



STEELE
COUNTY

Times



BIKING FOR CAUSES A3 | EXPANDED FAIR
COVERAGE SECTION Section B

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019

Bloomington, Minnesota

MINIMIZER TO LEAVE BP

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

What will likely be a devastating blow to Bloomington is going to be a big gain for Owatonna.

Bloomington-based Minimizer, which has grown into a huge national company in recent years, announced last week that it is pulling out of the com-

munity and heading north to Owatonna.

Owatonna mayor Thomas Kuntz confirmed late last week that Minimizer is building a new facility in Owatonna within the next year. "It's sad that they are leaving Bloomington, but it's good for southern Minnesota," Kuntz said.

On Monday, Minimizer unveiled its plans to build a 100,000-square foot facility

in Owatonna. The projected building site is west of the Cybex campus on SW 18th Street close to the intersection of Interstate 35 and Highway 14.

The 13-acre plot is currently owned by the City of Owatonna. The city council was expected to vote on the proposed sale Tuesday night.

The company hopes to break ground on the new

facility next month and move in by the spring of 2021. The proposed site will house all employees in one facility while substantially increasing the company's operating space from 54,000 to 96,000 square feet.

"Given our current and future sales growth, as well as new product introductions, the new facility is a necessity," said Minimizer CEO Christopher Thorpe.

"We are currently operating out of three buildings, and we are simply out of room in Bloomington and need more efficient space."

Thorpe said the company evaluated many area cities and also looked at expanding in Bloomington. However, Owatonna was the best choice as a business-friendly area with room for current requirements and future growth, he said.

The departure of Minimizer will result in the loss of at least 66 jobs in Bloomington. Minimizer currently employs 83 with 66 of them working in Bloomington. The remaining workers are located across the U.S. and Canada.

Thorpe said the company will work with incentive programs to help employ-

SEE MINIMIZER, A4

Faces of the Fair



Summer Days and Carnival Lights brought lots of joy, happiness and fun to folks of all ages during last week's Steele County Free Fair in Owatonna. The fair produced several faces: Top left: Marilyn Meixner of Owatonna found visions of cash dancing in her head as cash blew in her face. She was able to grab \$178 in the Money Booth on the United Prairie Stage; top right: Paizley Sorenson of Austin found her face donning bright colors after she had her face painted; bottom left: Jacob Dulas of Medford got a wide smile on his face after he took home a first place trophy in the 9-year-old kids pedal pull; bottom right: Parker Janssen of Owatonna found his face covered with bubbles as he found a bubble machine on the midway. See Section B for more fair coverage.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Another attempt to approve new high school

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Owatonna school officials aren't wasting any time in getting back in front of voters with a proposal to build a new high school.

Voters in the Owatonna School District narrowly rejected a referendum in May that would have provided a \$116 million bond to build a new high school. The referendum lost by only 120 votes. The widest disparity came in the Clinton Falls precinct, which consists mostly of voters in the rural areas of the district, where voters rejected the referendum by more than 70%.

Officials immediately expressed disappointment in the failure of the referendum. "Our needs are real, and the funding does not exist to address them," said Mark Sebring, chairman of the board, at the time of the failed referendum.

On Aug. 12, the Owatonna School Board unanimously approved moving forward with another referendum on Nov. 5.

The ballot will include two questions: the first to fund a new high school and the other to fund improvements to the existing high school.

Question one for a new high school would fund a smaller high school at a lower cost than the one that was defeated in May, according to Shay Baumbach, spokesperson for the district.

The final referendum decision, Baumbach said, was based on extensive feedback

Great weather pushes fair attendance up 3%

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A beautiful stretch of weather helped pushed the estimated attendance of the Steele County Free Fair up 3% over the previous year.

Fair manager Scott Kozelka announced Monday afternoon that the fair's estimated attendance was 322,437, which topped the 2018 figure of 313,046. The record was set in 2013 when an estimated 350,899 attended the fair.

"We're not about breaking records," Kozelka said. "We just want to have quality service and a good fair," he added.

Fair president Dan Deml said it becomes tricky to establish an attendance figure because Steele County is a

free fair. Officials estimate attendance through a formula taking into consideration parking sales, beer sales, ATM transactions and midway activity.

SEE GREAT WEATHER, A2

OWATONNA SCHOOL REFERENDUM

Tuesday, Nov. 5

Quest 1: New High School \$104 Million
Quest 2: Repurpose existing facility \$8 million

SEE NEW HIGH SCHOOL, A2

Tornado narrowly misses fair on opening day

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It didn't look like the Steele County Free Fair was going to get off on a good note once again this year as a severe storm came rumbling out of the southeast from the Mankato area.

In fact, it appeared the tornado was headed right for a bulls-eye on the fairgrounds in Owatonna just prior to the fair's opening ceremonies, causing alarm with officials at the fair. They immediately blasted severe thunderstorm warnings over the fair's public address system.

"We advised people to take cover or leave," said Dan Deml, president of the fair. He noted that the fair is in constant contact with emergency management officials, including the National Weather Service. "If there is anything potentially dangerous on the horizon, they notify us right away," Deml said.

Deml said some people left the grounds while others took shelter inside buildings.

As the storm approached Steele County, fair officials got the break they were looking for. The storm drifted to the south, avoiding Owatonna and the fairgrounds. The fair received heavy rain for about 30 minutes, but no hail or high winds.

"Jim's watching over us," Deml said referring to former fair manager Jim Gleason who died earlier this year.

The storm eventually produced a funnel cloud that touched down in the southern part of the county.

Sheriff Lon Thiele confirmed that a tornado touched down in the middle of a corn field southwest of Hope around 4:30 p.m. He said tornado sirens were activated in Ellendale and Bloomington.

"Thank goodness it was a field instead of property where persons could have been injured," Thiele said.

No significant damage was reported anywhere in the county, according to Thiele.

The funnel cloud made its way into neighboring Freeborn County where a sheriff's deputy captured it spinning out of the sky over a field.

Because of the impending storm, fair officials delayed the opening ceremonies by 30 minutes. By 5:30 p.m., the sun was back out, and the fair was off like nothing happened. The carnival delayed its opening by one hour.

"We had a beautiful evening," Deml said of the fair's opener. "We were fortunate to reopen."

Once the storm passed, Deml said he walked out of the fair office with a sense of relief. "I smiled, we raised the flag and I said, 'Let's have a party,'" Deml said.

Deml admitted he got some "weird butterflies" in his stomach when he became aware of the storm heading to the Owatonna area. He said it's hard to see Mother Nature potentially ruin something that they have worked hard all year long to prepare for. "The success of the fair is a mirror of the success of the weather," Deml said.

Thiele said last week's tornado scare is a good reminder for everyone to "seek shelter and don't go out to try to video record a dangerous event."



COURTESY FREEBORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Freeborn County sheriff's deputy captured this funnel cloud as it passed through southern Steele County and northern Freeborn County on Tuesday, Aug. 13. The tornado reportedly touched down in a corn field near Hope, but it did not cause any significant damage. This was the same storm system that was headed for the Steele County Fairgrounds, but it hooked south just prior to reaching the Owatonna area.

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INSIDE

Opinions..... A2
Hometown Living..... A3
Public Safety..... A4
Sports..... A5

History..... A6
Community Calendar..... A7
Faith..... A9

Steele Fair Coverage..... B1
4-H Fair Results..... B4-5
Public Notices..... B8
Classifieds..... B9

AREA DEATHS

Nathan K. Goodwin,
97, Austin

Serving
Bloomington
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Committed board helps keep a strong fair

Just a few days from ending, the Steele County Free Fair is now becoming a memory for most of us as we reflect back on the largest celebration in southern Minnesota. Before it gets totally out of your mind and shifts to the Minnesota State Fair, which gets underway Thursday and runs through Labor Day, we want to recognize a dedicated group of people from every corner of Steele County and beyond that pulls together the fair for our enjoyment.

The Steele County Agricultural Society once again pulled off a dandy with really no hitches in the weather department this year (for once). The association continued a rich tradition that dates back nearly 150 years.

The fair board certainly outdid itself this year by reconfiguring the north end of the race track, adding a new liquor establishment, building a new barn and providing some first-class quality entertainment.

Without the dedicated board members, there would be no fair. They tirelessly volunteer to pull together what is the largest entertainment venue next to the State Fair.

All the fun we enjoyed last week, all the chuckles and smiles we received and all the memories we made was because of these folks—our friends and neighbors—who have dedicated countless hours of their time to making the fair.

To officers and members of the local fair association—Dan Deml, president; Wayne Steele, vice president; Scott Kozelka, fair manager; Tim Arlt, treasurer; Tracy Ignaszewski, Gene Fisher, Rick Ellingson, Glen Meger, Jim Abbe, Bruce Busho, Mike Hamilton, Sandy Jirele, Jim Linder, Doug Meier, Roger Noble and Brent Svenby: a huge thank you!

Hats off to these folks for their hard work and dedication to the Steele County Fair. A special thanks for Dan Deml for leading the organization through some tough times the past few years.

The committed board members truly are responsible for keeping Minnesota's best fair in Steele County.

Your efforts truly make us proud to be from Steele County! It also shows us that it takes an entire county to make a quality fair. Thank you again!

GUEST COLUMN

Working to fight robocalls

BY AMY KLOBUCHAR

If you have a phone, then chances are you've received at least one unsolicited robocall – likely more.

“Congratulations! You’ve won an all-expenses paid vacation.” Or, “Alert to the vehicle owner, your loan is set to expire.” You know the sound and the experience—a recognizable number calls and you pick up realizing that the robot on the other end doesn't actually have your next vacation planned.

This experience is not unique. One Minnesota resident, Rosey, who moved from Iowa many years ago, says she often gets calls from local area codes in Iowa. Robocallers are hoping that she'll pick up.

Over half of all Americans report getting more than one robocall per day and more than 93% said they get at least one per month.

In 2018, the number of robocalls to Minnesota households doubled. And just last month, there were 4.5 million calls made to the 507 area code alone. That's an average of over 150,000 robocalls every day. There are few things more annoying than when your phone rings and you hear a recorded voice on the other end trying to sell you something, or worse, scam you out of your hard earned money.

We all know what it's like to have family dinners interrupted by these unwelcome calls. And it's probably why unwanted robocalls and telemarketing spoofs are the top consumer complaint to the Federal Communications Commission. Last year, the FCC received 232,000 complaints regarding robocalls, and the Federal Trade Commission received more than 3.7 million robocall complaints.

These robocalls aren't just unwanted and disruptive – most are illegal. New technology has enabled scammers to “spoof” or alter their phone numbers so that the calls appear to be local, making them nearly impossible to recognize or track. Worse still, they often target seniors who are particularly susceptible to these scammers, which has led, in

extreme cases, to the loss of their entire life savings.

