There's a lot of very good athletes in softball. A lot of girls play year-round and other coaches in AA vote on it so it's props to her that all her hard work has paid off," she said.

She added that Stork is NRHEG's first all-stater in the past 20 years.

While those accolades are nice, Stork wasn't concerned about achieving any individual honors when she took the mound for the Panthers.

"I was more focused on how our team could succeed, being on the all-state team was the cherry on top of this season," she said.

When asked how she's become such a decorated pitcher, she noted that her pitching style has matured, and she knows when to throw the different pitches in her arsenal.

"With more practice, I'm more consistent and more confident in throwing different types of pitches and I've added more strength which helps with speed," she said.

Schultz explained that Stork's extra strength also helped her become one of NRHEG's best batters.

"She was one of our big hitters on the team and very consistent. She and Cloie [Arndt] led us in pretty much every offensive category," she said.

Stork has become such a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

NRHEG pitcher Sophie Stork goes into her windup during a game this past spring. After pitching every inning of every game and leading the Panthers to a 22-4 record, she was named first-team All-State by the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches' Association.

skilled hitter and pitcher, she said, due to her being a perfectionist.

"That's what great about Sophie, she's very self-motivated. She's willing to put in the time to be a great pitcher," she said.

In addition to her own motivation, Stork noted that her teammates' and coaches' support also motivates her to become a pitcher and hitter.

"Since they support me, it makes me want to become a better pitcher for them," she said.

Not only do her teammates support off the field and via verbal encouragement when she's pitching, they also support her by providing defense when opposing hitters do get a hit off her.

"I have a great defense that backs me up. I trust them with all my heart, and I definitely couldn't do it without them," Stork said.

Schultz has also noticed how appreciative her pitcher is of her defense.

"She'll be the first person to tell you that softball is a team sport and everyone else on the team helps her be successful as well," she said.

Specifically, Stork credited Coach Schultz and her husband John who taught her pitching tips and skills during grade school and her dad and catchers who have caught for her over the years for helping her earn

the honor of being named a first-team All-State pitcher.

Overall, Schultz mentioned that Stork's pitching prowess has a huge impact on the Panthers' success this past spring.

"Yes, it's a team sport and everyone is important but if you don't have a pitcher, it doesn't matter as much. If you take her off our team, it would make things a little trickier.

There are years where you have pitchers who aren't as strong as her it puts more pressure on defense because the batters are able to hit it a little bit easier. With Sophie, the batters might get hits but it's weaker contact and easier on the defense. She's pretty good at keeping batters on their toes and not get too comfortable in the batter's box," she said.

Now that she's become one of the best players in Class AA and earned one of the top individual honors, her next goal is more team oriented.

"My biggest goal is giving my team the best opportunity to get to the state tournament," she said. "I believe that we definitely have a shot at it next spring. We work hard every single day, have fun, our team chemistry is unbelievable and I truly believe that hard work pays off so if we put in the work, good things will happen."

"It is honestly humbling to be a part of such an honored group."

Sophie Stork
All-State Softball Player



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Ferch said he and his teammates have fun being a part of Corky's Early Bird Softball Classic regardless of wins and losses.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Fans stood on picnic tables along the fence beyond the first base foul line to watch the softball action on Friday, July 30.

'An Owatonna softball tradition'

◀ SOFTBALL from B5

"It's kind of an Owatonna softball tradition so that's why I do it."

