



It's out with the tent-style booth and in with Big Red for Dean and Kim Goette of Blooming Prairie as they embark on another year of selling pork chops and other food items at the Steele County Free Fair. The Goettes have been a fixture at the fair for more than 30 years. They are in the same spot as always on the north side of the Four Seasons Centre, but with a new red trailer. Dean always has pork chops on the grill ready for hungry fairgoers. The fair opened on Tuesday afternoon and continues through Sunday. For more on the fair, see Page 10B.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

As the number of available homes dwindled in 2020, new home construction is up this year in Owatonna. Through July, the City of Owatonna has approved 23 residential building permits valued at about \$6 million, compared to 14 permits valued at \$4.8 million for the same time frame the previous year.

## Construction tops \$100M for 2nd year

BY DEB FLEMMING  
NEWS EDITOR

Construction in Owatonna will top \$100 million for the second consecutive year. The question is: By how much?

Building permit valuations issued by the City of Owatonna through July total a

little more than \$29 million. With the \$94 million in permits issued by the state for construction of the new high school, permit valuations within the city through July total a little more than \$125 million.

And there are five months remaining in the year.

"It's amazing," said Brad Meier, president of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce. "Last year was a huge year – a record year, and it's a pretty big deal to have back-to-back \$100 million years."

When the city surpassed \$100 million in construction last year, See CONSTRUCTION on A5 ▶

## Family of Saints 'Puppies are like kids'

BY HOWARD LESTRUD  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It could be called the Saint Bernard experience.

That's how Saint Bernard dog owners Doug and Tamzen Johnson of Blooming Prairie described the bond between the couple and nine puppies recently born to father Jethro and mother Ellie Mae.

Meeting the Johnsons and nine puppies

on a sunshiny and hot day was a real experience. Jethro and Ellie Mae, named after two Beverly Hillbillies characters, were part of the welcoming party.

The Johnsons named the puppies after characters on the Flintstones and the Jetsons. The last puppy to be named was Ragnar, who, with a purple string, was named after the Minnesota Vikings mascot.

See FAMILY on A5 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Ellie Mae stops to provide dinner for some of her nine puppies. The puppies were born on June 19. On Adoption Day last Saturday, all but two of the puppies had been sold.

## Cybex reopens following COVID-19 shutdown

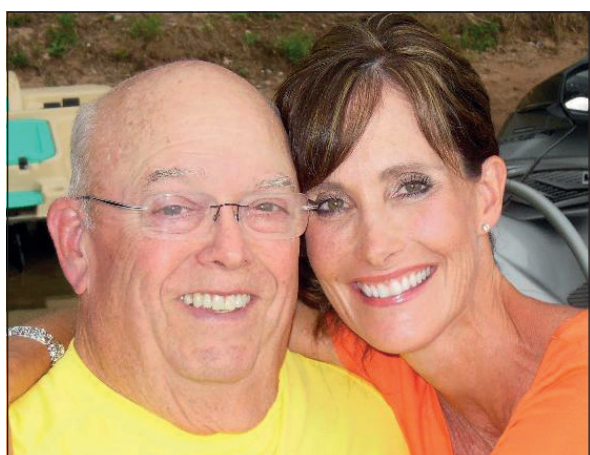
BY KAY FATE  
STAFF WRITER

Owatonna's Life Fitness (Cybex) facility was scheduled to reopen Tuesday, a week after an outbreak of COVID-19 cases prompted officials to shut down production.

It was closed Aug. 11-17.

Dana Andreoli, public relations manager, confirmed the closure last week "due to several COVID cases."

See CYBEX on A5 ▶



Dr. Edward Durst, 79, died Saturday after battling Alzheimer's for six years. He's pictured with his wife, Anna Durst.

## Popular doctor loses battle to Alzheimer's

BY RICK BUSSLER  
PUBLISHER

After battling Alzheimer's disease for six years, Dr. Edward Durst took his last breath surrounded by family and staring into the eyes of his true love just as "Amen" was spoken at the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer.

Dr. Durst, who endured a hard-fought,

six-year battle with Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia, died Saturday. He was 79.

Durst served the Owatonna community for 28 years as a general practice surgeon before retiring in 2002.

In 2019, the Durst family was recognized as the honorary family for the Owatonna Walk to End Alzheimer's. The family appropriately

dubbed itself as "Doc's Crew" for the walk.

Durst's wife, Anna, who serves as a nurse at Owatonna High School, took care of him in the early years of his Alzheimer's. However, in March 2019, she was no longer able to care for him and he had to be confined into a memory care unit in Owatonna under 24-hour supervision.

"It's a terrible disease," Anna said in a 2019 interview. "It steals your person. You still see your person as who they are on the outside, but they are just dwindling away on the inside."

When he was moved into memory care, Durst still recognized his wife but no longer knew any other family. See POPULAR on A10 ▶

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### AREA DEATHS

Vernon Barry, 95, Austin  
James Krejci, 65, Blooming Prairie  
Eugene Spindler, 89, Owatonna  
Mary Ann Betlach, 91, Blooming Prairie

Serving  
Blooming Prairie  
and Steele County  
since 1893





## OUR VIEW

### Hats off to teacher of the year finalist

Medford High School language arts teacher Kim Goblirsch may not be Minnesota's Teacher of the Year, but she impeccably represented the district and its students during the statewide competition. That's not surprising.

Each and every day, Goblirsch exemplifies the qualities and attributes of a true professional who cares about her students and the community she serves.

Goblirsch's passion for teaching started when she was in high school. She graduated from Medford High School in 2000 and returned to teach 12 years ago.

"I try to do the best I can every day. My rule is if I'm not doing the best I can, then I'm doing a disservice to my students, and I want to uphold that service for my students," said Goblirsch said during an interview in February.

Goblirsch was one of nine finalists for the teacher of the year honor and the only finalist from a small school district.

That's a big deal.

Kudos to this year's winner: Natalia Benjamin, a high school English learner and ethnic studies teacher at Century High School in the Rochester school district. Benjamin is the 2021 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Benjamin is the 57th recipient of the prestigious award, the first from the Rochester district and the first Latinx teacher named Minnesota Teacher of the Year. She was selected by an independent selection committee representing Minnesota leaders in education, business and government.

Four Minnesotans have become National Teacher of the Year, including Roger Tenney of Owatonna, in 1966. We wish her well as she represents Minnesota in the national competition.

Kudos also to Owatonna teachers Jessica Wagner and Sara Markham – the other Steele County teachers to begin the competition.

The fact that three area teachers were selected to compete for this distinguished honor – from the pool of more than 50,000 teachers in Minnesota – says a lot about the districts they work for and the value this area places in education.

Congratulations, one and all!

### Letters to the Editor

We encourage readers to share their views on issues of community interest. Letters must be signed, no longer than 275 words and typewritten or clearly printed. Writers must include their address and a daytime phone number for verification. Phone numbers and street addresses will not be published; your name and city of residence will be published. Letters will be edited for clarity, grammar and length and may be published in print and electronic forms. Submit a letter by email to [scletters@gmail.com](mailto:scletters@gmail.com); or by mail to the Steele County Times, attn. Letters to the Editor, P.O.Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

### How to contact your elected officials

**LEGISLATURE**  
**Senate District 24**  
John R. Jasinski  
3211 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-0284  
[sen.john.jasinski@senate.mn](mailto:sen.john.jasinski@senate.mn)  
**House District 24A**  
John Petersburg  
217 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5368  
[rep.john.petersburg@house.mn](mailto:rep.john.petersburg@house.mn)  
**House District 24B**  
Brian Daniels  
231 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-8237  
[rep.brian.daniels@house.mn](mailto:rep.brian.daniels@house.mn)  
**Senate District 27**  
Gene Dornink  
3229 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5240  
[sen.gene.dornink@senate.mn](mailto:sen.gene.dornink@senate.mn)  
**House District 27A**  
Peggy Bennett  
307 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-8216  
[rep.peggy.bennett@house.mn](mailto:rep.peggy.bennett@house.mn)

## A champion, even if it's only for one night



**Hot Pursuit**  
RICK BUSSLER

For a single night, I felt like a champion.

My oldest daughter, Kyrie, treated me to the Champion's Club at Target Field for a Minnesota Twins game last Friday night. One phrase, coined by Batman's sidekick Robin, comes to mind to describe the evening: "Holy smokes, Batman."

I have never before had such royal treatment at any sporting contest or any other event for that matter. It's called the Champion's Club for a reason. There are so many amenities included in the Champion's Club that it ended up giving me a whole new perspective of Twins baseball.

I never knew such exclusivity existed at the ballpark.

The night began with exclusive valet parking and a private entrance. I certainly don't mind walking distances for exercise, but on this evening, we only had to walk a few steps from our car to the club. I felt like someone important just for a split second.

We walked right into the exclusive and elegant private club lounge, where an extensive buffet of food was awaiting our appetites. We took advantage of complimentary five-star quality dining and beverage service. There certainly was a wide selection of foods, from roasted duck to a lobster scampi-like dish.

After our meal, we took advantage of the finest seats in the house and experienced the game from the closest view to the action. The comfortable, extra wide, padded high-back seats are at field level less than 100 feet from home plate. I have never been as close to the action in my 45-plus years of attending professional baseball games at many different ballparks around the country.

I've always said that there are no bad seats at Target Field as I've been in a variety of spots over the years, taking in baseball. But, holy smokes, the best seats are by far the Champion's seats behind home plate. I just looked at my daughter in awe.

We had access to more complimentary food during the game, including hotdogs, chips, ice cream, candy, popcorn, and beverages. We also had in-seat beverage service throughout the entire game.

After the game, which by the way the

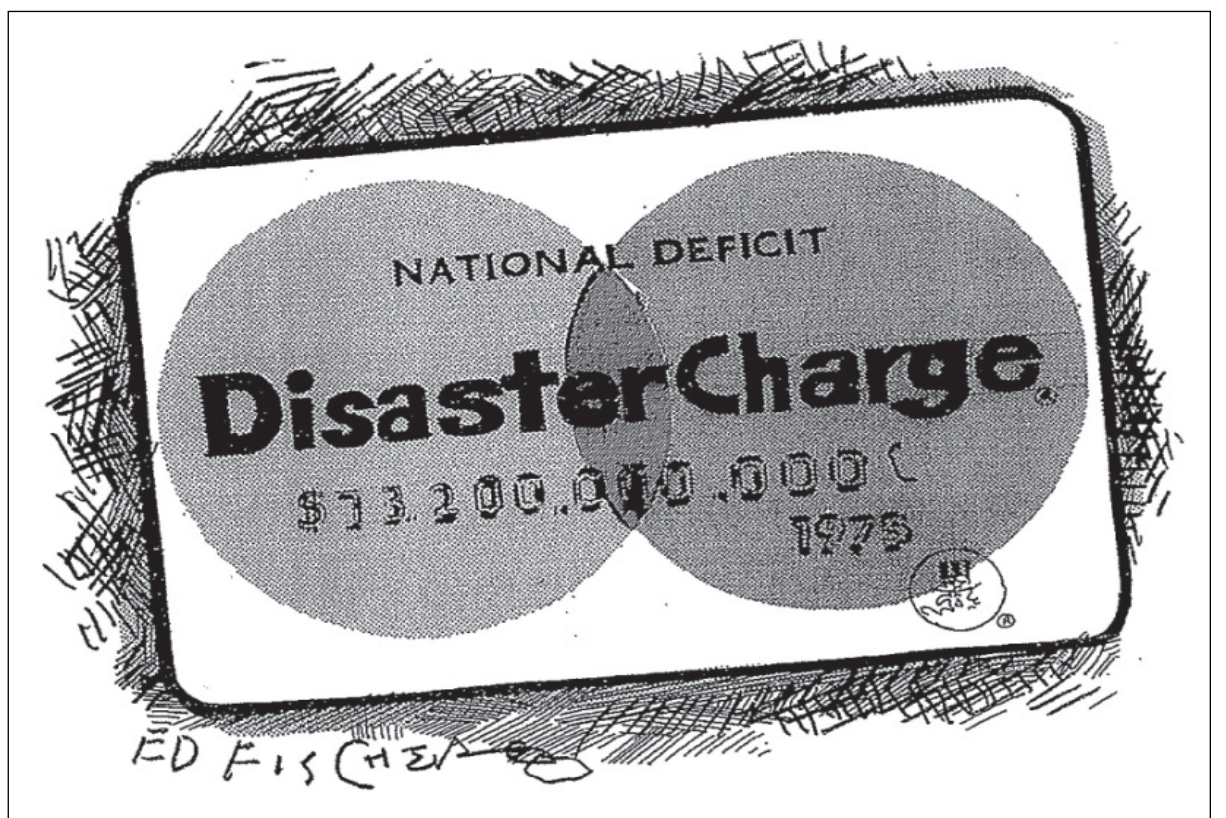


Rick Bussler and his daughter, Kyrie, enjoy a Twins game in the Champion's Club seats at Target Field.

Twins lost to Tampa Bay Rays 10-4, we got to hang out in the Champion's Club for another hour. It was a chance to relive Minnesota sports history moments as the World Series trophies from 1987 and 1991 are displayed in the club. My son, who was born in 1996 and is a Twins fanatic, is still waiting for the magic to return and another run for a World championship. Certainly, it won't be

this year. Kyrie and I didn't want the evening to end. But we made the most of our Champions experience at Target Field, even if it was only for a night.

And just in case you were wondering, no I most likely won't be going in hot pursuit of heading back to the Champion's Club any time soon. It's a little out of my price range. Well, maybe a lot.



## Backpacks and buses are on their way



**Owatonna Proud**  
JEFF ELSTAD

While the school year may be still a few weeks away, our Owatonna Public Schools staff are in full swing getting ready for a new school year. Whether or not you have children, we can all remember a special teacher or a favorite class from our school days. Our goal is to create as many of

those great experiences as possible – for each and every one of our students.

For most of us, these past 18 months have run the gamut of emotions. We were all tested and stretched in ways we never dreamed possible. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the partnership with our families, we navigated a difficult school year and are ready to move forward. We have thought about what things can return to "normal" and what things can be improved based on what we experienced through the pandemic. As a learn-

ing organization, we strive to learn from the past to make the future even better.

Looking ahead, there are many new and exciting things on the horizon for our school district. We are making great construction progress on our new community-supported Owatonna High School. Career pathways continue to expand, as we identify more opportunities for students to engage in real-world work experiences. We are launching Owatonna Online, a full-time online school for any interested Minnesota student, grades K-12. Our middle schoolers

have increased choices, allowing them to explore and build on their interests. And we remain vigilant in providing our K-5 students with a well-rounded learning program that supports the important foundation of reading and STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Math) education.

We are excited that all of our students PreK-12 will return to a normal in-person five-day week schedule. We will remain diligent in following the latest local health data and recommendations from both the Minnesota Department of Educa-

tion and the Minnesota Department of Health. Working together as a community, we can keep schools safe and open for our students.

Preparing for this new school year has not been easy. We recognize that there will be trials along the way, and we humbly ask for your continued patience, support and partnership as we work to provide the safest and most effective learning environments for our students and our staff as we continue to navigate the pandemic and offer the quality education our students deserve.

I am proud to serve our community

alongside dedicated staff who are ready to do whatever it takes to make this school year the best it can be. And I am proud to partner with families and community members in providing the space and grace to do the best we can and get better every single day. We appreciate our community's trust, and my door is always open for any questions. Let's continue to be #OwatonnaStrong!

*Jeff Elstad is the superintendent of Owatonna Public Schools. His column appears in this newspaper monthly.*





# School district mulls virtual health care option

BY KAY FATE  
STAFF WRITER

In early 2020, the Owatonna School District began talks with Mayo Clinic officials about providing an on-site or near-site clinic to provide health care for its staff and their dependents.

When those pre-pandemic discussions began, there was a goal of doing 30% of the care with online visits, embracing the concept

of telehealth technology. "But within a week, it went to 90 percent," said Dr. Jason Wray-Raabolle, referring to the shutdowns prompted by COVID-19.

Now the ever-evolving telehealth concept is being fine-tuned for use in the district this fall, said Superintendent Jeff Elstad.

"We're identifying if all of the buildings would have the option or just the larger buildings," he said about providing

a quiet place for staff to speak with medical professionals via a camera-equipped laptop.

The idea is to provide staff members with the opportunity to be seen at school without having to take time off work to keep an appointment. Those off-site appointments for continuing care, for example, could be done quickly and efficiently at school, maintaining consistency in the classrooms and eliminating

the need to plan for and retain a substitute teacher, Elstad said.

An acute-care situation at school could also be handled, with the staff member first interacting with a nurse to determine further care. A team of providers would be available throughout the day, said Wray-Raabolle.

The telehealth option would be a cost savings to the district, said Mayo officials, as well as providing convenience

and improved access to health care.

The cost of a virtual visit would be lower than an office call; the cost of the visit may be dropped entirely if further testing or treatment is required.

The system has a "tentative soft-launch" date of Oct. 1, Elstad said, "but there's no hard and fast line."

The district plans to introduce the plan and processes to the staff members in September.



Jeff Elstad

## Janitors busy during summer

BY LOLA SHAFFER  
TIMES INTERN

As students and teachers prepare for the start of the new school year, the Owatonna School District's custodians are putting the finishing touches on work they've done throughout the summer.

"It's not an easy job," said Mark Benson, a custodian for the Owatonna School District.

"This is their busiest time of year," said Bob Olson, director of facilities, infrastructure, and security for the Owatonna School District.

According to Shelley Thom, who works the first shift during the summer, a typical workday starts at 6 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Each day, Thom said that her team deep cleans about three rooms on average.

For efficiency, the custodians work in teams, tackling each room together.

Steve Davis, the district's maintenance manager, said that the teams "lead by building," meaning that the head custodian of each school creates the plan for how the teams will maneuver through the rooms.

The first shift focuses on deep cleaning - including dusting, sanitizing, and rearranging - so the rooms are ready for the second shift to shampoo the carpets, said Davis.

Throughout the school year, these custodians most often work alone. However, they "like working together."

See JANITORS on A10 ▶



Buckets, mops and microfiber cloths are tools of the trade for custodians in the Owatonna School District. Kirsten Buck, right, dusts and sanitizes a stool at Lincoln Elementary, where she works second-shift.



