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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2019

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Input sought on Hwy. 218 in BP

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It may be a few years out yet, but transportation officials want your feedback on a major road construction project being proposed for Blooming Prairie.

In 2023, a one-mile stretch of the U.S. Highway 218 corridor through Blooming Prairie from Third Street to Highway 30 will be reconstructed. “Due to deteriorating pavement conditions along Highway 218, MnDOT is planning a reconstruction project in 2023,” said Pat McGraw of Stantec, a Twin Cities engineering services company hired to assist with the project. “Prior to plan development, we want your input regarding what is working along the corridor and areas for improvement.”

MnDOT is reviewing with officials from the City of Blooming Prairie options for the project that include through lanes, turn lanes as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Public input is being sought by those who use the road and those who live and work along it, according to McGraw. “We want a daily user’s perspective of the road,” he said.

He said it’s important for citizens to engage in the comment period being offered right now. “This is one of the first significant points to steer the project,” McGraw said. He noted that all options are on the table right now, including possibly expanding the roadway to three or four lanes.

A project website has been activated to provide comments on an interactive map. The website may also be used to submit a general comment and sign-up for project updates.

SEE INPUT SOUGHT, A8



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

SALUTING AMERICA ON THE FOURTH

There was no shortage of patriotism at the Fourth of July parade in Blooming Prairie last week as Lydia Farwell, 9, of Owatonna proudly wore a headband consisting of two American flags. She also had a matching shirt. Right: Cousins Gloria Hernandez, Elena Salinas and Ella Salinas carry a welcome banner at the start of the parade. See inside pages for more Fourth of July coverage.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Locked in and no way out at Vandal’s

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It started as a Fourth of July shopper’s nightmare for an area woman at Vandal’s Family Market in Blooming Prairie, but it quickly ended on a positive note.

An elderly woman, who had walked to Vandal’s from her near-by residence on the Fourth of July around 2 p.m., suddenly found only herself in the store and locked in with no way out.

Getting a little impatient to get to the Fourth of July parade route around 2 p.m., owner Brandy Vandal Homberg left the store at 2:03 p.m. and locked everything up. They previously had announced the store would be closed from 2-4 p.m. during the parade. Vandal’s has a float in the annual parade.

“It was panic time,” Vandal Homberg said. “We can’t stay open any longer. We were just rushing, freaking out and didn’t turn out the lights because we were coming back.”

SEE LOCKED IN AND NO WAY OUT, A2

Area couples honored for charity race work

Two Blooming Prairie area couples that had a hand in starting a charity car race four decades ago have been honored for their contributions.

During a surprise recognition Saturday night at the Deer Creek Speedway in Racine, Jerry and Carol Ingvalson and Ron and Diane Nelson were given plaques of appreciation before the feature race and at the time of the fireworks display. Presenting the plaques to the Ingvalsons and Nelsons was Randy Queensland, Deer Creek Speedway partner.

The Ingvalsons and Nelsons have been affiliated with the Gopher 50 since its inception 40 years ago. They are credited with being the originators of the charity race, which has raised lots

SEE CHARITY RACE, A5

Tiny Hope church hits major milestone

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Hope has been abounding from First Lutheran Church in the tiny town of Hope for 100 years.

When the congregation formed in 1919, it was initially considered as a rural church. But when it was built, it was intended to be a community church. And the overall demographics of the church bear that out.

Unlike many other rural Lutheran churches, Hope has never had one predominant family in the church with family members attending generation after generation, according to Rev. Sandy Miller, who has served as Hope’s pastor since 2011. “It’s still that way today,” she says.

Miller noted that there are only three farmers from the Hope area who attend the church. The rest of the members come from Medford, Owatonna, Albert Lea, Ellendale and New Richland.

When Miller accepted the call eight years ago, there were only 20 members left in the congregation. Since then, the church has grown to an average weekly attendance of 50. She said the majority of the congregation is new within the last seven years. Like most churches, attendance has leveled off or even decreased slightly. “Our attendance is down, but giving is up,” Miller said.

On Sunday, the congregation will mark its centennial celebration with a special worship service with lunch and music to follow afterwards. First Lutheran will offer a blue grass band under a big tent outside as well as burgers and brats.

Celebrating 100 Years

First Lutheran Church of Hope

Sunday, July 14
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Lunch & Music: 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

The church hopes to draw in people from all over the area for the celebration. “We are excited to use this event as an outreach to our community in Hope,” Miller said.

As part of the centennial this month, the church also

plans to use some funds from a memorial to light up the bell tower on a timer. “It will be really beautiful,” Miller said.

Members of the centennial committee are Lisa Borchert, Warren Suchanek,

Barb Hrdlicka, John Pirkel, Dawn Armstrong, Richard Hansen, Beverly Meixner and Lori Springer.

DANISH ROOTS

First Lutheran originated as a Danish Luther-

an church. The current church is the second building as the original church was built about two miles southwest of Hope. The first service was held in the church on Christmas Day 1921.

In 1973, a new addition in front of the church was added as an enclosed entrance, a place to gather before and after worship and improved access to the basement. In 1994, another addition was built on the east side of the church providing office and meeting space.

The church took on an aggressive \$250,000 renovation project in 2015 to make the facility handicapped accessible. Church leaders went ahead with the project despite a \$70,000 shortfall, which caused some people to leave the congregation. The church took out a line of credit to get the project done, and thanks to some significant unexpected

SEE TINY HOPE CHURCH, A5

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AREA DEATHS

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

A job well done!

Another Fourth of July has come and gone, but we can't let it go just yet without acknowledging some of the hard work that went into making Blooming Prairie's Old Fashioned celebration a big success.

It's important to thank all those who supported, sponsored or volunteered for the Fourth celebration. It truly resulted in a team effort from many different people.

Mother Nature tried to dampen the festivities once again with a downpour that resulted in flooding at the city park on July 3. But Blooming Prairie's city workers were right on the spot by pumping water out of the park so that it could be used for food vendors and games.

Local businessman Nick Schiefert has been chairing the Fourth celebration for several years. He is planning to step down as chair so someone new will need to step up. Thanks Nick for your diligent work in promoting the community in such a positive light.

Some others who deserve a special thanks include Karen Fourage, chair of the parade; Sarah Esplan, button sales coordinator; Pam Ingvalson, event chair; Sandy Jones, crafters coordinator; Kristi Fiebiger, parade donations chair; Maddie Vorlicek, Blossom run/walk organizer; Ron Janning, antique tractor show chair; Judy Esplan, treasurer and Barb and Jerry Kaplan, Sweet Rides organizers.

Several from the list above have indicated they are done after this year's celebration. If you're willing to help in any way moving forward to next year, contact the chamber office.

All of these people donate their time to make the community celebration a real crowd pleaser. These volunteers exemplify what small town living is all about. Neighbors helping neighbors. It's nice to see that there are people willing to step up to make things happen in the community for the benefit of everyone else.

Small town America thrives because of people willing to volunteer in their community. Hats off to all the local volunteers for their hard work and diligence to making Blooming Prairie a special place to live.

GUEST COLUMN

Stepping up to create a clean energy future

BY TINA SMITH

The science is clear: carbon emissions sent into the atmosphere from a variety of human sources threaten to upend our economy, our health, our national security, and our very way of life.

At a recent conference at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, I joined local and state leaders, as well as energy and environmental experts from Minnesota and around the world as we shared our ideas for addressing climate change, which I consider the most urgent and existential challenge of our time.

Those ideas - and the action they spur - can't come soon enough.

We've already seen the impact of warming temperatures, rising sea levels and extreme weather. The growing prevalence of hurricanes, wildfires, flooding and tornadoes has already cost this country billions of dollars as communities are devastated, families are uprooted, and farmers are prevented from even getting into their fields.

The science tells us the clock is ticking and that these worsening extremes will become the new normal unless we get to net-zero carbon emissions by midcentury.

Younger generations get it. In a recent poll, half of Americans age 18 to 29 describe climate change as a "crisis that demands urgent action." The good news is that they're already leading on this issue because they understand that they'll have to live with climate change's disastrous consequences. We need to listen.

U.S. CEDING LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Unfortunately, at the national level, the United States has ceded leadership at the very time it's needed most. As a member of a Special Senate Committee on the Climate Crisis, I'm frustrated that the Trump Administration has taken a deliberate head-in-the-sand approach to this urgent problem. And, I've seen how addressing climate change has become more difficult since President Trump pulled our country out of the international Paris Climate Agreement and later reversed policies that reduced carbon emissions from cars and our electric grid.

His actions will also have environmental and economic consequences into the future. As U.S. leadership wavers, China and other competitors have seized the opportunity to surpass the United States in creating new wind and solar energy projects. As a result, clean energy jobs that could be created here, are now are being created elsewhere.

Fortunately, there is a groundswell of support for clean energy at the local level. In response to President Trump's

move against the Paris Agreement, churches, tribes, local officials, and campus leaders have all responded with the "We are still in" campaign.

In Minnesota, Gov. Tim Walz has a plan for 100% carbon free electricity by 2050. It even passed the House during the recently-completed legislative session, only to be blocked by the State Senate. St. Paul, Minneapolis, Rochester and Duluth, along with smaller Minnesota cities have made similar commitments to cut carbon emissions.

Around the country, more than 100 cities have committed to completely clean or renewable energy. Four states and the District of Columbia have policies to eliminate emissions by mid-century, and others are moving in that direction.

These actions on the local and state levels have put momentum behind my push for much-needed national policies to cut and eliminate carbon emissions.

One of the largest emitters of greenhouse gas is our electricity grid. In May, I introduced legislation that puts the U.S. on a path to achieve net-zero electricity emissions by midcentury, and by 2035 it would cut emissions by nearly 80 percent compared to 2005 levels.

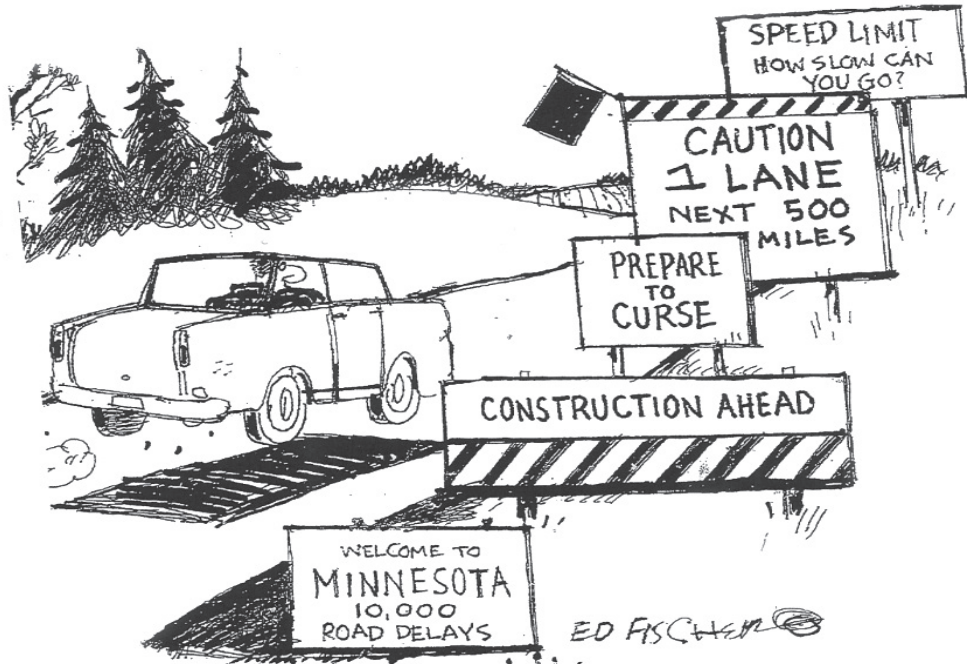
Under my plan, every company selling retail electricity would be asked to increase the amount of clean energy provided to its customers, with the recognition that utilities in different regions of the country will start from different places as they make the clean energy transition.

My bill also encourages companies to bring cost-effective, emission-free technologies to market by incentivizing the development and deployment of those technologies. This includes long-term electricity storage, that can be turned on or off at any time to balance our electric grid.

In 2019, none of us knows what a reliable, affordable, net-zero emissions electricity system will look like in 2050. What we do know is that we need to create clear clean-energy incentives and then let all technologies compete in the marketplace. This means a resilient, reliable electric grid will be built on a combination of not only renewables like wind and solar, but also hydropower, nuclear power, long-term energy storage, and even fossil fuels that use carbon capture technologies. My bill allows for that.

Addressing climate change isn't easy, and there is no one solution. We need to be open to all ideas, and all approaches that cut carbon emissions. Putting those ideas into action is what my legislation is about, and it's what I'll continue to push into the future.

Tina Smith represents Minnesota in the U.S. Senate. She was elected to the Senate last fall.



Where pizza meets the corn field

Surrounded by corn fields, the church grounds of tiny Berne become a haven for pizza lovers every Wednesday night throughout the summer.

Some say summer will never be the same without Berne Pizza.

If you're looking for a short getaway during the middle of the week, I would highly recommend heading over to Berne, which is located in northeastern Dodge County north of Mantorville. (It's a little tricky getting there this summer with Highway 57 ripped up right now, but just follow the detour signs.) For diehards of old Swissfest, the pizza nights may pale in comparison to the Swiss festival that was held there for years. But this is an enjoyable summer evening break for all ages in the middle of the week away from the hectic weekend schedules.

A few weeks ago, I ventured out to Berne Pizza and witnessed little kids from 1 year old to a 98-year-old woman enjoying the fun. I found a toddler rolling a ball around in front of the band performing (free entertainment, by the way), and the elderly lady mingling with several generations of family members.

Little Grandma Kaye, as her family refers to her, proves you're never too old to enjoy pizza, music and a little fellowship. Kaye Reid of Rochester is only 98 years old and was believed to be the oldest person at the summer tradition on the night I was there. As she clutched a box of wood-fired pizza, which is the specialty of the Berne festival, I asked her to let me in on her secret to enjoying life so long. "I move, I walk every day," she said.

Berne is always trying to come up with an extra twist to the night, which there are 12 of them throughout the summer months. On the night I was there, they held a pizza cook-off where three finalists cooked up their pizzas to have them judged by a panel of pizza experts. Tom Pathoulas of Mantorville won with his BBQ pulled pork pizza.

The idea for the pizza contest originated through a marketing class at Pine Island High School where the Berne Pizza's organizer, Angela Organ, teaches. She had 18 seniors take a semester long class focused



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

solely on coming up with marketing concepts to implement this summer at Berne.

"It takes a lot of work off me and gives them a lot of credit," Organ said of her student marketers. "This is an original way to get kids to write and market products," she added.

Organ said she is always looking for new ideas to try at Berne Pizza. "It's a fun challenge," she says. "That's what

makes people keep coming back."

And people seem to enjoy the mid-week break out at Berne.

"On a night like this, you can't beat it," Pathoulas said. "We're lucky to have this so close."

I can't agree more with Pathoulas. It's one of those best-kept secrets of living in southeastern Minnesota.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Holding a box of wood-fired pizza, Little Grandma Kaye proves you're never too old to enjoy pizza, music and a little fellowship. Kaye Reid of Rochester is only 98 years old and believed to be the oldest guest at Berne Pizza on June 26. And what is her secret to enjoying life so long? "I move, I walk every day," she says.

Maybe it's time you go in hot pursuit of some hot wood-fired pizza and relaxation to musical entertainment to boot.