Ryan Ferch
Corky's Softball Player

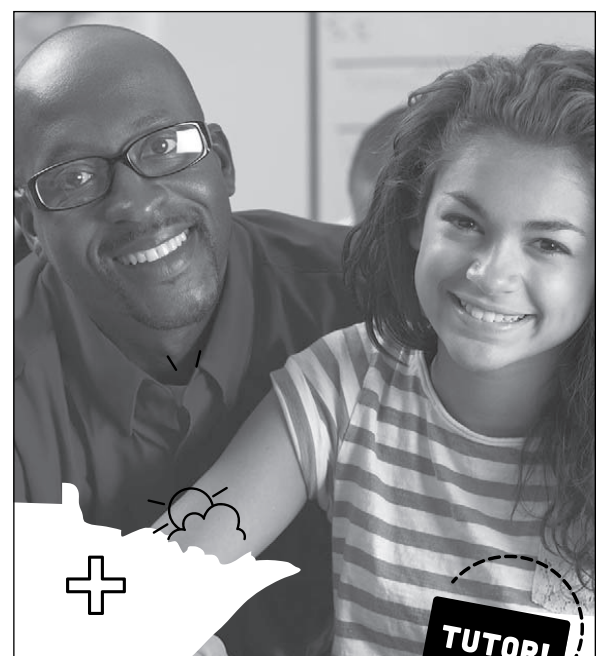
"If we win a couple games, great; if we don't, it's no big deal. We're just here for fun," he said.

The reason he and all other softball players and fans can have so much fun is due to all the work that goes into putting it on. The person who leads all that work is Corky's Early Bird Softball Classic Director Loren Dietz.

"He does a great job and so does his crew. It does a ton for the We All Play park here in town, which a lot of the proceeds go to that," he said. "They deserve a ton of respect and support from the community."

Because of the funds raised for charity, the fun of playing and watching softball and the tradition of being a part of his hometown's tournament, Ferch has no plans on stopping anytime soon.

"I'll play as long as I can until my body won't let me play. I hope I have a long way to go."

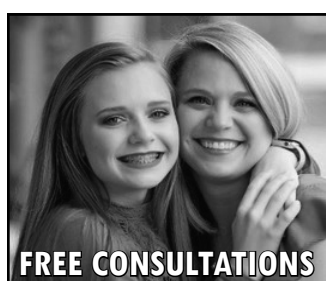


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Helping students transition back to school

◀ **STEELE TALKIN'** from B1
Generally speaking, adjustments and changes are difficult on people. If you are a parent of a student this year, you may be wondering what you can do to help your child or teen adjust to this school year. Parents can help kids and teens process their thoughts and emotions by simply listening to their experiences and validating them. Validation means to let another person know that what they are thinking and feeling makes sense, given their past and present experiences. Asking open ended questions and encouraging our kids to talk, without judgement, is one of the most important gifts parents can give. If you

need to take a break from a conversation to prevent yourself from yelling or saying things that are unhelpful, take the break and then go back to the conversation. Remember that even when people disagree, there is truth to both sides.
Of course, not all people like to talk about their feelings. If this is your child or adolescent, encourage expression through other activities such as art, music, play, or sports. Spending quality time with your child is also beneficial.
Some kids and teenagers are anxious to return to school. A common symptom of anxiety is avoidance. Avoidance feels like relief in the moment,

but makes the anxiety even bigger in the long run. Another common symptom of anxiety is acting out behaviorally. If your child is engaging in behaviors that are problematic, remember that focusing on positives and reinforcing behaviors that you want to see more of is a more effective way to change behaviors than punishment is. Remember to offer praise, encouragement, or other rewards for positive behaviors on a regular basis.
Encourage kids and teens to engage in healthy behaviors and stick to a routine. Start now with getting the bedtime routine back. It is most healthy to have a consistent sleep-wake cycle. Encourage

your child to participate in activities that bring joy, while still taking care of responsibilities. Maintaining structure and routine in your own life will inevitably provide structure and routine in your children's and teenager's lives. We all need to have consistency and balance with sleep, nutrition, exercise, leisure time, work time, screen time, alone time, and social time. It is important to balance leisure activity, responsibilities, and rest.
It is vital that parents take care of their own mental health. Youth look to adults to learn how to respond to situations. When parents practice good self-care and balance in their own lives, their

children learn this as a way to manage stress as well. Parents can take care of themselves by getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, exercising, making time for leisure activities, practicing mindfulness (paying attention to the present moment), practicing gratitude (noticing what you are thankful for), and avoiding using substances to self-medicate. Parents can seek support from other adults who understand what they are going through. Parents can seek supports specific to mental health as well, such as therapy or NAMI groups.
Signs that your child or teen may need professional help include hopelessness, lack of motivation, insom-

nia or hypersomnia, significant changes in appetite, separation anxiety, excessive fears, avoidance of activities, inability to function, using substances, engaging in self-harm, and suicidal thoughts. If you notice these symptoms in your child or adolescent, don't hesitate to reach out for help. Early interventions lead to the best outcomes.
Bobbi Mathern is a licensed marriage and family therapist and the clinical director of the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Loverink steps down as clerk after 28 years at BP post office