STAFF PHOTOS BY LOLA SHAFFER



## Crowd packs school board's work session

BY KAY FATE  
STAFF WRITER

It was standing room only at the Owatonna Schools District Office - but it was a quiet crowd.

Dozens of people attended the school board's work session last week, likely to weigh in during a public forum. The trouble is, public comment isn't allowed at work sessions.

The next opportunity for that is Aug. 30, which is a change to the regular meeting schedule. The Aug. 30 meeting at the district office begins at 5:30 p.m.

School Board Chairman Mark Sebring explained the comment process at the beginning of the meeting and addressed it again before the meeting adjourned.

"I believe some of you may want to talk about Critical Race Theory," he said, "even though there's not even a definition everyone can agree on. Critical Race Theory is just that: A theory."

At Owatonna High School, Sebring said, "it was a (post-secondary) class that was offered as an elective last year by Minnesota State University-Mankato, and about 20 students took it. It will not be offered this year because of a staffing issue at MSU-Mankato."

Owatonna is one of just a few school districts across the state that have dealt with strong opposition to the idea of teaching CRT, which was developed more than 40 years ago by attorneys, activists and legal scholars.

It may be taught on college campuses but is not taught in any K-12 school in the state, Sebring said.

Sebring also said the district is "clear about its vision for our 5,000 students; we're excited to have them back in the school." There are 43 new teachers and 15 new staff members.

The construction of the new high school, he said, "is on schedule and on budget." It's scheduled to open in the fall of 2023.

## Helping kids experience farm life

### THE JENSENS

The Jensen hobby farm located south of Owatonna may be small in size, but it's big when it comes to helping kids experience farm life. Niki Jensen and her parents, Curtis and Bernie, enjoy giving 4-H kids who don't live on farms the opportunity to learn and show livestock for the fair. For this year's Steele County Free Fair, they have 13 kids from ages 4-19 showing something from their farm.

"The summers at the farm are always busy with kids and families out working and learning about their animals," says Niki.

The farm is currently home to a small herd of crossbred beef cows and calves as well as a few goats and laying hens. Over the years, it has been a working dairy and crop farm. In 2000, the Jensens sold the dairy cows and switched to raising beef.

Ole Kristofferson homesteaded the farm in 1891 before selling it to his son-in-law in 1928. Niki's 93-year-old grandfather still lives on the farm.

Niki and her sisters, Janelle and Michelle, became involved in 4-H during their younger years by showing ducks, dairy, swine, sheep, rabbits, goats and beef. They also participated in dairy judging and quiz bowl. Their parents were very active 4-H leaders throughout their 4-H careers.

"As we got done with 4-H, we started helping our cousins, nieces and nephews who lived in town and who otherwise would not have had access to showing livestock," Niki explained. "We soon ventured out of just family and took in kids from the community who would maybe not be able to show a specific species."

Niki is proud of the farm, which has been in the Jensen family for 130 years. "Farming has been in our blood and genes for generations," she said. "The look of the farm may have changed over the years... from a working farm to a hobby farm, but the passion we have for our livestock and sharing that passion with others has never changed."

Niki acknowledges they may not be a traditional working farm, "but we put our livestock and spreading our passion for those livestock first and foremost." Farming and agriculture, she said, have given them a unique life that many may not get to experience.

"It has taught us hard work, responsibility and a way to truly connect as a family and with many members of the community, both agriculture and non-agriculture," Niki said.



Jensen Farms of Owatonna consists of Curtis and Bernie Jensen and their daughter Niki Jensen. They raise a small herd of crossbred beef cows and calves.

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



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**BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT**

**Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Kohlmier Dr. SW at 3:53 a.m. on Aug. 7. They issued a citation at the scene.**

**COURT NEWS**  
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 2 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Christopher S. Prince, 35, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault by strangulation, felony burglary and misdemeanor domestic assault. Prince was sentenced to \$125, 350 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, domestic abuse evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 2 – 8:

**BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Zackariah M. Andrews, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Lisa M. Beach, 30, Ellendale, speeding, \$125; Kevante D. Crutchfield, 26, St. Paul, revoked license, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, altered registration and no insurance, \$875; Ameisha K. Gunsallus, 19, Austin, speeding, \$135; Cory S. Harpuder, 30, Brownsdale, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Lah Ku, 48, St. Paul, seat belt, \$100; Karina Lopez-Machuca, 43, St. Joseph, MO, suspended license, \$275; Jose B. Morocho Yupangui, 21, St. Paul, speeding and revoked license, \$315; Njie Sulayman, 21, Madison, WI, speeding, \$115; Phillip D. Ramsey, 25, Blooming Prairie, public nuisance, \$175; Debra A. Wurst, 65, Blooming Prairie, public nuisance, \$175; Nicholas J. Ziemke, 27, Waseca, revoked license, possession of marijuana and expired registration, \$405.

**MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER**

Daniel Almaraz, 28, Austin, speeding, \$125; Shawn D. Bellazan, 23, St. Paul, no license, \$175; William F. Byron, 61, Takoma Park, MD, speeding, \$135; Chimere C. Crutchfield, 41, Dallas, TX, speeding, \$125; David S. Diahn, 27, Darby, PA, seat belt, \$100; Melodie F. Duco, 26, Johnston, IA, speeding, \$215; Dah Eh, 19, Des

Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; Anthony J. Eliason, 36, Medford, speeding, \$125; Erwin J. Fowler, 54, Minneapolis, speeding, \$275; Isaacina F. George, 22, St. Michael, speeding, \$275; Jorge L. Gil Neri, 21, Minneapolis, seat belt, \$100; Noto S. Goe, 24, Phoenix, AZ, no license, \$175; Gary W. Hanley, 28, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Jabbari E. Harvey, 36, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; Virginia L. Hayes, 78, Webster, speeding, \$115; Eric W. Hulbert, 29, Albert Lea, speeding, \$135; Oasim A. Jahangir, 30, Denver, CO, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Andrew P. Jorgenson, 29, Sauk Rapids, speeding, \$135; Tanner J. Lamberg, 35, Round Rock, TX, speeding, \$115; Kala M. Linder, 38, Waseca, speeding and failure to change information, \$155; Brianna M. Mann, 17, Albert Lea, speeding, \$135; Robert L. Mast, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Bryant O. Medhus, 30, St. Paul, speeding, \$125; Omar A. Mohamed, 25, Westerville, OH, speeding, \$135; Hudson A. Mrotz, 24, Ellendale, hands free violation, \$125; Ishmael O. Okemwa, 26, Mankato, speeding, \$215; Jose A. Paredes, 31, St. Paul Park, speeding, \$115; Kapak M. Pinguil Alvarez, 25, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Brady A. Ranweiler, 44, New Ulm, speeding, \$125; Ti Reh, 18, Monett, MO, speeding, \$135; Bradley J. Sanders, 52, St. Paul, speeding, \$115; Wendaland M. Schermerhorn, 47, Blaine, speeding, \$125; Brittany L. Sharer, 33, San Gabriel, CA, speeding, \$115; Zachary P. Sheffert, 29, Burnsville, speeding, \$125; Michael G. Stewart, 55, Hightstown, NJ, speeding, \$125; Gregory D. Tolkinen, 26, Plymouth, speeding, \$215; Jakob E. Tulkki, 24, San Diego, CA, speeding, \$275; Brady L. Turner, 27, Lakeville, speeding, \$125; Brian I. Wariboko, 46, Elko New Market, speeding, \$115; Danielle M. Wilcox, 33, Spring Valley, speeding, \$115; Helen A. Zeleke, 36, Rochester, speeding, \$135.

**OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Asuncion T. Alberto, 59, Faribault, cancelled license, \$275; Jeremy T. Beenken, 44, Owatonna, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, \$300, 2 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, do not enter

liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Micayla E. Best, 27, Waseca, speeding, no insurance, revoked license and seat belt, \$560; Daniel A. Born, 37, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Shaneal S. Cancel Cruz, 22, Owatonna, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Phoebe R. Cohen, 25, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Johnny Cortez, 46, Austin, no insurance, \$275; Casey L. Cumberland, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$175; Jose Esquivel Jr., 20, Owatonna, permit violation and unsafe tires, \$165; Khadar D. Farah, 20, Faribault, speeding and permit violation, \$165; Jared L. Gardner, 27, Austin, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$275; Alize L. Johnson, 22, Dodge Center, criminal damage to property, \$369.93 and 34 days in county jail; Michael S. Krohn, 37, Owatonna, seat belt and revoked license, \$300; Dena L. Leaders, 51, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Dylan S. Lutter, 29, North Mankato, theft, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Angelica F. Montemayor, 35, Owatonna, violation of no contact order, stay of adjudication, \$75, 4 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain permission to leave the state, therapy, parenting classes, domestic abuse programming and 3 years of supervised probation; Deanna M. Nicks, 47, Geneva, hands free violation, \$125; Stanley J. Pirami, 63, Dundas, failure to obey traffic control device, \$125; Joshua C. Reed, 36, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Andrew Sanchez, 26, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Armando Soba Rivera, 49, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Adam P. Stumpf, 23, Owatonna, careless driving and revoked license, \$375; Noriah M. Tabor, 25, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Jonathan J. Torres Ramiez, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Alyssa J. Williams, 23, Owatonna, permit violation and no insurance, \$325; Paul G. Yankowiak, 54, Faribault, driving without ignition interlock, \$175 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

**STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Angel A. Alvarez Santiago, 22, Austin, speeding, \$115; Jackie S. Bignell, 26, Owatonna, theft, \$290.97, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Daniel J. Burns, 34, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Jill M. Carlson, 51, DWI, \$175; Kaleigh A. Carlson, 29, Geneva, speeding, \$115; Michael A. Crom, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Kelly J. Cummings, 57, Waseca, expired license and

hands free violation, \$225; Noah G. Dempsey, 16, Medford, speeding, \$215; David J. Engler, 20, Lakeville, speeding, \$275; Gavin R. George, 16, Waseca, speeding, \$215; Logan S. Harris, 40, Eagle Lake, cancelled license, \$175 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Rome C. Hayes, 38, Waseca, revoked license, \$275; Jeremy J. Hocking, 22, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Karen R. Hyland, 58, Dexter, speeding, \$115; Aaron T. Jenkins, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Cynthia L. Lewis, 61, Kenyon, speeding, \$115; Kho Meh, 21, Austin, speeding, \$135; Jessica L. Mehrkens, 31, Kasota, speeding, \$115; Jennifer C. Murphy, 41, North Mankato, speeding, \$115; Carter L. Oleson, 21, Mankato, speeding, \$115; Andrew R. Olson, 35, Dodge Center, speeding and expired tabs, \$145; David I. Rivera Cruz, 19, Owatonna, speeding and invalid license, \$315; Peter G. Rollinger, 44, seat belt, \$100; Melissa M. Roseland, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Trevor M. Schroeder, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Antonio O. Singleton, 20, Faribault, seat belt, \$100; Latrell J. Springer, 19, Rochester, speeding and no insurance, \$415; Jillayne R. Sumner, 59, Jarrell, TX, speeding, \$115; Hunter J. Supalla, 17, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Robert A. Wolkenhauer, 26, Faribault, seat belt, \$100.

**POLICE BLOTTER**  
Steele County

**BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE**

**Aug. 10 Arrest:** Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Highway 218 and Highway 30 W. at 10:14 p.m.

**OWATONNA POLICE**

**Aug. 6 Suspicion:** Police responded to suspicious activity in the 500 block of 15<sup>th</sup> St. NE at 12:03 a.m. They issued a citation.

**DWI:** Officer made a DWI arrest at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW and Cedar Valley Dr. NW at 12:46 p.m.

**Crash:** Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Hoffman Dr. NW and 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. NW at 7:03 p.m.

**Aug. 7 DWI:** Officer made a DWI arrest in the 2200 block of Austin Road SE at 12:15 a.m.

**Suspicion:** Police responded to suspicious activity in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 12:31 p.m.

**Hit and Run:** At 12:46 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 200 block of 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW.

**Shoplifting:** Officer took a shoplifting report in the 4700 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:30 p.m.

**Animal:** At 8:43 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 100 block of School St. E.

**Aug. 8 Vandalism:** Property damage was reported

**CRIME BRIEF**

**A second arrest made in Darts Park shooting**

Police have made a second arrest in last month's drive-by shooting at Darts Park in Owatonna.

A 17-year-old boy from rural Dakota County is being held at the Anoka County Juvenile Detention Center on multiple charges, including second-degree assault, drive-by shooting and reckless discharge of a firearm.

In the initial investigation, police found .22 caliber and .223 caliber bullet casings at the scene. A .22 pistol had been previously recovered so investigators continued looking for a .223 weapon. Detectives have now recovered the .223 assault rifle believed to be used.



This is the area of Darts Park in Owatonna where a drive-by shooting took place July 18. Police have now made two arrests in connection with the shooting.

During an interview with detectives, the juvenile admitted to being robbed of a large amount of marijuana and fired the .223 assault rifle toward the vehicle and occupants that robbed him as it left the park.

Zachary Schultz, 18, of Northfield has also been charged in connection with the shooting on July 18.

in the 100 block of 24<sup>th</sup> Place NW at 11:12 a.m.

**Shoplifting:** Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:59 a.m.

**Disturbance:** Police responded to a disturbance at Pearl St. E. and Grove Ave. N. at 12:50 p.m.

**Restraining Order:** At 5:18 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 1700 block of St. Paul Road NE.

**Hit and Run:** At 9:32 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 700 block of Academy St. E.

**Disturbance:** Police arrested a subject following a disturbance in the 2300 block of 43<sup>rd</sup> St. NW at 10:10 p.m.

**Aug. 9 Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 1000 block of Oak Ave. S. at 12:14 p.m.

**Burglary:** Police began a burglary investigation in the 1400 block of State Ave. NW at 4:01 p.m.

**Aug. 10 Property:** At 9 p.m., stolen property was recovered from the 1000 block of Hoffman Dr. NW.

**Juvenile:** Police received a juvenile complaint from the 800 block of 22<sup>nd</sup> St. NE at 9:23 p.m.

**Aug. 11 Theft:** Police took a theft report in the 800 block of Park Dr. NW at 7:50 a.m.

**Vandalism:** Property damage was reported at 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE and Cherry St. NE at 5:18 p.m.

**Aug. 12 Fraud:** Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 2400 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:07 a.m.

**Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 11:02 a.m.

**Vandalism:** Property damage was reported at 14<sup>th</sup> St. NE and St. Paul Road NE at 11:19 a.m.

**Animal:** At 4:23 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 1900 block of State Ave. NW.

**STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF**

**Aug. 7 Animal:** At 11:17 a.m., an animal bite occurred in the 100 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW in Medford.

**Aug. 8 Theft:** Deputy took a theft report in the 3200 block of 26<sup>th</sup> St. NW in Owatonna Township at 10:35 a.m.

**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 11:12 a.m.

**Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 2400 block of Rose St. in Owatonna Township at 12:36 p.m.

**Domestic:** Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Sunrise Dr. in Medford at 5:38 p.m.

**ARRESTS**  
Steele County

**OWATONNA POLICE**

Jennifer Marie Kvestad, 47, arrested at 12:47 a.m. Aug. 7, DWI, held for court.

Timothy Clyde Askland, 50, arrested at 10:33 p.m. Aug. 8, felony extradition hearing, held for court.

**STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF**

Zane Robert Hedberg, 21, arrested at 10:30 p.m. Aug. 11, domestic assault/assault, held for court.

Daniel James Stockwell, 33, arrested at 11:15 a.m. Aug. 12, warrant arrest, body only.

Susan Lynn Williams, 61, arrested at 10:54 p.m. Aug. 12, DWI, held for court.

**COURT NEWS**  
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 25 – Aug. 1:

**DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Kate M. Berger, 41, Atwater, speeding, \$130; Kyleigh J. Fate, 16, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Troy R. Flatness, 43, Eyota, check forgery, \$630, no contact with victim and 2 years of supervised probation; Trevor N. Horbach, 23,

See **BLOTTER** on A7 ▶

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

- Jeremy Vanderlugt – contempt of court - \$10,000 bail
- Alex Vanerp – theft - \$500 bail
- Andres Vargas – criminal vehicular operation – no bail
- Jose Vazquez – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Alejandro Vegas – no insurance - \$100 bail
- Jose Villaandrade – DWI - \$6,000 bail
- James Voracek – drugs – no bail
- Dion Wadley Jr. – drugs – no bail
- Lar Wah – attempted theft - \$10,000 bail
- Anthony Walker – controlled substance - \$35,000 bail
- Deontavious Walker – domestic assault – no bail
- Paul Wechter – stalking - \$3,000 bail
- Jonathan Werstein – traffic - \$500 bail
- Calvan Wiggins – theft - \$300 bail
- Reginald Wilberton Jr. – assault - \$500 bail
- Howard Williams – theft/false name - \$5,000 bail
- Jerry Williams – restraining order violation – no bail
- Timothy Williams – DWI – no bail
- Andrew Wilson – financial card fraud – no bail
- Sallie Wilson – traffic collision – no bail

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

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# How to buy the best blood pressure monitor for you

Dear Savvy Senior,  
I just found out I have stage 1 hypertension and my doctor recommended I get a home blood pressure monitor to keep an eye on it. Can you offer me any tips on choosing a good one?  
Hypertensive Helen

Dear Helen,  
It's a smart idea! Everyone with elevated or high blood pressure (stage 1 and higher) should consider getting a home blood pressure monitor. Home monitoring can help you keep tabs on your blood pressure in a comfortable setting. Plus, if you're taking medication it will make certain it's working, and alert you to a health problem if it arises. Here are some tips to help you choose a good monitor.

**Types of Monitors**  
The two most popular types of home blood pressure monitors sold today are automatic arm monitors, and automatic wrist monitors that are electric and/or battery powered.

With an automatic arm monitor, you simply wrap the cuff around your bicep and with the push of one button the cuff inflates and deflates automatically giving you your blood pressure reading on the display window in a matter of seconds.