We need robocall legislation that is as sophisticated as the people trying to scam us. That's why I've been working to shut down robocallers. Just this May, legislation aimed at better protecting consumers and increasing robocall penalties against fraudulent telemarketers that I cosponsored passed the Senate. But we still have more work to do. That's why I recently introduced the Deter Obnoxious, Nefarious, and Outrageous Telephone (DO NOT) Call Act, legislation that will strengthen penalties against scammers by increasing fines and adding criminal liability to deter this illegal conduct.

While Congress plays a critical part in deterring robocalls, federal agencies play significant roles as well. Last month, the FCC made an important new ruling to help protect consumers from robocalls by allowing carriers to block them. This means that consumers should receive fewer annoying, unwanted, and potentially fraudulent calls. Also, the Federal Trade Commission announced a new crackdown on illegal robocalls which included nearly 100 cases targeting operations around the country that are responsible for more than one billion robocalls pitching a variety of products and services including credit card interest rate reduction services, money-making opportunities, and medical alert systems.

While these are promising steps, we still must make sure we are protecting consumers' choice and ensuring that the price of using these call-blocking technologies does not get passed on to the consumers. I will continue to work to pass legislation that will better protect Minnesotans from these unsolicited calls.

We can and must do more to protect consumers from illegal robocalls and crack down on the scammers responsible for them. It's time to stop them once and for all.

Amy Klobuchar represents Minnesota in the U.S. Senate. She is also a candidate for president in 2020.

Great weather: pushes fair attendance up 3%

FROM A1

“When you get an attendance figure 10 times the size of the county's population (about 35,000), people give you a funny look,” Deml said. “In our books, 350,000 just sounds a little unrealistic,” he said referring to the estimated record set back in 2013. “It's just a scientific guess. We also have to apply some common sense to it.”

But, Deml added, he is confident that the fair easily went past the 300,000 mark.

While the fair attendance is never known for sure, fair officials do know that several areas of the fair were up substantially this year.

The overall liquor sales shot up by 16%. The fair produces liquor sales from three sources, including beer garden,

the new saloon and the grandstand.

Another barometer the fair looks at is ATM transactions, which were up 13% this year.

Kozelka said the parking revenue was up 130% this year, but that number is artificially spiked because the fair couldn't park any cars last year. “Due to better weather, we had good parking revenue,” he said.

Mega Ride tickets came in at 4,939, which is up about 175 from the previous year.

Grandstand attendance also showed a nice increase by about 20%.

“All the vendors told us they had a great fair,” Kozelka said. “People were rocking out there. Six days of sun helps tremendously.”

Smothered by the American flag

I was smothered in patriotism at the Steele County Free Fair last week.

U.S. President Donald Trump has been caught showing his love for America by embracing the American flag. I got a little wrapped up in America on opening day of the fair.

I was part of the Blooming Prairie Honor Guard that participated in opening ceremonies of the Steele County Free Fair last week.

As we waited patiently in our vehicles a few blocks away from the west entrance of the fairgrounds, we listened intently and watched our telephone radar screens to monitor incoming storms. Owatonna servicemen told us that the ceremony would be delayed a half hour until 5:30 p.m.

“It's going to slide right by us,” said Legionnaire Bob Ingvalson as he watched the rain clouds move away.

The “all-clear” was given and we exited our vehicles to line up for the march toward the Fair Square Stage.

Two riflemen were chosen, the POW flag was assigned as was the Legion flag. That left one flag, the American flag. I volunteered to carry it.



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

“Just anchor it in your belly button and you will be OK,” said Ken Trom as he walked alongside of me.

All went well until a strong breeze blew the flag right over my head. I floundered briefly, not being able to see my feet below. Twisting the flag pole a bit helped clear my vision.

The “lights out,” caused by an energetic flag, happened twice more.

“We're almost there,” encouraged Trom.

Seeing the crowd by the Fair Square stage, I knew I was almost home free. I had to negotiate three steps and did so without losing my balance.

The whole experience was inspiring, knowing that I was carrying the symbol of our nation, the American flag. Even with it draped over my head on occasion, I was able to complete my honor and duty.

It has been a real honor and a privilege to be part of the Blooming Prairie Honor Guard. We heard many “thank yous” after arriving on stage and this makes it all worthwhile.

Old Glory waves proudly, and I wavered with it on what turned out to be a wonderful day at the fair.

The generation of mass shootings

I remember about seven years ago, I was at the urgent care with my mom. I don't remember what I was there for, some sort of illness or sports injury, but that doesn't matter.

What matters is I looked up at the TV in the waiting room and saw nothing but pure sadness as the news broke that a shooting had occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School, less than 100 miles from my parents' home in Rhode Island.

I was a senior in high school then, and thought that this would be the end. That as a society we would rally together, and people would for once and for all realize that we need to do some serious work when it comes to gun laws.

But that's far from the case. Since Sandy Hook's shooting, there have been over 1,000 mass shootings in the United States. That number is unacceptable.

Just a couple of weeks ago, we woke up to news of two mass shootings in the U.S. and when a country averages hundreds of mass shootings per year, it means that there is extreme flaws.

I've been a journalist in Southern Minnesota for the last two years. Kasson is the biggest community I have covered.

But yet I have written countless stories about schools revamping their security to help prevent senseless violence in their schools and to keep kids safe.

While I think that having measures in place to keep our kids and staff members safe at schools are good, the reality is that we shouldn't have let our society get within breathing distance of that point, and we certainly can't let it get any more out of hand.

I find it fascinating as someone that studied political science for four years that somehow this debate of keeping our communities safe has come down to such a political ideology debate.

In a country that was founded on compromise, that has made compromises through the almost 250 year history and has repealed and changed laws constantly, there is no reason why we can't get to the point where people can still have their rights to bear arms, but yet can't own the same guns or more powerful guns than the ones in the hands of our soldiers.

In my view I think there needs to be a lot



Outside Perspectives
ALEX MALM

more work done in addition to just banning war-style guns.

When I was in college, and we would examine what the issue of gun control, mass shootings, and other related issues, one of the best arguments that came up constantly is that no gun pulled the trigger itself.

What I always took it as meaning is that although gun laws are a major problem in our country, the truth is we need to do more to help people who are suffering from mental illness, or other issues, to help prevent

anyone from getting anywhere near the point that they want to go and do heinous things to others for no reason at all.

As a country, we have an obligation to do more to help people who are suffering from mental illnesses just like if they are suffering from the flu.

But at the end of the day, those people and anyone from that matter shouldn't have large stockpiles of military grade, or assault weapons.

I think I speak for many people in my generation, and for the generations before me and after me in saying that as a society we are sick and tired of waking up to the news that someone, somewhere killed large numbers of innocent people.

As Americans we all need to go to the table when we're having discussions with our neighbors, friends and families with open minds and hearts and understand that compromise is not only warranted in solving the problem, it is absolutely undoubtedly necessary in order to prevent senseless tragedies going forward.

Our country can have common sense laws, and still cherish the Second Amendment. It just takes some compromises.

For our politicians, I hope that those who take money from the NRA to vote in their favor will instead stand-up and vote in favor of the safety and security of the American people.

For the politicians who have stood up to gun lobbyists, I encourage you to continue to do so, so when I have kids they don't have to live in a generation that is still fighting for their lives to stay safe in schools and everywhere for that matter!

Alex Malm is the news editor for the Dodge County Independent in Kasson.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT: to approve new high school

FROM A1

collected and careful consideration of the facility needs of the Owatonna Public Schools. She noted issues identified in the nearly 100-year-old building included on-going and increasing maintenance needs, safety and security concerns, site size limitations and outdated learning spaces.

Since May, district staff and leadership have been listening to the community and gathering additional feedback. Community input was collected through multiple community listening sessions, a random sample scientific community phone survey and other feedback from community members.

Through the listening sessions, the district found several themes that emerged for the referendum's failure. They include: cost too high, tax impact too high, a desire to reuse the current building, a desire to revisit and compare costs of a new school versus a remodel of the current building and interest in seeing building concepts for a new school.

Officials have trimmed back the cost of the new school to \$104 million. The capacity for students would be 1,600 instead of 1,700

in the previous referendum. The previous corporate donations and other donations are still on the table for the new option.

The second question is contingent on the passage of the first question. The current high school would be a site for future district and/or community use. Under the plan, the district offices would be consolidated into one location. Additional uses would be determined in collaboration with the community. The cost is estimated at \$8 million.

Tax implications for the new referendum would be a 25-year bond with \$16.16 per month on a home valued at \$175,000. The previous request was \$23 per month. The second question would also be a 25-year bond with an estimated tax impact of \$1.42 per month.

If both questions pass, the average homeowner would see a tax hike of \$17.58 per month.

The district is beginning to prepare information materials, including a comprehensive website, to help the community make an informed decision.

County approves sale of Park Place, Cedarview

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

A crowd of family members and staff jammed into last Tuesday’s county board meeting to express their anger over the looming sale of Park Place Assisted Living and the vacated Cedarview Care Center next door.

Park Place is currently managed by Benedictine Health System subsidy Koda Living Communities but is owned by the county, which has been looking to sell both it and the empty Cedarview building.

Controversy has arisen over this potential sale due to the fact that the buyer, Bradford Development, has indicated that they will demolish the old Cedarview building in order to replace it with a new facility that will hold 27 units. This will require current Park Place residents to relocate for a time while demolition and construction is underway.

During the public comment period of last week’s meeting, Park Place residents, staff members, families, and community members voiced their opposition to this relocation, and to any sale which would require it.

Bonnie Russel, whose brother-in-law is a resident of Park Place, told the board, “you just need to think about each person who’s in there and not the end of the market. It’s going to solve your problem but you’re going to create a big problem for a lot of families.”

“For some elders, especially those with cognitive impairments, changes in routine, especially having to move from one home to another, or even one room to another, can result in

SEE CEDARVIEW, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Residents and staff from Park Place Assisted Living along with family and friends voice their opinions to the county board during a packed board room Aug. 13. The public comment period saw many members of the community share their thoughts and disappointment on the sale of the property, which will result in a temporary relocation of the residents.

BIKING FOR CAUSES



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was a sunny day as participants in the 20th Annual BOB (Bikers of Blooming) departed at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17.

BOB Ride helps Toys for Tots

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It’s another record year for the BOB (Bikes of Blooming) Ride for the Toys for Tots campaign.

Last year, organizers Harvey and Nancy Farr of J & H Liquors recorded an all-time high in contributions for Toys for Tots. The total settled in at \$15,000.

This year’s ride on July 20 was postponed due to a torrential rainstorm. The ride was moved to Saturday, Aug. 17. What did this postponement mean? It meant more time for the bikers and the Farris to raise money.

This year’s total was marked at \$16,870 late Saturday afternoon, Aug. 17 when riders returned at about 4:30 p.m. The

Farris said more contributions are coming in and the total undoubtedly will be reported at in excess of \$17,000.

Presentation of the Toys for Tots monies will be made to Steele County Toys officials on Sept. 7.

Farr said the Blooming Prairie contribution to Toys for Tots is the largest made in Steele County.

The sun shined brightly on the 40-plus motorcycle and classic car riders as they departed Blooming Prairie at about 10:30 a.m. Aug. 17 for the 20th annual ride.