LOCKED IN: and no way out at Vandal's FROM A1

She said she visually scanned the lot and noted no vehicles or bicycles anywhere.

Vandal Homberg took off for the parade route near the high school with candy in hand for their float.

Back the store, the woman was finishing her rounds of shopping when she discovered a sinking feeling—no one was in the store and she was locked in. And to make matters worse, she had left her cell phone at home.

During her captivity in the store, the woman even put her ice cream back in the freezer so it wouldn't melt.

After about 20 minutes in the store, the woman attracted the attention of somebody outside the store, who then called police. A short time later Blooming Prairie Police arrived and found a way to rescue the woman through the back of the store.

Much to her surprise, Vandal Homberg learned from the city's police chief at the parade that the police had rescued a shopper from their store. "I couldn't believe it," Vandal Homberg said. "This has never happened before."

Vandal Homberg was a bit relieved once she found out who it was. The woman frequently shops at the store. "Thank God it was a regular customer," she said. "She is very quiet, short and slow," she noted as to the reason it may have been easy to miss

her when they were locking up.

They were even more relieved upon learning that the woman did not plan to go to the parade.

Said Vandal Homberg: "She is really sweet. She is a perfect candidate to have locked in the store. What a blessing it was that lady."

Owner Brady Homberg tried to comfort the woman as much as possible. "I told her that it must have been scary for her," he said. Vandal's offered her free groceries for her brief lock-up inside the store. "It's the least we can do," he added.

The woman told Homberg that she learned a lesson from this ordeal. She's never going to leave home again without her cell phone.

Police told the lady they couldn't think of a better place to be locked in than a grocery store where there is food and refreshments. With a serious face, the woman responded: "But officer, I would never take anything from them."

Vandal Homberg joked about how she is never going to be responsible for closing the store again. And if she does, well, "We're going to announce five times we're closing," she said with a chuckle.

Police said it's one of those calls that they'll remember for quite some time.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Bloomington Prairie Lion Paul Dale and his friend Summit, a Leader dog, were greeters at the BP Lions Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast. Lion Paul was in charge of collecting money.

It's prime real estate on the parade route

There's lots of prime real estate in Bloomington Prairie, and Paul Dale says he believes he and wife Laura have some of the most prime real estate in town. Why is it such prime property?

Well, it's because it is on the Fourth of July parade route and near the start of the parade. "That's why we bought this property," Dale jokes. Their residence is located in the northwest part of the city.

"The kids never run out of candy on this corner lot," Dale says happily. His three grandsons, Alex, Wyatt and Colton, swept up a huge amount of the sweet stuff during last Thursday's parade.

Earlier in the day on the fourth, Paul Dale, a Bloomington Prairie Lion and proud of it and his Leader Dog Summit, walked a block to the east to join his fellow Lions in serving a pancake breakfast.

Lion Paul, who became blind many years ago because of a retina problem, was reporting for duty at the breakfast.

What was Lion Paul's job? Take a guess. You're right, he cashed the breakfast.

With Summit at his feet and myself to his right handing out plates and plastic ware, Lion Paul happily greeted guests and would ask how many were having breakfast.

When told the number having breakfast, he



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

would relay the cost and then accept the money. He usually took the word of his customer but he had a special phone app that tells him the monetary amounts of bills in his cash tray.

Lion Paul also used a "clicker" like baseball umpires use to total the amount of customers. The total for the day was 325.

Lion Paul is always a jokester and pulled one over on fellow Lion Frank Henefeld. "Where's your dog?" Lion Frank asked Lion Paul about halfway through the breakfast hours.

Acting concerned, Lion Paul said, "I thought you were watching her." He then confessed to Lion Frank that his daughter had taken Summit home.

After putting in his time at the breakfast, Lion Paul was picked up by his daughter and returned home.

A few hours later, Lion Paul seated himself next to son Josh and with Josh's help in narrating the units passing by, he enjoyed the parade at the best spot in town.

Pulling for the Fourth in BP

131 kids compete in Kiddie Tractor Pull

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"Come on Tucker, keep on peddling."

That's the enthusiastic banter Rich Scholbrock offered 4-year-old kiddie tractor pull participant Tucker Schneider during competition that featured 131 kids Wednesday night as part of the Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration in Bloomington Prairie.

Schneider was the first contestant in the age 4 category. Before he began his pull, he gave his mom Nicole a couple of huge hugs for luck.

The Bloomington Prairie pull was sponsored by MJC Farms and by the Bloomington Prairie Lions.

Scholbrock, who owns the tractor pull franchise, travels a circuit that includes Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri.

He was back in Bloomington Prairie last week for his eighth annual visit. As he was running the pull in Bloomington Prairie, Scholbrock had another truck in Austin and Dover for their community celebrations.

Scholbrock's small tractors apply more resistance as the pullers attempt to complete a 33-foot pull.

"I love dealing with kids, and I guess it's because I have a kid mentality," Scholbrock laughs. "The tractor pulls are great kids events," he believes.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Tucker Schneider gets a lucky hug from his mother Nicole just prior to competing in the Kiddie Tractor Pull during 4th of July celebration activities last week in Bloomington Prairie.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The first three place finishers in the Age 4 category of the Kiddie Tractor Pull in Bloomington Prairie last Wednesday were: Parker Ringhofer, first; Cruz Chladek, third and Isaac Jeremiah Zender, second.

"I love dealing with kids, and I guess it's because I have a kid mentality."

Rich Scholbrock
Tractor Pull Organizer

Assisting Scholbrock with the Bloomington Prairie pull were Gage Lawson of Thompson, Iowa and Autumn Clausen of Owatonna.

First, second and third place trophies were award-

ed in age categories 4-11. Twenty-four trophies in all were given to participants in the Bloomington Prairie competition.

The eight-year-old category had the most participants with 25.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Henry Sundine, Bloomington Prairie, steps into it during kiddie tractor pull competition during the Old Fashioned Bloomington Prairie 4th of July celebration.

Fourth of July Kiddie Tractor Pull Results

AGE 4: Parker Ringhofer, first; Isaac Jeremiah Zender, second and Cruz Chladek, third.

AGE 5: Sophie Elkins, first; Bennet Wencil, second and Charlie Hendrickson, third.

AGE 6: Jade Wyrom, first; Cash Kruckeberg, second and Jaxon Paulson, third.

AGE 7: Jaxon Cates, first; Westin Johnson, second and Bradley Arnold, third.

AGE 8: Jace Berndt, first; Elliot Schiller,, second and Alec Wyrnm, third.

AGE 9: Jaxon Meier, first; Landon Olivo, second and Anna Leigh White, third.

AGE 10: Gracelyn Anderson, first; Gabe Staloch, second and Isabella Schiller, third.

AGE 11: W. Deml, first; Allison Bruggeman, second and Carsten Ingvalson, third.

Sweet Rides finale features 62 cars

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Sweet Rides Car Show, always a popular feature of the Bloomington Prairie Fourth of July celebration, played its swan song on the Fourth last Thursday.

Show organizers Barb and Jerry Kaplan have made it no secret that the 2019 Sweet Rides was their last.

There are hints, however, that the show could continue but with other organizers. Charles Jarvi of Owatonna won the Best of Show this year and said he has already

tossed his name in the hat as a willing volunteer for future car shows during the Fourth.

Jarvi, his wife Tammy and two children, Madisyn and Carson, accepted the award for Jarvi's 1912 Model T Ford.

The Kaplans started the show 14 years ago in memory of their son Eric who was killed in a car crash near Bloomington Prairie.

Profits earned from the car shows have been channeled into scholarships for Bloomington Prairie High School graduates. Trent Swenson, a 2019 graduate, was given this year's

\$1,000 scholarship.

Sixty-two cars were entered in this year's Sweet Rides car show. "That's about average," said Barb Kaplan.

This year's car show, as have previous shows, drew many onlookers who expressed appreciation to those car enthusiasts sharing their love for old cars, trucks and motorcycles.

Abbie Booth, 10, sat proudly in a 1917 Model TT Ford truck that has been in the family for over 60 years, said Abbie's father Paul Booth, a son-in-law to Barb and Jerry Kaplan.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Best of Show honors were won by the Jarvi family of Owatonna for their 1912 Model T Ford. Pictured by the old car are Tammy Jarvi, Charles Jarvi, Madisyn Jarvi and Carson Jarvi. Shelby is the family dog.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Abbie Booth, 10, of New Prague, sits proudly in her father Paul's 1917 Model TT Ford truck. Paul says the truck has been in the family for over 60 years. Paul is a son-in-law to Barb and Jerry Kaplan, organizers of the Sweet Rides Car Show.

Sweet Rides Car Show Results

Cars 1949 & before

First: Jarvi Family – 1912 Ford T

Second: Dick Kruckeberg Family 1941 Buick Business Coupe

Cars 1950-1959

First: Richard Knutson – 1957 Chevy Belair

Second: Jay Sletten – 1954 Olds Super 88

Cars 1960 – 1965

First: Jason Stultz – 1965 Ford Mustang Coupe

Second: No Second place awarded as there was only one car in this class

Cars 1966 -1969

First: Dave & Rita Braaten – 1967 Chevy Chevelle

Second: Wayne Larson – 1969 Dodge Charger

Cars 1970 – 1979

First: Rod Brown - 1970 Oldsmobile 442 W-30

Second: Dale Johnson – 1977 Ford Pinto Cruising Wagon

Cars 1980 – Present

First: Jeremy Schlichter – 2009 Dodge ACR Viper

Second: Craig Sletten – 1983 Buick Regal

Motorcycles

First: Samuel Alm – 2010

victory Vegas LE

Second: Craig Kruckeberg – 1997 Harley Springer

Special Interest

First: Mitch Peterson – 1964 Starcraft Dart 14' Boat

Second: Rod Brown – 1971 Chevy Vega Wagon

Trucks

First: Brent Ingvalson – 1955 Ford F350

Second: Rod McGregor – 1979 Chevy Silverado

Best of Show

Jarvi Family – 1912 Ford T

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

CRIME BRIEF

Jail visitor ends up as jail inmate

Let this week's crime brief be a lesson to you: if you're going to visit someone in jail, perhaps you don't want to do it in a stolen vehicle and just maybe leave your drugs at home.

On June 18, law enforcement agencies in Steele County had been notified to be on the lookout for a stolen vehicle from Olmsted County. Later that day, staff at the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna reported a woman who was in the lobby had been seen getting out of the stolen vehicle and walking back to the vehicle.

Officers arrived in the area and saw two women getting into the vehicle, a 2009 Ford Fusion. Police stopped the vehicle and arrested Vanessa Rodrigues, 41, of Owatonna. She was found to be in possession of methamphetamine, according to police.

Rodriguez has been charged with motor vehicle theft and fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance.



Vanessa Rodrigues

Top cop rides high in BP parade



Steele County's top cop, Sheriff Lon Thiele, gives a friendly wave as he rides high on a horse during the Fourth of July parade Thursday afternoon in Blooming Prairie. Thiele rode in the parade with other members of the Steele County Sheriff's Posse. Thiele is serving his third term as county sheriff.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 24 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

John Evans, 51, St. Paul, previously appeared and was convicted of felony tampering with witness – prevent testimony. He was sentenced to \$131 and 48 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 24 - 30:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Alejandro Garcia Elizardi, 24, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Valerie K. King, 57, Adams, suspended license, \$281; Opoka J. Nathanael, 22, Austin, open bottle and seat belt, \$206; Brayden L. Nelson, 19, Austin, seat belt, \$106; Kristine A. Schroeder, 25, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Masten R. Bethel, 36, Reno, NV, speeding, \$121; Gregory R. Daniel, 52, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Melodie D. Gilmore, 52, Spirit Lake, IA, move over law violation, \$131; Chasity M. Hartley, 37, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Olufemi O. Isawumi, 47, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$141; Nicholas M. Jandro, 19, Apple Valley, speeding, \$141; Pradeep Kabali, 33, Woodbury, speeding, \$131; Kylie D. Kaplan, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Eldon L. Kath, 78, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Curtis E. Kempenich, 32, Faribault, speeding, \$221; Austin A. Lucas, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Naomi V. Ness, 49, Stillwater, speeding, \$121; Sambath Ouk, 38, Farmington, speeding, \$221; Roger W. Rand, 78, Agr, ND, speeding, \$121; Sujitha Ravi, 28, Woodbury,

seat belt, \$106; Cassandra A. Roushar, 39, Morristown, failure to yield, \$131; Cassandra J. Schrom, 20, Owatonna, speeding and no insurance, \$341; Joseph M. Smith, 21, West St. Paul, speeding, \$381; Emma K. Sullivan, 20, Emmons, suspended license, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Kimberly V. Vang, 19, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$121; Harry T. Wells, 36, Casselton, ND, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$121 and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Yusuf O. Ali, 24, stop sign, \$131; Armend Alimi, 33, Owatonna, improper change of course, \$131; Jose M. Arriga, 47, Owatonna, revoked license, no insurance and expired tabs, \$511; Tara J. Benson, 49, Blooming Prairie, stop sign, \$131; Jon W. Bucher, 29, Bloomington, expired tabs, \$111; Timothy L. Cahoon, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Bret M. Fisher, 26, Owatonna, expired registration, \$111; Landon J. Fumo, 17, Owatonna, operate motorcycle without protective, \$131; Jacob D. Goerd, 19, Owatonna, prohibited lights and windshield tint violation, \$171; Isaiah M. Grube, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Kyla D. Hovey, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Michael P. Howlett, 60, Chatfield, speeding and seat belt, \$166; Wyatt L. Jackson, 36, Owatonna, assault and DWI, \$81, 90 days in county jail; Treyten P. Kane, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jacob M. Kaplan, 23, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Erik O. Lloyd, 30, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Leyton S. Matejcek, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Caedon D. McCartney, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jacob N. McShane, 17, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Rose M. Michaud, 16, Blooming Prairie, failure to yield, \$131; Linda K. Noble, 70, Faribault, speeding,

\$131; Matthew T. Pates, 33, Owatonna, window tint violation, no insurance and revoked license, \$531; Cordarl R. Powell, 31, Owatonna, speeding and revoked license, \$331; Trevor M. Schroeder, 18, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Amin F. Sharif-Ali, 63, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Matthew L. Simon, 25, seat belt, \$106; Noriah M. Tabor, 23, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Luis G. Valladares Valadez, 27, Owatonna, revoked license, no insurance and texting while driving, \$531; Blaine S. Vela, 27, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Bham L. Weang, 24, Sauk Rapids, disorderly conduct and give peace officer false information, \$181 and 27 days in county jail; Nakia N. Williams, 26, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Donald T. Zilm, 55, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Scott D. Ahrens, 50, Eagle Lake, speeding, \$141; Rebecca R. Bain, 34, Owatonna, theft, stay of adjudication, \$450, diversion program and 1 year of supervised probation; Douglas M. Blouin, 59, Ellendale, suspended license, \$281; Jordyn R. Caudle, 29, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Nathan A. Frye, 33, Waseca, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Beatrice A. Gonzalez, 31, Milwaukee, WI, no insurance, \$281; Thomas M. Grubish, 55, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Brent D. Heller, 35, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey M. Howe, 43, Ellendale, assault, \$381, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, anger management assessment, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Seth A. Huseby, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Angela M. Karels, 31, Waseca, speeding and no insurance, \$341; David B. Prindle, 36, Byron Center, MI, speeding, \$121; Jennifer M. Schimek, 44, Stewartville, speeding, \$221; Kodie W. Swenson, 23, Faribault, DWI, \$406, 3 days in county jail,

substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Brian A. Utpadel, 29, Faribault, stop sign, \$131.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

July 1
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Main St. E. at 4:54 a.m.