◀ **LOVERINK** from B1
erink was hired back in 1993; Betty Herdina and Ragna Thompson were clerks. Loverink was replacing Thompson, who took a job in Owatonna.
"Back then, we had to sort everything ourselves," she said. "Tray after tray; we had to learn all of the

different areas and codes. Now, a lot of the work is done for us by machines."
Loverink has several phrases that come to mind when she reflects on the nearly three decades she spent greeting local residents, out doing their errands.
"Bill Newman would come in and say,

'Arkema's here!'" she said, referring to the business he represented, "and Kevin Christianson always said, 'living the dream.'"
Even now, when the area gets a heavy rain and puddles form in the back parking lot, Loverink said she still calls the standing water "Peggy's Pond,"

a nickname Tlougan came up with to honor Peggy Luschen.
"Things like this have just blessed my heart," Loverink said.
"There are certain things about each person; they're all special in their own way," Loverink said, who commuted from Hollandale. "Bloom-

ing Prairie has really grown on me; it's a good, safe community. The people are very caring — they're not only my customers, but my friends, too."
She's been grateful for the help the last few months from interim postmaster Gary Brolsma — who recognizes the experience

he's losing.
"If I keep trying, I'm going to have her convinced to come back," he said.
Loverink smiled, but shook her head.
"I'm looking forward to a new adventure," she said. "I have a lot to do, and I'm open to whatever the Lord has for me."

BP Cancer Group unveils plans

◀ **BP CANCER** from B3
Family Bingo will be held under the BIG TENT from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
The live auction and Drone Drop starts at 7 p.m.
Cancer t-shirts (navy blue) can be ordered online at www.bp-cancergroup.org. The design was made by Sportstitch. The theme

is "Overcome through Courage." Four letters are highlighted in light blue to spell CURE.
A surprise on Saturday night involves a Drone Drop.
The third annual Gun Bingo is planned for the BP Servicemen's Club on Thursday, Sept. 16. Connie Trom is chair of this event.

Trom is also chair of the Mum Flower Drive. Watch for more details.
If people have items to donate for the Sept. 10-11 auction, contact Krejci or a member of the BP Cancer Group.
Some of the items to be auctioned off Sept. 10-11 include a 20th anniversary quilt made by Bonnie Krejci.

Other items to be auctioned include:
• Weekend in Waco, Texas, the home of the Magnolia silos. This item includes airfare for four and a stay in one of the "fixer upper" homes. A car voucher is also included.
• Two reserve tables for the Purse Auctions to be held next spring.

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Schools try to make solid decisions in fluid situation

◀ **TO MASK** from B1
Students at NRHEG will be required to stay socially distant "as required, which is three feet" Meihak said. "We're taking every precaution to keep people safe."
Medford Superintendent. Mark Ristau echoed his colleague's words almost exactly.
"As of right now, that's the key," he said. "I sent an email to our families, saying we did not anticipate requiring masks be worn at school."
His administration is following the recommendations from the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health, talking to other district leaders "and Steele County health officials to make the best determination for Medford. We just want to have kids back in the school."
Ristau said there's been no pushback from parents or community members throughout the past 16 months.
"The community of Medford has been so supportive of the direction the school chooses to go," he said.
Both Medford and NRHEG have a COVID committee, comprised of health professionals and staff. The superintendents say their committees will continue to meet and discuss options.
Masks are optional for students and staff at Blooming Prairie schools, said Superintendent Chris Staloch.
"If we have any further guidance from state or federal (health officials), we'll make adjustments," he said, "but so far we haven't gotten any."
The BP School