Farr again diagramed the route of the ride, this year going to Mantorville from Blooming Prairie and then on to Zumbro Falls and ending in Dundas. The ride then reversed itself back to Blooming Prairie.

The route spanned 160 miles.

“I’m a firm believer in it’s better to give than to receive,” said Farr as he waited for all riders to be registered. “Not everybody is created equal and people struggle,” he said. “That’s why we help out with Toys for Tots,” he added.

Stops were at the Mantorville Saloon, Buck Wild Bar & Grill in Zumbro Falls and L & B Bar and Grill in Dundas.

In the beginning, 20 years ago, it was 100% bikes, said Farr. He said now there aren’t as many bikers, thus classic cars have been added to the ride. “People like to go cruising,” he said.

There’s been quite a change from the Baby Boomers to the Millennium kids, Farr said.

Dean and Joleen Zilm have been on all but one of the BOB

Rides. He said the only ride the Zilms missed was on their wedding day 17 years ago.

A newcomer to the ride this year was Koleen Haney of Austin. Haney became aware of the ride when spotting a flyer at Georges of Geneva. “It’s a good cause, and I love to ride,” said Haney.

A big supporter of the BOB Ride is Robert Sikel of Owatonna. He joined the BOB Ride and also was promoting the 8th Annual Jacob’s Run, a scholarship benefit for suicide prevention in memory of Jacob Sikel.

The ride on Sept. 7 will feature 160 bikers. It will include stops in Janesville, Delavan, Freeborn, Blooming Prairie and ending in Owatonna. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the ride begins at 10:30 a.m. from the Owatonna VFW.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Denise and Carl Wieman of Owatonna are ready to hit their motorcycle during the 34th annual MS River Road Run that began Saturday morning in Lakeville. The Wiemans have taken part in the ride for the past 18 years and personally raised about \$70,000 for MS research.

Owatonna, MN 55060. This is a tax-deductible contribution.

MS is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, but the unpredictable physical and emotional effects can be lifelong. Advances in research and treatments are giving hope to those affected.

Couple cycles to raise funds for MS

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

An Owatonna couple knows how to fundraise for a cure.

Over the past 18 years, Carl and Denise Wieman have successfully collected \$70,000 for Multiple Sclerosis. This past weekend they raised \$3,000 for the 34th annual MS River Road Run that started in the Twin Cities and went into western Wisconsin.

As they have for the past decade, the Wiemans hopped on their 1986 Honda motorcycle that Carl restored. “It sat in a barn for 10 years with one inch of bat crap on it,” Carl said. “I restored it and now it has been in the most MS rides.”

The Wiemans have a personal stake in the MS ride. Denise’s niece, Lori Serbus, had MS for nearly 23 years before passing away on Dec. 30, 2004 from complications caused by MS. She would have been 59 on Aug. 16.

“We want to help others like Lori that have this devastating disease,” Wieman said. “We ride for one reason—to help those

with MS. We ride because we can and for those that cannot.”

Asked how long he plans to continue with the MS ride, Wieman said, “Until we find a cure.” He added they are dedicated to trying to do their part to find a cure for the crippling disease.

“I’ve worked so hard my whole life and now it’s time to give back,” Wieman said. “I have the time and energy to do it, and we like to do it together,” he added.

As dozens of motorcyclists poured in for the MS run, Wieman said with tears in his eyes, “It gets very emotional to see all these people.” He noted at least 10 cyclists in the run have MS.

Besides running their own fundraising campaign locally, the Wiemans have assisted in designing the motorcycle route for the past six years. This year’s route went 240 miles starting in Lakeville and ending in Winona. He said he drove the route several times prior to the actual run.

Anyone interested in donating to the MS River Road Run can send contributions to Carl and Denise Wieman, 524 Glendale St.,

Closing shop

Sterling Drug to transition into Kwik Trip

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On Aug. 10, Sterling Drug in Owatonna closed its gift shop and convenience store while maintaining its pharmacy. The move is part of a deal between Sterling and Kwik

Trip, which will see Kwik Trip take over the gift shop and convenience store portion of the building.

The two companies officially announced the move to the public on Aug. 3. “Kwik Trip

SEE CLOSING SHOP, A7



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Sterling Drug in Owatonna recently closed its gift shop and convenience store in a move that will see Kwik Trip converting the building for their use. The pharmacy will remain open.

Wind project takes an unexpected turn

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

The schedule for approval of Dodge County Wind LLC’s applications to build a wind farm and transmission line in Steele, Dodge and Olmsted counties is now more uncertain as the company asked the state regulators for permission to withdraw its application for the route permit.

DCW has applied to the state for permission to construct a 68-turbine wind farm in Steele and Dodge counties with the electricity to be sent to a substation near Byron in Olmsted County by way of a 345 Kilovolt high-voltage transmission line.

Before the project can be started, DCW needs to obtain a Certificate of Need, a Site Permit and a Route Permit from the State of Minnesota.

Last week, the company notified the Public Utilities Commission that it wanted to withdraw the Route Permit application and also suspend the procedural schedule for the project. The withdrawal request said that one of the interconnection points planned was more expensive than originally thought and the company wants to find a new location. DCW said it intends to submit a new application once it has located a new site for the interconnection.

Last month, the PUC released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the project, which identified two of four potential transmission line

SEE PROJECT , A7

We have lost our civility



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

Where has our civility gone? Where is it written that because we have different political views we are enemies? As the political divide grows, we seem to disagree more and more. As the incivility progresses and polls are taken, they are showing that most Americans say this is a major problem.

What does civility mean? It can be defined as simply as being courteous to one another. Civility is derived from the Latin root civilis, meaning “befitting a citizen.” While it can be about being polite, it is much more than that. Webster dictionary lists civility as “formal politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech.” This does not mean we agree, it is healthy to have different viewpoints represented. We have lost sight of this.

It feels as though we are broken. When we don’t trust one another, don’t value the others opinion, coming to a compromise is all but impossible. We are better than this. We owe it to one another to be respectful of each other’s opinions and beliefs, we owe it to our children and grandchildren.

Let’s stop relying on the quick meme to get our news and information. Let’s stop instantly throwing misinformation out on social media with no regard for the facts. Let’s take the time to sit back and really listen to the person across the table.

SEE CIVILITY, A10

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

Drug Task Force wraps up case with 2 arrests



Darian Bohlman-Reyna



Nicole Weller

A drug investigation has ended in the arrests of two women.

Agents with the South Central Drug Investigation Unit culminated a case on Aug. 10 when they directed a patrol officer to stop a vehicle driven by a woman who was the subject of the investigation.

Police stopped Nicole Weller, 26, of Owatonna for aid and abet fourth-degree drug sales, methylenedioxymethamphetamine, a schedule I controlled substance.

Officers also found another woman in the car, Darian Bohlman-Reyna, 26, of Owatonna. She had multiple warrants out for her arrests. While searching Bohlman-Reyna, police allegedly found a purse with a pipe that tested positive for meth and some other stimulants.

Besides the warrants, Bohlman-Reyna faces additional fifth-degree controlled substance and drug paraphernalia charges.

COUNTY: approves sale of Park Place, Cedarview

FROM A3

an increase in confusion, depression, changes in health, personality, or disposition,” said Sharon Bexell, Park Place director of nursing. “It’s called relocation stress syndrome, or transfer trauma. It’s a real nursing diagnosis.”

Bexell said that such trauma can increase the risk of grave illness or even death among those who suffer from it. “Park Place serves elders from our community who are in need of care, the average age right now starts at 70 and our oldest is 99 at present state,” she said. “They need help to maintain their households and their health, requiring relocation on short notice has already heightened anxiety amongst them.”

“Please consider the impact the decision would have on seniors who once lived in this community as business owners, employees, tax payers, and volunteers,” she said. “Consider the impact this decision truly has on all of their lives.”

Many residents from Park Place were in attendance, including published author Harvey Ronglien, who has documented his childhood at the Minnesota State School. “I was brought up in an institution,” Ronglien said. “I can keep up with Park Place, Park Place is a good place to be for me, I judge it against the State School.”

“I’m 93 years old, but I’m telling you, anybody that fools with Park Place doesn’t know what they’re doing,” Ronglien concluded to applause from the crowd before adding, “and I mean that.”

Comments were also given by Ray Giannini, the broker for the Park Place deal. “We went through a deliberate process with this facility, it’s not just throwing people on the street,” Giannini said. According to Giannini, the buyer is hoping for all residents to return once construction is complete. He also indicated that during relocation residents would be able to store their items there.

“He would like to have the building repopulated as quickly as possible,” Giannini said of the buyer. “I want to give the commissioners credit for going through a deliberate process on a very difficult decision. As you know what we are trying to do is knock that building down, beautify this building, and put up another building to beautify the entire campus. How can we be faulted for that?”

After the public comment period, commissioner Jim Abbe shared his own thoughts on the matter. “I can tell you as commissioners this is probably one of the toughest decisions we’ll be faced with,” Abbe said. “When is the right time? If today isn’t the right time then is six months from now, or a year to address that old antiquated building that probably should have been dealt with 10 years ago.”

“We have the human element and that’s the toughest part for me,” Abbe said. “If it was my mom or dad, I would be asking the same questions that a lot of you have been talking about.”

Abbe noted that there were issues raised prior to the sale about the current condition of Park Place, including the lack of hot meals, the cleanliness of the facility, and the level of care. “Now we’re in a situation where we can address these things, we have a qualified buyer that has stepped up and he’s offered a solution to updating your facility and bringing you back if you want to come back,” Abbe said.

“The county is going to do their best where we can, we’re the landlord we’re not the management agent, BHS is,” Abbe said. “But we’re going to do what we can as a county to try and find comfortable housing and a place for each and every person to go while this process is ongoing.”

He also noted that alongside an updated facility, the deal would get the county out of the elder care business. “If counties should be in the eldercare business, why aren’t all the other counties in the state doing it,” he said. “Let’s let private business get involved, let them own it, and let them provide you quality care that you’re entitled to.”

The financial aspects of the deal were also not lost on the commissioners. Commissioner James Brady explained that last month the county spent \$500,000 on the facilities and that over the years it has spent well over \$3 million. “That’s another \$500,000 from the community to keep Park Place and Cedarview going,” he said. “To me, there’s 35,000 other people in the county, to me I just can’t keep it going that way.”

When it came time to approve of the sale, all five commissioners unanimously voted in favor of moving forward with the sale of Park Place and Cedarview to Bradford Development, they sought a second opinion on the property, which concluded that for the health and safety of the residents, relocation is necessary during demolition and renovation.