Theft: At 5:50 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of 1st St. NE.

OWATONNA POLICE
June 28
Drugs: Drug activity was reported in the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 8:13 a.m. and the 200 block of Linden Ave. at 10:13 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 400 block of Broadway St. E. at 9:51 a.m.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:12 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 11:16 a.m.

Stolen Property: At 11:52 a.m., police arrested subjects for being in possession of stolen property in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 5:56 p.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at School St. W. and Oak Ave. S. at 11:54 p.m.

June 29
Fraud: Officer took a fraud report at the detention center at 9:38 a.m.

July 1
Theft: Police received a theft report from the 100 block of Pearl St. W. at 9:37 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of 18th St. NE at 6:17 p.m.

July 2
Loitering: Police arrested a subject for loitering in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 12:15 a.m.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of Dunnell Dr. NW at 5:08 p.m.

DWI: Police made a DWI arrest at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. at 10:17 p.m.

July 3
DWI: Officers arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 2200 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 2:08 a.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of Mill St. W. at 3:04 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct at 1:20 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 3:07 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW.

July 4
Welfare: Police arrested a subject during a welfare check in the 400 block of North St. W. at 12:26 a.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Havana Road SE and Grove Ave. S. at 12:12 p.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 5:39 p.m.

Trespassing: At 10:10 p.m., police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Burglary: Police responded to a burglary in the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE at 11:20 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

June 28
Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity at St. Paul Rd. and

36th St. NE in Clinton Falls Township at 11:14 p.m.

June 29
Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 5400 block of 58th St. SE in Aurora Township at 1:53 p.m.

Theft: At 8:39 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township.

June 30
Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Oakland Path in Medford at 2:35 p.m.

July 1
Domestic: At 9:43 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township. They arrested subjects at the scene.

July 2
Forgery: Deputies received a report of counterfeit money in the 13600 block of 42nd Ave. SW in Berlin Township at 9:52 a.m.

Robbery: Deputies responded to a robbery in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford at 9:16 p.m.

July 3
Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 200 block of Main St. N. in Medford at 11:26 a.m.

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 7400 block of Highway 14 E. in Havana Township at 11:33 p.m.

ARRESTS

Steele County

STEELE ARRESTS OWATONNA POLICE
Robert James Stockwell, 52, arrested at 3:49 p.m. June 28, drug possession, held for court.

SEE BLOTTER, A5

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Juan Gallegos – DWI – \$500 bail | 8. Jose Garcia – revoked license - \$3,000 bail | 14. Domach Gatluak – DWI – no bail |
| 2. Albino Gallegos-Garza – false name - \$6,000 bail | 9. Nohemi Garcia – theft - \$1,000 bail | 15. Corey Gilbertson – motor vehicle theft – no bail |
| 3. Anthony Galloway – DWI – no bail | 10. Salvador Garcia – burglary – no bail | 16. Conrad Ginter – DWI – no bail |
| 4. Reginaldo Galvan – DWI – \$12,000 bail | 11. Alfredo Garza Jr. – no insurance, cancelled license - \$9,500 bail | 17. James Gleason – hit and run - \$500 bail |
| 5. Raymond Garavito – DWI – \$1,000 bail | 12. Elizabeth Garza – theft - \$500 bail | 18. Claudia Gomez – criminal abuse - \$3,000 bail |
| 6. Arthur Garcia – theft - \$500 bail | 13. David Gatheright – possession - \$20,000 bail | 19. Mark Gomez – assault - \$10,000 bail |
| 7. Ezequiel Garcia – failure to register as sex offender – no bail | | 20. Miguel Gomez – theft - \$1,000 bail |

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

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago July 7, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

Darcy Skala was able to experience her first plane ride and first trip to Washington, D.C. recently. The Blooming Prairie senior was awarded a FFA leadership scholarship to attend the Washington Leadership Conference from June 16-21. The Minnesota delegation met with Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Steele County Pork Ambassador Ben Jensen of Owatonna and Minnesota State Pork Ambassador Jason Keck of Owatonna participated in a three-day leadership program for youth with agricultural interests.

Robert Haberman is the lucky winner of the local Do It Best \$1,000 Merchandise giveaway. Haberman is the sixth winner since 2006. For the drawing, he can purchase anything in the store or from the Do It Best warehouse he desires.

20 Years Ago July 6, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Amy Demmer, Steele County Dairy princess, was crowned the 1999 Region 10 Dairy Princess July 5 in Lake City. Demmer competed with 15 other girls, including Heidi and Holly Wencil, who also represented Steele County. Demmer will now compete for the Princess Kay of the Milky Way title, which will be announced on the eve prior to the start of the Minnesota State Fair in August.

Ellendale Days will be held July 15-18. Some of the big events include a street dance, style show, parade, old-time tractor display and flea market and craft show. The festivities will conclude on Sunday with the annual parade.

If you like hot, humid summers in Minnesota, then chances are you had a great time if you attended the Old Fashioned Fourth of July in Blooming Prairie. With the temperatures in the low 90s and dew points in the high 70s, there was lots of people refreshing themselves at food and rink booths. Albert Noble was the grand marshal of the parade.

50 Years Ago July 2, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJC, PUBLISHERS

Father Herman A. Boecker, former pastor of St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie, has announced he will retire from his pastorate in Trimont, Minn., on July 31. He visited in Blooming Prairie for a couple days recently with his cousin, Elisabeth Boecker of West Germany.

The program has been completed for Blooming Prairie's second annual Petunia Festival to be staged Saturday and Sunday, July 12-13. A carnival will set up in Blooming Prairie for the two-day celebration, with rides and shows for the entertainment for area residents. Other activities will include two parades, a band concert teenage dance, horse show, drum and

bugle corps concert and a square dance.

Miss. Mary J. Harty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Harty of Blooming Prairie, was awarded a bachelor of science degree from Winona State College this June.

75 Years Ago July 6, 1944

FRANK KREJC, PUBLISHER

Not within memory of the oldest residents of Steele County can they recall witnessing a hail, wind and rain storm that caused such devastating destruction as the one that struck Steele County Saturday evening. Starting with a torrential rain, hail from pea to hen egg size destroyed hundreds of acres of valuable, promising corn, oats, hemp and other fields. Window light glass breakage was also very heavy.

Kenneth Berg was re-elected manager of the Farmers Co-op elevator association at the directors' meeting held in Blooming Prairie Saturday night. Mr. Berg has made an outstanding success of the elevator business here during his four years of supervision.

Pfc. Ralph Horecka, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Horecka of Somerset Township, was killed in action in Italy on June 1. A telegram bearing the sad news was received by his parents Sunday morning July 2. Ralph, who at the age of 24, gave up his life for his country, was born in 1919 in Hancock County Iowa. He moved with his parents to Steele County in 1920 where he grew up to manhood on a farm.

TINY HOPE CHURCH: hits major milestone FROM A1

memorials became debt-free in 2017.

"We were really blessed," said Miller, who lives in Owatonna.

To make it all worthwhile, Miller related a story of how the church had just finished the project on the week of when a woman was able to come to a funeral only because the church was handicapped accessible.

She is the 14th pastor in the church's 100-year history. Miller is also the only female pastor that has served the congregation.

Miller found herself being called to the ministry later in life. She had worked in the business world in Owatonna for OTC, Power Team and Wenger Corp. for about 30 years before going to the seminary. "I'm proof that God can use anybody for ministry," she said.

Being in a small church is a "perfect fit" for Miller because of her business background. "I can do a lot of things pretty well, but I'm not an expert in any one area," she said. "I do it all, I have my hands in a lot of things. That's what a small church is all about."

While First Lutheran's membership may be small, Miller is proud of what the church accomplishes. "We have about 85% of our congregation serving in some way, shape or form," she said. "At big churches, people come in the back and leave without getting involved. Here, it's all hands-on deck. That's what I love about a small church."

MISSION FOCUS

Miller said many churches have lost their focus in recent years. "They are

focused more on the hot topics of society today," she said. "You can never let that replace the gospel of Jesus Christ. If we're not following Jesus, we're not Christians."

People worshipping at Hope are going to find a church that "stays true to the word of God," Miller said. She says God is going to bless obedience. "Being obedient has brought the most freedom and joy to my life," she said.

Asked if Hope will be able to continue its ministry for years to come, Miller replied: "I hope so by the grace of God. All we can do is be faithful and obedient today. That's what will keep this church going."

Miller credits her members for being faithful people. "They're not just being in church every Sunday, but they are faithful in God all the time," she said. "People

are eager to learn the word and apply their faith and live it out in their daily life."

First Lutheran offers a blended style of worship between traditional and contemporary. Most of the songs are contemporary. The church's mission is Growing in Christ, Sharing his Love, Reaching the World. From the time people walk in the church, they feel the spirit, Miller said.

The Hope congregation is a member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). There are about 1,000 congregations across the country.

"We are very missional. We want to be missional in our community and world," Miller said. "We have a lot of stuff going on. There is always something going on here," she said, adding for the most part, members love it that way.

How Seniors Can Spot Fake News



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

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Dear Savvy Senior,
I recently read that seniors are the number one purveyors of fake news on the Internet. Is this true, or is it fake news too? If it's true, how can seniors go about spotting fake news?

Faked Out Senior

Dear Faked Out,
Yes, it's true. According to a recent study published in the Journal Science Advances, people aged 65 and older are almost four times more likely to share fake news on social media than younger people.

Why do older users share fake news more often? There are two theories. The first is that seniors, who came to the Internet later, sometimes lack the digital literacy skills of their younger counterparts to identify false or misleading content. The second is that many older people experience cognitive decline as they age, making them more likely to fall for hoaxes.

What is Fake News?

Fake news is not new, but it is more prevalent than ever before because of the Internet and social networking, which enables it to spread like wildfire.

Fake news is false news stories, hoaxes or propaganda created to deliberately misinform or deceive readers. Usually, these stories are created to either influence people's views, push a political agenda or cause confusion and can often be a profitable business for online publishers.

Also note that some fake stories aren't completely false, but rather distortions of real events. These deceitful claims can take a legitimate news story and twist what it says, or even claim that something that happened long ago is related to current events.

How to Spot Fake News

Here are some tips from the International Federation of Library Associations, Harvard University and Facebook that can help you spot fake news stories.

Be skeptical of headlines: False news stories often have catchy headlines in all caps with exclamation points. If shocking claims in the headline sound unbelievable, they probably are.

Look closely at the Web link: A phony or look-alike link may be a warning sign of false news. Many false news sites mimic authentic news sources by making small changes to the link, for example "abc-news.com.co" (an illegitimate site) versus the actual "abcnews.com."

Investigate the source: Ensure that the story is written by a source that you trust with a reputation for accuracy. If the story comes from an unfamiliar organization, check their "About" section to learn more. You can also find a list of websites that post deceptive and fake content at FactCheck.org - type "misinformation directory" in their search feature to find it.

Watch for unusual formatting: Many false news sites have misspellings or awkward layouts. Read carefully if you see these signs.

Inspect the dates: False news stories may contain timelines that make no sense, or event dates that have been altered.

Check the evidence: Check the author's sources to confirm that they are accurate. Lack of evidence or reliance on unnamed experts may indicate a false news story.

Look at other reports: If no other news source is reporting the same story, it may indicate that the story is false. If the story is reported by multiple sources you trust, it's more likely to be true.

Is the story a joke? Sometimes false news stories can be hard to distinguish from humor or satire. Check whether the source is known for parody, and whether the story's details and tone suggest it may be just for fun.

Do some fact checking: There are many good websites, like PolitiFact.com, Snopes.com and FactCheck.org that can help you fact check a story to help you identify fact versus fiction. These sites have most likely already fact-checked the latest viral claim to pop up in your news feed.

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.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

Adam Hunter Pattishall, 19, arrested at 12:30 p.m. June 28, felony receiving stolen property and drug possession, held for court.

Gabriel Monroe Graham, 19, arrested at 12:05 a.m. June 29, domestic assault/assault, held for court.

Leighton Thomas Wradislavsky, 22, arrested at 1:15 p.m. June 30, domestic assault, child endangerment, theft and damage to property, held for court.

Gary Lee Luedtke, 55, arrested at 5:57 p.m. July 4, DWI, held for court.

Sarah Ann Jorgenson, 37, arrested at 12:19 p.m. July 4, DWI, held for court.

Jermaine Cortez Stewart, 45, arrested at 2:03 a.m. July 5, order for protection violation and no license, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Fidencio Antonio Ortiz, 30, arrested at 12:30 p.m. June 28, warrant arrest, \$50,000 bail.

Joshua Scott Almendinger, 38, arrested at 11:36 a.m. June 28, restraining order violation, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 23 - 30:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Angela K. Charlson, 62, Rapid City, SD, speeding, \$120; Brody J. Christensen, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Madeline J. Drentlaw, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$140; Adrian M. Elias, 19, Mantorville, speeding, \$220; Amy L. Hildreth, 40, Mineral Point, WI, parking violation, \$32; Luann J. Mittelstadt, 70, Spring Valley, speeding, \$140; Qaalid N. Munye, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$220; Luke B. Quimby, 23, Mantorville, registration violation, \$110.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Coy D. Borgstrom, 51, Kasson, texting while driving, \$130; Catharine A. Davis, 55, Houston, TX, speeding, \$140; Jamie M. Eggert, 31, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Alexandria M.

Jones-Orr, 31, Rochester, revoked license, failure to deliver title and no insurance, \$680; Cole J. Kruger, 23, Hayfield, speeding, \$130; Travis M. Lovelace, 44, Byron, using phone while driving CMV, \$280; Jordyn J. Prouty, 24, Kasson, cancelled license, \$280; Randal J. Renken, 65, Stewartville, speeding, \$220.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Beth K. Hodgman, 57, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Jacob L. Johnson, 31, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Ashley E. Marcks, 23, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; Trace D. Naatz, 18, Mantorville, speeding, \$280.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Avory J. Arndt, 28, Hayfield, suspended license, \$280.

CHARITY RACE: FROM A1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Holding plaques, Jerry Ingvalson, left, and Ron Nelson, along with their wives and other family members receive special recognition Saturday night for starting the Gopher 50 four decades ago.

money for Blooming Prairie. The race started with the Blooming Prairie Jaycees and then was picked

up by the BP Lions Club. "It was a total surprise," Ingvalson said of the honor. "We've had lots of help

with volunteer workers and sponsors," Ingvalson said. "They must have had a lot of time to fill," he joked about the award presentation. "It's a nice honor," he added.

Gopher 50 is a non-profit foundation with money channeled to the BP Lions and Blooming Prairie Fire Department. The race got its beginning in 1980 at the Chateau Speedway in Lansing and then moved to the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna until 2004. After a stint there, it moved in 2005 to Deer Creek.

Ingvalson has involved the Lions, BP Fire Department and many other groups and individuals from Blooming Prairie throughout the years.



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GRANDSTAND SCHEDULE

Advance Grandstand Tickets sold Daily in the Entertainment Center 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
There will be 2 bicycles given away each night of the Fair!