Board will vote on formal recommendations at its next meeting, set for Aug. 16. The district will issue a statement with all of its guidelines after the meeting, Staloch said.
Owatonna, with a much larger student population than the other three districts, is also using the Minnesota Department of Education's "recommended but not required" guideline.
"It's the same message as my colleagues in the other schools have, just on a bigger scale," said Superintendent Jeff Elstad. Dealing with illness "is still based upon percentages. For a number of years, we've kept track of things like influenza cases in our buildings, and even in our classrooms. We have the

option of closing classrooms — or buildings, if we need to."
District officials sent the current plan and recommendations to all staff and parents on Tuesday; Elstad said they will "adjust as needed, and do our best to get (any new) messages out right away."
The option to mask — or not — is also left up to staff members.
"Some very openly don't want to wear masks," Elstad said, "because it's hard, especially in classes like vocal music. But there are some teachers that are concerned, so this option leaves the choice up to them."
The few comments from parents, he said, are "please don't require masking of our kids."

Owatonna Online, an accredited K-12 online public school offered free through Owatonna Public Schools for any Minnesota student, remains an option, Elstad said.
"We continue to need parents as partners, to keep school moving forward," he said. "My motto this year is that we're poised to have the best year yet, to really dig back into relationships."
Medford's Ristau said the Steele County superintendents have worked very closely throughout the pandemic, "making sure we're all on the same page, looking at the same situations, the same numbers. We'll continue to collect data and do all we can to be safe — and get the kids back in the buildings."

LAST CHANCE
Prices on pavers at the Blooming Prairie Veteran's Memorial will increase significantly in September.

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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS®
From the Hosts of the Under The Hood radio show.
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2013 Toyota SUV I am going to drive across country and back and will accumulate about 8000 miles on the odometer by the time I return. This vehicle has 45k miles on it and has not had any problems as of yet and no repairs other than tires and oil changes. Is there anything that I should do before I make the trip to be sure I am as safe as possible?

Tracy in Hastings Nebraska

Dear Tracy,
Anytime you are going on an extended trip it is good to have your vehicle at its best. Many folks have disappointing trips because they failed to have a simple check done and they experience a preventable breakdown. When a vehicle is brought in for oil changes on a regular basis to your local mechanic they usually inspect for basic things like tire wear and pressure and anything out of the ordinary that could cause a failure like worn belts and hoses but not always. When preparing for a trip make sure to ask your mechanic specifically about a general check-over and tell them how far you will be traveling so they can look for things that may affect your journey. Failed tires, belts, hoses and batteries are the most common items that leave motorists stranded so be sure these are among the list of items checked before you go. Have a safe and fun trip and enjoy the ride Tracy.
Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
I am thinking about purchasing a new Jeep Grand Cherokee with the Diesel Engine but don't know much about it. I have heard you talk about them on your radio show Under The Hood and have not heard any negatives about them from your callers. I plan to drive about 40k miles a year and haul trailers in the 4500lb range about 30k of that as I haul a display for my company to trade shows. I want the comfort of a car and good mileage but also the load hauling capability. What are your thoughts?

Mike in Portland Maine

Dear Mike,
There's a number of new smaller Diesel Engines on the market that can be found in half-ton trucks and smaller SUVs meant to give better mileage when towing smaller loads where a larger more powerful diesel was not needed; these new diesels are also very clean compared to the older larger ones which is good for the environment. You have a couple of key things in your question that are important factors on a vehicle for you. First, you say you will be towing a lot of miles which justifies more power and the added cost of the diesel option. Second for better fuel mileage the use of Diesels for towing long-haul should help with your economy. You ultimately have to decide when it comes to a purchase so always research and see what others are saying before you decide.
Take care, the Motor Medics

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NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917 MONDAY AUGUST 16, 2021 HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 6:00 a.m. Thursday, August 12, 2021**
*Regular School Board Work Session High School Media Center
- 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 16, 2021**
*Open Public Forum High School Media Center
- 7:15 p.m. Monday, August 16, 2021**
*Regular School Board Meeting - High School Media Center

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL – CLERK
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
- VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
 - A. Consent Agenda Minutes
 - Bills
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Resignation/Termination
 - Donations
 - B. Employment
 - C. Substitute Teacher Pay
 - D. Volunteer Coaches
 - E. Annual Policy Renewals/Changes/Additions
 - F. Preventative Maintenance Service Contract
 - G. Meal Prices
 - H. Bond Resolution
 - I. Bus Contract
- VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
 - A. Committee Reports
 - B. Enrollment Data
 - C. Dates to Note
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