Currently there is no timeline stated for relocation of the residents, but the developer has indicated that such relocation will need to be completed before the sale-closing.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 5 – 11:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chelsea Anderson, 38, Austin, unsafe passing on left, \$131.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Rochelle L. Steinbacher, 34, Owatonna, take fish without a license, \$181.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Christian M. Allen, 45, Clarion, IA, speeding, \$121; Jodi M. Bastyr, 39, Lonsdale, speeding, \$121; Joshua W. Behm, 42, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, \$121; Efrain Bolanos Martinez, 33, Aurora, IL, speeding, \$121; Jason J. Bouska, 39, Eagle Grove, IA, texting while driving, \$131; Dong H. Chen, 47, Waseca, speeding and no child passenger restraint system, \$191; Luis A. Dubon Gonzalez, 31, St. James, speeding, \$121; Jamie A. Ennis, 39,

Warsaw, no insurance and failure to deliver title to transferee, \$481; Eric J. Frederickson, 48, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$381; Jack E. Glanzer, 18, Spring Park, speeding, \$131; Samantha B. Goebel, 52, Minneapolis, seat belt, \$106; Dean A. Hess, 38, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Kimberly K. Hilgers, 54, Cleveland, speeding, \$121; Dah Ku, 18, Austin, speeding, \$121; Matthew K. Larson, 37, Farmington, seat belt, \$106; George A. Liddle, 61, Flippin, AR, speeding, \$121; Trevor H. Lunde, 19, Apple Valley, speeding, \$141; Sydney E. Lyden, 29, Farmington, seat belt, \$106; Kellie N. Montour, 27, Delhi, IA, speeding, \$141; Abdifatah N. Muhumed, 27, Faribault, permit violation, \$131; Jason M. Oldenburg, 35, St. Paul, fictitious name and seat belt, 60 days in county jail and \$81; Felipe Soriano Mendez, 34, Faribault, no license and no insurance, \$381; Jewel M. Stewart, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jasmine A. Thomas, 19, Apple Valley, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$121 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Douglas P. Trom, 62, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Katie J. Williamson, 40, Austin, speeding, \$131.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Keder A. Ali, 20, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Desiree L. Anderson, 29, Cambridge, seat belt and no insurance, \$306; Jack S. Bass, 50, Owatonna, no insurance and invalid license, \$381; Daqwon R. Brown, 20, Owatonna, DWI, \$206, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Linda E. Butenhoff, 57, Owatonna, expired license, \$181; Patrick M. Daniels-Simmons, 19, Owatonna, permit violation, no insurance and seat belt, \$356; Eric M. Escobedo, 37, Evergreen, CO, speeding, \$131; Jaydan T. Feuring, 17, Owatonna, muffler violation, \$131; Odilia Garza, 40, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Jimmy L. Gaxiola, 20, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Lindsay S. Hachfeld, 34, Owatonna, theft, stay of adjudication, no trespassing at HyVee and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jessica A. Hayes, 36, Waseca, theft by check, \$443.41, 6 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Christopher M. Heise, 43, Owatonna, violation of order for protection and domestic assault, 62 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; Tristian J. Hernandez, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Michael A. Jindra, 31, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 1 day in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Marlys J. Jurens, 68, Owatonna, seat belt,

\$106; Isaiah J. Kessel, 21, Forest Lake, no insurance and license plate light violation, \$321; Clarissa L. Kryzer, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Natalya R. Larson, 20, Morristown, theft, stay of adjudication, no trespassing at Fleet Farm and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Thomas D. Lehrer, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Cindi M. Luna, 20, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Gabriel Narvaez Jr., 23, Pharr, TX, speeding, \$121; Joshua J. Nelson, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Theodore A. Nicholson, 47, Owatonna, no motorcycle endorsement, invalid license and speeding, \$291; Paul L. Peterson, 60, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Chris A. Rivas, 23, Faribault, seat belt, revoked license and no insurance, \$506; Richard A. Rohlfing, 56, Madison Lake, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Paola Rubio, 20, Bay City, TX, no insurance, \$281; Kellie L. Ruth, 55, Medford, speeding, \$131; Adam P. Stumpf, 21, Waseca, no insurance and revoked license, \$481; Parker A. White, 19, Owatonna, speeding and window tint violation, \$271.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Olusola J. Adomayi, 56, Woodbury, speeding, \$141; Clarence W. Brown, 81, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Payton R. Cooper, 19, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Benjamin A. Douglas, 39, Des Moines, IA, speeding, suspended license and careless driving, \$581; Paige L. Ersland, 25, homeless, speeding, \$121; Mohamed A. Fakrudin, 22, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Samantha

A. Haberman, 27, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$221; Kevin T. Holicky, 39, Le Center, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey A. Holmgren, 37, St. Michael, speeding, \$121; Parker L. Hummel, 20, Medford, texting while driving and invalid license, \$231; Tylonde L. Jefferson, 28, Champlin, speeding, \$121; Diane E. Justice, 69, Arlington, VA, careless driving, \$381 and 1 day in county jail; Benjamin D. Kennedy, 32, Grimes, IA, speeding, \$131; Kevin L. Kewatt, 54, Medford, falsely reporting a crime, 2 years of diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Dorian W. Lord, 39, Austin, speeding, \$141; Kane A. Martin, 22, St. Cloud, speeding, \$121; Janiffer L. Miller, 35, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Robert L. Morris II, 54, Sparta, WI, failure to drive in single lane, \$131; Maribel Padron-Hernandez, 46, Austin, suspended license, \$281; Dylan M. Rasmussen, 20, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Raul L. Robles, 49, Waseca, suspended license, \$281; Stevie J. Rockwell, 33, Osage, IA, speeding, \$141; Jack J. Skalicky, 22, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Adam J. Techau, 35, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Brian E. Wheeler, 42, White Bear Lake, failure to yield right of way, \$131; Nathan A. Wiles, 41, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Aug. 13 Crash: At 1:22 p.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred on 3rd St. NW.

Aug. 14 Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Highway 218 and Highway 30 W. at 9:24 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Aug. 9 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 5:26 a.m.

Thefts: Officers took theft reports in the 700 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:07 a.m. and the 300 block of School St. W. at 9:01 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 4:05 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1000 block of 21st Ave. NW.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Agnes St. E. at 5:02 p.m.

Ordinance: Police arrested a subject for an ordinance violation in the 100 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:26 p.m.

Aug. 10 Counterfeit: Police received a report of counterfeit money in the 500 block of 24th St. NE at 10:23 a.m.

Animal: At 3:56 p.m., officers responded to an animal call in the 700 block of Rolling Green Dr. SE.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Glendale St. NW and Riverside Ave. NW at 6:24 p.m.

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MINIMIZER: to leave BP

FROM A1

ees impacted by the move. “Our employees are the backbone of Minimizer,” he said. “We had opportunities to construct a new facility in other cities, but Owatonna is only 20 miles from Blooming Prairie, and we didn’t want to lose our current workforce when they are vitally important to our future success.”

Kuntz said Owatonna did not pursue Minimizer, but rather the company came to the city. “It’s not our intent to rob Peter to pay Paul,” he said. “We did not go after them,” he added.

“Minimizer got sold (last year) and did not have the Blooming Prairie connection any more,” Kuntz said. “We never turn business away,” he said, adding Owatonna is close enough for employees to commute from Blooming Prairie.

Dick Kruckeberg founded the company in Blooming Prairie in 1984. He eventually sold the company in 2006 to his son, Craig Kruckeberg, who operated it until last year when it was sold to Capital Partners, which is based in Connecticut and assumed majority ownership with its equity investment.

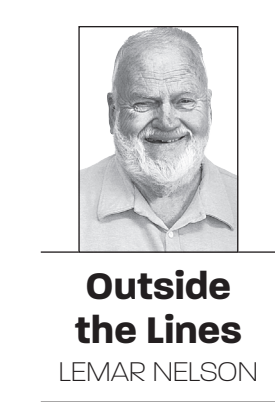
The company built a new facility in Blooming Prairie in 2007. Minimizer currently operates out of three campuses in Blooming Prairie, including the main headquarters on the north end of town, a building on Main Street and a campus with five or six buildings on the south end of town.

Minimizer manufactures and markets polyethylene heavy-truck fenders. The company sells its fenders nationwide and in Mexico and Canada.

This is the second major company to leave Blooming Prairie this year. Bio-Plastics recently pulled out of Blooming Prairie and moved into an existing facility in Ellendale.

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

1. Roger Mathers – DWI - \$12,000 bail	8. John McGuire – drugs – no bail	15. Imaan Moloo – criminal sexual conduct - \$10,000 bail
2. Robert Mattson – revoked license – no bail	9. Gilbert Meekins – theft - \$300 bail	16. Dayson Montanto – DWI - \$1,000 bail
3. Robert Maughan – DWI - \$1,000 bail	10. Jorge Mendez – no license, open bottle - \$500 bail	17. Rafael Montoya – drugs - \$30,000 bail
4. Victoria Mays – assault - \$1,000 bail	11. Randy Mensing – check forgery - \$15,000 bail	18. Michael Moore – violation of conditions of release – no bail
5. Gina McCarthy – agg violation - \$6,000 bail	12. Jerry Millang – cancelled license – no bail	19. Reynaldo Morales – possession of stolen property - \$1,000 bail
6. James McConnon – theft - \$500 bail	13. Gina Miller – worthless check - \$3,000 bail	20. Bryce More – arson - \$500 bail
7. Steven McDougal – shoplifting - \$1,000 bail	14. Jeremy Miller – DWI – no bail	



Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

I guess there is no better sign of a new season approaching than witnessing the fall sports teams beginning their training sessions in preparation for the schedule of competition. From now on it will be almost non-stop action on the football field, the volleyball court, and the cross country course. For sports fans, this is a most exciting and entertaining time of the year, and it is looked forward to with great anticipation.

The football team, as is usually the case, is gearing up for a run at another district and section title, and both the volleyball and cross country teams approach the new season with optimism for a successful campaign. Now it will be time for the athletes involved to make that optimism a reality. Stay tuned.

The Great Get-Together Now that the county fair has again drawn the usual 60,000 visitors daily in its six-day run, attention turns to the 12-day state fair, which will conclude on Labor Day. That annual event is the largest state fair in the United States. It

A trip down fair lane

leads the nation in average daily attendance and is second in total attendance. Texas holds that distinction, but its fair runs over three weeks.

Minnesota holds the one-day attendance record, when 270,426 patrons came through the gates one day two years ago. The fair set an all-time attendance record in 2018 with 2,046,533 visitors. We Minnesotans can thus take a great deal of pride when it comes to fairs and fair going.

The first state fair was held in 1858, even before we became a state. In the first few years, it rotated in Rochester, Owatonna, and Winona, before settling at its present site in Falcon Heights, next to the University of Minnesota West Bank campus. The fair has been held every year, but two—once when the Civil War was being fought and again in 1946 during World War II. That is quite a mark.

The state fair has the distinction of being the climax to the summer season, and it has featured many attractions through the years. For many, many years, Machinery Hill provided a ‘must see’ for fair goers. People locked to the area to look at the latest in farm equipment, and that included farmers and non-farmers. Sadly, that area has almost disappeared completely.

For all of the state FFA and 4-H members the state fair is the culmination for

the many and varied projects that have been worked on all summer. Judging of these projects takes place at various times during schedule, and Grand Champion and different ribbons are coveted prizes presented at those judging events. To the thousands of presenters, it marks the highlight of the fair.