WED 17 Rice Bull Riding Challenge - 7p.m. Mutton Busting - Intermission Fireworks - After Bull Riding	THUS 18 Thunderbird Open Stock Car Races - 7p.m. FRI 19 Tri-State Truck & Tractor Pull - 7p.m.	SAT 20 Free Antique Tractor Pull - 10 a.m. Kiddie Power Wheels Demo Derby - 6p.m. DC Championship Demolition Derby - 6:30p.m.	SUN 21 Dodge Mayhem Trailer Races - 3p.m.
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If you see a Blooming Prairie fireman responding to a fire call by piloting a motorized board, it is none other than Isreal Wacek. He can get the board up to 24 miles an hour.

Celebrating the Fourth in BP

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER AND HOWARD LESTRUD



Mike's Repair of Owatonna utilized some spray guns with its parade float to cool off people along the parade route.



The parade featured some old tractors like this Model B and 2-12 plow. The tractor was purchased new on Oct. 7, 1937 by Oscar Severson from Wall Hardware in Hayfield. Lyle Severson of Kasson restored it in 1992-93.



It wasn't only the action in the parade that caught the photographer's attention. Mary Delzer was having a little fun spraying her friend Gary Jirele with a water bottle to cool him off.



Every parade seems to bring a little clowning around for everyone to share in the excitement. This year's BP parade was no different.



Judy and Kenny Esplan enjoyed the Fourth serving as grand marshals of the parade. Both are highly involved in community activities.



One of the Steele County Dairy Dutchesses wore some temporary tattoos under her eyes for the parade. While one of the tattoos reads, "Undeniably dairy," it could also read undeniably cute.

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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STEELE COUNTY BIRTHS
SEPTEMBER 2018

Haden James Kos, Parents: Eccense Johnston and Tyler Kos, Sept. 1. Abdirazak Abdullahi Habib, Parents: Fartun Abdulkadir and Abdullahi Abdulle, Sept. 4. Brantley David Schultz, Parents: Christine and Matthew, Sept. 4. Judah David Hart, Parent: Hannah Bruder, Sept. 5. Briella Lee McGowan, Parents: Katelyn and Nolan, Sept. 6. Levi Scott Thorson, Parents: Ashley and Ryan, Sept. 6. Isabella Maelynn Umland, Parents: Jordan Paulson and Zachary Umland, Sept. 6. Ellis Fair Masopust, Parents: Felicia and Sean, Sept. 8. Logan Paul Grimes, Parent: Paige Simon, Sept. 14. Theodore J. Schmitz, Parent: Courtney, Sept. 14. Gemma Amata Tupy, Parents: Carolina and Joseph, Sept. 15. Huxton Steven Hagen, Parents: Brittany and Dustin, Sept. 17. Brayden William Bolster, Parents: Krista and Jeffery, Sept. 18. Lucy Louise Hoebing, Parents: Laura and Benjamin, Sept. 18. Adeline Grace Kasper, Parents: Baylee Nelson and Derrick Kasper, Sept. 18. Colton Donald Olson, Parents: Alysia and Aaron, Sept. 18. Willow Jo Stahl, Parents: Krista and Dylan, Sept. 19. Journee Chase Spooner, Parents: Jessica and Jason, Sept. 20. Aurora Sue Vanryswyk, Parents: Amber and Grant, Sept. 20.

Maizy Della Hole, Parents: Holly and Robert, Sept. 21. Paislee Jane Kottke, Parents: Madeline and Caleb, Sept. 22. Thea Jean Hohenstein, Parents: Mia and Dylan, Sept. 23. Lilah Marie Round, Parents: Amber and Joseph, Sept. 24. Addyson Rose Harriger, Parents: Brooke Clark and Alfredo Paredes, Sept. 30.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS
SEPTEMBER 2018

Gladys Bedney, 95, Owatonna, Sept. 1. Robert Olson, 85, Steele County, Sept. 1. Richard Smith, 81, Owatonna, Sept. 2. Lance Williams, 46, Owatonna, Sept. 2. John Gaalswyk, 92, Owatonna, Sept. 3. Carol Brooks, 76, Owatonna, Sept. 6. Gordon Smith, 90, Faribault, Sept. 6. Jeannette Homuth, 91, Owatonna, Sept. 7. Frank Williamson, 94, Blooming Prairie, Sept. 7. Beth Westerhouse, 64, Faribault, Sept. 14. Benjamin Johnson, 37, Owatonna, Sept. 15. Jerald Monson, 83, Owatonna, Sept. 18. Luverne Schlobohm, 91, Owatonna, Sept. 19. Dennis Weichert, 73, Owatonna, Sept. 21. Milton Ebeling, 88, Owatonna, Sept. 22. Kory Krause, 32, Medford, Sept. 23. Erwin Franke, 98, Owatonna, Sept. 24. Dorothy Bjerk, 85, Owatonna, Sept. 25. Rayma Hargefeld, 95, Owatonna, Sept. 26. Mark Jorissen, 60, Ellendale, Sept. 29. Genevieve Mahan, 92, St. Louis Park, Sept. 29.

STEELE COUNTY MARRIAGES
SEPTEMBER 2018

Desiree Belle Hoffman and Matthew Steven Young, Sept. 1. Alyssa May Hudson and Bradly Allen Wear, Sept. 1. Alexandra Marie Plank and Skyler Tate Johnson, Sept. 1. Robert Alan Tiedemann and Jamie Lynn Tech, Sept. 1. Jacob Robert Pratt and Nicole Ann Nelson, Sept. 1. Chase Francis Blum and Chaya Marie Spitzack, Sept. 7. Aaron William Ray Betters and Amanda Lee Hinshaw, Sept. 8. Tyler Trent Brase and Abbey Terese Dillemath, Sept. 8. Ryan David Steiskal and Simone Desirae Breyer, Sept. 8. Luis Gerardo Valladares Valadez and Noemi Nicole Lenz, Sept. 8. Kylie Ray Kath and Katie Renee Elward, Sept. 8. Matthew John Savoie and Jessica Lee Bartyzal, Sept. 8. Jessica Marie Lorr and Andrew Alan Wenzel, Sept. 8. Eric John Sutter and Tina Marie Garza, Sept. 10. Tyler Mielke and Katherine Mary Tolman, Sept. 14. Adam John O'Byrne and Lorraine Amanda Bray, Sept. 15. Justin John Vandevooort and Samantha Jo Hullett, Sept. 15. Jacob Daniel Stricklin and Jacqueline Rose Layland, Sept. 15. Joseph Edward Groat and Rachel Marie Lyke, Sept. 15. Cory John Harmening and Melissa Ann Schumann, Sept. 15.

Mark Kijoo McCarthy and Mai Yia Vue, Sept. 15. Christopher Joseph Bauer and Siri Charlotta Erickson, Sept. 15. Gordon Robert Law and Cassandra Marie Stowers, Sept. 15. Dustin Lee Deml and Jessica Jane Masching, Sept. 15. John Charles Rowe and Debora Ann Birth, Sept. 16. Angela Nicole Seligman and Randy Duane Krogsstad, Sept. 17. Katie Lynn Peterson and Ranulfo Guerrero, Sept. 20. Casey Wayne Johnson and Alexandra Lisa White, Sept. 22. Gregory Albert Kubat and Mary Jean Grimes, Sept. 22. William Scott Larson and Molly Jo Techau, Sept. 22. Danielle Jordan Summer and Daniel Brian Licht, Sept. 22. Scott Duane Kubat and Frances Mary Fumo, Sept. 29. Caleb Dwight Whalen and Emelia Susan White, Sept. 29. Joseph Robert Ethen and Taylor Alyssa Petrich, Sept. 29. Robert Paul McMullen and Breanna Marie Haag, Sept. 29. Anthony John Schmit and Amanda Lynn Kirk, Sept. 29. Derek Daniel Halla and Kelsey Ann Wobschall, Sept. 29. Cale Robert Vaith and Laura Katherine Wagner, Sept. 29. Jordan Paul Riess Lofgren and Laurie Catherine Schwartz, Sept. 29. Jon Michael Peterson and Randi Larae Long, Sept. 30.

STEELE COUNTY DIVORCES
SEPTEMBER 2018

Cassandra Ann Lancaster and Cliff Richard Lancaster. Jennifer Irene Grayson and Michael Benjamin Grayson. Nasteho Ali Idle and Mohamed Abdulkadir Mahad. Nathan Donald Hager and Shannon Sharon Hager. Matthew Phillip Durand and Jessica Sara Durand. Leonard Edward Mims and Tracy Lynn Mims. Mark W. Draeger and Cynthia A. Draeger. Jessica Lynn Keckhafer and Calvin Ernest Floyd Keckhafer.

BOOK NOOK

Library connects to useful databases



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

One of the best benefits for the Blooming Prairie Branch Library is that as a branch of the Owatonna Public Library we are able to connect to many useful databases. By signing in with your Blooming Prairie library card, you can explore 16 unique databases provided by the Owatonna Public Library Foundation. These are in addition to the 62 other databases funded by the state of Minnesota. To find all these databases, go online to www.owatonna.info, click on Databases and Downloads, and look at what is offered in either alphabetical order or by subject. The newest database now offered by OPL is Global Road Warrior, the world's most extensive country-by-country resource for learning about culture, customs, history, and language worldwide. The database contains 175 Country Guides; each country is defined with 119 topics. You can find out about businesses, climate, recipes, points of interest, security, and more. In just a few minutes checking out my ancestral country of Luxembourg, I was impressed with the variety and depth of information shown. Besides being used for general information on foreign countries, Global Road Warrior has practical applications too. Consider the information that could assist study abroad students, international business workers, students and teachers, and even casual tourists. Prepare for those once in a lifetime trips by knowing what to expect ahead of time! If you need help with any of the databases available with your library card, come and see us at the library.

INPUT SOUGHT: on Hwy. 218 in BP FROM A1

"We want a daily user's perspective of the road."

Pat McGraw
Hwy. 218 Project Manager

Addressed comment cards are also available at the Blooming Prairie City Hall and can be tri-folded and mailed to the project manager. The comment period will close July 26. "We need your input," McGraw says. "Your feedback is important." A public open house about the project will be held within the next few months, though no date has yet been set. Public notices will be published in the Times when the date is determined. The contract for the project will be awarded in November 2022 with construction planned to begin in the spring of 2023. No specifics have been determined at this time for construction, but McGraw said the current assumption is that the roadway will be completely shut down for the duration of the project. Generally the attitude for projects like this, McGraw said, is to "shut it down and get it done without exposing workers to safety hazards" of the road being partially open. No estimate for cost of the project has been determined at this time.

On behalf of the BP American Legion Post 52

We would like of thank all of our supporters who purchased tickets and donated their time to sell tickets and support our organization.

Our Raffle Winners were:

\$1000	Matt Holm	Brainerd
\$500	Laura Dale	BP
\$250	Joe Wacek	BP
\$200	Kyle Strunk	BP
\$150	Keith Kruger	BP

BIG LITTLE RECIPES

ALMOND BARS

Crust:
1 C butter
Mix together and pat into greased 9 x 13 pan. Bake 20 minutes at 350°.
2 C flour
1/2 C powdered sugar

Filling:
8-oz cream cheese
Mix together and pour over hot crust. Bake 15 to 20 minutes. Cool and frost.
2 eggs
1/2 C sugar
1 tsp almond flavoring

Frosting:
1-1/2 C powdered sugar
1/4 C butter
1-1/2 T milk
1 tsp almond flavoring

Can use 2 C powdered sugar if you like thicker frosting. Toast slivered almonds and put on top of frosting.

Cheri Krejci, Blooming Prairie

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

JULY 9:
LIZ HEIBER and RENEE WORKE

JULY 10:
SKYLER COUGHLIN, DORLENE BAKKE, MARVIN STARK and MAX BROTEN ANDERSON

JULY 11:
ELLE MASTER, MARK ROMEO, CHARLIE ROMEO and SOPHIA ESPLAN

JULY 12:
TOM BUTLER, AMANDA HOCKING, BENTLY RAMSEY, KENT LEA and CHAD GIMBEL

JULY 13:
SANDY DALLMAN, ALLAN RAMSEY and PEGGY STENSVOLD

JULY 14:
KENDYL SUNDE, PAT NJOS, MARILYN WAGNER, KYLER CHRISTIANSON, BRADLEY SIMON, ZACHARY KOSTER and JEFFREY BRUNS

JULY 15:
BILL NOBLE

JULY 16:
JUDY SCHAFER, JUSTIN MUNSON, JANIS LUETH, JEFF GLYNN, AMBER KONZ, BRUCE CHRISTIANSON and AVRY HOFFMAN

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY 9:
JAKE & CALISTA LEMBKE and JEFF & SUZY KRAMER

JULY 10:
DAVID & PAM FARR, TIM & LORI PIRKL and GARY & VIVIAN POLINDER

JULY 11:
BRIAN & KRISTIN RUTT, KENT & KIM LEA, GINA & CORY HENDRICKSON and GLORIA & GREG SNIDER

JULY 12:
JEREMY & AMY DOERHOEFER

JULY 13:
TIM & SANDY BASS

JULY 14:
JOHN & LISA BRUNS

JULY 15:
CHAD & TARA GIMBEL

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Build each other up

“For this reason I am reminding you to fan into flame the gift of God.” 2 Timothy 1:6

As we fan a campfire to grow, so ought we fan support and God’s grace to each other with our kind and uplifting words. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me? Not true!

“Perhaps once in a hundred years a person may be ruined by excessive praise, but surely once every minute someone dies inside for lack of it” (Cecil G. Osborne)

Joan Benoit, the 1984 gold medalist in the first women’s Olympic marathon, writes in her book, **Running Tide:**

“The neighborhood beach association hired a lifeguard for the summer. He was also a Red Cross certified instructor in water safety; every summer he gave out certificates to kids who passed the Red Cross swimming tests.

“While I did not sink like a piece of lead in saltwater, I was no great swimmer either. Every summer I was determined to show that lifeguard I could pass his tests, and every summer I failed. Every year the lifeguard watched me try once, then as much as said I should forget it. I think he believed I was hopeless. But I refused to be discouraged... His attitude made me so mad I vowed I would never give up. I kept working at it for the next three summers... Finally, when I was thirteen, I earned my Junior Lifesaving and Water Safety card.

“My feelings were hurt, not so much by the lifeguard as by my own limitations. I looked up to him because he was one of the best athletes my town had produced; I wanted to impress him and never did. He had no idea I was knocking myself out for a few kinds words.”

Let us all truly think about the words of Ephesians 4:29, and commit to being purposeful with our words.

“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.”