Wrist monitors work similarly, except they attach to the wrist. Wrist monitors are also smaller in weight and size, which makes them more portable, and a bit more comfortable to use than the arm monitors, but they tend to be a little less accurate. To help you choose the best monitor for you, here are several things to check into:

**Make sure it fits:**  
Be sure the cuff fits the

circumference of your upper arm. Using a cuff that's the wrong size can result in an inaccurate reading. Most arm models have two sizes or an adjustable cuff that fits most people. Wrist models also fit most people.

**Choose one that's easy to use:** Be sure the display on the monitor is easy to read, and that the buttons are large. The directions for applying the cuff and operating the monitor should be clear.

**Consider what extra features you want:** Many automatic monitors come with additional features such as irregular heartbeat detection that checks for arrhythmias and other abnormalities; a risk category indicator that tells you whether your blood pressure is in the high range; a data-averaging function that allows you to take multiple readings and get an overall average; multiple user memory that allows two or more users to save their readings; and downloadable memory that lets you transmit your data to your computer or smartphone.

**Where to Buy**  
You can find blood pressure monitors at pharmacies, medical supply stores or online, and you don't need a prescription to buy one. Prices typically range between \$40 and \$100.

In most cases, original Medicare will

not cover a home blood pressure monitor, but if you have a Medicare Advantage plan or a private health insurance policy it's worth checking into, because some plans may provide coverage.

The best automatic arm monitors as recommended by Consumer Reports include the Omron Platinum BP5450 (\$75), Omron Silver BP5250 (\$50) and the Omron 10 Series BP7450 (\$100); A&D Medical UA767F (\$45); and Rite Aid Deluxe Automatic BP3AR1-4DRITE (\$37). And the top wrist monitors are the Omron 7 Series BP6350 (\$80); and the Equate (Walmart) 4500 Series (\$40).

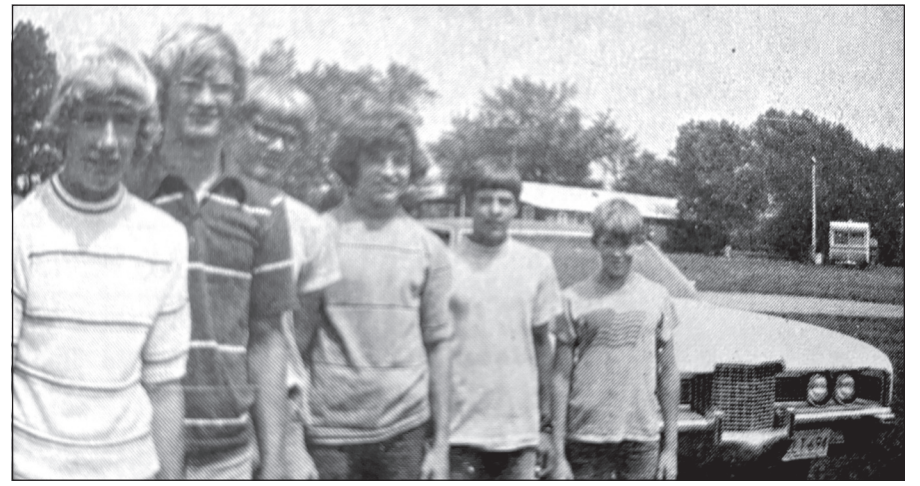
After you buy a monitor, it's a good idea to take it to your doctor's office so they can check its accuracy and teach you the proper techniques of how and when to use it.

You can also get more detailed information on how to accurately measure your blood pressure at home at [Heart.org/HBP](http://Heart.org/HBP) - click on "Learn How to Monitor Your Blood Pressure at Home."

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

# History from the News Archives

## Top junior golfers



FILE PHOTO

Carl Peterson won the third annual Blooming Prairie Country Club Junior Golf Tournament with Steve Heinz as runner-up in the event in August 1971. Pictured from left are Peterson, titlist; Heinz, runner-up; Doug Simonson and Mike Doocy, who tied for lead in the first flight; Paul Morrison, first in the second flight and Jim Ressler, runner-up in the second flight.

## 10 Years Ago Aug. 16, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The finalists for the 2011 KDHL Southern Minnesota Ag Ambassador are all Steele County personalities this year. The honor will be awarded on Saturday prior to the Minnesota District II Holstein Show. The nominees this year include: Ken Kern of Owatonna and Jim O'Connor of Blooming Prairie. Ken has long worked with Steele County youth and has coached a number of winning livestock teams from the county. Jim is a great supporter of 4-H and FFA activities in Steele County. Also receiving an award is Elmer Reseland, who is retiring after 17 years as secretary/manager of the Steele County Free Fair.

Blooming Prairie's own drum line "Stix of Fury" will be performing at the Steele County Free Fair for the people's listening pleasure. Drum line director, Jake Peterson, is thrilled for the opportunity for the drum line to represent Blooming Prairie at the biggest county fair in the state again. They will be performing three time on three different stages. This year's group of BPHS band members is 15 people strong and will be switching between seven cadences to please the crowds.

## 20 Years Aug. 21, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

Jay Klemmensen was voted the Legion Team Most Valuable Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year at the season ending potluck supper on Sunday. Klemmensen was 2nd in batting at .35, provided outstanding leadership all year and was a mainstay catcher for the last three seasons. Aaron McDonald was voted as the Most Valuable Pitcher of the Year. David Kramer led the team in hitting at a .418 clip, 23 hits and an on base percentage at .600. Other .300 hitters included Kraig Olson (.357) and Aaron McDonald (.350).

At a family get-together held in June local residents were lucky to have five-generations in one place. They are Brett Motl, his mother, Debi Severson of Blooming Prairie, grandmother, Mar Severson of Owatonna, great-grandmother, Eunice Clarey of Frazee, and great-great-grandmother, Myrtle Griggs of Fairmont, N.D.

## 50 Years Ago Aug. 18, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The Steele County Sheriff's Office reported that merchandise taken in a burglary at L.S. Ulland Co., Blooming Prairie, last May 16th was recovered in Dodge County and that a rural Kasson

man has been arrested in connection with the break-in. Merchandise totaling \$1,883.00 was taken at the time and on July 29th articles valued at \$1,275 were recovered by law enforcement.

The American Legion Auxiliary Flower Show was held Aug. 12th at the Servicemen's Club. There were 80 entries in the competition and over 100 attendees. Awards were: Petunia Arrangement, Mrs. George Kubista; Gladiola Stalk, Hermina Haubenschild; Corsage, Mrs. Ray Herron; Arrangement of Mixed Flowers, Mrs. Mark Langworthy; Zinnia Arrangement, Mrs. Ted Helleck; Roses, Mrs. William Motl; Dahlia Stalk, Mrs. Ted Helleck; Wild Flowers, Nina Clark.

## 75 Years Ago Aug. 22, 1946

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Connie Brainerd, Carol Jean Olson, Carol Rockne, Delores Johnson, Patsy Risavy, Marilyn Osby, Diane Osby and Alice Magladry, members of the Blooming Prairie Girl Scouts returned Sunday from Camp Cedar Point, Fairmont. They spent the week camping, canoeing and swimming. They want to say thanks you to the Kiwanis Club for the transportation and especially the drivers, Rev. Mulcahy, Gilbert Johnson, Edward Betlach and Frankie Betlach.

Steele County 4-H members sold 44 animals at the first 4-H fat stock sale held at the Steele County Fair. The Kiwanis Club and Ed Betlach showed their support their support by purchasing steers from two young local boys, Myron Pirkl and D. Robinson. Top price paid at the auction was 43 cents per pound. The auction sale totaled \$6306.55.

## Owatonna Photo News

### 31 Years Ago

AUG. 23, 1990

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Weber's Bar/Owatonna Glass recently won the Class "C" District Women's Softball Championship, and advanced to the Class "C" State Championship. This year's team members are: Gina Reese, Janet Pribyl, Clara Miller, Diane DeCoux, Connie Kniefel, Denise Karsten, Carolyn Karsten, Cheryl Diffendorfer, Dianne Morehouse, Staci Ringhofer, Carla Soukup, Wendy Hanson, Amy Honsey and Tamera Reuvers, manager.

The Health One Owatonna Hospital Board of Governors recently voted for this year's term of officers. New hospital chair is Wayne Dreier, also serves on the finance and audit committee and is chair of planning committee. Norma Wilcox is the board's vice-chair, also chair of the hospital's personnel committee. Other board members include: Ray Stawarz and Joyce Mattson, newly appointed members; Mary Hale, Jim Hanks, Kirsten Rollwitz, Richard Slieter, Karl Blomquist, MD, Jim Miller, MD, Ralph Wertwijn, MD.

## Family of Saints: 'Puppies are like kids'

◀ **FAMILY** from A1  
Five of the nine were spoken for before Adoption Day last Saturday. All but two were sold as of late Saturday.

According to Tamzen, their veterinarian, Dr. Susie Strunk, X-rayed Ellie Mae two days before the puppies were born. "We were told that Ellie was carrying six for sure and it could be up to 10."

Ellie Mae gave birth to five males and four females on June 19 at the Johnson residence.

Tamzen said she realized something was happening with Ellie Mae the day the puppies were born. "She was acting weird and tried to go behind Doug's recliner. She then came in the kitchen by me and out plopped a puppy," Tamzen said.

Tamzen then placed Ellie Mae in a whelping

pen, where she gave birth to the rest of her litter. The pen is made of heavy plastic and has a rubber bottom and also features a rail.

"Ellie Mae was real calm during the birthing process, said Tamzen. "All (puppies) were breathing and doing fine."

Jethro was nowhere in sight.

All of the Johnsons' Saint Bernard dogs are purebred. Ellie Mae is fully registered with AKC (American Kennel Club). Jethro is registered through the AKC Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) program. The new owners can further register their dogs.

Typically, Saint Bernard puppies sell for between \$1,500 and \$1,800. Because Jethro was not fully registered, Doug and Tamzen offered the puppies at \$800 each.

Doug has now been involved, either owning or breeding a total of 28 Saint Bernard dogs.

The Johnsons said they have no plans to breed their dogs again. And while they are not keeping any of the puppies. Jethro and Ellie Mae will remain.

"The puppies are like kids and they have to be trained," said Tamzen.

The Johnsons advertised the puppies in the local newspaper and also on Facebook. "We also put some posters up around town," Tamzen said. Videos were also available.

The response has been phenomenal, the Johnsons said. "We've had up to 2,325 posts," Tamzen, the photographer, said.

"We are just happy we can share a good dog with dog lovers," Tamzen said.

## Construction tops \$100M for 2nd year

◀ **CONSTRUCTION** from A1  
it was the first time in the city's history. The previous record was set in 2008 when the city issued permits valued at a little more than \$78 million to 1,796 applicants.

And while the increase in permit valuations in 2020 can be credited to private industrial growth, Meier said that growth is fueling additional residential and commercial development.

According to Ken Beck, a building official for the City of Owatonna, month-to-month comparisons show permit valuations for new home construction, commercial and apartment construction up from

a year ago. And Beck expects 2021 totals in these categories to meet, if not exceed, last year's figures.

Through July, the city issued 23 permits valued at about \$6 million for new home construction compared to 14 permits valued at \$4.8 million - an increase of about \$1.2 million.

That's true for apartment construction, too.

The city has already issued about \$8.4 million in permits for three new apartment complexes in Owatonna; that's double the valuation permitted through July a year ago.

That's even better news, said Meier, adding that housing has

been a big challenge for Owatonna in recent years. "We know that if we want to attract and grow, those pieces need be in place."

Commercial building permit valuations are up about \$1.5 million through July, with 112 permits issued compared to 97 through July one year ago.

While industrial permit valuation is down about \$40 million from July 2020 to July 2021, Beck said no one is surprised. If you take the Costco Distribution Center and Minimizer out of the mix, industrial building permits issued by the city this year would be on track with the average over the past five or six years.

## Cybox reopens after COVID-19 shutdown

◀ **CYBEX** from A1  
He said the company has now implemented increased safety measures and protocols in the facility, "including mandatory masks regardless of vaccination status."

Andreoli said the company's protocols dictate "that we will immediately temporarily close a facility with multiple impacted employees." However, he said he couldn't comment on the number of local employees affected or whether Cybox

would pay its employees during the shutdown. "We are continuing

to follow the latest federal and local guidance as new information becomes available," he said.

"Right now, our immediate concern is with the affected employees, and our top priority is always the health and safety of our staff," Andreoli said Friday.

Amy Caron, director of Steele County Public Health, said she'd heard about the closure but didn't know how many people had tested positive.

Because Minnesota is no longer in a state of emergency, reporting the cases to her office

and the Minnesota Department of Health is now optional, she said.

"We're still out there preaching; get your vaccine if you can. If you can't, stay 6-feet apart and wear masks around others," Caron said. "We're kind of on the cusp of overloading hospitals again, and we're seeing more cases with children - some younger than a year."

She said public health staff members plan to be at the Steele County Free Fair from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. "most days" this week to provide vaccinations to fairgoers who want them.



# Are you one of the 36%?



Only 64% of residents 16 years and above living in **Steele** and **Dodge** counties have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

## The Delta variant is striking with a vengeance!

In Minnesota, 85% of the new COVID-19 cases are attributed to the Delta variant... and **99%** of those cases involve people who are **NOT** vaccinated.

## Don't wait any longer... get yourself vaccinated!

Sign up today at [www.co.steele.mn.us](http://www.co.steele.mn.us) or [www.co.dodge.mn.us](http://www.co.dodge.mn.us).

If you don't have access to internet, call 507-444-7650 (Steele) or 507-635-6150 (Dodge).



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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**◀ BLOTTER from A4**

Theilman, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Jonathan P. Hulst, 41, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Teresa M. Huneke, 58, Red Wing, speeding, \$140; Anders J. Jorstad, 35, Minnetonka, DWI, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Skyler J. Klinger, 22, Brownsdale, predatory offender registration violation, stay of adjudication, 5 days in county jail, predatory offender registration, cognitive skill training and 5 years of supervised probation; Jake A. Nolette, 42, Goodhue, speeding, \$120; Laura T. Pemberton, 38, Minneapolis, speeding, \$140; Isaiah A. Pierce, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Daniel J. Reichmann, 23, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Goeffrey A. Schlicher, 40, Dodge Center, DWI, \$1,080, 28 days in county jail, chemical assessment, Ignition Interlock program, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Mikayla A. Schmidt, 24, Kaukauna, WI, speeding, \$220; Brayden R. Stevenson, 21, Rapid City, SD, speeding, \$220; Megan L. Verdouw Gustine, 39, Kasson, fraud in obtaining credit, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; James D. Vogt, 24, Sargeant, speeding, \$120; Krista L. Wiuff, 47, North Mankato, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation.

**KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Alek D. Bell, 26, Rochester, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$1,075, 38 days in

county jail, 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; Logan M. Bolin, 18, Mantorville, revoked license, \$280; Albert J. Brand, 28, Kasson, stop for school bus, \$580 and 50 hours of community service; Jon L. Corrigan, 50, Pine Island, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation, 40 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Robert P. Crandall, 32, Dodge Center, theft, \$130; Tony J. Evans, 53, Rochester, theft, \$159.50; Priscilla M. Faro, 28, Kasson, assault, \$380 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Loren L. Field, 49, Forest City, IA, registration violation, \$180; Johanna K. Holloway, 26, Rochester, speeding, \$130; David T. Holum, 30, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Calvin D. Johnson, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$220; Jessica A. Richardson, 30, Kasson, hands free violation, \$130; Coltan J. Smisek, 20, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120.

**MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER**

Sara J. Akkerman, 35, West Concord, speeding, \$380; Adam L. Butler, 32, West Concord, seat belt, \$105; Joseph M. Corley, 18, West Concord, failure to yield, \$130; Chad M. Downs, 29, Rochester, speeding, possession of marijuana and no license, \$370; Zachary J. Gershman, 19, Philadelphia, PA, speeding, \$140; Patrick J. McGrath, 39, Naples, FL, speeding, \$380; Kelly M. McGuire, 37, Bend, OR, speeding, \$140; Kiley J. Primus, 29, Hayfield, speeding, \$140; Matthew A. Rewald, 36, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Damien W. Selvy, 25, West Concord, speeding and window tint violation, \$170; Lynn T. Swanson, 32, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Brandon D. Underdahl Lyman, 24, West Concord, expired tabs, \$110; Alex W. Zeyen, 29, Cannon Falls, speeding, \$140.

**OWATONNA FIRE**

Aug. 6

**Assist:** Fire personnel assisted police in the 200 block of 12<sup>th</sup> St. NE at 9:28 a.m.

**Crash:** Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. at 7:03 p.m.

**Aug. 8 Gas Leak:** At 10:07 a.m., a natural gas leak occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

**Aug. 9 Crash:** Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. NW and 36<sup>th</sup> St. NW at 1:54 p.m.

**Aug. 11 Smoke:** Fire personnel assisted with smoke removal in the 900 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:33 a.m.

**Fire:** Firefighters responded to a passenger vehicle fire in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 5:47 a.m.



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BOOK NOOK

# Library can get books from other libraries



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Over the next 30 days, 2,393 fiction books will be published by major publishers. (That does not include the many non-fiction titles.)

How can we decide which of those books should be in the Blooming Prairie Branch Library?

Thankfully, the librarians at our main library, the Owatonna Public Library, keep up with listings of the best books and the most popular authors. They purchase and keep our collection here up to date.

However, even if our library does not own a book you want, there is still hope. Our regional library system, SELCO

(Southeastern Libraries Cooperating), provides interlibrary loans and deliveries between more than 120 academic, public, school, and special libraries in our area.

If you still can't find the item you need, you can then turn to MNLink, a statewide service that can access the holdings of more than 400 libraries across the state. All these services are provided through your tax dollars with no additional cost to you.

There is a caveat: Most libraries allow only their patrons to check out the newly released books and movies. So, you may have to wait a while to get that bestseller.

Remember that you can also request brand-new books through our online databases like Libby and Hooplah. If you need any help navigating our library system, just stop by or give us a call at the library.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries Sponsor:  
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landlbo@gmail.com

## Vernon Barry, 95, Austin



Vernon Barry

Vernon Garret Barry, age 95 of Austin, died Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021 at Faribault Senior Living.