NOTICE

Proposed City of Blooming Prairie City Council Meeting Agenda August 9, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda
1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of July 12, 2021 – Regular City Council Meeting
3. Approval of Resignation, Officer Matthew Miller

Financial Report Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. B.P. Economic Development Authority
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Police Commission
6. B.P. Ambulance Commission

Business
1. Approval of Proposed 2022 Wage Grid

City Administrator's Report

- 1. 2022 LGA Amount
- 2. Hiring of PT Police Officers
- 3. Small City Assistance Funding – Street Maintenance - \$39,669.00

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

Agenda Is Subject To Change

NOTICE

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 7/13/2021

Complete Minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website:

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- 1. Glynn/Gnemi to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
- 2. Krueger/Gnemi to approve the following Consent Agenda items. Ayes all.
 - A. Approve the minutes of June 22, 2021
 - B. Approve the minutes of June 22, 2021 Board Work Session
 - C. Approve the minutes of July 6, 2021 Board Work Session
 - D. Approve Bills and Journal Entries
 - E. Approve Personnel Report
 - F. Approve backfilling of the Environmental Specialist position for Planning and Zoning
 - G. Approve Steele County Courthouse HVAC upgrades project and have the Facilities and Fleet Director advertise for bids

- H. Approve Resolution accepting Public Health Donations
- I. Approve Temporary Body Art Establishment License for Kat's Tat's, LLC for an event at 14574 SE 44th Ave, Blooming Prairie, MN from August 17th-29th
- 3. Glynn/Abbe to authorize the Administrator and Human Resources Director to retain the firm of Madden Galanter Hansen LLP for ongoing employment and labor law services on an as-needed basis. Ayes all.
- 4. Gnemi/Krueger authorizing employees to use up to 1 hour of paid time to donate blood during a blood drive October 20, 2021. Ayes all.
- 5. Glynn/Gnemi to approve backfilling the .75 FTE Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Position and the .40 FTE Care Coordinator Position as a combined 1.0 FTE position in the Public Health Nursing Department. Ayes all.
- 6. Gnemi/Krueger to adopt the Steele County 2040 Transportation Plan. Ayes all.
- 7. Peng Olson, Community Relations Manager at Federated Insurance and Jeff Elstad, Superintendent of Owatonna Public Schools presented information on Engage Owatonna, a new online platform.

LISTING OF BILLS 7/13/2021

Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc.....	9,545.43
Ancom Technical Center Inc.....	2,819.00
ArchKey Technologies.....	8,114.86
Athletica Sports Systems Unlimited Corp.....	2,923.29
Baker Tilly US, LLP.....	10,470.00
Central Farm Services.....	7,284.71
City of Blooming Prairie.....	2,752.85
City of Medford.....	4,030.51
Counties Providing Technology.....	4,302.00
Crane Creek Asphalt.....	7,368.13
CRK Properties LLC.....	6,528.81
Diverse Construction Services LLC.....	2,096.00
DLT Solutions LLC.....	4,197.68
Election Systems & Software Inc.....	10,878.91
Fidlar Technologies Inc.....	2,948.61
Hancock Concrete Products Co LLC.....	2,611.24
Hillyard-Hutchinson.....	2,464.46
Interstate Power Systems Inc.....	2,977.82
J R's Advanced Recyclers Inc.....	7,770.66
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc.....	2,064.10
MCCC MI.....	33,557.66
Midstates Equipment Supply.....	8,542.50
Mn Counties Intergovernmental Trust.....	7,188.69
Mn Dept of Transportation.....	14,203.02
Newman Signs Inc.....	2,654.99
Owatonna Public Utilities.....	36,552.26
Perspective Enterprises Inc.....	2,158.00
Pictometry International Corp.....	6,474.52
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.....	12,388.99
SRF Consulting Group Inc.....	2,702.54
Steele County Free Fair.....	26,145.00
Steele County Highway Dept.....	7,094.55
Summit Food Services LLC.....	14,716.32
Univ Of Mn Regents.....	3,402.35
Waste Management of W-Mn.....	50,776.47
Wend Construction Inc.....	35,482.00
WSB & Associates Inc.....	4,879.75
Ziegler, Inc.....	23,995.31
135 Payments less than 2,000.....	45,225.07
Final Total:	630,259.07