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN	RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA	TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS	ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	
AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.	30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin Pastor Lindsay Brennan 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000 www.roglutheran.org Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.	108 Third Ave. SW., Medford Pastor Mark Biebighauser 507-451-0447 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study	114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie Father Thomas Niehaus 507-583-2784 www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday	BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY 130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday	(Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow) Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.	ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS 4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont Pastor Alan Broadwell 507-528-2404 Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 57043 300th St., Waltham Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father James Starasinick Deacon Patrick Fagan 507-451-4845 Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday) Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Key fob required after hours or weekends	CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Slipper 507-684-2451 Saturday: 8 a.m. Men’s Bible Study Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS 28959 630th Ave., Sergeant Pastor Collin Duling 507-251-5568 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m.	ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith Worship: 8:00 a.m.		DESTINY CHRISTIAN 2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht www.destinycc.org Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN P.O. Box 66, Claremont 507-528-2320 Pastor Douglas Walters 10 a.m. Worship
FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walerius 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship Service- 9 a.m. Sunday School- 10 a.m.	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN-ELCA 1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond 507-451-7293 stjohnowatonna.org Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday	CATHOLIC CHRIST THE KING 205 Second Ave. NW, Medford 507-451-6353 Father James Starasinich Deacon Patrick Fagan Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat. Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.	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.	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	SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Brian Beavers 507-340-7143 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat. Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.
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.	ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.	CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland Father Raul Silva Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar 507-465-8217 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday		NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-413-0209 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S., Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
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.	ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – LCMS 202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.	HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL 9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna Father John Sauer, Pastor 507-451-1588 www.litomysl.webs.com Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.c with Children’s Church Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. - 1st & 3rd Sundays Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.: Faith Formation for K thru Confirmation Second Sunday of month: Family Faith Formation Litomysl Finance Council: 2nd Thursday Litomysl Pastoral Council: 2nd Thursday every other month	PENTECOSTAL FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL 230 Locust Ave., Owatonna Pastor Eliazar Talamantes 507-363-2240 Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday	SIMPLE CHURCH 4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna (Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela’s) Pastor Todd Lundgren 507-451-5661 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday	ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 702 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Stitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale 507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna 507-451-4520 tlcowatonna.org Pastors: Todd Buegler & Amanda Weinkauff Deacon: Kris Oppegard Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC 150 NE Second St., Hayfield Father Thomas Niehaus 507-477-2256 Mass: 8 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Thursday Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.	METHODIST BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST 43089 180th St., Medford (Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23) Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan 507-835-8726 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.	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.	BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST 104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie Pastor Matt Fennell 507-583-2673 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Sunday School: 9 a.m. Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.
REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS 1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna Pastor Kirk Griebel 507-451-2720 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.	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.	SACRED HEART PARISH 810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar 507-451-1588 www.sacredheartowatonna.org Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun. Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun. Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m. Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat. Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.	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.	PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATED CHURCH Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507-451-1546 www.associatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.	ASSEMBLY OF GOD VICTORY LIFE 105 2nd St NE Geneva Pastor Diane Butler 507-402-0960 Worship on Sundays Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m. Church Service: 9:30 a.m. Children’s Church: 9:45 a.m.



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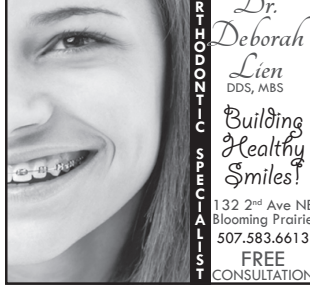
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More action from the BP Fourth

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD



Would you believe that cheeky Letty Andersen just ate some of her candy she collected at the 4th of July parade in Blooming Prairie last Thursday? Her puffy cheeks give it away. Her sister Lucy helped her pick up candy.



Kendra Long is the taste tester for her grandma and grandpa Goette. The Goettes have sold pork chops at the Blooming Prairie 4th of July festival for many years.



A highlight of the Blooming Prairie Old Fashioned 4th of July celebration was a colorful fireworks program on Thursday night. The 4th celebration was rain-free and attracted thousands of people to this small community.



The First Lutheran Worshiip Team, featuring Tom Peterson and Tom Blome, performed for two solid hours in the Blooming Prairie Central Park on Wednesday night.



Yes, they were truly amazing. The Amazing Hoopsters of Hutchinson were a brother-sister hula hoop team that performed at the Blooming Prairie 4th of July celebration on Wednesday, July 3. Here, Tyler Osmonson tackles three hoops. His sisters Rachael, Kristina and Courtney also were on the show.

Blooming Prairie
Chamber of Commerce

25th Annual Chamber
Golf Fun Day!

Tailgate theme so we will be grilling out!

Wednesday, July 17
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City, county changing traffic signals on Oak Avenue in Owatonna

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Two traffic signals on Oak Avenue at the intersections of Vine Street and McKinley Street are in the process of being removed in anticipation for an upcoming construction project.

On June 24, crews installed signs which notified drivers of the impending change. Starting on July 15, the current signals will be placed in an all-way red flash mode, during

this period drivers will be required to come to a complete stop and follow traffic rules for a conventional, all-way intersection.

The intersection control will be changed to a two-way stop with stop signs going up on Vine and McKinley on July 17. The current signals will be bagged and covered, and traffic through Oak will be permitted to proceed uncontrolled.

“It was a joint project with the Steele County Engineer,” said Kyle Skov,



A temporary sign location at the intersection of Oak Avenue and Vine Street in Owatonna informing drivers that the signal will be deactivated on July 17. Two-way stop signs will be installed on both Vine and McKinley at the intersections with Oak on July 17.

Owatonna city engineer. “He and myself felt that those two intersections had probably changed use due to the fact that the hospital had been relocated and Roosevelt School had been repurposed,” he added.

The decision comes at the onset of a construction project aimed at Oak Avenue and carries an economic benefit as well, seeing as the current signals are over 20 years old and could soon need repair. “We felt it was appropriate to at least evaluate them and see

if those signals were still necessary,” Skov said.

“If we were going to spend money on updating those signals, MnDOT would have made us do the analysis regardless,” Skov explained. While studies like the signal justification report are frequently correct, the city and county aim to make sure the change is worth it before fully removing the current signals. “We’re following the best prac-

SEE TRAFFIC SIGNALS, B3



Brick Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna turned into a venue for a music concert on the Fourth of July. The Street Talk Band of Faribault performed a free concert for anyone who wanted to come out prior to the city’s fireworks display, which is set off from the Steele County Fairgrounds. Brick Meger has been hosting a Fourth party since 2009.

PARTY AT THE FUNERAL HOME

Brick Meger gives back to the community on the Fourth

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It probably falls into the category of being one of the least assuming places for a bash, but the Brick Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna has found a unique way to throw a party.

On the Fourth of July, Brick Meger opened up its facilities across from the Steele County Fairgrounds for a free concert in preparation for the city’s annual fireworks display. Hundreds of people turned out to enjoy a beautiful evening of music, food and fellowship.

Brick Meger began hosting the party in 2009 after a major remodeling project of the funeral home took place. Owner Glen Meger credits his wife, Cheryl, for coming up with the idea to have a party. “She made

SEE FUNERAL HOME, B3



Tim Rice of the Brick Meger Funeral Home, standing, converses with Jean and Harold McGregor of Owatonna during the Fourth of July celebration at the funeral home Thursday evening. Several hundred people turned out for a free concert as well as watermelon.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Musical theater by special request at Little Theatre

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) is bringing an extra musical production to its stage in late July, at the request of Sharon Stark, former executive secretary.

The Last Five Years was a production that Stark saw Mara Ostermeier-Schack perform in Wisconsin. Stark had hoped to see Ostermeier-Schack return to the LTO stage for this production. LTO’s board is pleased to make that wish a reality as she along with Dr. Tim Van Gelder will bring this two-person musical production to life.

“It is truly a gift for me to be back on the LTO stage and performing this musical in honor of my dear friend and mentor Sharon Stark,” said Ostermeier-Schack. Vidette Ostermeier will direct this two person musical production. She had this to say, “While it has been a bit challenging with both actors rehearsing on their own a state apart, I am really looking forward to the magic that will happen when they come together for rehearsals later this month.” This modern musical ingeniously chronicles the five-year life of a marriage, from meeting to break-up and from break-up to meeting.

Written and composed by Jason Robert Brown, it was originally produced for the New York stage by Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell. It was also originally produced by Northlight Theatre - Chicago. The Last Five Years is Presented with special arrangements through Music Theatre International (MTI).

Performance dates for this production are one weekend only July 25-27 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 28 at 2 p.m. This production is outside of LTO’s regular season, the admission price is as follows: adults are \$17 and students are \$14 each. Tickets can be purchased at LTO’s website www.

LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org or at the box office the week of the show.

For this two-person musical, Mara Ostermeier Schack is playing the part of Catherine Hiatt and Dr. Timothy VanGelder is playing the part of Jamie Wellerstein. Both people are veterans of the LTO stage and are excited to bring this story to life. Both have an affection for Sharon Stark and have a passion for live theatre, they want to see live theatre continue for many generations. This program will help to kick off the Sharon Stark Forever Fund. Attendees will learn more about the Sharon Stark Forever Fund and how to make an impact on LTO for years to come.

The Sharon Stark Forever Fund ensures LTO’s ability to provide high quality LIVE theatre productions in the Owatonna Community. An endowment will provide the consistent long-term funding that LTO needs to continue to produce quality shows while maintaining affordable ticket prices.

The fund is named after Stark, a founding member of LTO who attended or participated in every production for 52 years. Stark provided a generous donation to the theatre, which established the Forever Fund.

The Sharon Stark Forever Fund will be professionally managed with the help of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to conserve and grow the principal. Income from the endowment will be available to support the theatre with its operational and educational expenses

On Thursday evening, there will be a special event called the Sharon Stark Forever Fund Lawn Party. This Lawn Party will give everyone a chance

SEE MUSICAL THEATER, B2

Local republicans to host forum on prosperity

The Steele County Republican party is sponsoring a free event in hopes of bringing Americans to prosperity.

The event will take place Monday, July 15 at 7 p.m. at the Owatonna VFW Club. The guest speaker will be John Hinderaker from Minnesota’s Center of American Experiment.

During his “The Road to Prosperity” presentation, Hinderaker will focus on common sense ideas to transform Minnesota’s economy, opportunities for bold action and realizing Minnesota’s full potential.

Hinderaker is currently president of the Center of the American Experiment in Minneapolis. Prior to leading the center, he spent 41 years as a litigator with Faegre & Benson and



John Hinderaker

its successor, Faegre Baker Daniels. During his career, Hinderaker tried 100 jury cases and appeared in courts in 19 states.

He has appeared as a commentator on NBC, CBS, Fox News, CNN and CNBC and is a frequent guest and guest host on national radio programs. Hinderaker has lectured at Dartmouth College, Harvard Law School, Carleton College, St. Olaf

College, Macalester College and the University of Minnesota.

Pam Seaser, co-chair for the Steele County Republicans, says, “John is a very knowledgeable speaker and can help us unpack the complexity of Minnesota’s budget issues and how they affect each of us who pay taxes in this great state. John will not only give us factual truths of our state’s current economy, but he takes it to the next step and gives us commonsense ideas to make this state an even better state to live and retire in.”

The local republican group urges citizens to join in for this discussion and time for questions and answers from the audience.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Reflections on parenting

The job of raising a child is not an easy one. Throughout the years, there have been many schools of thought on this. Seeing your child as a “blank slate” who can be molded into the person you want them to be was popular back in the day. Guidance through discipline was the way. Simply providing the right combination of punishment and rewards was the key to raising a healthy child.

Emphasizing punishment and rewards has been hotly debated over the years. More recently the prominent thinking has been that each person is inherently good. Love, attention, and acceptance were all that were required for a person to become healthy and responsible. Each approach, or combination thereof, has its merits.

It is important to recognize the complexity of how one develops, and it is important to realize that



Steele Talkin’
DAVE MOLL

every child is different. And let’s face it, there are some kids who are more difficult, simply by nature. There are the temperamental or emotionally reactive children who even the most well-meaning and loving parents struggle to raise. Just as there are children who are born with personalities that are cooperative and prosocial.

There are environmental forces at play in child development as well. These include school, social interactions and religious influences, to name a few. It is not all about the par-

enting, just as it is not all about the child. There are children who thrive in the most difficult of upbringings just as there are those who struggle despite the best of circumstances.

Truth be told, though, given the appreciation of the complexity of human development, we can make a difference in the lives of kids. Whether it be as simple as getting support, or reaching out for professional help, it can make all the difference in the world.

As a parent and a professional, I remind myself that we cannot take the all the credit or all the blame for how things are going with our kids.

Dave Moll is a licensed psychologist, who holds a master’s of science degree and is a therapist with the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin’ is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations around Steele County.

Healthcare scholarships awarded to 15 students

The Olson-Anderson Foundation has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 15 students around the state, most of which are from Steele County.

Recipients of the 2019 Olson-Anderson Owatonna Clinic Scholarship program are Caitlin Anderson, Owatonna, Winona State, nursing; Elena Bueltel, Owatonna, University of Minnesota, nursing; Timon Higgins, Owatonna, University of Iowa, medicine; David Kraus, Owatonna, University of Minnesota, medicine; Sydney Mullenbach, Owatonna, South Central College, health sciences;

Anna Rahrick, Owatonna, University of Minnesota, medicine; Emily Rahrick, Owatonna, University of Minnesota-Duluth, biology; Tessa Rahrick, Owatonna, College of St. Benedict, biology; Britt Schultz, Blooming Prairie, Augsburg University, DNP/FNP; Ahnna Stelter, Owatonna, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, biomedical sciences; Benjamin Stelter, Owatonna, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, biochemistry.

There were four other students from Duluth, Waseca, Minneapolis and

Rochester awarded scholarships.

The Olson-Anderson Foundation was established in 1997 with funds contributed by Owatonna Clinic physicians. It is named after Owatonna Clinic founders, Dr. A.J. Olson and Dr. Frank Anderson. They were both family physicians who cared for patients in Owatonna for nearly 40 years. The scholarship honors their commitment to the community, medicine and education.

The scholarship program began in 2011.

Scholarships are awarded each year to outstanding students who intend to enroll in an undergraduate or graduate medical-related education program at an accredited college, university or vocational-technical school. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic record, demonstrated leadership, participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, statement of goals and aspirations, unusual personal or family circumstances and an outside appraisal.

The foundation says it's important to invest in the future of healthcare professionals.

Power of the Purse hits new record

United Way of Steele County's Women United held the sixth annual "Power of the Purse" event, which supports the cost of shipping books to children in Steele County enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Thanks to the generosity of over 160 attendees, \$38,600 was raised, exceeding the goal and setting a new record supporting this beloved local program, which encourages children's literacy and enthusiasm for reading. More than 1,200 local children are mailed a book every month from their time of registration until their fifth birthday.

The theme this year was "If You Give a Child a Book" a play on the popular children's book series that began with "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie." Several of the series books were incorporated into cute and colorful centerpieces created by Hilary Pick and Beth Wall that were later included as part of the auction. With only 160 tickets available and a strong demand, the event sold out quickly this year.

Funds were raised through a purse themed Silent Auction, Live Auction, Ticket Sales, a Wall of Wine, a Purse Tree and Direct Sponsorships. All of the items for the



More than 160 attendees gave \$38,600 during the sixth annual Power of the Purse event in Owatonna.

auctions and wine were generously donated either by Women United members, local businesses or private donations. Debbie Ensley Chaired the event, other members of the event committee included: Karen Duncan, Donna Ennis, Nancy Keller, Jean Larson, Karen Legault, Betsy Lindgren, Kerri Lynch, Elizabeth Malo, Jess McCoy, Cynthia Paley, Tanya Paley, Rachel Peterson, Hilary Pick, Kim Ramsey, Julie Rethemeier, Kim Schaufenbuel, Beth Wall and Christina Wetmore. Rethemeier and

Schaufenbuel tag teamed as auctioneers, bringing a lot of energy, humor and excitement to the items. The lively ladies bidding on items this year were also quite entertaining.

Before the commencement of the auction, a heartwarming video of children joyfully running to their mailboxes to receive their book was shared by parent and creator Rachel Peterson.

Lori Holm a special education teacher at Washington Elementary spoke about the importance of reading to children and how it affects their development and future success.