Vern was born on July 3, 1926 in Austin, to Adelbert and Mae Barry. He grew up in Austin and graduated from St. Augustine/Pacelli High School and from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

Vern served in the U.S. Navy as a Bridge Watchman, Quartermaster and Helmsman from 1944 to 1946 during World War II.

On June 14, 1958, Vern was married to Mary Ellen Rishavy at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Austin. The couple resided in Austin where he worked as a master electrician at the Hormel Company for over 40 years.

Vern was a member of St. Edwards Church, the Legion Color Guard, the Northwest Singers, the Austin Symphony Choir, card clubs and the Sterling Club. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 91.

Vern enjoyed dancing, singing, growing trees, traveling and spending time with family.

He is survived by his children, Therese "Tess" (Rodney) Koster of Blooming Prairie/Fort Myers Beach, Fla.; James Barry of Vergas, Minnesota; Mark Barry of Faribault; Michael (Kimberly) Barry of Waterville and Marilyn (Brent) Anderson of Rosemount; 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Mary Ellen; parents, Mae and Adelbert; his brothers, Adelbert Jr. "Bud," Lowell "Lewie" and his sisters, Bernadine, Loraine and Bonita "Bonnie."

The casket bearers will be Reeves Koster, Bryce Schlichter, Breanna Riewe, Resha Bastian, Dustin Barry, Ethan Barry and Jack Barry will be an honorary casket bearer. The gift bearers will be Maizie Anderson, Bryn Anderson and Annalise Barry.

A funeral mass was celebrated on Friday, Aug. 13, 2021 at St. Edwards Catholic Church in Austin with Father James Steffes officiating. Visitation was on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021 at Mayer Funeral Home with a rosary service. Visitation was also held one half hour prior to the service on Friday at St. Edwards Church.

Interment was in Calvary Cemetery with military rites by American Legion Post #91 and V.F.W. Post #1216.

Condolences may be left online at [www.mayerfh.com](http://www.mayerfh.com).

Arrangements were handled by Mayer Funeral Home in Austin.

## Eugene Spindler, 89, Owatonna



Eugene Spindler

Eugene E. Spindler, age 89, of Owatonna, passed away Aug. 15, 2021 at the Benedictine Living Community.

Mass of Christian Burial is set for 11 a.m.

on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church in Owatonna. Friends may greet the family on Monday, Aug. 23, 2021 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Brick - Meger Funeral Home and

one hour before the funeral Mass on Tuesday at the church. Interment will follow with Military rites by Steele County Funeral Unit at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Owatonna. A Knights of Columbus rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home.

Eugene is survived by, wife Marian, of 66 years; children, Norman (Laurie), Jerome, Dale, all of Owatonna, Monica (John) Kirlin, Faribault, Lisa (Tim) Karl, Nerstrand; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great grandchildren; siblings, Rosemary (Ivan) Snorek, Owa-

tonna, Walter (Joan), Owatonna, Duane (Kathy), Faribault.

Preceded in death by parents, Frank and Irene; brothers, Laverne and Paul; daughter, Ramona Meyer, great granddaughter Darlyne Mae Jeffery.

To leave a condolence message go to [www.megercares.com](http://www.megercares.com).

A complete obituary will appear in next week's edition.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

**Aug. 18**  
Loni Christianson  
Diane Vorlicek  
Zackary Hein  
Barb Blome  
Allan Severson  
Cameron Rask  
Bekah Dennis  
Denise Krell  
Gabriel Hein

**Aug. 19**  
Jasper Doocy  
Noelle Toock  
Nick Nelson  
Donna Gullickson  
Jameson Smith  
Cheri Krejci  
Parker Greene

**Aug. 20**  
Carol Jensen

**Aug. 21**  
Ashley Garcia  
Kollyn Alwes  
Cletus Glynn  
Joe Holland

**Aug. 22**  
Carol Ingvalson  
Jacob Schwarz  
Korry Grunklee  
Pastor Mike Walerius

**Aug. 23**  
Darla Doocy  
Cruz Chladek

**Aug. 24**  
Braxton Lee  
Samuel Wehner  
Lanell Sunde

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**Aug. 18**  
Justin & Kelly Peterson

**Aug. 23**  
Mark & Bonnie Coughlin  
Troy & Monica Anderson

**Aug. 20**  
Kevin & Sondra Hanenberger  
Denise & Chris Thompson

**Aug. 24**  
Terry & Kim Trotman  
David & Rita Goodnature

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**STEELE COUNTY Times**

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Mary Ann Betlach

Mary Ann Betlach, age 91, of Blooming Prairie, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

Mary Ann Prokopec was born March 21, 1930, in Owatonna, the daughter of Bernard and Ethel (Lynard) Prokopec. She enjoyed growing up on the family farm near Blooming Prairie and graduated valedictorian from Blooming Prairie High School. Mary Ann married Ernest Betlach at Holy Trinity Church in Litomysl, on June 15, 1949. She was blessed with four children. Mary Ann was an extremely hard worker and enjoyed taking care of her children.

In addition to being a homemaker, Mary Ann also worked as a nurse's aide at Prairie Manor Care Center. She was a

member of the V.F.W. Women's Auxiliary and St. Columbanus Catholic Church, where she was active in the altar society and the Maryknoll Society.

Mary Ann loved spending time with family, cooking, church activities, and making floral arrangements and wreaths. She enjoyed being outdoors, tending to her garden and flowers, doing yard work, and watching the birds from her four-season porch. Mary Ann will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her two sons, Donald (Linda Malecha) of Owatonna, and Bradley (Peter Carlson) of Minneapolis; two daughters, Kathryn (Joseph T.) Sturm of Madison Lake, and Debra (David) Cerny of Madelia; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; sister, Kathryn "Sharon" (LeRoy) Schroeder; and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by Ernie, her husband of 71 years;

## James Krejci, 65, Blooming Prairie



James Krejci

James Edward Krejci, age 65, of Blooming Prairie, passed away Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021 at his home in Blooming Prairie.

James was born on Dec. 9, 1955 in Owatonna, to Victor and Elvera (Linse) Krejci. He grew up in Blooming Prairie and graduated with the class of 1974 from Blooming Prairie High School.

James' love for motors and racing brought him to the race-track where he met the love of his life, Diane Harms, in 1991. He was involved in Hobby Stock, Limited Late Models, and Modified Racing.

James and Diane were united in marriage on Feb. 14, 1999, at First Lutheran Church in

Blooming Prairie. James was a lifelong resident of Blooming Prairie, and throughout his career he held various positions in construction, was a mechanic, and maintenance technician before his retirement in December 2020.

He loved the time spent in his garage working on race cars and building motors, as well as his routine visits with friends. James took pride in everything he did, from mowing the lawn to various projects for his family. He was always willing to lend a hand to friends. Above all else, James cherished the time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

James is survived by his wife, Diane; son, Jon (Rachel) Krejci

of Brainerd; daughters, Lori (Dain) Schultz of Owatonna, Amy (Coy) Borgstrom of Kasson, and Jill Boyum of Kasson; seven grandchildren, J.J. and Lillian Krejci, Olivia Schultz, Carson and Devyn Borgstrom, Dehn (Adryanna) and Lara Boyum; sisters, Brenda (Frank) Fell of Meriden, Karen (Mark) Thoen of Blooming Prairie, and Nancy Krejci of Rochester; and brother-in-law, Greg Gulbrandson of Albert Lea.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and Elvera; brothers, Steven, Brian, and Paul; sister, Vicki Gulbrandson; and nephew, Daniel Gulbrandson.

A memorial gathering to celebrate James' life will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021, at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Chapel in Blooming Prairie. Worlein Funeral Home of Blooming

Prairie is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at [www.worlein.com](http://www.worlein.com).

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## Your mind is like a riverbed



**Rev. Amanda Floy**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OWATONNA

Imagine a river bed in its very early stages – actually before it is even a river bed, before the land is carved out – just sheets of water flowing randomly without any preferred route. Over time, this water will begin to carve out the ground. Little crevices will be created. The water weaving its way along these crevices, these paths of least resistance, grow the crevices

deeper into a creek, and even deeper into a river. It takes something really strong to create a fork in the river, creating a new path for that water to flow. The water wants the path of least resistance.

In a study of the brain, neurologist have discovered that our minds work much like that riverbed. Over the course of our lives, our accumulation of experiences, relationships and ideas shape the proverbial riverbed of our mind, carving out thought-paths in our minds. In these pathways of thinking, much like that river, our thoughts flow like water with less and less resistance. This is what produces a sense of certainty and ease in us that only deepens the riverbed of our thinking. This means that we begin to like, and focus on what we know and are familiar with. Anything that falls

outside of this riverbed of experience we ignore, even if it is to our own detriment. It is a concept known as “willful blindness.”

Willful blindness – It is a human phenomenon to which we all succumb in matters little and large. And it makes sense. Our senses are inundated with information. We can’t possibly notice and know everything, the limits of our brain won’t let us. That means we have to filter or edit what we take in. So what we choose to let through and to leave out is crucial. And what we choose to let in tends to be what we are familiar with and what makes us feel good about ourselves. Then we conveniently filter out whatever unsettles us, whatever rocks our fragile egos, or whatever isn’t in line with our most vital beliefs.

This can be what keeps us from reading the

top headlines of the day; Or from turning the news on when we get home; Or what keeps us from confronting someone we are in conflict with; Or going to the doctor to have a lump checked; Or calling hospice when our loved one can no longer benefit from traditional medical care.

What makes us prefer ignorance? What are we so afraid of?

Perhaps it is fear of learning something new that will change everything we understand about our life, the way we live, and how we even understand ourselves. These new landscapes can be terrifying! But we can’t hide from them. We have to be curious to new landscapes in our lives.

As I reflect on the life of Jesus, the source of my faith, I am reminded how, time and time again, Jesus overturns the

prevailing assumptions of the time. When Jesus calls his disciples he doesn’t call them into a comfortable life. Instead he invites the disciples to imagine a new path, a new way of living that comes not through gathering power but through displaying vulnerability, not through accomplishments but through service, and not by collecting powerful friends but by welcoming and being accountable to the very least of these.

These are small things when you think about it. Serving others, opening yourself to another’s need, being honest about your own needs and fears, showing kindness to a child, welcoming a stranger.

These may be small things, but they are great things, and they are available to each and all of us every single day. Each time we make even the

smallest of these gestures in faith – we will find our fear lessened, replaced by a growing confidence that God is active and among us – active in ways we would never have imagined.

The God who created life out of nothing, made light from darkness, and raised Jesus from the dead is still at work, creating new ways of living, and new ways of loving. We do not have to fear these new paths. We can relax into our faith trusting that God will increase our curiosity to new possibilities, and God will grow our courage to move forward in faith.

I don’t know where your paths will take you this week, or if you will encounter a fork in your path. Stay curious, and have courage. God is with you, and is creating new possibilities for you and through you. Thanks be to God.

### AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

**COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
106 Third St. SE., Geneva  
Pastor Kristen Venne  
507-256-4288  
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

**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

**FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
434 First St. SW., BP  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Valerius  
507-583-6621  
firstlutheranbp.com  
Worship Service- 9 a.m.  
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

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

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – 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 Klawitter 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  
tlcawatonna.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/tlcawatonna and tlcawatonna.org/worshiplive  
9:30 a.m. - Live broadcast on KRUE 92.1 FM  
Video on Spectrum (Ch. 181), Jaguar TV (Ch. 900) and owatonnaonline.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.

**OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN – ELCA**  
1909 St. Paul Road, Owatonna  
Senior Pastor: John Weisenburger  
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson  
Visitation Pastor: Rev. Ron Huber  
Summer Worship: 9:15 a.m.  
507-451-4853  
oursaviorsowatonna.com

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

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

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL**  
9946 SE 24th Ave Owatonna  
Father John Wilmot  
507-583-2784  
www.litomysl.webs.com  
Sunday Mass at 8:15 a.m.  
Litomysl Finance Council: 2nd Thursday  
Litomysl Pastoral Council: 2nd Thursday every other month

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**  
150 NE Second St., Hayfield  
Father John Wilmot  
507-477-2256  
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday  
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday

**SACRED HEART PARISH**  
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna  
Father Swaminatha Pothireddy Parochial Vicar  
507-451-1588  
www.sacredheartowatonna.org  
Masses: Saturday 5 p.m. Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and Noon (Spanish) Daily Mass 7:15 a.m. Tuesday through Friday Reconciliation 4 p.m. Saturday Adoration – Thursdays 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

**ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC**  
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie  
Father John Wilmot  
507-583-2784  
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com  
Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH**  
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna  
Father James Starasinich  
507-451-4845  
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.  
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.  
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.  
Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)  
Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
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**CHRISTIAN**  
**CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT**  
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna  
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor  
507-451-1032  
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.  
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

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

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

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

**OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST**  
815 E. University, Owatonna  
Rev. Lisa J. Vick Pastor  
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www.owatonnaumc.org  
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

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2515 Harvest Lane NW, Owatonna  
Pastors Rich and Amy Pettet  
507-456-4775  
www.destinycc.org  
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday  
6:30-7:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Wednesday

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

**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
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Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

**MORMON**  
**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
404 31st St. NW, Austin  
Bishop Rick Bremner  
507-433-9042  
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

**UCC**  
**CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
211 Main St. S., Medford  
Rev. Richard Waters  
507-451-4596  
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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# Popular doctor loses battle to Alzheimer's

◀ **POPULAR** from A1 members. The couple has six children and several grandchildren. His condition left family members devastated. "We try to remember it's the disease, not him," Anna said. "We try to remember the person he was." Anna shared how many families of loved ones with Alzheimer's are embarrassed. "People shouldn't be embarrassed to have

this disease," she said. "When people have cancer, they run toward you, but when people are diagnosed with Alzheimer's, they run away," she added. Anna said moving her husband into memory care was the hardest decision of her life. And it left her with an enormous amount of guilt. "I'm a nurse. I thought I should be able to take care of him until the end, but I cannot do

it alone," Anna said. Through the struggles, Anna took comfort in seeing him with a sense of humor. "He is generally pretty happy, and thankfully he doesn't remember all that he has lost," she said. The family wrote in his obituary: "Even though the ravages of dementia stole so much from him, he was known for his gift of humor and continued to share this to the end."

Durst was born in Augusta, Ga., on Feb. 7, 1942. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1972-74 and practiced general surgery in Mississippi and Missouri before settling in Owatonna in 1984. He had a thriving practice at Owatonna Clinic until he retired in July 2012. A Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday at Oak View Weddings and Events in rural Owatonna.

# Janitors busy during summer

◀ **JANITORS** from A3 er in the summer," which is evident as they joke and laugh with each other. This year is "kind of unusual because of construction," said Davis. With so many construction projects underway, Davis said that it has been challenging "directing traffic." Right now, he said, his job is to ensure that the contractors get where they need to be, in addition to his scheduling responsibilities. One of this year's projects was replacing all of the old water fountains in the district. Due to COVID-19, students could not use the typical bubbler water fountains, so the custodians updated them to have water bottle filling stations, said Davis. Although most of the students and teachers left for the summer, Wilson Elementary

remained in session. There, the custodians' daily responsibilities

didn't differ much from those of the school year. However, to deep clean,

the custodians had to wait until summer school ended.

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**GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK**



**Mid-August Gardening Tips**

- This is a great time of the year to evaluate your garden. Take photos or a video of your garden to help you correct problems from this year and also duplicate your successes.
- Look for bare spots in your perennial bed. Fall is a great time to add plants that will get a jump start on next year's growing season.
- Plan a harvest party and share your bounty with neighbors and friends.
- Have everyone bring their favorite recipe for zucchini or other vegetable to share with everyone.

Happy Gardening!  
 Lorrie Rugg, Steele County Master Gardening

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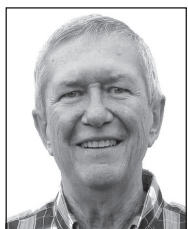
STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Four-year-olds Zephyrine Stange of Austin and Anna Lynn Butler of New Richland dance to the tunes of former Beatle Ringo Starr at the final 11 @ 7 summer concert of the season in Owatonna. A Ringo Starr tribute artist and his all-star band performed in front of about 200 people.



The message is "peace and love" during Ringo Starr concerts and also in tribute concerts performed by Mike Callahan. He performs as Ringer Star.

## Tribute to Ringo wraps up summer concert series



**Reflections**  
HOWARD LESTRUD

**R**ingo was his name. Only two of the original Beatles music group remain, Ringo Starr

and Paul McCartney. A tribute to the famous rock 'n' roll drummer was performed before a crowd of about 200 at Central Park in Owatonna last Thursday night.

Performing as international tribute artist Ringer Star was Mike Callahan of Detroit, Mich. He did the vocals for a 25-set music show, backed up by the Lost Faculties band. He also played the drums, the real Ringo's favorite instrument.

Callahan has been

performing his Ringo act for eight years. He has 18 all-star bands he performs with around the world.

The resemblance of Ringer to the 81-year-old Ringo is amazing. Callahan performs, wearing a jean jacket and a t-shirt with a large white star in the middle. He has that dark black beard and mustache and also wears a star post in his left ear.

The similarities continue to be noticed by the many families

attending the final concert of the series sponsored by Wenger.

Callahan performs as Ringer Star worldwide and hooks up with one of his all-star bands. The six-member Lost Faculties Band is a popular rock 'n roll band that plays gigs in southern Minnesota.

Callahan, 67, was nine years old when he first saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan television show. Lots of kids were in the crowd on Thursday night and dancing for the fun of

it with their families. Others went in front of the stage and showed off their dance moves.

Callahan and the Lost Faculties had rehearsed together only two days before Thursday's performance in Owatonna.

Some of the more recognizable songs he performed were:

- Octopus's Garden
- Honey Don't
- It Don't Come Easy
- Act Naturally
- Photograph
- La De Da
- Yellow Submarine

- Matchbox
- Oh, My My
- You're 16

After singing Yellow Submarine, Ringer said he liked that song so much that he painted his whole house yellow.

As he helped set up the band for the Owatonna performance, Callahan took time to hone the sound by singing a couple of tunes with the band. He also said "Hello" to many by working the crowd.