A regular attraction of the fair for many years, the Dairy Industry’s milk booth has drawn young and old for the fresh milk provided by the vendors. It is funny that sometimes the smallest attractions hold the most interest and patronage.

Of course, the state fair wouldn’t be the same without the Midway. Every year it seems that new and more thrilling rides are added to the display, and how more scared the riders will become. Add to that all the games of chance available, and it is no wonder that this aspect of the fair entertains thousands daily.

For many years now a big part of the state fair is the entertainment featured in the grandstand performances each night. Many of the biggest names in the entertainment world seem honored to be asked to perform at the Minnesota State Fair grandstand.

And of course, there is the food and the free entertainment. I would guess that half of the people who attend the state fair each year do so strictly for the food. I don’t know how

many items one can buy on a stick, but I am guessing there are over a hundred. And each year new food items get added to the menu. This year, for example, seven new food items were granted approval to be added.

And if the food isn’t attraction enough, one can spend the entire day from the free presentations at various small venues around the grounds. Everything from high school bands to solo musicians appear and provide welcome entertainment and moments of relief from the tiring rush of hiking over the fair paths. As the saying goes, “There is something for everyone at the fair.”

I hope readers haven’t minded this brief tour of the state fair. Fairs of any kind have always held a great attraction for me, and whether it be our own Steele County Fair or the Great Minnesota Get-together, I have deep interest in them. Forgive me for that interest.

I didn’t hear anything definitely, but I assume that the annual Ride for a cause proved another success. If Harvey and Nancy Farr had anything to do with it, a good ending was assured.

Now summer is quickly winding down, as is proven by the activities surrounding fall sports at the high school. Enjoy these last days of August and prepare for another season in this state that we live in and love. We’ll talk again.



Here are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of Aug. 16:

MBTS Non-Wing Sprints
A Feature 1 (25 Laps): 1. 12X-Blake Anderson-Chippewa Falls WI, [2]; 2. 99-Bryan Roach-Welch, [1]; 3. 12-Johnny Parsons III-Owatonna, [3]; 4. 19-Jori Hughes-Tower, [5]; 5. 87-Mike Mueller-Oak Grove, [7]; 6. 16-Jimmy Kouba-Byron, [10]; 7. 55-Joseph Kouba-North Branch, [9]; 8. 15J-James Weber-Austin, [12]; 9. (DNF) 63-Todd Hansen-Shoreview, [11]; 10. (DNF) 78-Rob Caho Jr-Wyoming, [6]; 11. (DNF) 92-Nick Carlson-Austin, [13]; 12. (DNF) 6-Jake Kouba-Minneapolis, [4]; 13. (DNF) 14-Cam Schafer-St Paul, [8]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 78-Rob Caho Jr, [2]; 2. 87-Mike Mueller, [1]; 3. 6-Jake Kouba, [3]; 4. 55-Joseph Kouba, [5]; 5. 12-Johnny Parsons III, [4]; 6. 92-Nick Carlson, [6]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 12X-Blake Anderson, [1]; 2. 99-Bryan Roach, [2]; 3. 19-Jori Hughes, [4]; 4. 14-Cam Schafer, [3]; 5. 16-Jimmy Kouba, [7]; 6. 15J-James Weber, [5]; 7. 63-Todd Hansen, [6]

WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds
A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 44Z-Greg Pfeifer Jr-Austin, [2]; 2. G12-Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA, [8]; 3. 7W-Drew Williams-Rochester, [10]; 4. 37-Michael Wytaske-Austin, [3]; 5. 14-Cole Kroneman-Zumbrota, [1]; 6. 98D-Christopher Deno-Kasson, [9]; 7. 79-Jeremy Misgen-New Richland, [7]; 8. 28S-Spencer Stock-Eyota, [11]; 9. 77T-Casey Trom-Austin, [4]; 10. 4-Brayten Cisneros-Bloomington, [6]; 11. 86-Noel Hoppe-New Richland, [12]; 12. 79H-Luke Hainka-wannamingo, [14]; 13. 33-Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo, [13]; 14. (DNF) 1M-Josh Mattick-Rose Creek, [5]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 37-Michael Wytaske, [2]; 2. 44Z-Greg Pfeifer Jr, [1]; 3. 77T-Casey Trom, [3]; 4. 1M-Josh Mattick, [4]; 5. 98D-Christopher Deno, [7]; 6. 28S-Spencer Stock, [6]; 7. 33-Darryl Hainka, [5]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 4-Brayten Cisneros, [2]; 2. 79-Jeremy Misgen, [4]; 3. G12-Ryan Goergen, [5]; 4. 14-Cole Kroneman, [7]; 5. 7W-Drew Williams, [3]; 6. 86-Noel Hoppe, [1]; 7. 79H-Luke Hainka, [6]

Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stock
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 17-Michael Wick-Faribault, [3]; 2. 1-Troy Maas-Faribault, [8]; 3. 0-Brian Adams-Montgomery, [6]; 4. 26-Brady Krohnberg-Walters, [12]; 5. 44-PJ Duchene-Faribault, [9]; 6. 96-Kyndra Neis-Austin, [5]; 7. 11-Michael Gift-Faribault, [11]; 8. 3G-Josh Sousa-Alden, [10]; 9. (DNF) 75L-Devin Losee-LeRoy, [1]; 10. (DNF) 31-Jack Maas-Faribault, [7]; 11. (DNF) 33-Jim Briggs-Waseca, [2]; (DNS) 7X-Andrew Eischens-Taopi,

Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. 75L-Devin Losee, [5]; 2. 0-Brian Adams, [2]; 3. 96-Kyndra Neis, [3]; 4. 7X-Andrew Eischens, [6]; 5. 44-PJ Duchene, [1]; 6. (DNF) 26-Brady Krohnberg, [4]

Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. 31-Jack Maas, [2]; 2. 1-Troy Maas, [5]; 3. 17-Michael Wick, [6]; 4. 33-Jim Briggs, [3]; 5. 3G-Josh Sousa, [1]; 6. 11-Michael Gift, [4]

Y Waste WISSOTA Hornets
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 2-Aaron Reimers-Prior Lake, [6]; 2. 14-Justin Schelitzche-Cologne, [8]; 3. 5-Nick Sillman-Minnesota Lake, [3]; 4. 34CJ-Caylie Blowers-Waseca, [2]; 5. 16M-Matt Wieman-Owatonna, [10]; 6. 21-Brandon Downs-Austin, [1]; 7. 88-Matt Tighe-Austin, [4]; 8. 36-Adam Gransee-Waseca, [7]; 9. 17-Ryan Timm-Austin, [9]; 10. 89-Timothy Gores-Garden City, [12]; 11. 12-Cale Giesler-West Concord, [13]; 12. 28-Patrick Andrus-Austin, [11]; 13. 4-Talon Freerksen-Kasson, [15]; 14. (DNF) 6-Timothy Barnett-Owatonna, [14]; 15. (DNF) 79T-Taylor Pearson-Burnsville, [5]

Heat 1 (5 Laps): 1. 5-Nick Sillman, [2]; 2. 2-Aaron Reimers, [4]; 3. 36-Adam Gransee, [7]; 4. 88-Matt Tighe, [3]; 5. 17-Ryan Timm, [8]; 6. 28-Patrick Andrus, [5]; 7. 12-Cale Giesler, [6]; (DNS) 4-Talon Freerksen, [2]

Heat 2 (5 Laps): 1. 14-Justin Schelitzche, [1]; 2. 21-Brandon Downs, [3]; 3. 34CJ-Caylie Blowers, [5]; 4. 79T-Taylor Pearson, [6]; 5. 16M-Matt Wieman, [7]; 6. 89-Timothy Gores, [4]; 7. 6-Timothy Barnett, [2]

Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks
A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield, [12]; 2. 34JRB-Braden Brauer-Eyota, [8]; 3. 3R-Danny Richards-Mondovi WI, [13]; 4. 01-Kory Adams-Stacyville IA, [7]; 5. 46-Stacy Krohnberg-Walters, [2]; 6. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin, [6]; 7. 34JR-Bobby Blowers-waseca, [4]; 8. 57X-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak-Bloomington, [16]; 9. 43-Tony Shaner-Owatonna, [3]; 10. 101-Bernie Adams-Stacyville IA, [5]; 11. 39J-Dan Klingfus-Austin, [1]; 12. 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca, [10]; 13. 31-Raey Hastings IV-Austin, [9]; 14. 21-Jesse Stahl-Austin, [15]; 15. 2-Fred Prudoehl-Winona, [11]; 16. 16-Jacob Bennett-Austin, [17]; 17. (DNF) 47-Brent Holland-Glenville, [14]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 32-Jason Newkirk, [4]; 2. 01-Kory Adams, [9]; 3. 34JR-Bobby Blowers, [3]; 4. 39J-Dan Klingfus, [7]; 5. (DNF) 3R-Danny Richards, [5]; 6. (DNF) 47-Brent Holland, [2]; 7. (DNF) 21-Jesse Stahl, [6]; 8. (DNF) 57X-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak, [8]; 9. (DNF) 16-Jacob Bennett, [1]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 101-Ken Adams, [5]; 2. 43-Tony Shaner, [1]; 3. 34JRB-Braden Brauer, [8]; 4. 46-Stacy Krohnberg, [3]; 5. 31-Raey Hastings IV, [2]; 6. 42-Cody Hyatt, [6]; 7. 2-Fred Prudoehl, [7]; 8. 15-Zach Elward, [4]

Action Builders USRA B-Mods
A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 38-Kenny Wytaske-Austin, [1]; 2. 72-Alex Schubbe-North Mankato, [3]; 3. 83X-Kadden Kath-Owatonna, [9]; 4. 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin, [8]; 5. 54-Jett Sorensen-Rochester, [7]; 6. 83K-Kobie Kath-Owatonna, [2]; 7. 30-Scott Demmer-Ellendale, [5]; 8. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink-Austin, [10]; 9. 81K-Caleb Korpi-Claremont, [4]; 10. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin, [6]; 11. 27-Channing Warner-Owatonna, [11]; 12. 40-Larry Scott-Northfield, [12]; (DNS) 21-Taylor Ovrebø-Wells, ; (DNS) 71-Jamie Tapp-Myrtle IA,

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 44-Matthew Brooks, [2]; 2. 99-Noah Grinstead, [3]; 3. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink, [5]; 4. 38-Kenny Wytaske, [6]; 5. 83K-Kobie Kath, [1]; 6. 27-Channing Warner, [4]; 7. (DNF) 71-Jamie Tapp, [7]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 83X-Kadden Kath, [2]; 2. 72-Alex Schubbe, [4]; 3. 30-Scott Demmer, [3]; 4. 81K-Caleb Korpi, [5]; 5. 54-Jett Sorensen, [1]; 6. (DNF) 40-Larry Scott, [7]; 7. (DNF) 21-Taylor Ovrebø, [6]

French’s Repair USRA A Modifieds
A Feature 1 (25 Laps): 1. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richland, [2]; 2. 50-Brandon Davis-Hayfield, [5]; 3. 6-Dustin Kruse-Brandon SD, [1]; 4. 23-Darwin Karau-Kasson, [3]; 5. 77-Jacob Stark-Austin, [6]; 6. 02-Jacob Dahle-Morristown, [4]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 50-Brandon Davis, [1]; 2. 6-Dustin Kruse, [2]; 3. 71-Jason Cummins, [4]; 4. 02-Jacob Dahle, [6]; 5. 23-Darwin Karau, [3]; 6. 77-Jacob Stark, [5]

Winners emerge from make-up at Dodge Fair

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

The Dodge County Fair closed just over three weeks ago but the final grandstand event was just completed on Aug. 4.