Dolly Parton's foundation pays for the over 14,449 books shipped to children enrolled here in Steele County. The required shipping cost to meet our local program demand and Power of the Purse goal was \$30,000. "We are incredibly grateful to have met the goal and will be able to successfully implement the program to meet

all of the locally enrolled children's reading needs," said Schaufenbuel, who is the president of United Way of Steele County. "The Women United membership are proud to provide this vital program to our local children."

The program is open to any child in Steele County. The cost to the community is \$25 per child per year to send age appropriate books to Steele County children from the time they're born until they graduate the program at age 5. Women United is dedicated to advancing the Health and Welfare of all the children in our community.

Mark your calendars now for the next purse event on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

The mission of the United Way of Steele County is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. For more information about this event or other United Way activity call 507-455-1180, or go to www.united-waysteelecounty.org.

Traffic changes taking place in Owatonna

Traffic patterns around the intersection of County Highway 1 and County Highway 34 (Cedar Avenue and 26th Street) changed early morning Monday, July 8 as construction moves into its second stage to build a roundabout at the intersection.

During this stage, eastbound traffic on 26th Street will be moved over to the new lanes of the roundabout. The south leg of the intersection will be reopened to traffic.

The contractor will close westbound County Highway 34 (26th Street) to traffic with a detour posted using St. Paul Road, 14th Street, Cedar Avenue, North Street, Hoffman Drive, and State Avenue. This closure is expected to last up to three weeks.

As work continues to complete the north side of the intersection, the north leg will be closed.

A detour will be posted for County Highway 1 (Cedar Avenue) using 26th Street, 3rd Avenue, and 28th Street.

Also during this stage, northbound traffic will not be able to make a left turn to westbound 26th Street. That traffic will be detoured via North Street, Hoffman Drive, and State Avenue.

The project is scheduled to be completed Aug. 16. All dates are subject to change due to weather or other factors.

Steele County advises motorists to drive with caution and slow down through work zones for their own safety and for the safety of the construction crews.

For updates on this or other Steele County Highway construction projects, visit: www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/public_works/transportation/construction_projects.php.

MUSICAL THEATER: *by special request at Little Theatre* FROM B1

to come together for a fun evening celebrating the life of Sharon Stark and the establishment of the Forever Fund. Mike Jensen, LTO's president, went on to say that he is looking forward to everyone connected with LTO whether a patron or part of a production to have the chance to come together in a fun venue to socialize, reconnect, and to kick off the Forever Fund. The Lawn Party's time is later in the evening to allow those that attend the production or participate

in the Crazy Day activities the chance to come out and enjoy the evening. Jensen went on to explain that they are working on creating something special with this evening Lawn Party.

The lawn party will take place on the Little Theatre of Owatonna front lawn between LTO and the Owatonna Art Center. This event will happen on Thursday, July 25 from 9-11 p.m. Entertainment for the event will be provided by David Williams. The Owatonna Country Club

will provide the Hors d'oeuvres for the event as well as a cash bar. The dessert for the evening will have a special tie to LTO as they are seeking volunteers to prepare desserts from the LTO Cookbook that was produced several years ago under the direction of Sharon Stark. Other than the cash bar this free event is open to ALL.

Another element to this Lawn Party event is that Sharon's Jacket and Shoe Exhibit will be open at the Owatonna Art Center that

evening. "Anyone that knows Sharon remembers her jackets and shoes, they were such a part of who she was," said Victoria Bartkowiak, executive secretary of LTO.

Jensen said, "Sharon will be a part of LTO's work forever through this Legacy Fund, it is so fitting to create this fund."

For more information about this production or special lawn party event you can visit LTO's website www.LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org.

Owatonna residents appointed to state boards

Gov. Tim Walz appointed two Owatonna residents to different boards last week.

Jeanna Hankerson was appointed to the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board.

Joining her in St. Paul

will be Kim Schaufenbuel, who was appointed to the Minnesota Humanities Center, replacing Matembo Kitoy.

Both of their terms started on July 2, and will end on Jan. 2, 2023.

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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND



Butterflies will be fluttering back to the Steele County Free Fair

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

The butterflies are returning for a second year to the Steele County Fair. “The Butterfly Encounter” was one of the most popular attractions last year, said Wayne Steele, vice president of the Fair Board. Billed as a children’s attraction, it turned out to be equally popular with the adults. “I think it was the flowers as much as the butterflies,” Steele said of the exhibit’s popularity.



The Butterfly Encounter is a screened-in butterfly exhibit with three different species of butterflies, and several hundred actual butterflies. Upon entering the exhibit, visitors can get a nectar-filled feeding stick that will enable them to see the butterflies up close as they come to the feeding stick for the sweet nectar. The exhibit is more than just feeding butterflies as educational components show the life cycle of the butterfly, why they are important and how they are being threatened by loss of habitat. Visitors can also take as many pictures as they like. The exhibit is especially timely this year, Steele said, as much attention is being paid to the future of pollinators, which includes butterflies as well as bees.

Butterflies need flowers and that is where the fair volunteers come into the picture. It is up to the fair to provide flowers for the butterflies in their enclosure. As they did last year, fair volunteers will provide those flowers under the leadership of Michele Warner, superintendent of the Flowers Department. How did The Butterfly Encounter come to Owatonna? Steele explained that fair board

members visit other county fairs and state fairs and are always on the lookout for new exhibits. In the case of The Butterfly Encounter, Steele saw an inside exhibit of butterflies and that got him thinking about getting a similar exhibit for Steele County. Further research led the fair board to The Butterfly Encounter, which is a family owned and operated business from Spring Hill, Fla. Since the exhibit was founded in 2013, the Lurie family has traveled throughout the country entertaining and educating children and adults about the importance of butterflies. The exhibit gives fair-goers a chance to learn about the life cycle of a butterfly from to adults, butterfly anatomy, what they eat, where they live and even how to fix a butterfly’s broken wing. “I think it’s for everyone,” said Steele. It’s instructional for kids and adults alike. The Butterfly Encounter tent will be located by the Auto Museum. It is sponsored by HomeTown Credit Union and Godfather’s Pizza. The Butterfly Encounter will open at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the first day of the fair. For the remainder of the fair, the exhibit will open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Steely lets out a big wave Thursday afternoon during the Fourth of July parade in Blooming Prairie. Steely is one of the fair’s mascots who has been promoting the fair since 1999.

Rest easy, mascots are in full force this year

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After nearly becoming extinct last year, the Steele County Fair’s iconic mascots are back in full force this year with no possibility of ending up on the endangered species list. Sharon Klein, who works in the fair office and coordinates Steely and Stella, said she has a list of 12 people who have stepped up to take on the mascot roles this year. “I think we have enough this year,” Klein said. “We’re good.” Steely and Stella make their rounds throughout the area taking part in parades and other celebrations in an effort to promote the fair. Just last week, Steely rode solo in the Fourth of July parade in Blooming Prairie. Both Steely and Stella joined together to ride in the Ellendale Days parade two weeks ago. The fair’s mascots have been around for 20 years. Steely and Stella play the loveable animals who have brought much joy and happiness to people throughout the years. The herd of volunteers had suddenly dwindled down to only one early last summer. After the fair put out a plea for more volunteers to keep the mascots going, numerous people stepped up to help out, and they are continuing this year as well. Klein said she sets up a schedule with the volunteers so that all the parades are covered as well as every day during the fair. Steely and Stella appear at a variety of events during the fair, including the grandstand shows. They are not around the entire day, but their presence is staggered throughout the day to maximize their lure with fairgoers. “They are the face of the fair,” said Scott Kozelka, fair manager. “When you see those two, you think of the Steele County Fair. They make people smile and hug,” he said. The tradition dates back to 1998 when a caricature was made of the steer. Former fair manager Elmer Reseland made Steely a live character in 1999. In 2010, Stella was added as Steely’s sidekick. A few years ago the fair tinkered with a third mascot, Stanley, to complement the duo, but he’s currently rumored to be on a leave of absence and in treatment. So don’t despair, Steely and Stella will be back in full force once again for this year’s fair.

PARTY: at the funeral home FROM B1

the comment that ‘Wow, this is an amphitheater,’ and it was the inception of getting music here,” Meger said. Cheryl was referring to the funeral home’s drive up to the front door overlooking the parking lot. It has proven to be a great venue for music concerts. This year Brick Meger featured Street Talk, which is a band from Faribault specializing in classic rock and new rock. Glen Meger said he heard the band play in Medford and decided to bring them on for this year’s Fourth celebration. “I have a soft spot in my heart for live music,” Meger confessed. The band performed up until about 10 p.m. at which time people simply turn their lawn chairs around

and watch the fireworks. “This is how it grew into what it is,” Meger said of the fireworks display. “It was a simple fit,” he added. Meger said they have hosted as many as 500 people in the past, though this year’s crowd appeared to be down a little, which Meger attributed to the timing of the holiday being in the middle of the week. Members of the Owatonna Wrestling Association offered a pulled pork sandwich meal throughout the party. Meger said they offer a non-profit organization to sell food as a fundraiser. The Megers also kept their tradition of offering free watermelon to the crowd. “It’s a way to engage the community and give back to the community,” Meger

“It’s a way to engage the community and give back to the community.”

Glen Meger
Brick Meger Funeral Home

said of the party. “We just do it as a community event—let people come out and enjoy themselves.” Because of the nature of his business, Meger knows he sees families at their worst. “It’s good that people can see me without my funeral director’s hat on,” Meger said. “It’s nice to talk to people when they don’t have to talk to you,” he added. The party attracts a wide range of visitors from youngsters to families as well as elderly people. “Thanks for coming, it’s nice to see you guys,” Meger said to one family as

he made the rounds. Besides funerals, Meger said his funeral home property is good only two times during the year. Once for the Fourth celebration and the other for the Steele County Free Fair. During the fair, the Megers offer the lot to a non-profit group to park vehicles. Meger has owned the funeral home since 2000. He also owns the Medford Funeral Home. “The Medford and Owatonna communities have been so good to us over the 19 years,” Meger said. “It’s just a way for us to give back to the community and offer a free concert.”

CITY, COUNTY CHANGING: traffic signals FROM B1

tices as established by the Federal Highway Administration.” In order to measure for justification, the report the city and county conducted used nine areas of study, called “warrants.” These measured things like peak traffic volume, four-hour volume, pedestrian volume, and school crossings

within the vicinity of the intersection. “We have received some public comment on it, so part of going through this process and not taking the signal out right away, is so we can evaluate the traffic and justify their eventual removal,” Skov said. Before moving ahead with the changes, the city

needed approval from the council. “On McKinley they were positive but were a little more guarded on Vine,” Skov explained. “They were concerned that drivers wouldn’t be able to get off Vine, and this is something we will evaluate. This process of testing should help us out with that.”

During this testing period, motorists are urged to use extra caution at the intersections once the signals are deactivated in order to allow for drivers to adjust to the new traffic control and flow. “We appreciate the public’s cooperation and are always looking to do the best with the roadways,” Skov said.

Volunteers sought for fair



Steely’s Insights
WAYNE STEELE

The Muckle Museum at the Steele County Free Fair is looking for volunteers Aug. 13–18. If you would be interested in helping in the museum during the fair please contact the fair office at 507-451-5305.

FAIR WORKERS NEEDED

Many food and commercial vendors throughout the fair are in need of workers during the fair. If you

would like to work for a vendor, please come into the Steele County Free Fair office to complete an application or visit our website at scff.org. Please return the application to the Steele County Free Fair office as soon as possible.

FAIR OFFICE AND PARKING

The fair also needs volunteers to help with parking the week of the fair. Please contact the fair office if you are interested in volunteering. The Steele County Free Fair is the best county fair in Minnesota because of its many volunteers. Summer Days Carnival Lights!

Wayne Steele is the entertainment and publicity director for the Steele County Free Fair in Owatonna.

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John Petersburg

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JULY 11
1 p.m. – Climb Theatre, BP Library
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting

JULY 12
11 a.m. – STEM Club, BP Library

JULY 15
1 p.m. – Movie Mondays, BP Library

JULY 16
10:30 a.m. – Storytime,

BP Library
2 p.m. – Fancy Nancy Party, BP Library
2:30 p.m. – Public Utilities Meeting
5 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting

JULY 17
11 a.m. – Golf Fun Day, Country Club

JULY 22
6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief Association Meeting

ELLEDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JULY 11
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

JULY 12
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

JULY 15
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Department Meeting, Community Building

JULY 17
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JULY 11
10 a.m. – Joseph R. Shea Invitational, Owatonna Country Club
10 a.m. – Climb Theatre, Owatonna Library
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – Downtown Thursday, Central Park
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge

JULY 12
Weekend Out, Owatonna
9:30 a.m. – STEM Club, Owatonna Library

JULY 13
Weekend Out, Owatonna
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
11 a.m. – Kid's Fishing Day, Mills Fleet Farm
Noon – Family Summer Event, Cabela's

JULY 14
Weekend Out, Owatonna
Noon – Extravaganza, History Center
1 p.m. – Family Summer Event, Cabela's

JULY 15
2 p.m. – Meteoric Movie Mondays, Owatonna Library

7 p.m. – Steele County Republican Party "The Road to Prosperity" Discussion, VFW
7 p.m. – Medford Zoning Board Meeting, City Admin Building

JULY 16
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Summer Storytime, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – North Market, Grace Baptist Church
4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library
6 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Study Session, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

JULY 17
9:30 a.m. – Garden Time, Owatonna Library
9:30 a.m. – Hwy. 14 Commission Meeting, Arts Center
10:30 a.m. – Special Union Pacific Locomotives Celebration, Glendale Street Crossing
4 p.m. – Owatonna EDA Meeting, City Admin Building
4 p.m. – Steele County Board Work Session, County Admin Building

A culture carnival comes to Albert Lea

Albert Lea's Wind Down Wednesday on July 17 is all about culture, from food to music to dancing and art! The July event is celebrating the heritage in Albert Lea and bringing a cultural experience to life. Festivities will include a Tex-Mex/Conjuno band, Karen dancers and singers, the Freeborn County Historical Museum, and local baked goods, farmer's market, restaurants, boutiques, crafters, artists and music! In addition to food and shopping, a number of free kids' activities that are culturally themed will be present such as bean bag toss, a bounce house, drawing and painting, sidewalk chalk, and more!

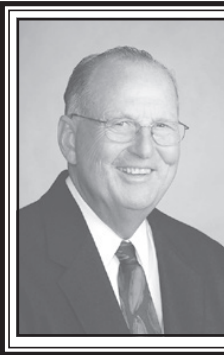
Wind Down Wednesday will run from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. downtown Albert Lea, based at 102 W. Clark St. It will include great food, shopping, socializing, and games to support the region. Don't forget to check out local Owatonna vendors! For more information please visit their website at www.winddownwednesday.com, "Wind Down Wednesday-Albert Lea" on Facebook, or winddownwednesdaymn on Instagram.



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ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
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Rev up your engines for Gus' Station

The fifth annual Gus' Station Car Show and fundraiser is coming to the Steele County History Center in Owatonna. The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, July 20 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Admission is free. There will be a \$5 registration fee for each vehicle. Registration begins at 8 a.m.



Voting will take place throughout the morning, ending at 11:30 a.m. Trophies will be presented at 12:15 p.m. A breakfast will be offered from 8:30-10:30 for \$10 for adults and children 5 and under will be free. There will be a cruise departing at 12:30 p.m. for Spurgy's Bar and Grill in Hope. Proceeds will help fund Gus' Station, which has become a permanent fixture in the Village of YesterYear at the History Center.