Someone mentioned to Callahan that he at See **TRIBUTE** on B2 ▶

## BP racetrack gets county's OK to expand

**BY CHRIS BALDWIN**  
STAFF WRITER

Radio-controlled racing enthusiasts will soon be getting an indoor track in Blooming Prairie to test their skills. The track is an addition to the Southern Minnesota RC Raceway owned by Justin and Naida Dokken.

During last week's regular County Board session, commissioners unanimously approved the couple's conditional use permit to expand their current site south of Blooming Prairie.

"We originally had our outdoor track at Clark's Grove but ended up having to relocate when the property owner sold that land," said Naida Dokken, adding that they ended up at their current site south of Blooming Prairie in May.

Plans were underway almost immediately to expand and improve the current site, including adding the indoor track.

"Currently, there are only two other indoor tracks in Minnesota," Dokken said. "So, we're really excited to bring this to our racing fans."

The indoor track will allow radio-controlled racers to drive their



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This RC racecar takes to the air while speeding around the outdoor track at the Southern Minnesota RC Raceway south of Blooming Prairie. The Raceway will be adding additional outdoor tracks and an indoor facility.

cars, rain or shine, and allows the business to continue to offer a track during those cold Minnesota months.

"Right now, we're aiming for it to be up and running by the first week of November," Dokken said of the indoor track.

"We're trying to get an idea for

what we need in terms of accommodations and space," she said. "The overall plan on the property is to do a little bit of land development and make it perfect for anyone interested in RC racing to come and check it out. The property is an ideal property for us."

See **BP RACETRACK** on B2 ▶

## Honoring our frontline workers



**Steele Talkin'**  
ROBIN STARR

The Steele County Free Fair and United Way of Steele County have partnered to host a **FREE ADMISSION** concert featuring *America's Got Talent* star Jason Pritchett and Owatonna's own Travis Thamert.

The hosts have graciously included Community Pathways of Steele County in the event with a portion of the proceeds going to our capital campaign for a new building fund. Our recent fundraising efforts have been a success with many thanks to our community partners.

While we are very grateful for the opportunity to be involved, we would be remiss in not acknowledging our frontline heroes that are the key focus of this event. Our friends, neighbors, and loved ones that have worked through the pandemic of See **STEELE TALKIN'** on B2 ▶

## BP school board OKs \$34M bond resolution; voters to decide Nov. 2

**BY KAY FATE**  
STAFF WRITER

It's official: The Blooming Prairie School District will bring a nearly \$34 million bond before the voters in a special election on Nov. 2.

The two-part resolution passed unanimously Monday night after several minutes of discussion. The first question asks for \$27.6 million to reconfigure and renovate classrooms in the elementary school; upgrade the high school's career and technical education space; add a classroom and flexible learning space; and build

a performing arts and learning center, which will be in use by various classes every day.

If that question is approved, the second question would ask for \$6.4 million to build an additional gymnasium at the high school. The first question must pass in order for the gymnasium question to pass.

The expansion is the direct result of climbing enrollment numbers; a demographic study found the district could grow by as many as 126 students in the next 10 years.

The elementary school is already dealing with two displaced

rooms; the rising enrollment numbers could push that shortage to four or five, a consulting firm said.

As of Aug. 11, enrollment at Blooming Prairie Public Schools for the upcoming school year is 830 – up more than 40 students from the end of the 2020-21 school year in June.

A random survey of 500 school district residents last month showed "a favorable response" to the possibility of a bond referendum.

The projected tax impact for the bond total on a \$150,000 house would be about \$188 per year for 25 years.

## Prevention program focuses on positive

**BY KAY FATE**  
STAFF WRITER

Bill Spitzer spent 31 years focused on correcting behavior during his career in law enforcement.

For the last five years, "it's been the polar opposite of that," he said. "I'm focused on positive behavior. This is the best job I've ever had."

Spitzer is the planning and implementation coordinator for the Austin Positive Action Coalition, a group made possible by a five-year grant

through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. His job has been to create, promote and sustain effective approaches to reducing students' alcohol and drug use.

It's the same role that Aron Welch started on Monday, based at Blooming Prairie High School. As coordinator of the Positive Community Norms, he will work on substance abuse prevention in the schools.

Spitzer's suggested first step – to assemble partners within

the community – has already occurred. At least 13 people from various organizations have volunteered.

"I always tell people, the key (to a successful program) is to get people who are motivated and to do that, you have to educate them," Spitzer said. "We live in a skeptical society, so we need to assure people that it is a fact."

According to the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS), alcohol use by Blooming See **AUSTIN** on B2 ▶



# BP public employees to see 3.9% pay hike

BY KAY FATE  
STAFF WRITER

City employees will see a 3.9 percent cost of living raise in 2022, the largest increase in more than a decade. Members of the Blooming Prairie City Council approved next year's wage grid at their last meeting. The pay bump is larger than in recent years but follows last year's cost of living adjustment of 1.5% – the smallest in more than a decade. The 2022 rate leaves the average COLA for 2012-2020 at 2.7%, said Andrew Langholz, city administrator.

He told council members if the city doesn't offer competitive wages, it could lead to difficulty attracting and retaining employees. The city is scheduling interviews for part-time police officers following the resignation of one officer and the move of another to the permanent part-time spot. In September, Langholz will return to the city council and ask for a motion to hire two qualified candidates. The hire would bring the department's roster to six part-time officers, three 40-hour officers and one 32-hour officer. Blooming Prai-

rie's Local Government Aid from the state increased by just under \$4,000 for 2022, the smallest increase since 2018. That puts the total aid for the year at \$750,464; LGA is the city's main source of operating revenue. The state did approve nearly \$40,000 in Small City Assistance Funding to be used for infrastructure improvements. Langholz said the money will defray the price of work needed on Blooming Prairie streets. The estimated cost is \$54,000; the remaining \$14,000 will come from the street maintenance budget.

# Culverts Getting Replaced



Work continues on large culvert replacements at three locations on Minnesota Highway 30 between Blooming Prairie and Ellendale. The detour is expected to be in place for about another week.

STAFF PHOTO BY KAY FATE

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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54	55							56				57		
58					59	60					61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

**ACROSS**

- 1 Improvised accompaniment
- 5 Clean vigorously
- 10 Certain screens, briefly
- 14 Go --- great length
- 15 Brunch offering
- 16 "How Great --- Art"
- 17 Dark liquids
- 18 Raise
- 19 Bad sailing weather
- 20 Abated
- 22 Coils
- 24 Ocean
- 25 Negatives
- 26 Agnew's prosecutor
- 27 Twofold
- 29 Drew blood
- 30 Bullring shout
- 33 Cut
- 35 Argentinian political icon
- 37 Battling each other
- 38 A large number
- 39 Change, chemically
- 40 "--- boy!"
- 41 Lowdown
- 42 Celtic whiskey
- 43 Barn dance
- 44 Competitive social gathering
- 45 Geraint's partner

("Idylls of the King", Tennyson)

- 46 Omar of "House"
- 48 Luxury auto pioneer
- 50 Mischievous one
- 51 Pre-DVD format
- 54 Anna Karenina's lover
- 56 Landlord's last resort
- 58 "Italian Job" car
- 59 Hymn of praise
- 61 Low for a woman, high for a man
- 62 International trade group
- 63 Pad
- 64 "Pinocchio" goldfish
- 65 It is to you what a stifle is to a horse
- 66 Spikes
- 67 Leathery seaweed

**DOWN**

- 1 Empty spaces
- 2 Gun-toting Broadway girl
- 3 Matter
- 4 VA hospital concern
- 5 Leading educator
- 6 Boasts
- 7 Horse controller
- 8 Downs' partners
- 9 Beetle in the news

**crushed by inference**

- 10 One up on a Maj.
- 11 City near Monticello
- 12 Plaything
- 13 Totals
- 21 The stuff of life
- 23 Did possess
- 26 Trading groups
- 28 --- snuff
- 29 Uniform stripes
- 31 "Diet" in ads
- 32 "And others" briefly
- 33 Baby bed
- 34 "Daily Planet" employee
- 36 Strange and mysterious
- 37 Seniors' lobby
- 45 Inspect
- 47 Most numerous Army rank
- 49 Result of burning
- 50 Dodge
- 52 Temporary accommodation
- 53 Pry
- 54 It's bad to run like this
- 55 Right to keep possession
- 56 Anti-discrimination agency
- 57 Stable gear
- 60 Lawyers' league

# Tribute to Ringo wraps up

◀ **TRIBUTE** from B1 least does not have a semi full of equipment to travel with. "I wish I could have that problem someday," he said. Fielding a question about remembering the lyrics from these 25 songs performed on the Owatonna stage, Ringer said, "I could never remember them all. I use

an iPad on stage." Asked if he had ever met the real Ringo Starr, Callahan said he has not. He said he made a connection with Starr at one of his Las Vegas performances. "I was in the audience and wearing identical clothing. He spotted me and lipped, 'Oh, My God, someone is

here that looks just like me but is he as talented as me?" Another look-alike to a famous rock 'n' roller Joe Walsh of the Eagles was on stage as a member of the Lost Faculties band. D. B Smith of Northfield mimicked many of Walsh's mannerisms while picking his guitars.

# BP racetrack gets county's OK to expand

◀ **BP RACETRACK** from B1 The property sits just off Highway 218 south of Blooming Prairie and will host an Ironman racing competition on Aug. 28.

Several different scale sizes of RC cars can use the outdoor track, while the indoor track will be limited to one size and electric cars only for practical reasons. The Southern Minnesota RC Raceway attracts enthusiasts from all over who want to test out their cars, and now by offering an indoor track the Dokkens hope to continue

to bring racing fans to their tracks. "We have people come as far as central Iowa," Dokken said. For the grand opening of their indoor track, the couple is planning a special Veteran's Day event. "We're excited for the indoor track to be completed."

# Austin prevention program focuses

◀ **AUSTIN** from B1 Prairie High School freshmen was about 2-½ times higher than the state average for that grade; and use in the junior class was nearly double the state average. That prompted Annette Duncan, president of the United Way of Steele County, to apply for the PCN grant. She learned in July that Blooming Prairie had received the state grant, giving the community \$1 million over five years. How that money is spent varies from school to school, from positive message billboards to community events to promotions with prizes. Spitzer said the impact of his group's work was evident by a "ripple map," a list of other positive outcomes not directly targeted by his positive action coalition. That includes things like the district's handling of absenteeism by finding

more positive ways to improve attendance and positive message signs the Austin High School Student Council made and posted on every locker in the school. "We got credit for it, but we didn't have anything to do with it," Spitzer said. The ripple map was six pages long. When it comes to hard numbers, the result of the group's five years of work could only be seen as positive: the numbers from five years ago either stayed the same or went down, Spitzer said. He said that the original Minnesota Student Survey results are the baseline, but not every student is surveyed. "That was one and done," Spitzer said. "We got accurate information through anonymous surveys three times a year, every student in grades seven through 12." Those results – adjusted for deception and other factors –

were consistent with the MSS results. "The consistency indicates honesty," he said and was close to the data from other communities that have received the grant. There was a significant increase in parents and staff talking with students about the benefits of abstaining from substance use, said Spitzer, adding that the gap between the perception of use and reality narrowed. "We're educating people who have the perception that everybody else is doing it," Spitzer said. "In the long run, it may help others not fall to false pressure to use." The program in Austin ran from 2015-2021. Spitzer remains on the job, which is now funded by a federal Drug-Free Community grant. "It's a significant cut in funding," Spitzer said, "but we've built our base. Now it's just continuing the work."

# Honoring our frontline workers

◀ **STEELE TALKIN'** from B1 the last 18 months and kept the world turning through these hard days of COVID-19. SCFF and United Way have put together this celebration for all that have continued to serve their communities with a night of music and excitement to kick off the best week of summer at the Steele County Free Fair. The concert is scheduled in the SCFF Grandstand for Aug. 18 with the gates opening at 6 p.m. and performances starting at 6:30 p.m. Community Path-

ways' capital campaign is steadily gaining the funding needed for our proposed building addition. This extra space will allow us to serve more community members through our food shelf, *The Market Place*, as well as *Unique Finds* which houses our clothing program. In addition to our two core programs, the new building will become a home for fellow non-profit organizations *Let's Smile Inc.* and *Transitional Housing*. For more information on these programs

and all fundraising efforts, please visit us at [www.communitypathwayssc.org](http://www.communitypathwayssc.org). We are open to the public Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Robin Starr is the marketing and outreach coordinator fro Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.**

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08/18/2021



**BLOOMING PRAIRIE**

- AUG. 22**  
Garden Sunday,  
First Lutheran Church
- AUG. 25**  
4 p.m. – Police  
Commission Meeting
- AUG. 24**  
5 p.m. – Ambulance  
Commission Meeting
- AUG. 28**  
BP Fire Dept. Brat &  
Corn Feed

**ELLEDALE/HOPE/GENEVA**

- AUG. 20**  
11 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building
- AUG. 25**  
11 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building
- AUG. 23**  
11 a.m. – SEMCAC,  
Community Building  
7 p.m. – Ellendale  
Ambulance Meeting,  
Community Building
- AUG. 26**  
8 a.m. – Ellendale  
EDA Meeting,  
Community Building  
8:30 p.m. – Ellendale  
City Council Meeting,  
Community Building

**OWATONNA/MEDFORD**

- AUG. 17-22**  
Steele County Free  
Fair
- AUG. 21**  
7 a.m. – Farmer's  
Market, Central Park
- AUG. 23**  
4 p.m. – Owatonna  
HRA Meeting, City Hall  
5:30 p.m. – Moon-  
lighters Exchange Club  
Meeting, Owatonna VFW  
7 p.m. – Medford  
City Council Meeting,
- City Hall
- AUG. 24**  
10:30 a.m. – Online  
Storytime, Owatonna  
Library Facebook  
4 p.m. – OPU Com-  
mission Meeting, OPU  
5:30 p.m. – Owaton-  
na Planning Commission  
Meeting, City Hall
- AUG. 26**  
10:30 a.m. – Online  
Storytime, Owatonna  
Library Facebook

**Historical Society to feature women school board members**

Join the Steele County Historical Society for an "Onward and Upward" luncheon Thursday, Sept. 9 as SCHS celebrates Minnesota Women's History Month. This year, SCHS will be commemorating women's achievements in the public sector. Historically, the first office to which women could be elected was as a schoolboard member. Records indicate the first Steele County woman elected to any school board was Addie Bixby Upham of Bixby in 1888. It has been "Onward and Upward" since. This event will feature a panel of women currently serving on school boards in Steele

County. Their prime discussion will include how area public and private schools have adapted and are adapting to the challenges facing area schools including the pandemic. It will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 9 and includes a school cafeteria-style lunch featuring sloppy Joes, cold slaw, chips, dessert, coffee, or water. Cost of this event is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Reserve a seat by calling 507-451-1420. If you request to be seated with another attendee, please indicate such when you register. For any additional information, please call 507-451-1420. Sharon West is the sponsor of this event.

**Sudoku Corner**

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

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**Answers**

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

**Owatonna Royalty**



Eighteen-year-old Annika Wiese of Owatonna was recently crowned Miss Minnesota Teen USA. Wiese was one of 24 teens competing for the title earlier this month in a pageant held at the Ames Center in Burnsville. Crowned Miss Minnesota USA was Katarina Spasojevic. The two women will represent Minnesota in the national pageant scheduled for late November in Tulsa.

**Tickets on sale for Romantica Concert**

The Steele County Historical Society is pleased to announce the musical group Romantica will be appearing in concert beginning at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16, at the History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Romantica comes from the Twin Cities, mixing together elements of folk, rock, and Americana.

Tickets are available at the Steele County History Center, on line at [www.schsmn.org](http://www.schsmn.org), and at Kottke Jewelry. The cost of the tickets is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. During the Steele County Free Fair, tickets can be purchased under the purple canopy by the General Store. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening.

**Motorcycle ride to benefit Rachel's Light**

The first Rachel's Ride Motorcycle Benefit is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Meriden. Check-in starts at 9 a.m. The ride will begin and end at the church. A hog roast, silent auction, and entertainment will be available after the ride. Pre-registration is preferred, but riders

will be welcomed the morning of the ride. Tickets for the event are \$20 per bike with passenger. Proceeds will go to Rachel's Light, a non-profit homeless shelter in Steele County for women and children. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com> and \$20 T-Shirts will be available at the door. The hog roast is a free-will offering.

**Hope Creamery seeks approval of MPCA wastewater permit**

Public comments are being taken from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding the reissue of a permit involving Hope Creamery located at 9043 SW 37th Ave. in Hope. The comment period will continue until 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 30. Hope Creamery, which produces butter from cream, is seeking

a wastewater permit through MPCA. The creamery utilizes the Cannon River watershed with receiving water going into the Straight River. According to the MPCA: The creamery operates two to three days per week, approximately every other week. The facility produces an average of 250,000

pounds of butter and a maximum of 300,000 pounds per year. The facility discharges process wastewater, wash water and solids (industrial by-products) associated with butter production to a land application system as well as non-contact cooling water to the Straight River. Process wastewater from the facility consists of boiler blowdown, compressor water and equipment and product wash water, all of which is discharged to the land application site.

Hope Creamery also has the ability to direct a portion of the non-contact cooling water flow to the ridge and furrow system to aid in flow distribution. The treatment system consists of a grinder pump, a proposed grease and solids collection system, 3,500 feet of 1 1/2 -inch force main, and a 1.2-acre ridge and furrow land application site divided up into two .6-acre cells. The ridge and furrow system is planted with reed canary grass. Process wastewater is discharged to the site year-round at an average flow rate of approximately 2,000 gallons per day and a maximum

See HOPE on B5 ▶

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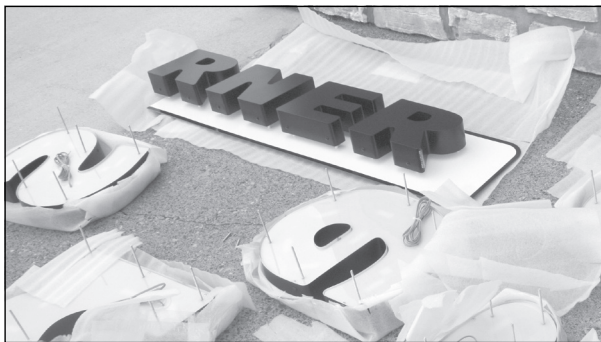
**Grant deadline Sept. 1**

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 63rd year of serving the Owatonna community, recently announced a Sept. 1 deadline for its next round of grants. Owatonna-based 501 C3 nonprofit organizations working on capital projects in the areas of community, arts, recreation, and education may apply. Complete grant guidelines and applications can be found at the Owatonna Foundation website at [www.owatonnafoundation.org](http://www.owatonnafoundation.org). Due to the current situation with COVID-19, please mail your application to PO Box 642, Owatonna or email the application to: [info@owatonnafoundation.org](mailto:info@owatonnafoundation.org). If you have questions or need more information, please call Laura Resler, Executive Director, at 507-455-2995 or email her at [info@owatonnafoundation.org](mailto:info@owatonnafoundation.org).



# STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

## New Look - Inside and Out



STAFF PHOTOS BY KAY FATE

Koster's Car Korner, a Blooming Prairie staple for more than 30 years, has gotten a facelift. The finishing touches – a new sign on the outside of the building – are now complete. An interior redesign was completed earlier this year. The new lounge area now offers free wi-fi, a fireplace and a flat-screen TV, as well as coffee and water while you wait. Precision Signs installed the letters, which had to be individually attached to the exterior of the building.

## TGK Automotive buys Harland's Tire

BY DEB FLEMMING  
NEWS EDITOR

Having grown up in a small town in Iowa, Mike Hoepfner loves Owatonna.

"I look forward to meeting everyone in the community," said Hoepfner, the new owner/operator of TGK Automotive, formerly known as Harland's Auto and Tire.

"I'm here every day running the store. I align with this type of community."

Hoepfner and his partner Troy DeLuca plan to remodel the showroom, modernize the exterior of the building located at 211 West Main St. and redo some of the asphalt in the parking lot.

Other than that, See TGK on B5 ▶

## New BP restaurant could open this fall

BY KAY FATE  
STAFF WRITER

After months of speculation and waiting, there is a plan – and a name – for the former Krejci Ford building.

The Backyard Restaurant may open this fall, according to its website, which advertises the business as "locally

owned and locally loved."

Owner Jim Gross said a firm opening date hasn't been set, given the challenges of converting an auto garage into a restaurant. Obtaining zoning permits and licensing all take time and can present unexpected delays.

He was reluctant See NEW on B5 ▶

## Ga. plant closure means more work for Viracon here

Apogee Enterprises, Inc., the parent company of Viracon, recently announced plans to

close its Viracon facility in Statesboro, Ga., and move work from that plant to Owatonna.

The company is closing its Statesboro plant as part of its overall realignment

and restructuring plan to better position the company for future growth and improved

profitability.

According to a company press release, the company will continue

to focus on the Architectural Glass market to emphasize premium, See GA. PLANT on B5 ▶

## Ambassadors keep busy with visits



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Owatonna Chamber ambassadors recently visited new members Happy Tails Pet Store, top, a new, locally owned pet store located in the Medford Outlet Mall and McCarthy Plumbing & Heating, bottom left, located at 321 N. Cedar Ave. They also stopped by Owatonna Shoe, middle left, to celebrate the store's 75th anniversary; and checked out member business Hidden Rose Boutique's new location at 142 Bridge Street West.

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## TGK Automotive

◀ **TGK** from B4 Hoepfner said he and his team plan to take of their customers just like the previous owners.

Harland's had been in the Strohschein family for more than 60 years when Dan Boeke, the late Harland Strohschein's son-in-law, sold the business in 2017 to Trent Larson of Farmington.

Hoepfner said he's retained most of Harland's employees and the business hours will remain the same. The shop will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

TGK Automotive will continue to be a Good-year tire dealer.

Hoepfner brings 30 years of industry experience to his new position in Owatonna. Before purchasing the business, Hoepfner worked for DeLuca as director of operations for five TGK stores in the metro area.

He previously was



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

**Mike Hoepfner of Prior Lake recently assumed ownership of TGK Automotive, formerly known as Harland's Tire and Auto, in Owatonna.**

an area manager for Bridgestone, living in the Mankato area for more than a decade. He is the former manager of Tires Plus in both New Ulm and Mankato.

TGK Automotive has 19 locations across Minnesota.

"It's not like a big corporation," said Hoepfner, adding that the stores - as TGK Automotive licensees - are independently owned and operated.

## Hope Creamery seeks approval of MPCA wastewater

◀ **HOPE** from B3 rate of 15,000 gallons per day. Typically, one cutting of the grass crop is removed each year.

The water source for cleaning and the non-contact cooling water is an on-site well. No chemical additives are added to the non-contact cooling water. Non-contact cooling water from the pasteurizing units is discharged to a tile

line that discharges to the storm sewer, which flows approximately one mile to the Straight River at an average flow rate of 2,200 gallons per day. Peak flows tend to occur during the summer months when more water is required to cool the pasteurized cream.

The MPCA has made a preliminary decision to reissue the permit.

Anyone interested in commenting about

the reissuance of the permit can submit written comments, petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting and petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

A draft permit is available for review on the MPCA's website at [www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices). Additional materials

relating to the reissuance of this permit are available for inspection by appointment at any MPCA office during regular business hours Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact Stephanie Handeland at the MPCA at 651-757-2405 or [Stephanie.handeland@state.mn.us](mailto:Stephanie.handeland@state.mn.us).

## New BP restaurant

◀ **NEW** from B4 to discuss any plans before he's sure they'll be put into place.

The business is tentatively set to be open every day, and is described on its website as "the perfect place to relax with friends and

family over good food and cold drinks."

The menu, like the building, is under construction. Early offerings include "Prairie" cheese curds, beer-battered "Blooming" onion, and fire-roasted cheesy garlic bread.

## Ga. plant closure

◀ **GA. PLANT** from B4 high-performance products. As a result, it is exiting the Velocity business and will close its facility in Dallas, Texas.

"Through our enterprise strategy work, we are developing a roadmap for Apogee to become the economic leader in our target markets, bringing the best value to our customers," said Ty R. Silberhorn, chief executive officer.

Apogee will also realign its Architectural Framing Systems (AFS) into two business units to increase focus on target markets, better serve customers, improve operational execution, and reduce overall costs.

It also plans to move the Sotawall business, which is currently a part of AFS, into the Architectural Services segment. This transition is expected to be completed in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023.

The company will begin executing these actions immediately and expects to be substantially completed in the first quarter of fiscal 2023. When completed, the restructuring actions are expected to reduce the company's workforce by approximately 400 employees.

These actions build

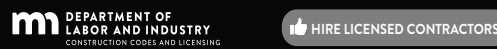
on the company's previously announced restructuring and cost savings initiatives. In October 2020, the company announced that it had identified opportunities for \$10 to \$20 million of annualized cost savings to be achieved by the end of fiscal 2023. The company now expects to reach \$20 to \$30 million of annualized savings by the end of fiscal 2023.



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Thursday, August 19	8:30PM	The IV Play Band
Friday, August 20	8:30PM	Thunderstruck
Saturday, August 21	3PM	Led Penny
	8:30PM	Shane Martin
Sunday, August 22	1PM	Dan Stursa Band
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### 529 plans: Not just for college

If you've heard of 529 plans, you might think they can only be used to help pay for college. And you wouldn't be alone: Less than one-third of adults properly identified that a 529 plan can be used for more than just higher education, according to a survey by Morning Consult and Edward Jones. But what are these other expenses?

Before we get to them, let's review the main benefits of 529 plans. Contribution limits are high and earnings can grow tax-free if withdrawals are used for qualified education expenses such as tuition and room and board. (Withdrawals for non-qualified distributions are subject to taxes and a 10% penalty on the earnings portion.) Plus, as the account owner, you maintain control of the plan, so you can switch beneficiaries to another qualified family member, if necessary.

Now, let's consider the other uses of 529 plans, which have been made possible by various pieces of legislation over the past few years:

**Student loan repayments** - The average amount of student loan debt per borrower is well over \$32,000, according to the Federal Reserve. So, many people welcomed the news that 529 plans could be used to repay student loans. There's an aggregate lifetime limit of \$10,000 in qualified student loan repayments per 529 plan beneficiary, plus \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary's siblings. Being able to use 529 plans to repay student loans gives you some flexibility if your family members have excess balances in their accounts.

**K-12 expenses** - A 529 plan can now be used to pay up to \$10,000 per year in tuition expenses at private, public and religious elementary and secondary schools. This amount is per student, not per account. However, not all states allow 529 plans to be used for K-12 expenses - or to be technical, some states consider K-12 tuition to be a nonqualified 529 plan expense, which means the earnings portion of a 529 plan is subject to state income taxes and possibly a "recapture" of other state income tax breaks connected with 529 plan withdrawals. So, make sure you understand your state's rules on K-12 expenses before taking money out of your 529 plan.

**Apprenticeships** - Not every child wants or needs to attend a college or university. And now, 529 funds can be used to pay for apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor. These types of programs, which combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction, are offered at community colleges and trade schools. Once students complete their apprenticeships, they often go on to well-paying careers in a variety of fields. And since these types of programs are typically far less expensive than a four-year college degree, a 529 plan can have a particularly long reach.

The tax treatment of 529 plans for all these expenses can vary from state to state, so, if you move to another state after you've established your plan, you'll want to know the rules. Even if you don't move, it's still a good idea to consult with your tax advisor about how 529 plan withdrawals will be treated.

Nonetheless, a 529 plan could be valuable to you in many ways. Consider how you might want to put it to work for you and your family.

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

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**BUSINESS of the WEEK**

**BUSINESS of the MONTH**

## TT Motorsports

TT Motorsports has been in business since 2004, with Terry Trom operating the original TT Motorcycles from 1984-1994. TT Motorsports specializes in CFMOTO ATV/UTV side by sides, and aftermarket parts and service of Harley-Davidson and most other brands.

They are located at 402 Main St. E., Blooming Prairie. Check them out on their website [www.ttmotorsports.com](http://www.ttmotorsports.com) or Facebook @TTMotorsportsMN to order parts and accessories.

We appreciate Terry Trom, owner, and Brandon Stoen, operations manager, for their continued support of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber.

**Congratulations to TT Motorsports for being recognized as the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month!**

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## Owatonna earns top 6 finish at state VFW tourney

BY ALEX NUEHRING  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Having won 10 of its last 12 games, the Owatonna VFW baseball team was looking to continue its positive momentum throughout this past weekend's state tournament and early on it did just that beating Hermantown 12-2 and Mankato 8-6. However, in the state quarterfinals Post 3723 lost to Elk River 12-0 and in the consolation bracket and St. Cloud 14-7 to settle for a top six finish.

In its first game, Hermantown got the scoring started with two runs in the top of the first inning, but Post 3723 answered with four runs in the bottom of the first, including an RBI single by Mitch Seykora and an RBI groundout by Michael Reinardy.

"We were hitting the ball hard and forcing them to make plays," said Head Coach James Dahlgren.

He said Owatonna's starting pitcher Chris Homuth settled down in the second inning and kept Hermantown's offense off balance the rest of the game.

Then, in its next at-bat, Owatonna extended its lead to 6-2 on a Seykora RBI triple and a Reinardy RBI single.

After a scoreless third inning, Briley Highfield hit a two-run single to increase Post 3723's lead to 8-2 and he later scored on a Hermantown error to make it 9-2 after four innings.

Following a scoreless fifth inning, Reinardy came in to pitch in relief

of Homuth and pitched a 1-2-3 sixth inning.

In the sixth inning, Owatonna sealed its win with three runs: Seykora scored on a wild pitch, Highfield scored on a passed ball and Jonny Club scored on a Hermantown error. Leading by 10 runs after five innings, Post 3723 won 12-2 via the 10-run rule.

In addition to its strong offense, Owatonna's defense also excelled, not committing any errors.

Overall, Dahlgren said Owatonna played well because they played with confidence and had great at-bats.

Post 3723 advanced to the winner's bracket where it faced the Mankato Royals.

This time, Owatonna took the early lead when Highfield hit an RBI single in the top of the first inning.

However, Mankato came right back with a run of its own and the game was tied 1-1 when the second inning began.

After a scoreless second inning, Highfield again delivered an RBI single but once again Mankato responded with a run in its next at-bat. The game was tied 2-2 at the start of the fourth inning.

The Royals took a one-run lead in the bottom of the fourth, but Post 3723 re-took the lead in the top of the fifth when Highfield hit a sacrifice-fly and Owen Beyer hit an RBI groundout.

"Every time we needed a big hit, Briley Highfield provided one," Dahlgren said.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Owatonna's Briley Highfield, center, celebrates with Alec Harris (14) and Nathan Theis after giving Post 3723 a 6-4 lead on an RBI single by Ethan Armstrong in the top of the ninth inning of its second-round state tournament game.

However, the Royals scored one run in the bottom of the fifth inning to tie the game at 4-4.

After a scoreless sixth and seventh inning, the game headed to extra innings.

In the top of the ninth, Chris Homuth got the offense going with a single, he then advanced to third base on a Drew Kreflow single and he scored when Highfield reached first base on an error. Following a single by Beyer, Highfield scored on an Ethan Armstrong RBI single to give Owatonna a 6-4 lead. Beyer ended up scoring on a wild pitch and Nathan Theis hit an RBI single to.

"We were up to 8-4, but we knew this was not over. They were not going to go down without a fight," he said.

After Andrix gave up a walk, Reinardy came in to pitch the ninth inning. He surrendered back-to-back singles and then a two-run single down the first base line that got the Royals' game-tying runner to first base. Even though Post 3723's lead had been cut in half, Dahlgren had faith in Reinardy to finish the game.

"You have to trust each other that you're going to get it done. Michael has been a big pitcher for us this summer so we had 100%

trust that he was going to get it done for us," Dahlgren said.

Reinardy did just that, inducing a groundout to end the game and send Owatonna to the state quarterfinals.

In the state quarterfinals, Owatonna faced a much-tougher opponent, Elk River. The main reason Elk River was so dominant was its starting pitcher who gave up just one hit and that runner didn't get past first base.

"His fastball moved everywhere, he had really good changeup and a strong curveball. He threw 53 pitches over 5 innings and 42 of them were strikes so he was always around the zone," he said. "They had their best pitcher, possibly best in the whole tourna-

ment, and that only gave their hitters that much more confidence."

Elk River's batters made full use of that extra confidence, scoring 12 runs in five innings.

Dahlgren said the fact that Elk River scored was not an indictment of the pitching performance of Mitch Seykora.

"They just put the ball in play. You just got to tip your hat to them for coming out ready to play," he said.

After a disappointing 12-0 loss to Elk River, Owatonna faced St. Cloud in the consolation bracket.

Briley Highfield got the scoring started with a two-run single and Post 3723 led 3-0 after the first inning.

In the second inning, Owatonna extended its

lead to 4-0. However, St. Cloud came storming back with five combined runs in the third and fourth innings to take a 5-4 lead into the fifth inning.

"We jumped out early and got after them but we set the cruise a little bit and they hit the ball," said Dahlgren.

In the top of the fifth inning, Post 3723 scored three runs to re-take the lead, 7-5.

After that, it was all St. Cloud - they scored six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take an 11-7 lead.

St. Cloud still managed to score three more combined runs in the sixth and seventh inning to win the game 14-7 and eliminate Owatonna from the state VFW tournament.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

One of the main reasons Owatonna beat Mankato was the pitching performance of Addison Andrix who held the Royals to four runs over eight innings.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Owatonna's Carson Krenke gets ready to take a swing at the ball during Post 3723's 12-2 win over Hermantown.

## Owatonna Legion Post 77's season comes to an end

BY ALEX NUEHRING  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

### Owatonna 7, Winona 1

Owatonna Post 77 began its playoff run with a home game against Winona.

Winona scored the first run of the game, but with a home crowd rooting them on, Payton Beyer led-off the bottom of the first inning with double and the hometown nine got off to a fast start, scoring four runs to take an early three-run lead.

Starting in the second inning, Post 77's starting pitcher Matt Seykora and his defense held Winona scoreless for the final six innings.

Owatonna Head Coach Tate Cummins said Seykora was more effective in the second inning and beyond

because he reduced his walks and attacked the strike zone really well.

"After the first couple innings, he established his curveball and was able to consistently to throw it for a strike and that made his fastball that much more effective," he said.

In the bottom of the second inning, Owatonna added onto its lead when Taylor Bogen and Seykora hit RBI doubles and Brayden Truelson hit an RBI single.

Now leading 7-1, Owatonna's defense turned four double plays to help seal the win.

"They hit the ball hard but right at our defense and defense can be contagious and our guys just fed off one another," Cummins said.

He noted that Beyer played great offensively,

3 hits, and defensively, two diving plays in centerfield.

### Rochester Mayo 7, Owatonna 0

In the quarterfinal matchup, Post 77 ran into a pitching buzzsaw as Rochester Mayo's starting pitcher pitched a complete game shut-out and gave up just two hits while his offense provided more than enough run support to send Owatonna to the consolation bracket.

Cummins said Mayo's pitcher was so effective because he worked fast and he short arms the ball.

"Short arming the ball speeds everything up in his delivery and kept his curveball low. We also had a hard time catching up to his fastball," he said.

In fact, the only two hits he gave up were hit by Seykora and were groundballs that found through the infield.

Meanwhile, Mayo's offense got a couple hits, drew a couple walks and parlayed an Owatonna infield error into four runs in the first three innings.

Even though Rochester Mayo was able to scratch out some runs, Cummins said Post 77's starting pitcher, Brayden Truelson, still played well.

"He had good stuff but they're a good offensive team playing with a lead. They put it in play and we made a few errors," he said.

Rochester Mayo added a few insurance runs later in the game but he said it was its pitching and defense that won

them the game.

"It came down to pitching and defense and they threw the ball very well that night and played great defense," he said.

### Stewartville 6 Owatonna 3

Unfortunately, in an elimination game, Owatonna's offense once again got off to a slow start.

"Our bats went cold. We lost that confidence and momentum," Cummins said.

Meanwhile, Stewartville's offense took a 3-0 lead into the fourth inning.