The Thunderbird Open was originally scheduled for July 18, but rain moved in shortly after the program started and it was rescheduled. Just under 60 cars filled the pits for the make-up event with racing action in five classes. The night’s program was run by the Dodge County Fair Board with the help of the scoring and officiating crew from Chateau Speedway in Lansing.

Although the night’s classes were not officially sanctioned, the cars were categorized and teched according to USRA and WISSOTA Rules, two of the sanctioning bodies that govern the races at Chateau Speedway.

The biggest prize of the night was a \$1,500 to win prize for the winner of the A Mod Feature. Brandon Davis of Hayfield and Blake Arndt of Brownsdale claimed the classes Heat wins before 14 cars lined up for the main event. Dustin Sorensen of Rochester

started on the pole and wasted no time pulling out in front of the pack. An early caution on lap two cost the field four cars with Mark Noble of Blooming Prairie, Brandon Davis of Hayfield, Joe Ludeman of Grand Meadow and Joel Alberts of Kasson all having their night end early. Another of the expected contenders, Jason Cummins of New Richland, fell out about midway through the race. Up front it was all Sorensen as he led all 25 laps on his way to a nice payday. Arndt came home in second just ahead of Joe Horgdahl of Kasson, Charlie Steinberg of Kasson and Steve Wetzstein of West Concord.

B Mods were split between USRA and WISSOTA. In the USRA side of the show, AJ Hoff of Mantorville swept out of row three to the front on lap two and set sail as he cruised to the win, despite having to survive three restarts from various cautions. Mark Motl of Owatonna who took a heat win earlier in the night worked up to a second place finish ahead of Brody Shaw of Brownsdale. Brandon Hare of Elma, Iowa and Troy Hale of Grand Meadow made up the rest of the top



Tommy Myer of Blooming Prairie earned the top spot in the WISSOTA side of the B Mod race Aug. 4 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Kasson.

five. Charlie Steinberg, who was pulling double duty in two classes on the night, had a heat win for the class.

In the WISSOTA side of the B Mod show, Tommy Myer of Blooming Prairie took advantage of a mid race caution to get a jump on Tianna Mithun of New Richland to get to the front.

In Street Stock action, Zach Elward of Hayfield, who has been having his way this season in the class at Chateau Speedway, added another feature win to his stellar season. The

first five laps of the feature were five of the best laps of racing all night. Kory Adams of Stacyville, Iowa led lap one with Dustin Doughty of Oakdale right behind him followed by Elward. On lap two, it was Doughty’s turn to lead with Adams trying to fend off Elward. Zach went to second on lap three and moved by Dustin on lap five as the race went caution free for all 18 laps. The top three stayed that way

SEE WINNERS, A8

Chateau hosts Sprint Car Special

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

It was a spectacular night of racing and fireworks Friday Night at Chateau Speedway in Lansing.

The Fireworks show after the races was the postponed show from the rain out on the Fourth of July Weekend and was well worth the wait as a season high crowd filled the grandstands for the show. Added to that the track hosted Sprint cars for the first time since 2016.

In the 63 year history of the track, Sprint Cars have

run only five times prior to Friday Night. In 1975, the Midwest Sprint Association got in two of three scheduled nights of racing. Then the Upper Midwest Sprint Series ran shows in 2011 and 2012, with a Traditional Sprint Show running in 2016.

Friday night it was the Mastell Brothers Non Wing Sprint Series bringing their show to the track adding their Thunder to the regular six classes of action at Chateau. There have been a few other Sprint Cars on the track over the years, a few Vin-

tage Sprints came out to run with the Vintage shows over the years or a couple nights one came by to run some test and tune laps.

Coming into the night, the Winged Sprint record was 15.407/77.886 MPH Avg, set by Johnny Parsons III of Owatonna during a test session in 2009, and the Non Wing Sprint (or Traditional) record belonged to Hunter Custer of Chippewa Falls, Wis. at 15.917/75.390 MPH Avg. The Winged Sprint Record would not change but was used for comparison. Parson’s was on hand for the night but

Custer was not. When it came to race time 13 Sprints had checked in for the night’s program.

In their three qualifying sessions, Parsons recorded the fastest lap with a 15.981/75.088 time. Second fastest time went to Jori Hughes of Tower with a 16.018/74.915 time. In their two heat races, neither race saw times close to the qualifying speeds. Heat one went to Rob Caho Jr of Wyoming, Minn., while Heat two belonged to Blake Anderson of Chippewa Falls

SEE CHATEAU, A8



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Office & Cancellation Line: 507-444-4321
Tennis & Fitness Center: 507-444-4290
Fax: 507-444-4299
West Hills Social Commons: 507-444-4280
Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation
Brooktree Clubhouse: 507-444-2467
Email Address: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
River Springs Water Park: 507-774-7370
Park Maintenance: 507-774-7086

OUR MISSION:

The city of Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department provides a diverse system of green spaces, trails, facilities, programs and services to enhance the quality of life for the community.

WAYS TO REGISTER:

- **On-Line:** www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration
- **Walk-In Registration:** (begins at 7 a.m.) at the Park and Recreation office at 540 West Hills Circle.
- **Call In:** Call our office at 507-444-4321

THANK YOU PARK BOARD MEMBERS!

Greg Posch, Angie Malo, Greg Louis, Nicholas Elsner, Jonathan Thiel, David Christiansen, and Andi Arnold

Chocolate makes up to ¼ of a trick-or-treater's loot on Halloween?! Visit us on October 26 at the Trick-or-Treat Trail located at the Fairgrounds year!

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FALL AND WINTER SCHEDULE

- August 22: Youth Football grades 3-6 first practice and meeting
- August 24: Woofstock
- August 26: Adult roster and player fees due before first game this week
- August 27: Youth Hockey Registration
- August 27: Adult Leisure Pursuits "The Looney Lutherans in Youth (ish) at Heart" deadline
- August 28: Youth Hockey Registration
- August 28: Youth Volleyball Coaches meeting
- August 28: Youth Volleyball clinic
- September 1: Water Aerobics begins
- September 2: Kohlmer Equipment rentals closed for the season
- September 3: Youth Tennis Lesson Fall session 1 begins
- September 6: Movie in the Park-Manthey Park
- September 7: Youth Volleyball begins
- September 7: 1st-2nd grade Football begins
- September 9: Strength Circuit Training Fall Session 1 begins
- September 9: Therapeutic Recreation Fall Bowling League begins
- September 13: City of Owatonna Deer Hunt registration deadline
- September 17: Adult Leisure Pursuits Padleford River Boat Cruise registration deadline
- September 17: Adult Leisure Pursuits Day Trippers, Bermuda Avenue Triangle registration deadline
- September 18: Men's/Women's Adult Softball schedules available
- September 19: Youth basketball registration
- September 23: Adult Tennis League registration deadline
- September 24: Therapeutic Recreation Leisure Swim Fall Session begins
- September 25: Adult Leisure Pursuits Mystery Trip registration deadline
- September 27: Middle School Pool-family open swim begins
- September 30: SeniorPlace Inc. Annual Meeting
- September 30: Co-Rec Adult Softball schedules available
- October 21: Strength Circuit Training Fall Session 2 begins
- October 26: 6th Annual Trick or Treat Trail
- October 29: 3-6th grade Basketball coaches meeting
- October 31: Youth Basketball registration deadline
- November 2: Owatonna City Deer Hunt Season 1 begins
- November 5: Lifeguard Training session 1 begins
- November 12: 3-6th Grade basketball 1st practice and meeting
- November 24: Owatonna City Deer Hunt Season 2 begins
- December 1: WSI Session 1 begins
- December 2: K-2nd grade basketball coaches meeting
- December 7: Kindergarten-2nd Grade basketball begins
- December 14: 3-6th grade basketball begins

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Movies in the Park
- Woofstock
- Park Passport
- Trick or Treat Trail
- City Archery Deer Hunt

Woofstock: August 24-10am-noon-Lake Chase Dog Park. Free family event! Bring your pet over to Lake Chase Dog Park to meet new friends, eat a pup cup from the Blast, and take your picture in the photo booth!

City Archery Deer Hunt: November 2-23 and November 24-December 20, 2019. Application fee is \$20-non-refundable. Registration deadline is September 13. All applicants must pass a proficiency test using the same equipment with which they will be hunting.

50 applicants are randomly drawn to test.

WAYS TO REGISTER:

Fall Programs

- Youth Football-pads, pants, and shoes are available to borrow for the season!
- Youth Volleyball
- Swim Lessons
- Therapeutic Rec Leisure Swim
- Learn to Skate Hockey
- Youth Tennis Lessons
- Adult Kickball
- Adult Fall Softball
- Adult Volleyball
- Adult Tennis Leagues

Early Winter Programs

(registration begins September 19)

- Basketball

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

Aug. 25, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The third annual Golf for a Cure nine-hole golf outing was held on Tuesday, Aug. 11. The all women competitors started teeing off between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie Country Club. Organizer of the event was Lisa Bruns. She presented a \$1,000 check to Cheri Krejci of the BP Cancer Group.

On Aug. 5, the Saint Columbanus Council of Catholic Women installed its new officers for 2009-10. They are Evelyn Kubista, treasurer; Ann Fogarty and Elaine Trotman, co-presidents and Jenny Heimerman, secretary.

Since opening last year, the Hospitality House in Owatonna has been changing the lives of men in the area. The House opened in December 2008 and provides temporary housing for homeless men who need some time to get their lives back on track. The manager is Victoria Weatherlev.

Suzanne Peterson of Owatonna received the Community of Learners Scholarship from the University of North Dakota for the 2009-10 academic year. Peterson graduated from Owatonna High School.

It was a fun and informational chance for Blooming Prairie to showcase what they have to offer at the Blooming Prairie Show at the Steele County Free Fair. Speaking at the show were Mary Sherman-Ahrens, director of the Boys and Girls Club; Sue Ziwiener, BP Education Foundation, Mayor H. Peterson and four varsity football players. The football players included Aaron Krejci, Dan Willert, Justen Ingvalson and Josh Gwilt.