Grief support group coming to Austin

A five-week bereavement support group for those who have experienced a loss will begin on Tuesday, July 23 and continue through Tuesday, Aug. 20. This education and support group will provide materials and discussions on a variety of topics to assist participants in their grieving process. The group will meet weekly in the conference room at the Mower County Senior Center in Austin. The meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a different presenter each week and will be followed by an informal lunch gathering for anyone interested. The group is open to the public and all who feel this might be beneficial to their healing and all who are supporting them are invited to attend. For more information, call Mary Kitleson at 507-433-5000 or 507-583-7561.

Crochet in Translation paintings featured at Owatonna Arts Center

Malia Wiley has combined craft and fine art into one, afghans and animal paintings. The paintings will be on display until July 28 at the Owatonna Arts Center. This body of work is inspired by the craft of crochet and started as an idea to translate the hand-woven fabric into a painting. "My initial idea was to do closeup paintings of the stitches to create an abstract image," said Wiley. "The theme quickly merged with my love for painting animals." Wiley went on to say that to her a crochet afghan is a thing of beauty. "Several of the afghans used for these paintings were crocheted by me or my grandmother, but I also collect afghans from thrift stores and garage sales," Wiley said. "I have been crocheting and painting since I was a very young girl and bringing the two together has been so inspiring to me," she said. She added painting and crochet have been two creative outlets that she has continued to pursue for most of her life and combining them only feels natural. So why do painting and crochet work together? Crochet is color, pattern, composition and patience. It is a longstanding tradition that dates so far back historians don't even know when it began.

Rural Renaissance project to feature Mike Ellingsen quilts

Rural Renaissance Project will host a new exhibition of quilts by Mike Ellingsen during Blue Earth's annual Giant Days celebration July 12-13. His colorful quilts will be on display in the south gallery of the Project 3 Sisters buildings (130 S. Main St., Blue Earth). The exhibition is free and open to the public from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Friday, July 12, and 12-8 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, with refreshments available in the gallery. Mike Ellingsen, a retired music director from Blue Earth, is a well-known quilter, designer, and teacher, and is in demand as a lecturer throughout Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. His first step into quilting was recreating a magazine cover quilt over thirty years ago. An example of Ellingsen's work is Endless- a quilt that uses his signature of bright, saturated colors against a black background. Ellingsen recounted the comments from a music convention years ago where the discussion wandered to excellent hobbies. "The presenter mentioned that I used my voice all day for teaching, while quilting was a silent hobby. I encountered hundreds of students each day, and quilting was a solitary hobby. I taught music where the music was lost in the ether, and quilting resulted in a concrete product. Yet quilting is still expressive and creative. I love the color and the math involved in quilting; I enjoy every step in the process." While Ellingsen's award-winning quilts have been seen at the Faribault County Fair, the Blue Earth Quilt EXPO, and the Minnesota Quilters State Show among others, this is the first solo gallery exhibition of his work. Ellingsen commented, "I am so impressed by the vision that Janie and her team have for the Three Sisters in downtown Blue Earth - and very honored to have my quilts featured in the South Gallery during Giant Days!" Project 3 Sisters is developed by Rural Renaissance Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to sparking cultural, educational, and economic development through creative and entrepreneurial investment in rural communities. The first phase of the project will include a tech office, art gallery, and co-working space. Subsequent phases will include a restaurant, wine bar/coffee shop, and event space. The redevelopment will support local job creation and apprenticeship opportunities in the buildings. Visit www.ruralren.org for more information.

Melodrama to feature local actors in BP

A melodrama will take stage in Blooming Prairie on Saturday, July 20. A Penny Saved or the Widow Rootstock, fully loaded will be performed at the BP Servicemen's Club at 7:30 p.m. on July 20. Cocktails and appetizers will be available at 5:30 p.m. followed by a dinner at 6:30 p.m. with the show after dinner. The melodrama is set in a small town in western Arizona, the home of Window Rootstock, sometime between 1856 and 1873. Dasterdaly villain Fourberie Blackguard tells Widow Rootstock her late husband owed him the ranch. Her three daughters ain't buying that, and when young Penny runs off with the deed, the chase is on. The performance has been produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. of Englewood, Colo. The director is Kari Bottin. The actors include: Julie Peterson as widowed landowner, Karla Iacovino as her eldest daughter, Miranda Camery as her middle daughter, Jackie Vorlicek as youngest daughter, Shirley Hinzmann as Biddy the maid, Ryan Heimerman as deputy Dewey, Paul Heimgartner as Dasterdly scoundrel, Tamzen Johnson as Scoundrel's sidekick and Carol Heimerman as card girl. The local actors paired with a summer chicken picnic dinner promises to make the evening a night not to miss. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Servicemen's Club at 507-583-7884.

Albert Lea Community Theatre to perform 'State Fair' July 11-20

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT) will complete its 54th season with eight performances of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical "State Fair" at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, July 11-20. Set against the colorful backdrop of an American heartland tradition, "State Fair" travels with the Frake family as they leave behind the farm for three days of adventure at the annual Iowa State Fair. Mom and Pop have their hearts set on blue ribbons, while their daughter and son find romance and heartbreak on the midway. Set to the magical strains of an Academy Award-winning score, "State Fair" is the kind of warm-hearted family entertainment only Rodgers & Hammerstein could deliver! "State Fair," directed by Sue Jorgensen with music direction by Barb Lang and choreography by Joyce Matthies, along with a cast of nearly 50 adults and children, will be performed at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center in downtown Albert Lea on July 11-14 and 17-20. Shows start at 7:30 p.m., with the Sunday, July 14, matinee at 2 p.m. Albert Lea Community Theatre is a non-profit organization featuring local actors, directors and stage crew who volunteer their time. All performances are at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, 147 North Broadway in downtown Albert Lea. For ticket prices and more information, go to actonbroadway.com or find ACT on Broadway on Facebook.

Farmer's Market open in Owatonna

Vegetables galore are available in Owatonna on the weekends. The Owatonna Farmer's Market is held every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Central Park located in downtown Owatonna. The market will be open until the last weekend in October.

J & H LIQUOR

SUMMER EVENTS

BAR BINGO
Monday at 6:30 p.m.
July 1, 15, 29
August 12, 26

JULY 20
B.O.B. RIDE: TOYS FOR TOTS
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. at J&H Liquor
Fee: **\$10 per ride**
Ride: Leaves at 10:30 a.m.
Meal: 5 p.m. at J&H Liquor (2018 Donation was \$15,000)

All event details available at J&H Liquor
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583-7557

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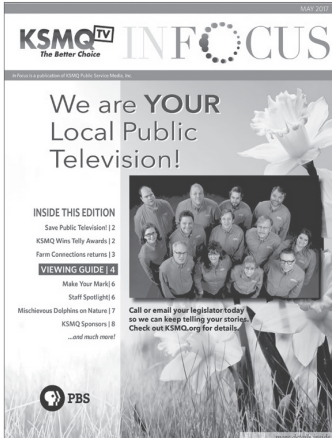


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Perfect weather welcomed by Gopher 50 fans

Illinois' Brandon Sheppard wins feature race

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Three inches of rain on Friday night further soaked the race track at the Deer Creek Speedway, but it did not deter from the action enjoyed by 3,200 fans on Saturday night, July 6.

Brandon Sheppard of New Berlin, Ill. won the 40th annual Gopher 50 charity Late Model race.

Sheppard earned his 11th World of Outlaws Late Models Series feature victory of the year and his first-ever Gopher 50 win. He earned \$10,000 with the victory. Prior to the Gopher 50 race, his earnings total was at \$136,250.

The Gopher 50 race is sanctioned by the World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series.

A touch of Blooming Prairie could be found throughout Deer Creek Saturday night.

Lions Dean Zilm and Dave Goodnature sold \$3,000 in t-shirts emblazoned with the 40th annual Gopher 50 label on them. Lions Paul Fiebiger, Paul Dale and Howard Lestrud helped out with the will call tickets.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Jerry Ingvalson of Blooming Prairie has been associated with the Gopher 50 Outlaw Series since its beginning 40 years ago. Here, he takes a cell phone call checking on his team of workers.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Two Blooming Prairie race drivers, Mark Noble (#74 at right) and Doug Hillson (#72 at left) slide around the second turn in a Hot Lap modified race before the Gopher 50 feature race on Saturday night.

Bob, Bruce and Tim Wolf shuttled race fans from the front gate to the main entrance.

Doug and Kristi Miner of Miner's Outdoor Sports supplied 20 golf carts to be used to transport guests across the grounds. Ten

Blooming Prairie Lions helped with race activities on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Doug Miner provided a support vehicle for the pace vehicle before the feature race.

The Blooming Prairie connection also included local race drivers Doug Hillson (#72) and Mark Noble (#74) driving in a modified class race.

The Blooming Prairie Lions benefited from the 50/50 raffle drawing, which brought in over \$9,000. Dave Wradislavsky, a Blooming Prairie firefighter, won the main prize of over \$4,600. He helped raise a huge American flag with the help of a Blooming Prairie ladder truck.

In the USRA Modifieds division, Rochester's Dustin Sorensen also continued his torrid start

to this season. Sorensen earned his fourth win of the year at Deer Creek, and his biggest paycheck to date. He took the lead seven laps into the 35-lap A Main and led the rest of the way to earn \$5,000.

Veteran stock car driver Sheppard won five consecutive World of Outlaws Late Models Series races between Feb. 13 and March 22. Sheppard is a veteran driver at age 26. He finished fourth in the Gopher 50 each of the past two years.

Sheppard drives for one of the top teams in dirt track racing, Rocket1/Mark Richards Racing. He has 52 feature wins in 167 starts, a 31.1 winning percentage. He won 13 times last year while finishing as the series runner-up and won 18 times in 2017, when he won his first and only WoO series championship.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Blooming Prairie Fire Department brought its ladder truck to the Deer Creek Speedway and raised the American flag during pre-Gopher 50 action. A Color Guard from Chatfield also participated in opening ceremonies.



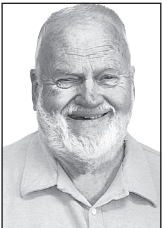
STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Gopher 50 race fans at the Deer Creek Raceway come in all ages and sizes. One of the smaller race fans at the 40th annual race last Saturday was Joey Frederick, 2, of Princeton.

An unqualified success over the Fourth

Thousands of people congregated Blooming Prairie streets, Victory Field, and Central Park, as the community again pulled off another great Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration. This year the inclement weather struck the community on July 3, and that earned the Fourth a grand day for the many events and the popular entertainment those events provided. By all accounts, I didn't hear one complaint about the occasion or the activities accompanying them.

The annual parade again exemplified the popularity of the march, as it truly is a local endeavor for units. The bands always add much to the event, and service personnel, tractors, local business representatives, and the chartable organizations with their public service performances make this parade one of the biggest and unique around. It was a great show.

The day always winds up with the fireworks display, and they didn't disappoint the large crowd of witnesses. It always provided a fitting climax to a long and exciting day of activities, good food, and many occasions for getting together with relatives and old friends for catch-up conversations. A big thanks to the many volunteers who make the day a success, and congratulations to grand marshals Ken and Judy Esplan. It was a



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

well-deserved honor.

The annual celebration has managed to survive and even thrive, despite occasional conversations that maybe the community has outgrown the event. It is one thing that I personally can look forward to each year and marvel that the community still has enough pride to keep the occasion alive. I know there are countless citizens who hold the same thought, and it is a hope that volunteerism continues strong enough to keep the event alive and thriving.

GOLF FUN DAY

The Chamber of Commerce golf day is next on the local agenda, and it has become one of the more popular ones of the summer. One thing entertaining about the event is that it makes no difference whether the competitor is a bona-fide golfer or not. If one can swing a golf club, that is all that is necessary to join in the fun.

Besides, the golf competition becomes secondary to all the entertainment and activity surrounding the holes and the atmosphere provided by the participant. Using a theme each year, the event is a successful event and, most importantly of all, raises some much needed funds for the local chamber projects throughout the year.

Several years ago, when I worked at the club while semi-retired, I used to look forward to the golf fun day as one of the most entertaining days all summer. The way that most individuals entered into the spirit of the event and all of the contests and activities in conjunction with the golf really impressed me and made the day one that entertained all involved. It was a day to remember. The occasion is scheduled for next Wednesday, July 17, and it is hoped that a large and supportive crowd will attend and participate. A dinner will be served.

NO WEATHER ESCAPE

I think we should all be resigned to the fact that, unless a sharp turn is made, Mother Nature is going to bedevil our area the entire summer. We were lucky that our Fourth of July celebration succeeded, but we just lucked out with that, as the area got dumped on with rain just the day before, and that has been the pattern all summer.

We have been fortunate that our immediate area has been spared any real bad storms, but we certainly have had more than our share of moisture, and that doesn't look to change any time soon. We can only hope that the weather will enable farmers to proceed with their usual farming endeavors, as the summer wears on.

THE TWINS

After that amazing first half of the 2019 season, the Twins' baseball season has been a real revelation. They have set a record for home runs before the All-Star game, and they have a good lead in the league standings. It is true that they have stumbled a bit lately, losing their first series of the year in the just-completed road trip, but they have been able to bounce back from losses all season, and we will hope that is the case again.

I don't think that there is any doubt that no matter how the season ends, this year has been a real eye-opener for fans and players alike. The players have been overachievers all season long, and there is not much doubt, but that this will continue. A salute to the Twins and the very best luck the rest of the way.

The days are already growing shorter, and summer is past the midway point, but I still hope you enjoy the time and appreciate warm temperatures, and we'll talk again.



These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of July 5:

Mother Nature brought a halt to racing after the first heat Friday, July 5. Rain started as the first heat race of the night was set to pull onto the track. Officials sent the packing trucks onto the track to try and save the track, but Mother Nature kept dumping the rain until there was no saving the night.

It was also a Food Shelf Collection night as fans could save on their gate admission by bringing two non perishable food items for the local Food Shelf. The Track has put a lot of effort into coming up with community minded events and this one goes hand in hand with the Toys For Tots Collection that will take place at The Tracks awards banquet in December. This week's featured sponsors were to be Kevin Stoa Engineering of Albert Lea and Joe Vogt Custom Pumping of Rose Creek. The Track had a back-up plan in place for the fireworks show. The display will be shelved for a month and a half until Aug. 16 when the Mastel Brothers Touring Non Wing Sprints will be part of that night's action.

Drivers and Fans are reminded to save their ticket stubs and wrist bands for the night and they will be honored next Friday Night. The night's racing was to be the first of a very busy month of July for the Chateau Speedway Crew. Along with the regular Friday Night programs, the track is heading up the Dodge County Fair Racing Program this month. The Dodge County Fair Race In Kasson will be on Thursday, July 18 at 7 p.m. The night's action will feature a \$1,500 to win A Mod Class and two \$400 to win B Mod Classes as well as a \$250 to win Street Stock Class and a \$125 to win Hornet Class. The night will not be a sanctioned race and no points will be awarded.

Meanwhile, racing action resumes next Friday Night in Lansing with the regular six classes being joined by the KEVKO Outlaw Mini Mods. Action is slated to get underway again at 7:15 p.m. with the first green flag of the night.