"We made two or three errors and they took advantage by getting hits on the back end of those errors and that's really how they scored their runs," he said.

Owatonna's offense, on the other hand, continued to struggle to score runs until late in the game.

"We had base runners, but just couldn't get that hit with runners on and timely hitting. We scored a couple late runs in the sixth inning and I thought we had a chance to come back," Cummins said.

However, Post 77's comeback attempt was foiled when Stewartville extended its lead the next half inning.

"In the top of the seventh inning, we gave up a couple runs and that made it more challenging to make up that ground late," he said.

With this loss, Owatonna was eliminated from the Sub-State 1 playoffs.



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# Great action, fireworks highlights at Chateau

BY MATTHEW GRAGE  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A great night of racing action was followed up by a gigantic fireworks display Friday night at Chateau Speedway in Lansing. The fireworks show has coincided with the August Sprint Car race the past several years. However, this year the Sprint cars made a late season adjustment to their schedule and came in a week early leaving the fireworks show to stand alone on its own night. As usual the show was spectacular as was the action on the track.

The French's Repair USRA A Mod's put out plenty of action from their heats all the way through their feature. In the end it was Jason Cummins of New Richland scoring his third clean sweep of the year. However, the highlight of the class may have been another driver. Steve Wetzstein of West Concord who stepped out of his car just over two years ago stepped back in on Friday. He led the first 17 laps of the feature withstanding several restarts until Cummins took advantage of a late restart

to take the top spot. Cummins put on quite a show of his own as he worked from a deep row six starting spot picking his way to the front and earning his fifth feature win of the year.

For the second time in three weeks, Hunter Kennedy of St Ansgar, Iowa swept his way to a pair of wins in the USRA B Mod Class. Kennedy started on the pole in the feature and held off Noah Grinstead of Austin from start to finish. Grinstead had the other heat win.

A late caution did in PJ Duchene of Faribault in the Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stock class. Duchene led the classes first 13 laps until a late caution brought the field back up to his back bumper. Jack Paulson of Faribault took advantage of the late yellow and went round him to pick up his second feature win of the year and also score a sweep as he backed up his heat win. Jack Maas of Faribault who came home third had the classes other heat win.

In Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stock action, Danny Richards of Mondovi, Wis., appeared on his way to completing a sweep in

the class when his car starting slowing in the waning laps. Cole Richards of Mondovi reeled him in as they took the white and scooted around him out of turn four coming to the checkers. It was truly a family affair as they scored both heat wins and the feature.

Skjeveland Sanitation and Roll Off Service WISSOTA Hornets were led for the second week in a row by Nick Sillman of Janesville. Sillman had the lone heat win as well as the feature win leading every lap of both events on his way to the perfect night.

Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds put on one of their best features of the year with two, three and four wide racing. In the end it was Billy Steinberg of Kasson making the midrace pass for the lead on Travis Underdahl of Northfield. They battled side by side for several laps before Billy was able to get to the lead. Kadden Kath of Owatonna came up late to take second. Kath, along with Greg Pfeiffer JR of Austin, and Scott Splittstoesser of Cottage Grove had heat wins.

# Owatonna Crush U14 team reaches national tournament



PHOTO COURTESY SARA THEIS

The Owatonna Crush 14U team recently competed in the 14U Northern NAFA (North American Fastpitch Association) Nationals, which was held from Thursday, July 29, through Sunday, Aug. 1, in Prior Lake and Lakeville. The girls won their first game 12-3, but their national championship hopes were dashed when they lost in the second round of the Platinum Bracket consolation bracket. Members of the team include: front row, from left: Averie Roush, Gabby Simon, Izzy Radel, Halle Theis, Averi Vetsch and Maddie Walerius; back row: Coach John Simon, Brooklyn Nelson, Kendra Bogen, Samantha Bogen, Mehsa Krause, Danika Ringhofer, Taya Selbrade, Coach Jim Davison and Coach Jamie Davison.

Friday is kids night at the Chateau. Kids will line up starting at 6:15 p.m. for rides in the

cars, then during the night there will be bicycle giveaways and free Ice Cream treats for the

12 and under crowd. On Aug. 27, the rescheduled "Spirit of 83" Memorial will take place.

## CHATEAU RACING RESULTS

Aug. 13  
**USRA B MODIFIED**  
A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 02K-Hunter Kennedy-St Ansgar IA[1]; 2. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin[2]; 3. 45-Cole Lonergan-Dexter[3]; 4. 83R-Kullen Kath-Owatonna[12]; 5. 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin[9]; 6. 33-Corbin Ludemann-Grand Meadow [4]; 7. 81K-Caleb Korpi-Claremont[3]; 8. 64-John Ross-Mankato[13]; 9. 75-Tyson Boge-Orchard IA[11]; 10. 4-Greg Brooks-Spring Valley[14]; 11. (DNF) 15Z-Zach Elward-Hayfield[10]; 12. (DNF) 40-Larry Scott-Northfield [15]; 13. (DNF) 07-Logan Alseth-Winona [6]; 14. (DNF) 54-Jett Sorensen-Rochester[7]; 15. (DNF) 52-Hunter Nelson-Peterson [5]; 16. (DNS) 3A-Taylor Ausrud-Hayfield Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 99-Noah Grinstead[1]; 2. 45-Cole Lonergan[4]; 3. 07-Logan Alseth[3]; 4. 81K-Caleb Korpi[5]; 5. 15Z-Zach Elward[2]; 6. 75-Tyson Boge[6]; 7. 64-John Ross[7]; 8. 40-Larry Scott[8].

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 02K-Hunter Kennedy[2]; 2. 54-Jett Sorensen[3]; 3. 52-Hunter Nelson[1]; 4. 33-Corbin Ludemann[4]; 5. 44-Matthew Brooks[7]; 6. 83R-Kullen Kath[6]; 7. 4-Greg Brooks[8]; 8. (DNF) 3A-Taylor Ausrud[5]

**FRENCH'S REPAIR USRA A MODIFIED**  
A Feature 1 (25 Laps): 1. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richland [11]; 2. 99-Josh Angst-Winona[6]; 3. 90-Steve Wetzstein-West Concord[1]; 4. 24-Aaron Benson-Clear Lake IA[3]; 5. 55H-Aaron Hoff-Mantorville[10]; 6. 98-Kevin Stoa-Albert Lea [2]; 7. 51W-JT Wasmund-Pine Island [8]; 8. 51K-Darwin Karau-Kasson [7]; 9. 4A-Joel Alberts-Mantorville[16]; 10. 15-Scotty Anderson-Mason City IA[4]; 11. 24S-Charlie Steinberg-Kasson[5]; 12. 36K-Jayden Larson-Mankato [9]; 13. 72-Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie [14]; 14. 14-Scott Gronvold-Grand Meadow [18]; 15. (DNF) 77-Jacob Stark-Austin [15]; 16. (DNF) 229-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak-Blooming Prairie[12]; 17. (DNF) 1-Blake Arndt-Brownsdale [17]; 18. (DNF) OD-Thomas Rolfes-Carpenter IA[13]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 36K-Jayden Larson[1]; 2. 15-Scotty Anderson[3]; 3. 24-Aaron Benson[5]; 4. 229-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak[4]; 5. (DNF) 77-Jacob Stark[2]; 6. (DNF) 4A-Joel Alberts[6]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 71-Jason Cummins[1]; 2. 99-Josh Angst[2]; 3. 90-Steve Wetzstein[6]; 4. 98-Kevin Stoa[3]; 5. OD-Thomas Rolfes[5]; 6. (DNF) 1-Blake Arndt[4]

Heat 3 (8 Laps): 1. 51K-Darwin Karau[2]; 2. 24S-Charlie Steinberg[1]; 3. 55H-Aaron Hoff[3]; 4. 51W-JT Wasmund[5]; 5. 72-Doug Hillson[4]; 6. 14-Scott Gronvold[6]

**POWER 96 WISSOTA PURE STOCK**  
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 17P-Jack Paulson-Morristown[6]; 2. 44D-PJ Duchene-Faribault [2]; 3. 31S-Jack Maas-Faribault[7]; 4. 7X-Andrew Eischens-Taopi[8]; 5. 1-Troy Maas-Faribault[5]; 6. 00-Bobby Crews-Austin[3]; 7. 17-Michael Wick-Faribault [4]; 8. 33-Jim Briggs-Waseca[11]; 9. (DNF) 75N-Dylan Nirk-Blooming Prairie [1]; 10. (DNF) 96-Kyndra Guttormson-Chatfield[9]; 11. (DNF) 44-Trey Hoppe-New Richland[10]

Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. 31S-Jack Maas[2]; 2. 1-Troy Maas[3]; 3. 75N-Dylan Nirk[4]; 4. 00-Bobby Crews[6]; 5. 96-Kyndra Guttormson[11]; 6. 33-Jim Briggs[5]

Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. 17P-Jack Paulson[1]; 2. 17-Michael Wick[2]; 3. 7X-Andrew Eischens[4]; 4. 44D-PJ Duchene[5]; 5. 44-Trey Hoppe[3]

**ADAMS GRAPHIX WISSOTA STREET STOCK**  
A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 1R-Cole Richards-Mondovi WI [3]; 2. 3R-Danny Richards-Mondovi WI[7]; 3. 01-Kory Adams-Stacyville IA[6]; 4. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin [4]; 5. 43-Tony Shaner-Owatonna[1]; 6. 39J-Dan Klingfus-Austin[10]; 7. 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca[11]; 8. 14-Brady Williamson-Rushford[5]; 9. (DNF)

99-Greg Lammers-Owatonna[2]; 10. (DNF) 16K-Kevin Vogt-Rose Creek[9]; 11. (DNF) 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield[8]; 12. (DNF) 147-Brent Holland-Glenville [12]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 1R-Cole Richards[1]; 2. 14-Brady Williamson[4]; 3. 32-Jason Newkirk[2]; 4. 99-Greg Lammers[6]; 5. 16K-Kevin Vogt[5]; 6. 42-Cody Hyatt[3]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 3R-Danny Richards[6]; 2. 15-Zach Elward[3]; 3. 43-Tony Shaner[2]; 4. 01-Kory Adams[4]; 5. 39J-Dan Klingfus[5]; 6. 147-Brent Holland[1]

**SKJEVELAND SANITATION AND ROLL OFF SERVICE WISSOTA HORNET**  
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 5S-Nick Sillman-Janesville [2]; 2. 511-Shawn Poston-Red Wing [1]; 3. 3D-Daniel Bjornfald-Bloomington [5]; 4. 19C-Colin Wittenberg-Hastings [4]; 5. 6-Timothy Barnett-Owatonna[8]; 6. (DNF) 20K-Zach Korpi-Ellendale [6]; 7. (DNF) 511JR-Maison Poston-Red Wing [9]; 8. (DNF) 21S-Brian Schott-Red Wing [3]; 9. (DNF) 29-Tommie Tesch-Waseca[7]

Heat 1 (5 Laps): 1. 5S-Nick Sillman[2]; 2. 19C-Colin Wittenberg[4]; 3. 21S-Brian Schott[5]; 4. 511-Shawn Poston[6]; 5. 3D-Daniel Bjornfald[3]; 6. 20K-Zach Korpi[8]; 7. 29-Tommie Tesch[7]; 8. 6-Timothy Barnett[1]; 9. (DNF) 511JR-Maison Poston[9]

**ACTION BUILDERS WISSOTA MIDWEST MODS**  
A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 83-Billy Steinberg-Kasson [5]; 2. 83X-Kadden Kath-

Ellendale[9]; 3. 17-Trevis Underdahl-Northfield [6]; 4. 24M-Adam Martinson-Blaine[10]; 5. 00JR-Greg Pfeifer Jr-Austin[3]; 6. 2-Scott Splittstoesser-Cottage Grove [8]; 7. G12-Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA[11]; 8. 23B-Michael Wytaske-Hartland[16]; 9. 22H-Jayme Hiller-Waterville[1]; 10. 5G-Patrick McCarthy-Bloomington [4]; 11. 79-Jeremy Misgen-New Richland [2]; 12. 79H-Luke Hainka-Wannamingo[13]; 13. 5-Tyler McFarland-New Richland [17]; 14. 43-Scott Simmons-Lakeville[7]; 15. 14-Tyron Friese-Zumbrota[15]; 16. 33-Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo[18]; 17. (DNF) 44Z-Anton Nelson-Hayfield[14]; 18. (DNF) 40-Colton Kramer-Pine Island[19]; 19. (DNF) 97-Josh Winsky-Rochester[12]; 20. (DNF) 86-Noel Hoppe-New Richland[20]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 00JR-Greg Pfeifer Jr[1]; 2. 22H-Jayme Hiller[4]; 3. 43-Scott Simmons[7]; 4. 24M-Adam Martinson[5]; 5. 79H-Luke Hainka[2]; 6. 23B-Michael Wytaske[6]; 7. (DNF) 86-Noel Hoppe[3]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 2-Scott Splittstoesser[1]; 2. 83-Billy Steinberg[4]; 3. 5G-Patrick McCarthy[2]; 4. G12-Ryan Goergen[6]; 5. 44Z-Anton Nelson[3]; 6. 5-Tyler McFarland[5]; 7. 40-Colton Kramer[7]

Heat 3 (8 Laps): 1. 83X-Kadden Kath[2]; 2. 17-Trevis Underdahl[3]; 3. 79-Jeremy Misgen[5]; 4. 97-Josh Winsky[1]; 5. 14-Tyron Friese[6]; 6. 33-Darryl Hainka[4]

Heat 4 (8 Laps): 1. 00JR-Greg Pfeifer Jr[1]; 2. 22H-Jayme Hiller[4]; 3. 43-Scott Simmons[7]; 4. 24M-Adam Martinson[5]; 5. 79H-Luke Hainka[2]; 6. 23B-Michael Wytaske[6]; 7. (DNF) 86-Noel Hoppe[3]

Heat 5 (8 Laps): 1. 2-Scott Splittstoesser[1]; 2. 83-Billy Steinberg[4]; 3. 5G-Patrick McCarthy[2]; 4. G12-Ryan Goergen[6]; 5. 44Z-Anton Nelson[3]; 6. 5-Tyler McFarland[5]; 7. 40-Colton Kramer[7]

Heat 6 (8 Laps): 1. 83X-Kadden Kath[2]; 2. 17-Trevis Underdahl[3]; 3. 79-Jeremy Misgen[5]; 4. 97-Josh Winsky[1]; 5. 14-Tyron Friese[6]; 6. 33-Darryl Hainka[4]

Heat 7 (8 Laps): 1. 00JR-Greg Pfeifer Jr[1]; 2. 22H-Jayme Hiller[4]; 3. 43-Scott Simmons[7]; 4. 24M-Adam Martinson[5]; 5. 79H-Luke Hainka[2]; 6. 23B-Michael Wytaske[6]; 7. (DNF) 86-Noel Hoppe[3]

Heat 8 (8 Laps): 1. 2-Scott Splittstoesser[1]; 2. 83-Billy Steinberg[4]; 3. 5G-Patrick McCarthy[2]; 4. G12-Ryan Goergen[6]; 5. 44Z-Anton Nelson[3]; 6. 5-Tyler McFarland[5]; 7. 40-Colton Kramer[7]

Heat 9 (8 Laps): 1. 83X-Kadden Kath[2]; 2. 17-Trevis Underdahl[3]; 3. 79-Jeremy Misgen[5]; 4. 97-Josh Winsky[1]; 5. 14-Tyron Friese[6]; 6. 33-Darryl Hainka[4]

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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 used the remote start on my 2004 Chevy Silverado to Start The AC the other morning and came out to find my interior filled with smoke. I did not see smoke coming out of any area, so I aired it out and drove to work. I have checked all the electrical functions and the only thing I find that does not work is the Interior Air Conditioning Blower Fan high speed. Could this be what was smoking?

**Carry in Battle Creek Michigan**

**Dear Carry,**

The interior HVAC blower fan system could have been the source of the smoke. Blower resistor failures are common as vehicles age. The blower windings break down over time and the resistance on the circuit increases, this extra resistance causes the resistor to run much hotter than it should. Eventually the resistor can fail and sometimes it will let off smoke. In addition to the resistor failing some vehicles have issues with the wires that attach to the resistor and the connector plug melting. In the case of the Silverado, it is a common issue and some of them were subject to a recall so check with your local dealership for more information. Most important of all to remember is to stop driving a vehicle when you see or smell smoke. Fire spreads quickly in a vehicle and you can be overcome by the fumes of the many materials used in its construction. Always think about your safety first.

**Take care, the Motor Medics**

**Dear Motor Medics,**

I have a 2007 Chevy Impala with several issues that all occurred about the same time. I have a check engine light on, I have poor engine heat, and my fuel mileage is not as good as it used to be. What kind of things should I be looking for?

**Ron in Montrose Colorado**

**Dear Ron,**

It is possible that just one thing is causing all your problems and that item is small and relatively inexpensive, your engines thermostat. The thermostat is responsible for keeping the engine temperature at a steady level so that you have proper heat available for the interior and proper operating temperature for the engine to operate efficiently. When a thermostat does not allow the engine to warm to a certain level on OBDII vehicles the computer responds by turning on the check engine light. Another effect of low temps is a decrease in fuel mileage due to continued fuel mixture enrichment. In the past, our vehicles used carburetors with chokes on them to enrich the fuel mixture for proper running until the engine was warm. Around the early eighties this changed to electronic fuel injection and is now controlled by the engine computer. If the thermostat does not regulate the engine temperature properly the computer may continue to enrich the fuel mixture causing the vehicle to have poor mileage. Thermostats should be serviced when the coolant is flushed or when they fail to operate as designed.

**Take care, the Motor Medics**

**NOTICE**

**Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 7/27/2021**

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.

- Gnemi/Kruger to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
- Correspondence acknowledged.
- Krueger/Gnemi to approve the following Consent Agenda items. Ayes all.
  - Approve the minutes of July 13, 2021
  - Approve Bills and Journal Entries
- Glynn/Gnemi to approve the contract award for striping, signing, and channelization on CSAH's 19, 34, and 45 to Triple A Striping Services in the amount of \$147,176.92. Ayes all.
- Scott Golberg, County Administrator, gave an update on the Old Highway Shop Properties and 26th Street lots.
- Krueger/Gnemi to authorize the Administrator to explore additional options with the City in regard to properties. Ayes all.