20 Years Ago

Aug. 24, 1999

Marilyn and Burnett Blume's farm located northeast of Blooming Prairie is Century Farm status this year. The farm was actually purchased by family members in 1893. Other area century farms include Glen and Beverly Krause of Owatonna (1898), Alvin and Sharon Kubat of Owatonna (1885), Pelinga Farms of Owatonna (1894) and Mabel C. Wodrich of Ellendale (1892).

The newly founded Migrant Housing Coalition met in Blooming Prairie to discuss two major areas: update on purchase of local migrant camps and set a mission for the group. The group is working on the purchase of a Bixby-area migrant camp and one near Owatonna.

The Blooming Prairie School is cracking down by taking a tougher route when it comes to student discipline. Starting this fall, all students will adhere to rules about the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs, with stronger punishments for violations than

How to Find a Good Financial Planner



THE SAVVY SENIOR

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*Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you recommend some tips on finding and choosing a good financial planner? My wife and I are both in our late fifties and would like to get some professional advisement to help us better prepare for our retirement years.*

Seeking Advice
Dear Seeking,
With all the different financial planners, advisers and services available today, finding and choosing a trusted professional that can help you meet your financial goals can be confusing. Here are a few suggestions to consider.

Where to Look

A good place to start your search is by asking friends or relatives for recommendations. If you don't know anyone who can give you a referral, and you're looking for broad-based financial advice, hire a Certified Financial Planner, or CFP, who are considered the "gold standard" in the industry. CFPs must act as fiduciaries, putting their client's best interest above their own.

To get the CFP credential, they must have a college degree and be educated in a wide range of personal finance subjects, pass a rigorous certification exam, have three years professional experience, meet continuing-education requirements and abide by a code of ethics.

CFPs are taught to look at the big picture view of your finances, talking you through your goals, as well as advising you on the details of your financial life.

You're also probably better off hiring a CFP that's a fee-only planner, versus one who earns a commission by selling you financial products. Fee-only planners charge only for their services – for example you might pay \$150 to \$350 an hour for a financial tune-up, a flat fee per project or an asset-based fee.

To find a fee-only planner in your area, use the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA.org), which carefully vets all members and offers an online directory. Or see the Garrett Plan-

handed out by the Minnesota State High School League. In the past, the school had rules for athletic participants only, now that has stretched to all students.

50 Years Ago

Aug. 20, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJC,
PUBLISHERS

A disastrous fire destroyed three buildings, approximately 3,600 bales of hay, one hog, other equipment and damaged the silo on the Roger Amundson farm, 1 ½ miles southwest of Blooming Prairie last Sunday afternoon. The blaze was burning out of control when the Blooming Prairie Fire Department arrived on the scene. Fire Chief Kermit Peterson estimated the loss at about \$20,000.

Dave Noble, Blooming Prairie's talented stock car driver, had one of his "top" weekends for winning prize money. Last Friday at the Chateau Speedway in Lansing, Noble won the 15-lap modified feature. He ended up third at the Steele County Free Fair and won the 15-lap feature at the St. Charles Speedway. He also won the 20-lap feature at the Olmsted County Fairgrounds in Rochester. Noble, driving a 1965 white Chevrolet, won close to \$900 over the weekend.

The Blooming Prairie High School will open for all students on Thursday, Aug. 28, with an approximate continuing enrollment of 640 students. The ninth grade, with the largest enrollment of any class in the local school history, leads the way with 124 students, while the smallest class will be the present eighth grade with only 92 registering to date.

75 Years Ago

Aug. 24, 1944

The fine highly improved 143-acre farm belonging to Emma Linse estate, 9 miles north of Blooming Prairie, was sold at public auction Tuesday for \$103.50 per acre. Elmer Linse, one of the heirs, was the purchaser. He gets title to the farm on March 1. 1945.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend the annual harvest festival of Holy Trinity Church at Litomysl, which will be held on Sunday, Aug. 27 at the Frank Klecker farm one-half mile southwest of the church. There will be mass sung by Rev. Paukert. There will be various entertainment including lots of music by the famous Kissner Kibitzer band and other noted musicians from Blooming Prairie and Ellendale.

Music lovers will welcome to read the news that Blooming Prairie will be treated to an open-air band concert by the Elks Band from Owatonna. It will be staged at the city park. Henry Brown, well-known soloist, will render several vocal numbers accompanied by the band.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

AUG. 22
1 p.m. – August Book Fair, BP Library

AUG. 28
1 p.m. – Teen Time, BP Library

AUG. 24
4 p.m. – BP Fire Dept. Brat & Sweet Corn Feed

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

AUG. 22
7 a.m. – Ellendale EDA Meeting, Community Center
7:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

AUG. 26
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

AUG. 28
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
Noon – 8 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Drive, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

AUG. 22
10 a.m. – August Book Fair, Owatonna Library
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library

AUG. 24
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
10 a.m. – Woofstock, Lake Chase Dog Park
Noon- Fall Hunting Classic Kids Weekend, Cabela's

AUG. 25
Noon – Fall Hunting Classic Kids Weekend, Cabela's
4 p.m. – Auditions for Native Gardens, Little Theatre of Owatonna

AUG. 26
4 p.m. – Auditions for Native Gardens, Little Theatre of Owatonna

Native Gardens, Little Theatre of Owatonna
4 p.m. – Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

AUG. 27
11 a.m. – Owatonna Early Edition Rotary Club Corn Feed, Owatonna Eagles
4 p.m. – North Market, Grace Baptist Church
4 p.m. – Owatonna Public Utilities Meeting, OPU
5 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building

WIND PROJECT: *takes an unexpected turn* FROM A3

routes as practical. The PUC also issued a procedural schedule setting dates for public hearings before an administrative law judge on all three applications, time allowed for public comment and submission of a recommendation to the PUC.

The withdrawal of the Route Permit does not affect the two other applications.

The activities related to the wind farm's proposal have been closely monitored by Dodge County Concerned Citizens over the past year. DCCC has employed a door-to-door campaign urging citizens to write comments and send photos showing how the transmission line would affect their neighborhood in Dodge Center.

"The public input helped call the entire project into question," said Carol Overland, an attorney specializing in regulatory actions. "With the DEIS rejecting transmission alternative routes C and D, and with the MISO interconnection study showing so many network upgrades needed at a very high cost, this project is no longer viable. The people affected by this project have had a tremendous impact," she said.

Douglas Eayrs of DCCC said Dodge County citizens are making a tremendous impact and challenging large corporate interests, whether it's an oversized wind project or a corporate factory farm. "It's David vs. Goliath, and Dodge County residents are an example that sometimes David wins," Eayrs said.

The primary work of DCCC, Eayrs said, remains corporate factory farms. However, he noted, this wind development project has the same problem as corporate factory farms. "It just got too big," he said.

Two public meetings, scheduled for Aug. 20 were unaffected by the latest events and were still scheduled in Kasson.

The original Route Permit submitted by DCW suggested two potential routes for the transmission line, both going through the southern, mostly rural areas of Dodge County. Earlier this year, the PUC requested that the company submit two more routes that would more closely follow existing transmission lines. These two routes went through residential and business areas of both Dodge Center and Kasson and resulted in considerable public opposition.

The draft EIS rejected the two added routes as too disruptive to residents and businesses and also considerably more expensive for the company.

CLOSING: *shop* FROM A3

is going to move in and flip the building over and make it into a Kwik Trip," Sterling Marketing Manager Daniel Hicks explained.

"You'll still be able to access our pharmacy," he said. Sterling is looking to increase foot traffic to the pharmacy while also shifting away from the convenience store aspect of their business. "This is the first time we've tried anything like this and it's exciting in that Kwik Trip gets so many people through their doors and those people will see the pharmacy there," Hicks said.

According to Hicks, discussions had been ongoing between the two parties for some time before a deal was finalized. "We're excited that we have a good partner in Kwik Trip," he said.

"The big thing for pharmacies for a long time was to build gift stores to get more foot traffic, and I think smaller stores found their niche but it was difficult for larger stores to maintain business," Hicks explained. "You can't get more foot traffic than with a business like Kwik Trip."

It is a move that both parties hope to see benefits from. "Kwik Trip is delighted to be business neighbors with Sterling Pharmacy, a well-respected and progressive company in Owatonna," Kwik Trip Community Relations Manager Dave Ring said. "We are especially pleased that the pharmacy will remain open during our construction process to serve their customers."

There are currently 175 Kwik Trip stores in Minnesota. "This new Kwik Trip store will allow us to expand our market presence in Owatonna and provide our guests another convenient location where they can find fresh daily delivered products, clean stores, and excellent customer service that they expect and deserve," Ring added.

Sterling Drug has been serving the community since 1975. Their original store and pharmacy were located in Cedar Mall prior to Federated Insurance's acquisition. They then moved to Hoffman Drive in 2017, the site of the current building which will become a hybrid between Kwik Trip and the Sterling Pharmacy

Sportstitch sews up 25 years



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch in Blooming Prairie welcomes shoppers to her 25th anniversary open house. Linda, right, helps customers Drew Reinke and his mom, Sara. Sportstitch has been producing apparel for the Blossoms and many other groups, organizations and individuals over the years.

SAVVY SENIOR: FROM A6

To vet a registered investment adviser, go to *Investor.gov* where you can search an individual's name and click on "Detailed Report" to see information on qualifications, employment history, disciplinary actions, criminal convictions and more.

To check out a broker, visit *BrokerCheck.finra.org* where you can search an individual or firm's name to get details like years of experience, licensing, exams passed and regulatory actions.

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.

Come eat pancakes at First Lutheran

A pancake breakfast fundraiser will take place at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on Sunday, Sept. 8.

The breakfast will feature pancakes, sausages, and a drink. The church will be accepting free-will offering for Lutheran College Scholarships.

The fundraiser, which will take place in Luther Rooms at the church, is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Parkinson's support group to meet in Owatonna

The Owatonna Parkinson's Support Group will meet Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Owatonna Public Library in the Gainey Room, which is accessible by elevator.

Anushka Mohideen, Minnesota information and referral coordinator, American Parkinson Disease Association, will be the speaker.

She will share the research that has been done about Parkinson's medications currently in trials, a review of new medications recently approved by the FDA, and a discussion about future trends in PD research.

The intro to the talk will be a brief discussion on how PD medication works to affect motor symptoms.

The Parkinson's Support Group has been organized to provide a resource for patients and their caregivers. The group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. All individuals who have Parkinson's and their caregivers are invited to attend. The meetings are free and open to the public. For further information, contact Linda Hoffman at 507-977-2171.

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Bob Remker

Red Cross urgently needs blood donations before summer ends

With many regular donors delaying giving to take final summer vacations and prepare for school to start, the American Red Cross has an emergency need for blood and platelet donations to help end a summer blood shortage.

While thousands of donors have rolled up a sleeve this summer, blood and platelet donations aren't keeping pace with patient needs. More donations are urgently needed to replenish the blood supply and be prepared for patient emergencies.

Make an appointment to donate blood now by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS

(1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Those who donated blood earlier this summer may be eligible to give again. Blood can be safely given every 56 days, and Power Red donations can be given every 112 days.