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FORECLOSURE

18-109820

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: February 12, 2004

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$140,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Lavern D. Ehlers and Eunice E. Ehlers, husband and wife, Delmar W. Ehlers, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Centex Home Equity Company, LLC

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Centex Home Equity Company, LLC

SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed March 3, 2004, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 319812

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York, as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee for Centex Home Equity Loan Trust 2004-C

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 25, Township 106 North, Range 19 West, Steele County, Minnesota, described by: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said SE 1/4; thence North 0 degrees 0 minutes 00 seconds East, assumed bearing, 529.44 feet along the West line of said SE 1/4 to true point of beginning; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 862.07 feet along the West line of said SE 1/4; thence South 28 degrees 45 minutes 31 seconds East 484.09 feet; thence South 03 degrees 28 minutes 11 seconds East 215.16 feet; thence South 89 degrees 45 minutes 14 seconds East 122.81 feet; thence South 00 degrees 31 minutes 50 seconds West 196.15 feet; thence South 79 degrees 22 minutes 24 seconds West 111.46 feet; thence South 88 degrees 43 minutes 58 seconds West 257.43 feet to said true point of beginning

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 9543 89th Ave SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 04-025-2301

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$121,461.73

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 23, 2019, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on January 23, 2020, or the next business day if January 23, 2020 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: May 24, 2019

The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York, as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee for Centex Home Equity Loan Trust 2004-C

Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A
COMMUNICATION FROM A
DEBT COLLECTOR

6/5, 6/12, 6/19
6/26, 7/3, 7/10

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 30, 2010

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$134,564.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Traci A. Langstaff, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Advisors Mortgage, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 1, 2010 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 17761 as Document Number T000066016 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on March 20, 2019 as Document Number T000077114 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 5, Block 1, Maplewood Terrace Townhouses No. 2, Owatonna, Minnesota, Steele County, Minnesota.

REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 13 AUGUSTA PLACE, OWATONNA, MN 55060

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$118,693.01

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Advisors Mortgage, LLC

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-421-0105

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100199600012390478

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: August 20, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on February 20, 2020.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: June 19, 2019

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-0454-FC01)

THIS IS A
COMMUNICATION FROM A
DEBT COLLECTOR.

6/26, 7/3, 7/10
7/17, 7/24, 7/31

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: March 20, 2008

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$103,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Larry M. Jarvis, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on March 25, 2008 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 15747 as Document Number T000062717 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of Lot 2 in Block 1 in Luedtke Addition to the City of Owatonna described as follows: Beginning at a point in the line between said Lot 2 and Lot 3 in said Block 1

gage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on February 20, 2020.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: June 19, 2019

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-0454-FC01)

THIS IS A
COMMUNICATION FROM A
DEBT COLLECTOR.

6/26, 7/3, 7/10
7/17, 7/24, 7/31

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: March 20, 2008

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$103,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Larry M. Jarvis, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on March 25, 2008 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 15747 as Document Number T000062717 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of Lot 2 in Block 1 in Luedtke Addition to the City of Owatonna described as follows: Beginning at a point in the line between said Lot 2 and Lot 3 in said Block 1

gage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on February 20, 2020.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: June 19, 2019

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-0350-FC01)

THIS IS A
COMMUNICATION FROM A
DEBT COLLECTOR.

7/3, 7/10, 7/17,
7/24, 7/31, 8/7

in the Westerly line of Maple Drive (formerly Larch street); thence Southerly along the Westerly line of said Maple Drive 7 feet; thence Westerly parallel to and with the line between said Lots 2 and 3 approximately 85 feet to a point in the center line of Maple Creek as shown by the plat on file; thence Northerly along the said center line of Maple Creek to the line between said Lots 2 and 3, and thence Easterly along the line between said Lots 2 and 3, 86.19 feet to the place of beginning.

Also all of Lot 3 in Block 1 in Luedtke Addition to the City of Owatonna, excepting therefrom the following: Beginning at a point in the line between said Lot 3 and Lot 4 in said Block 1 in the Westerly line of Maple Drive (formerly Larch Street); thence Southerly along the Westerly line of said Maple Drive 12 feet; thence Westerly parallel to and with the line between said Lots 3 and 4 approximately 107.62 feet to a point in the center line of Maple Creek as shown by the plat on file; thence Northerly along the said center line of Maple Creek to the line between said Lots 3 and 4; and thence Easterly along the line between said Lots 3 and 4, 110.86 feet to the place of beginning.

All the above described real estate is conveyed subject to and together with all riparian rights

REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 510 MAPLE DRIVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1967

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$70,686.38

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-150-0103

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of

sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: September 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on March 3, 2020.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: June 28, 2019

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-0350-FC01)

THIS IS A
COMMUNICATION FROM A
DEBT COLLECTOR.

7/3, 7/10, 7/17,
7/24, 7/31, 8/7

NOTICE:

The Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club will hold their annual meeting on July 18th at 7p.m. in the Liberty Room.

During this meeting we will need to vote in officers, including a President for the Board.

7/10

NOTICE:

The Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club Board of directors will be holding a special meeting following the conclusion of the annual meeting to discuss and vote on the line of credit held by the Servicemen's Club.

7/10

CLUES ACROSS

- Swedish rock group
- Founder of Babism
- 2 stripe Army rank (abbr.)
- Of Salian Franks
- Indicates near
- Swiss river
- Golden pothos
- Runs PCs
- E. Tunisian seaport
- Cyprinid fishes
- Genus Ulmus
- Stitched garment border
- Takes in as a part
- Pierre is the capital
- Brush upward
- Moby's author's initials
- Belgian franc
- Mongolian capital Ulan

35. Computer code for letters & numbers

38. Initials of Watson's detective

39. Spanish be

41. Jauntier

43. Cormoran Strike's 2nd novel

46. Wasted material

48. Bleat sound

49. Excess body weight

50. Oral polio vaccine

55. Rigs

56. Drawstring

57. Baltic flat-bottomed boat (alt. sp.)

59. Double curve

1. Signing

2. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan

3. Worthless drivell

4. Aboriginal race of Japan

5. Adorn

6. Greek god of light

7. Atomic #83

8. Eating houses

9. Baby buggy

10. Supervillain Luthor

12. Hansom

14. Tennis champion Arthur

19. Flank

23. Sleep

24. Richly patterned weave

25. Hoagies

26. Moonfish

27. University of Santo Tomas

28. Duo indicates

29. Regarding this point

32. Stand for coffin

33. Not yielding

36. Point midway between S and SW

37. Data executive

40. Changed gears

41. ___ Sauer: Weapons co.

42. Brews

44. ___ May, actress

45. Shiny cotton textile

46. Cavalry-sword

47. Bullfighting maneuver

48. Shopping containers

51. "Puppy Bowl" network listing

52. Hillside

53. Metrical foot

54. Dog in Peter Pan

55. Romaine lettuce

58. Irish Sea Isle

Let's get you movin'!

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kw KELLERWILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY **MLS**

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507-438-6676
email: jenwalsh@kw.com
web: jenwalsh.kw.com

STEELE COUNTY Times

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L	P	C		B	A	B			V	B	B

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Sell your items for \$50 or less. Run it for four weeks. ONLY \$5!
www.steeledodgenews.com

TO PLACE AN AD
Steele County Times
507-583-4431
bpstimes@frontiernet.net
411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

HOT JOBS

SOLO ATTORNEY LOOKING for administrative assistant to work 25-35 hours per week. Send resume to 1202 1/2 7th Street NW, suite 214, Rochester, MN 55901, email: gerald@weinrichlaw.com (28,29,30 pd)
PART TIME MILKING, in parlor and some weekends. If interested. Please call 507-634-4308 (29,30,31 chg)
CAREGIVER WANTED every other Saturday day. Flexible hours, \$12/hour to start, no heavy lifting, will train. NW Rochester (507)-289-2756 (wk 29,30,31 pd)
WANTED: PART-TIME CAREGIVER (Thurs 1 pm -Sunday 1pm) for an adult foster care. Compassionate, energetic, caring person, Nursing experience is preferred. Please call (507)-208-8111 (30,31,32 pd)

FOR RENT

APARTMENT FOR RENT in Dodge Center. 2 Bdrm, includes heat, water, trash, on-site laundry, and off street parking. Available August 1st \$615 a month Call George if interested at 507-269-9870 (wk 28,29,30 chg)
2 DB ~ CLAREMONT Open August! Rent from \$555 p/mo + heat & elec. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity (29,30,31,32 chg)
1 BD ~ MANTORVILLE Open July! Rent from \$480 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases

& no pets. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity (29,30,31,32 chg)
1 BD ~ KASSON Open August! Smoke free apt for 62+ or disabled persons. Month to month leases & deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity (29,30,31,32 chg)
2 BD TOWNHOMES ~ DODGE CENTER Open September! \$1010 p/mo + heat & elec. Smoke free two story homes with 1 1/2 baths, W&D, central air, single stall attached garages & large yards. One year leases & no pets. 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO (29,30,31,32 chg)

BARGAIN HUNTERS

RABBIT HUTCH 2 levels, log cabin style. Must see. Excellent condition \$50 If interested please call 507-696-5984 (28,29,30,31 pd)
FIELD ROCKS FOR SALE, \$25 per load, South

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32 BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10c FOR EACH WORD AFTER

of Kasson, You load. Call 507-273-9678 (pd 29-40)
FIELD ROCKS FOR SALE, \$25.00 per load, South of Kasson, You load. Call 507-273-9678

GARAGE SALES

405 9TH STREET NW DODGE CENTER, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 8-3. Dishes, decorative household, clothes, garden tools, chainsaw, drill, wheel barrow, weeper hoses, rocking chair, canopy bed. (30pd)

FOR SALE

PIANOS, DIGITAL PIANOS, Rodgers Church Organs - New, Used, Sales & Service - Call DEWEY KRUGER MUSIC, Northwood, Iowa, 800-933-5830, deweykrugermusic.com
JOHN DEERE 4430 TRACTOR WITH 5560 hours, 1 owner. John Deere 8285R Tractor with 135 hours and a John Deere 980 30' Field Cultivator. Excellent shape. Retired Farmer. Call 641-425-9300
DR POWER GRADER 60"

with leveling drag. New-in grate, never assembled. \$1400.00 new, will take \$1100.00 Please call 507-272-8738

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507- 634 -7907. 33tfc
SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 27tfn
NICK'S LAWN MOWING SERVICE 50% OFF FIRST MOWING WITH A CONTRACT FOR 1 YEAR. Weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard cleanup, mowing and trimming,

satisfaction guaranteed 10 years experience. Free estimates. Please call 507-696-3849 and leave a message. Tfn
BRIANNA'S LAWN CARE SERVICES Mowing, trimming, complete yard cleanup. Weekly or on call. Satisfaction guaranteed Free estimates. Call 507-421-7945
WANTED LAWN MOWING jobs please call 635-6658 to set up a time. Quality service at a rate you can afford!

NOTICES

DARREL AND SHARON DARR request your presence, helping them celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary. It will be held Saturday, July 20th from 1-5pm at the Dodge Country Club in Dodge Center. Their girls will be hosting this event. No gifts please. (29-30 pd)

STEELE COUNTY

Times

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all the time.

f

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From Hwy 218: go West on Hwy 30 to 34th Ave. (5.3 miles), go North 1-mile, property on East side of road.
From 135: go East on Hwy 30 to 34th Ave (about 6-miles), go North 1-mile, property on East side of road.
PEACEFUL, QUIET SETTING
For this 4-year old, super insulated 3BR 2-bath home on rolling 3.7-acre site west of Blooming Prairie. Has nice convenient open floor plan, master bedroom suite, main floor laundry, lovely screen porch, patio & attached heated 4-stall garage. Improved to \$298,000. Come see listing #5034131 at our open house.
**433-1111**
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Truck Driver

Minnesota Ag Group, Inc, an employee owned farm equipment dealership in Kasson, MN has an immediate full-time opening for a **truck driver**.

The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- Excellent people and communications skills (verbal & written)
- Customer focused and team player
- Self-motivated
- CDL Class A driver's license in good standing
- Clean driving record- no serious tickets or accidents in last 5 years
- We require background check
- Health card will be required

We offer competitive pay with excellent benefits and no overnights.

 Send resume by **Wednesday, July 24, 2019** to Craig Poppe, Minnesota Ag Group, Inc., 601 8th St. SE, Kasson, MN 55944 or email to craig.poppe@mnagggroup.com

STEELE COUNTY

Times

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STEELE COUNTY

Times

Call to place an item in the Classifieds today:
507-583-4431

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Triton Public Schools will be hiring an

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher



All postings and applications for Triton Public Schools can be found at:
www.triton.k12.mn.us
under the District Office menu

OPENINGS

Dietary/cook position
at Prairie Manor Inc. in Blooming Prairie.

PT/FT weekdays with every other weekend and holiday.

Contact Jackie Larson at 507-583-5181.

**Prairie Manor**
CARE CENTER
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f

**PANTHERS**

NRHEG Career Opportunity

Full Time Paraprofessionals NRHEG Schools Elementary & Secondary Building call Sue Kulseth at 507-465-3206.

Description and application available on our website nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG

STEELE COUNTY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) TO PURCHASE COUNTY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY AND STRUCTURES

Steele County is seeking proposals to purchase County-owned real property and structures commonly known as the "Clinton Falls Lot," "Hope School" and "Crane Creek School" located in Steele County, MN.

Responses to this RFP will be accepted **until 5:00 p.m. on July 19, 2019** by the Steele County Board of County Commissioners, at the office of the Steele County Auditor, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

Responses may include proposals for any single parcel or any combination of any two or three parcels. The Steele County Board of Commissioners shall receive all proposals submitted in conformity with this solicitation at their Board meeting set for **July 23, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

Submittal requirements are detailed in the RFP packet, which can be obtained on the Steele County website at www.co.steele.mn.us and from Scott Golberg, Steele County Administrator, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, sgolberg@co.steele.mn.us, 507-444-7431.

A response to this solicitation does not create any rights on the part of the responding party and the Steele County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all solicitation responses



STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD AND RICK BUSSLER

It was a patriotic afternoon for the Hemann boys of Blooming Prairie. The brothers are at their stations to pick up some yummy candy. From left are Colton, Wyatt and Alex.

Blooming Prairie Lion Cory Johnson gives Mason Neuenschwanger a couple pieces of french toast at a BP Lions breakfast on the Fourth of July. Also shown working the breakfast are Dean Zilm and Bob Wolf.



An Old Fashioned Fourth of July in BP



About 75 units made their way through the streets of Blooming Prairie for the annual Fourth of July parade, including this young fellow riding on a miniature John Deere combine and wishing everyone a Happy Fourth of July!



Gracelyn Anderson, 10, of Blooming Prairie whips a softball into the dunk tank in an effort to dunk some police explorers.



Joan Mast of Blooming Prairie undoubtedly had the most colorful car in the Fourth parade in Blooming Prairie. Note the Red Hat of the Red Hatters women's organization and the colorful eye lashes.



Chad Rafdal is on his last leg. Not to worry, he is proud of his artificial leg. Note his shirt message: "Officially on my last leg." Rafdal was afflicted by a diabetic ulcer. He visited the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July festivities on Wednesday night.



Driving rains on Wednesday, July 3 caused some wet conditions in the Blooming Prairie City Park. City Public Works supervisor Tony Mott pumps out some of the standing water. The park remained soggy over the Fourth, but it was tolerable for people to walk through and enjoy the festivities.