**LISTING OF BILLS 7/13/2021**

Averu Insights & Analytics LLC	6,224.08
Central Farm Services	19,515.35
City of Medford	89,945.03
Crow Creek Asphalt	7,124.60
Enrickson Engineering Co LLC	6,376.10
High Point Networks	17,220.00
18 S Group Inc	20,000.00
ICS Consulting Inc	7,383.96
ID Wholesaler	2,115.00
Kronos Incorporated	3,590.42
Lenslike Masonry LLC	2,575.00
Liberty Tire Recycling LLC	2,129.13
Lumberjack Landscaping and Tree LLC	9,172.75
Moore McKeel/Kellyanna J	3,536.33
Omsted Co Health, Housing & Human Se	4,736.00
Rice-Steele 911 Center	7,159.80
SAND CREEK EAP LLC	2,785.00
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	3,903.51
SRF Consulting Group Inc	8,201.76
Steele County Treasurer	6,358.25
Summit Food Services LLC	11,159.60
Thomson Reuters - West	2,234.73
77 Payments less than 2,000	33,120.45
Final Total:	276,566.95

- Krueger/Gnemi to go into closed session at 5:20 p.m. under the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b), to discuss the following pending litigation: Coffey, et al. v Sheriff Lon Thiele, Court File Number 20-cv-2237. Ayes all.
- Board came out of closed session at 5:43 p.m.

- Glynn/Gnemi to approve the settlement terms of the 7/13/21 court record pertaining to the Coffey, et al. v Sheriff Lon Thiele litigation and authorize the Chair to sign the final agreement. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Krueger to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 5:44 p.m. Ayes all.

8/18

**NOTICE**

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA June 21, 2021**

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center on June 21, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

**OPEN FORUM:**

- No comments.
- I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALGIANCE**
- III. ROLL CALL – CLERK**  
Melissa Stoen, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, School Patrons, Member of the Press

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
Jon Sunde

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the June 18, 2021 payroll amount. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

**V. PRINCIPAL REPORT**  
Reports given by Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach

**VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED**  
A Minutes, Bills, Treasur-

er's Report, Resignations, Donations

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the school board minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations/termination and donations. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

**A. Employment**  
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the employment of Camden Heimerman as an elementary music teacher for the 2021-2022 school year with a start date of August 23, 2021. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the employment of Cameron Rutledge as head boys' basketball coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve the employment of Ross Reishus as the One Act Play Director for the 2021-2022 school. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the employment of Kristine Smith as an elementary secretary. Official start date of August 16, 2021 with sporadic dates starting May 26, 2021 being worked up until that time. Regular duties/hours start on August 16, 2021 with approximately 32.5 hours worked per week. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

**B. Reassignments**  
Motion Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the reassignment of Sarah Burkhart from a second grade classroom to a kindergarten classroom. She is replacing Rhea Carlson as the "Bridges" teacher. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the reassignment of Stacey Busho from a kindergarten classroom to a first grade classroom using ESSER II funds. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve the reassignment of Alexis Kath from a second grade classroom to a sixth grade classroom using ESSER II funds. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the reassignment of Lauren Nelson. She will have .33 of her position reassigned to STEM duties with this portion of her salary being paid with ESSER II funds. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the reassignment of Briana Goskesen. She will have .14 of her position reassigned to math intervention using ESSER II funds. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the reassignment of Kurt Foster. He will have .14 of his position reassigned to reading intervention using ESSER II funds. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the reassignment for Monica Anderson. Her duties as a high school secretary will change from approximately 20 hours per week to 32.5 hours per week along with assuming additional MARSS/EDFI duties. The official start date of this change will be August 16, 2021. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

**C. Volunteer Coaches**  
No additional volunteers at this time.

**D. Return to In-Person Safe Learning Plan**

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the district's "Return to In-Person Safe Learning Plan" which is a requirement in order to access ARP ES-

SER funding. The plan is currently posted under the "COVID-19 Related Information" tab on the school website. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

**VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY:**

**A. Presentation of Long-Range Planning Committee Meetings**

Vaughn Dierks from Wold Architects along with three members of the committee gave a report which was very insightful.

Kelly Braaten made a motion which was seconded by Dean Meshke to approve hiring the Morris Leatherman Company to conduct a phone survey to engage the general public to determine what needs should be addressed. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

**B. Committee Reports**  
Committee report updates were given for the following committees: Education Foundation, Negotiations and ZED.

**C. Enrollment Data**  
Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year as of June 4, 2021 is 427 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 362 at the high school (grades 7-12) (351 attending BPHS and the equivalency of 11 full-time attending PSEO).

**D. Dates to Note**  
The Board noted dates of importance.

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Thank you to the administration, staff, parents and students for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Dean Meshke and seconded by Pam Hameister to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Motion carried. (6Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 6:00 a.m. in the High School Media Center.

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Meeting will be Monday, July 19, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.)

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Hameister  
Clerk of the School Board  
Independent School District #756  
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

8/18

**NOTICE**

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA June 17, 2021**

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2021 in the High School Media Center.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Melissa Stoen, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jon Sunde

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the June 21, 2021 regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Hameister  
Clerk of the School Board  
Independent School District #756  
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

8/18

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**SECTION 00 1113 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS STEELE COUNTY COURTHOUSE HVAC UPGRADES OWATONNA, MINNESOTA ISG NO. 20-23986**

Sealed Prime General Contract bids for Steele County Courthouse HVAC Upgrades will be received by Jake Rysavy at the office of the Owner, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna Minnesota 55060 by mail or personal delivery until Thursday, September 02, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at which date and time the bids will be opened and read aloud.

A prebid conference will be held Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the location of the Work.

Project Scope: Selective demolition and construction of HVAC upgrades and other Work indicated in the drawings and specifications.

Bidders shall submit their proposal on the forms provided. The proposal shall be filled in clearly and correctly with ink or another permanent format. The proposal shall be signed in ink by the individual, members of the partnership, or by one or more officers of the corporation making the proposal.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of ISG at 115 East Hickory Street, Suite 300, Mankato, Minnesota 56001 for a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 each. For Documents that must be mailed, the total plan fee will be \$115.00 each, shipping and handling included. When requesting mailed documents, please include your address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address. Make checks payable to ISG.

Drawings, specifications, and other Bidding Documents may also be obtained online at www.questcdn.com. If you do not already have a free membership, you may sign up for one to gain access to the documents. The QuestCDN eBidDoc number is 7902451. There will be a \$25.00 non-refundable downloading fee to access a pdf copy of the documents online. Documents are viewable at both www.questcdn.com and www.ISGInc.com free of charge.

All bids shall be sealed in an opaque envelope upon which shall be plainly marked "BID ON STEELE COUNTY COURTHOUSE HVAC UPGRADES – OWATONNA, MINNESOTA" and the name of the bidder. If a bid is to be mailed, the bid envelope shall be sealed in a regular mailing envelope. FAX and E-mail Bids will not be accepted. The Owner reserves the right to hold and consider the bids for 30 days after the date of the bid opening. Bids shall be accompanied by a cashier's check, bidder's bond, or certified check payable to STEELE COUNTY for not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of such bid including add-alternates. A bidder's bond shall include certified copy of the power of attorney.

The right to waive any informality in any bid and reject any or all bids is reserved to the Owner.

**DATED THE 30 DAY OF JULY, 2021. END OF SECTION**

8/11/23



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**GARAGE SALES**

**HAYFIELD**

**RETIREMENT SALE AT SUSIE'S PLACE / ADULT FOSTER CARE:** Susan Westin 102 4th Ave NW, Hayfield. Friday, August 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, August 28, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Two older electric beds, one hand crank bed, Hoyer lift, Liko Sabina easy stand, battery-operated bath/shower lift chair, commode, walker, cane, bedding, medical supplies, some furniture, much misc. 8/19T1pd

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**KASSON**

**GARAGE SALE:** 801 8th St NW, Kasson. Friday, August 20, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, August 21 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. BRAND NEW purses - some authentic name brand items like MK, Coach, and Kate Spade - crossbodies, totes, wristlets, overnight bags, tons of BRAND-NEW make-up, jewelry, and some home decor. Lots of good stuff. 8/19T1pd

**MANTORVILLE**

**GARAGE SALE:** 26075 615th St, Mantorville. Thursday, August 19, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, August 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Not your average garage sale. Home decor galore, including holiday decor. Barely used household goods. Name brand women's clothing, sizes M to XXL. Designer purses and shoes. 8/19T1pd

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Deadline for applications is August 25, 2021 or open until filled.



**Currently Hiring: Special Deputies**

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A High School Diploma or GED equivalence and a valid Driver's License is required. The wage is \$20.00 per hour.

To view the job posting and apply, go to Steele County's Website at: https://www.co.steele.mn.us/ and click on Employment Opportunities. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

**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.

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Forest City, Iowa  
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7/21, 8/4, 8/18

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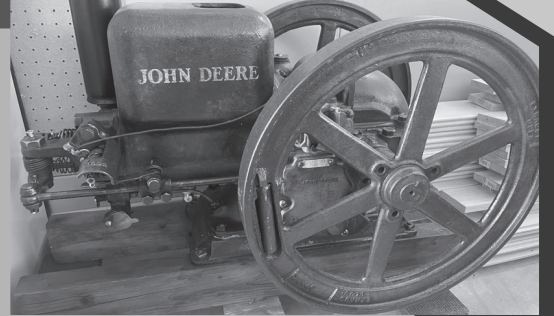
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# Fair honors volunteers with awards

BY RICK BUSSLER  
PUBLISHER

Financial and attendance numbers often rise to the surface as the most talked-about figures surrounding the Steele County Free Fair.

However, nothing was mentioned about either of those areas, but rather the focus shined on the years of service for the fair's volunteers Sunday night during an appreciation dinner in the Beer Garden. Forty-five people who have donated a cumulative total of 724 years of service were recognized with service awards.

Dan Deml, who currently serves as the fair's president, and Cathy Torrey, a superintendent for textile fabrics, were given the top service awards of 40 years. Awards for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service were also presented to volunteers for 2020 and 2021.

There was no awards ceremony last year because of COVID-19.

Fair secretary Sharon Klein also received a special award for her 19 years of service to the fair. She will be retiring Sept. 1.

"We wouldn't have a fair if it weren't for the volunteers," said Deml, adding there are more than 300 active volunteers with the fair.

"Volunteers are as much responsible for the fair as the directors are."

Asked what keeps people coming back to volunteer, Deml said: "I don't have a magic wand, but people want to be a part of something successful and fun."

Deml's involvement with the fair goes back way before he even became an official volunteer. As a child, Deml showed cattle in 4-H. He later went on to host the District Holstein Show when he worked with fair officials to coordinate the event on the



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

**Fair officials honor Dan Deml and Cathy Torrey for 40 years of volunteer service each to the Steele County Free Fair Sunday night at an appreciation dinner. Deml currently serves as president of the fair board; Torrey is a superintendent in textile fabrics.**

fairgrounds. Because of that relationship, he was eventually appointed to the fair board and served in various roles before becoming president.

Deml credits three things for the success of what has become known as Minnesota's largest county fair. They are a free gate, mega rides and food vendors.

"We do a lot of things very well," he said.

He is pleased that the fair can continue its tradition of offering a free fair. "We don't take money out of people's pockets to come in the gate," Deml said. "The free fair is what makes people want to come to it," he added.

## STEELE COUNTY FAIR AWARDS

- 5 Years**
- 2020**
- Jerome Spindler- banners and fair distribution
- Zach Von Ruden- youth livestock judging
- Ben Jensen- youth livestock judging
- Michelle Wolfe- light horses
- Renee Thompson- light horses
- Danielle Klinkner- draft horses, ponies & mules
- Dr. Anna Wildgrube- veterinarian
- Jim Abbe- fair board director
- 5 Years**
- 2021**
- Jon Simon- auto museum
- Korey Borchert- homemade beer
- Pastor John Weisenburger- worship
- Gary Sigler- free stage
- Christina Spencer- young artists
- 10 Years**
- 2020**
- Barb Weise- information station
- Wade Nelson- sheep
- John Ihlenfeld- free stage
- 10 Years**
- 2021**
- Steve Stoykovich- plumber
- Tracy Ignaszewski- 4-H liaison
- Pamela Mikeworth- fine arts
- 15 Years**
- 2020**
- Roland Truelson- parliamentarian
- Gene Fisher- fair board director
- 15 Years**
- 2021**
- Arlene Gleason- fine arts
- Ron Janning- Iron Show
- Dave Johnson- Iron Show
- Doug Kolbe- wood carving
- Myron Spindler- wood carving
- 20 Years**
- 2020**
- Tami Roberts- brochure
- Scott Roberts- brochure
- Vickie Deml- office
- Gary Muchow- homemade beer
- 20 Years**
- 2021**
- Les Abraham- auto museum
- Liz Tinaglia- FFA
- 25 Years**
- 2020**
- Pat McCarthy- Equine Hall of Fame
- Bruce Busho- fair board director
- 25 Years**
- 2021**
- Greg Johnson- Senior Day
- Carol Rypka- vegetables
- Rick Ellingson- fair board director
- 30 Years**
- 2020**
- Todd Hale- publicity and voice of fair
- Jeff Koplen- electrician
- Cathy Balzer- textile fabrics
- 30 Years**
- 2021**
- Courtney Misinski- fruit crops
- Pat Raetz- textile fabrics
- 40 Years**
- 2020**
- Cathy Torrey- textile fabrics
- 40 Years**
- 2021**
- Dan Deml- fair board director
- Special Award**
- Sharon Klein (retiring after 19 years as secretary)



## Steely's Insights

WAYNE STEELE

The fairgrounds in Owatonna will be the place to be Aug. 17-22 as people "Bring Back the Fun in 2021" for the Steele County Free Fair, Minnesota's Biggest County Fair.

More than 5,000 free exhibits including 200 animals, the FFA Children's Barnyard, the Great Outdoor Center and the A-Z petting zoo sponsored by Owatonna Community Bank and R & K Electric are sure to delight fairgoers.

### Discover the past

Escape the heat and explore the fair in its early days in the Muckle Fair Museum and wander over to the Village of Yesteryear and relive Steele County's history in the village buildings. While in the village, take in the Gandy Company "Old Iron Show," featuring a large display of antique tractors and small engines, grab a bite to eat and take a seat at the Village Stage to enjoy a variety of music and entertainment. Great conversations of the county's storied past are sure to happen in the Muckle Fair Museum and the Village of Yesteryear.

### Shows around the grounds

Alexander Lumber Company brings to the fair the Robinson Carving Company. The Robinson family has been doing sculptures for the past two decades with their chainsaws. They will be doing 3-4 shows daily with a new sculpture being created at each show.

The All-Star Stunt Dogs Show, as seen on Ellen, Oprah and at The Minnesota State Fair, will leave fairgoers in awe as the high energy dog show entertains young and old alike with frisbee dogs, trick dogs and performance dogs.

### Child I.D. Tags

Parents, daycare providers and others with young children can pick up free child ID tags at the Sheriff's Office in

the Muckle Building near Fair Square Park. In the event a child gets separated from you, the I.D. tags are invaluable in reuniting the child with their caring adult.

### Handicap accessibility

Handicap scooters and wheelchair rentals are available by the First Aid Station in the Community Center on Elm Street. Please visit [www.htmia.com](http://www.htmia.com) or call 877-928-5388 to reserve.

### Sunday Church Services

There will be two outdoor church services on Sunday morning of the fair. "Worship in the Village," a traditional service, will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Village of Yesteryear. Speaker will be Rev. Chuck

Jameson with special music by Jeff and Gina Elstad.

The contemporary service will be held at 11 a.m. in Fair Square Park. Speaker will be Pastor Christian Kohs of the Redemption Church. Offerings for both services will be for Owatonna Ministries Association Emergency Fund and Community Pathways.

### Additional Notes

\*The Steele County American Dairy Association brings you "Bella the Cow" near the FFA barnyard where you can try your hand at milking a cow.

\*Check out the Safety Zone located just inside the Elm Street entrance to the fairgrounds. On display will be emergency

vehicles from the police, sheriff, fire departments, and Mayo ambulance.

\*If you need medical assistance while attending the fair, the medical station is in the Community Center. There is also a private area designed to accommodate nursing mothers.

\*The District Two Holstein Dairy Show will be held Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in the Cattle Show Arena.

\*There are ATM machines located throughout the fairgrounds.

\*The Central Farms Service pedal pull will be held on Friday at 4 p.m. at Leisure Lane.

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

# A fair perspective: In their own words

BY HAILEY RYSAVY

I am one of the Steele County Dairy princesses. I am the 18-year-old daughter of Ben and Wendy Rysavy. I live on a small dairy farm south of Owatonna, where my dad and grandpa grew up.

I plan to attend University of Wisconsin River Falls. I belong to the Straight River Stars 4-H Club. Throughout my 12 years of 4-H, I have participated in showing dairy, sheep, and several general projects such as clothes you buy, quilting, photography, and crafting. This year I will continue to participate in the dairy project.

I look forward to being back in person showing with my friends as this provides a time when we are able to learn from each other and build relationships.

Some of the greatest values that showing at the county fair have given me is how to build relationships with people and be confident in my project. In building relationships, this has taught me how to communicate with people and how to accept all different people for who they are. It has allowed me to make long life friends as well as how to appreciate those relationships.

In having confidence in my projects, 4-H allowed me to be proud of me and what I was able to achieve throughout all the years I have been in 4-H. It has taught me to work hard on my projects to ensure I am always giving my all, which allowed me to be responsible for my work.

I would not trade my years of 4-H. 4-H is a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Hailey Rysavy has been active with the dairy project in 4-H for the past 12 years.**

program that not only teaches you have to build relationships and how to be confident in yourself, but it teaches you to have respect for those around you, how to be responsible for your projects and animals, as well as how to have empathy for your friends who worked just as hard as you did.

*Hailey Rysavy of Owatonna is one of several 4-H members who have shared their thoughts about the fair in this feature over the past six weeks.*

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