8. Gnemi/Abbe to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 6:01 p.m. Ayes all.

NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **The Glowjoy Studio**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **202 North Cedar Avenue, Suite 1, Owatonna, MN 55062 USA**

NAMEHOLDERS: Name: **86 Points LLC**

Address: **202 North Cedar Avenue, Suite 1, Owatonna, MN 55062 USA**

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has autho-

rized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Nicholas N. Sperling**

MAILING ADDRESS: **None provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **sarahekenberg@gmail.com**

Work Item
1243442100020
Original File Number
1243442100020
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
07/12/2021

/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

PROBATE COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT Probate Court Division Court File No. 74-PR-21-1101

In Re: Estate of **JAY WAYNE LOGAN Deceased**

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF TESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of August, 2021, at 10:30 a.m., a zoom hearing will be held at the above named Court at Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the above named decedent and for the appointment of Grace Logan and Tyler Logan, whose address is 2243 Brooks Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066, as personal representatives of the estate of the above named decedent in an unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate. Please see notice of remote hearing with instructions.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 7/20/2021 /s/Christa M. Daily Judge

Robin Hoesley Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
William L Hoversten #47478
215 E Elm Ave,
PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phone: 507-835-5240

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION OF BANK MERGER

Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company, 245 E. J Street, Forest City, Iowa, has applied to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to merge Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie, with its main office location at 245 E. Main Street, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, with and into Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office located at 1100 Walnut Street, Suite 2100, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. Comments by interested parties must be received by the appropriate Regional Director not later than August 20, 2021. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

MANUFACTURERS BANK & TRUST COMPANY
Forest City, Iowa
Dennis Busta, President - CEO

7/28/21

8/4

8/4

8/4

7/28/21

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GARAGE SALES

CLAREMONT

GARAGE SALE: 219 East St N Lot 201. Friday and Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-12. **NASCAR** sheet metal, apparel, like new NASCAR coats, motorcycle gear, like new motorcycle Gerbing coats and vests, household items, electronics, Coach purses, men's and women's clothes, lots of men's items. 8/5pd

HOGFEST SALE: 506 E. Front St., Claremont. Thursday, 4-7, Friday, 8-5, Saturday 8-CLOSE. Bedding, curtains, rugs, good quality clothing, purses, household goods and decor, and lots more. 8/5pd

BYRON

LARGE SALE: 10506 County Rd 17 SW, Byron. Thursday, August 12, Friday, August 13 and Saturday, August 14, 8AM-4PM. Assorted electronics, household items, glassware, dishes, bakeware, quilts, hand-made crocheted doll out-

fits. Large and small dolls, clothing crafts, some tools, bikes and MUCH MORE. 8/5pd

KASSON

GARAGE SALE: 2000 8th Ave NE, Kasson. Friday, August 6 & Saturday, August 7. 9AM-5PM. Free items! Furniture, books, bikes, toys, girls & adult clothing. MUCH MORE! 8/5pd

DODGE CENTER

HUGE 25% OFF SALE: Sewing machines, lots to pick from—Singer, White, Brother. Musical instruments—clarinets, trombone, keyboards, cornet, and more. PLUS 25% off all clothing and shoes. Lots of name brands and sportswear. Only at Dano's Consignment Store, 32 E. Main Street, Dodge Center. Open Monday-Friday, 1PM to 4:30PM and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 7/22T3pd

FOR RENT

DODGE CENTER: 2-bedroom, 2-bath home, with stove and refrigerator furnished. Full partially finished basement,

large yard. Nonsmokers only apply. Rent \$1075 and deposit \$1075. 507-374-6747. 8/5TFN

STORAGE FOR RENT:

Indoor storage in Kasson. 10x20 foot: \$90/month. 7x9 foot: \$60/month. 612-234-7828. 7/15TFN

BARGAIN HUNTER

FOR SALE: Very old waffle iron. Appraised at \$50. Will sell for \$40. Call 507-256-4181. 7/29T4

KITCHEN DINING TABLE:

comes with 5 padded chairs, with arms and wheels. Good condition. \$50 Owatonna. 507-451-1182 7/14T4pd

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 2003 Chrysler Concord. Fair shape, good running engine. Needs HP power steering line. Asking \$500. Please text 507-512-0603. 7/22T3pd

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

FOR SALE

94 Timpfe Grain Trailer – 42-foot good tarp, nice \$9900.00

TD9 Newhead & turbo – nice except left steering clutch sticking \$6900.00

101 Massey Standard – good tires, needs some sheet metal \$500.00

F-14 - good tires – stuck \$400.00

WR9 - Very clean runs good \$2400.00

Case C Rowcrop – New tires \$1600.00

2 – J & M 500 Gravity Boxes – Big rubber, nice \$6300.00/each

Demco 650 Gravity Box – like new \$9200.00

Front mount 3 pt. - fits 7230 Case IH Tractors \$3600.00 or best offer

CONTACT – Janning Farms 507-213-6548 7/21T2PD

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AUCTIONS

HIGHWAY 59 AUCTION SERVICE

Slayton Minn. Equipment and Machinery Consignment. August 9, 2021; 10:00. Now taking consignment! Fair commissions! Call Jess Donkersloot: 507/370-1912 today! Website: auctionzip.com

ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

GUN SHOW AUGUST 13-15

Tyson Center, Sioux City. Friday 4pm-9pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-3pm. Large selection of GUNS and AMMO for sale! More info: 563/608-4401 www.marvkruspromotions.net

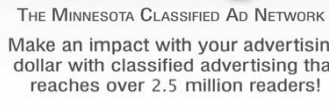
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GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK



August Gardening Tips

- Harvest summer squash and zucchini when fruits are small and full of their best flavor
- Harvest broccoli when heads are tight, don't pull the plant allow it to set side shoots of smaller florets, delicious!
- Try to maintain even watering on tomatoes to prevent blossom end rot
- Keep the dog and cat poop out of the veggie garden, can carry disease and parasites

Happy Gardening!
Julie Wanous, Steele County Master Gardener

This gardening section sponsored by:
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STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE
Sunny's ice cream truck is a welcome sight after a warm night at the park. Making their choices, from left, are Jay Klemmensen (partially obscured), Sara Winzenburg, Wesley Winzenburg, Andi Klemmensen, Greyson Winzenburg, Bergen Klemmensen and Blakely Winzenburg, all of Blooming Prairie. Driver and employee Noelan Riley, of Austin, waits for their orders

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COLLEGE NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
Samuel Nafe and Janel Slowinski, both of Owatonna, graduated this spring from the University of North Dakota.
Nafe received his Master of Science degree and Janel Slowinski received her Master of Social Work degree. Nafe and Slowinski were among 1,780 students to graduate from the University of North Dakota, with 493 earning their master's.

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
Julia Holt of Owatonna, has been named to the Kalamazoo College spring 2021 Dean's List. Dean's List recognition is earned with a grade point average of 3.5 or better. Kalamazoo College, founded in 1833, is a nationally recognized residential liberal arts and sciences college located in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Hall of Fame winners picked

- ◀ **STEELE'S INSIGHTS** from B4 as superintendent of the rabbit shows that were hosted in Owatonna.
- Served as show superintendent of the National Silver Martin Club Show at the Steele County Free Fairgrounds.
- Has judged countless shows including local, 12 states, Canada and 7 National American Rabbit Breeders Association conventions.
- Currently a member and serving as president of Rochester Area Rabbit Club for the past 21 years.
- Has been a licensed registrar since 1977 for the American Rabbit Breeders Association.
- Recipient of the American Rabbit Breeders Association Distinguished Service Award in 2016 and was awarded a lifetime membership in 2017.

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

THE FIESTA IS BACK!

7th Anniversary Sale & Fiesta

Sizzling Deals ALL WEEK LONG August 1-7

Daily Drawings for GREAT Prizes

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