With the help of a generous \$1 million donation from Amazon, the Red Cross is thanking those who help overcome the shortage by coming to give July 29 through Aug. 29 with a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email. (Restrictions apply; see amazon.com/ge-legal. More information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.)

Upcoming blood dona-

tion opportunities Aug. 22-31

DODGE

Dodge Center
Aug. 22: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., American Legion, 401 Highway St. W.

Hayfield
Aug. 23: 2 p.m.-7 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 104 1st St. SE

Kasson
Aug. 27: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Our Saviors Evangelical Lutheran, 600 8th Ave. NW

Mantorville
Aug. 27: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dodge County Public Health, Mantorville Court House, 22 6th St. E.

FREEBORN

Albert Lea
Aug. 22: 12 p.m.-6 p.m.,

Shoe Sensation, 2339 Le-lan Drive

Aug. 28: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, 411 S. Broadway Ave.

Aug. 30: 2 p.m.-7 p.m., St. Theodore Catholic Church, 308 E. Fountain St.

MOWER

Austin
Aug. 30: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mower County Employees, 201 1st St. NE

STEELE

Ellendale
Aug. 28: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., Ellendale Community Center, 505 2nd St.

Owatonna
Aug. 26: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 S. Lincoln Ave.

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SUMMER EVENTS

Summer Bar Bingo
Monday @ 6:30 p.m.
August 12, 26
Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30

20th Annual B.O.B "Toys for Tots"
Aug. 17 (New date due to bad weather on July 20)
Agenda for the day:
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. at J & H Liquor
Fee: \$10 per person
Ride: Leaves at 10:30 a.m.
Meal: 5 p.m. @ J & H Liquor

Bloomin' Grapevine Wine
Tues. 7-8:30 p.m. Aug. 27, Sept. 10, Oct. 1
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PASTOR’S COLUMN

The hands and feet of Jesus found at the fair



Rev. Stephanie Wood

AURORA LUTHERAN,
OWATONNA

Every year I watch how in a few short days a small fair city pops up before my eyes. The fairgrounds went from empty streets with a few passing cars and the occasional strolling family to being filled with animals, vendors, rides and people. The heart of the county is here this week. For this week we come together to celebrate the hard work and achievements of those in Steele County, to eat food on a stick and relax as we enjoy the entertainment of the day.

Yet, despite there being so much to see and do, most of my fair time is in a little white diner near the livestock. It began over 50 years ago to help serve the dairymen, hog men and 4-Hers. Over the

years the diner has grown; now we serve more than our little corner of the fair, and we do it with the help of others in our community.

Thousands of people pass through our doors for the home-cooked meals made from scratch. As folks enter, they are often greeted by familiar and friendly faces as though we have all come back home for an annual reunion. If only for a brief moment, diners are able to rest or talk as they sit down to share a meal. It's here, in this space I have witnessed God at work.

This past week I've watched four generations of one family dine together. I heard the roar of laughter from old friends and watched strangers share a table only to

leave as neighbors. One diner paid for the meal of two ladies behind him. Their response to the generosity was tears of joy and gratitude.

The Aurora Diner becomes the community's table. There is beauty in the joy, camaraderie and relationships being formed and strengthened in this place. For a week, Aurora and our helpers put on the love we find in God as we serve those we meet and I believe the community reciprocates that love.

There is a strength in being united together through the love of God. It allows us to turn over 1,000 pounds of meat into meals that feed our bodies and our spirits. It transforms empty streets into a fair for a community celebration. On the

Sunday of the fair we are even able to worship as one community, one body of Christ. We come from different traditions, backgrounds and ideologies but for an hour we can be united. As a community we can "put on love, which is the bond of perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:14-15)

I pray the spirit of the fair and the fellowship we experience may extend beyond this week. May it strengthen our unity together as we work to support all those who live in Steele County and deepen our understanding of God at work among us and in us.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

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.

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
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

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.

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
Pastor Mark Neumann
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
507-465-8366
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road,
Austin
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.

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.

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

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

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 9:30 a.m..

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507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
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Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floy
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.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School and
Adult Bible Study

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:00 a.m.

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507-451-6353
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Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

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307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Raul Silva
Fr. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

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Father John Sauer, Pastor
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.c with
Children's Church
Reconciliation:
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Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

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.

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.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
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

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.
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Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

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230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
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Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday;
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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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.

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815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

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130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
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CEDAR CREEK
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Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW
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Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.

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:
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Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

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Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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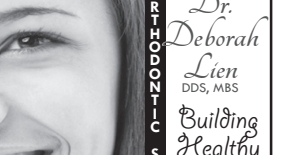
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WE HAVE: *lost our civility* FROM A3

This is how we can ignite positive conversation and create an environment where all are valued.

In the past six months, I have had a handful of people cuss me out on social media for not agreeing with their position. I am flabbergasted by this each and every time. And yet, it seems to be happening more and more. I have noticed angry, curse filled rants on friends' pages, in comments of news stories. It fills me with sadness to know that it is easier for us to be cruel to one another than it is for us to sit down and have a conversation.

Let's start by embracing civility, this is essential to democracy. Our government functions best when lawmakers work together and find common ground, leading to progress. Instead of having heated debates filled with rhetoric, we can turn to open and honest conversations on why we stand where we do. We must do better than what we are, it is imperative to our country as a whole but also to our individual communities.

The next time someone wants to discuss politics with you, put aside the anger and the need to be right, and have a discussion on the issues, not the politicians, not the social media outrage, but the actual issue and why it is important to you.

Stephanie Kibler is a resident of Ellendale and serves on the Ellendale City Council. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

Prihoda raffle again brings monies to BP Cancer Group

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer



Shelley Prihoda, wife of longtime Blooming Prairie farmer Steve Prihoda, has a Paint Blooming Prairie Pink scarf placed around her neck by a family member. Raffle tickets in Steve's memory are currently available from any Blooming Prairie Cancer Group member. (Staff file photo by Howard Lestrud)

It's only \$10, the cost of a raffle ticket that will benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

Tickets are already available from any BP Cancer Group member.

The raffle was started about 10 years ago, to honor the memory of Steve Prihoda, a local farmer who farmed just south of Blooming Prairie. He died of cancer at age 54.

Shelley Prihoda, wife of Steve, says she is very grateful to the many people who buy tickets to pay tribute to Steve and to help benefit

the BP Cancer Group. She worked with Cheri Krejci, BP Cancer Group treasurer, to start this tradition.

"The BP Cancer Group was looking for a new way to make money, so Cheri, a good friend, and I thought a raffle would be a good way to bring some money to the BP Cancer treasury.

First prize is \$1,000 in cash, second place is \$300 in cash and third prize is \$200 in cash. Paint Blooming Prairie Pink activities begin next Sunday, Aug. 25 when the Field of Flags takes shape on a vacant lot near the intersection of Highway 218 and Main Street.

Kevin Christianson, a local business owner, has also been involved in promoting the raffle sales. "Buying a ticket is a good way to pay honor to Steve and family and a way to help raise funds for cancer research," said Christianson.

The raffle drawing is always held at 10 a.m. the second day of the auction weekend. This year, the date is Saturday, Sept. 7.

Last year, first prize of \$1,000 was won by Baby French (the unborn baby of Lindsey and Ryan French). Ryan's father bought tickets for all of his grandchildren. Baby French was the winner.

Second place of \$300 was won by Tony Jensen and third place of \$200 was won by Matt Cisinaro.

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Sleeping Beauty hits the fair



A touch of Sleeping Beauty overtook the Steele County Fair this past week as Cali Nelson, 7, of Ellendale snuggled right in next to her cow, Spark, in the cattle barn Saturday afternoon. Both Nelson and her cow found great comfort and relaxation laying together in the straw with her arm wrapped around Spark's head. Nelson is a Clover Bud in 4-H. All indications are that the fair turned out to be a great event for everyone involved this year.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER



Steele County's top Senior Volunteers of 2019 smile proudly while holding their plaques they received at the Steele County Free Fair last Thursday, Aug. 15. They will now advance to the Minnesota State Fair on Aug. 29.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Volunteering brings top seniors warmth and joy

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Volunteering brings her warmth and joy, says Carol Prokopec, one of two Steele County senior citizen volunteers awarded as 2019 Senior Citizen Volunteers. Prokopec of rural Blooming Prairie and Vern Wilker of Owatonna were selected recipients of the 2019 Senior Citizen Volunteer Award by the Steele County Exchange Club

with cooperation of the Steele County Free Fair.

The two top senior volunteers were recognized by the Exchange Club at a breakfast on Friday, Aug. 9 and at a special awards ceremony at the Steele County Free Fair on Thursday, Aug. 15.

Wilker and Prokopec will attend the Minnesota State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 29 when they will compete for top state senior volunteer honors.

"I was really surprised on being selected," Prokopec remarked. "It's certainly an honor and I appreciate it," she continued.

Prokopec encourages others to volunteer. "When you give of yourself, you get so much more in return," she believes. "There are more who do a lot more than I do," she added humbly.

Her husband Bob

SEE VOLUNTEERING, B5

'We really did it!'

Pen pals connect at the fair after 50 years



Candy Pogones, left, and her Australian pen pal, Jane, right, finally got together after writing as pen pal friends for nearly 50 years. They are shown having fun at the Steele County Free Fair.

(STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD)

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"It has been the best week of my life," said an emotional Candy Pogones of rural Blooming Prairie after finally meeting a pen pal of nearly 50 years.

Pogones, 57, and her pen pal, Jane Penney, 55, of Australia, met face to face in Minnesota, Monday, Aug. 12, and spent four days together, reminiscing about their years of correspondence.

Realizing they finally met one another, Penney proclaimed: "We really did it."

Penney was accompanied by her two daughters, Jessica, 25, and Kelsey, 23.

Pogones' first cousin, Laurie Johnson, of Blooming Prairie, helped facilitate the reunion of sorts. Laura Hagen, a classmate of Candy's at St. Isador's Catholic School in Lito-mysl, also helped keep the two pen pal friends busy for four days.

The pen pal association began when Pogones was



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was a fun time at the Steele County Fair for two pen pals, their families and friends. From left are: daughter Kelsey, Candy Pogones of rural Blooming Prairie, daughter Jessica, Jane Penney, Laura Hagen and Laurie Johnson.

given a list of potential pen pals. The link was arranged by a teacher on exchange from a Whitney Street School in New Zealand.

Pogones was adopted when she was 7 years old by Gilbert and Leona Pogones.

Pogones and Penney, families and friends, visited the Steele County Free Fair on Wednesday night, Aug. 14 and had an opportunity to sample county

fair food and fun together.

Penney was born in New Zealand and lived there at the time she was writing to Pogones in Minnesota. "We were both about 7 or 8 when we began writing to one another," said Penney, in her native Australian accent.

It was Penney who wrote the first letter, "not a long letter," she said. "I have all the letters," Penney related. Pogones sadly said her mother said the

letters were cluttering up her room and had to be destroyed.

Pogones managed to keep a few letters and some photos. "I have a photo of Jane in her Girl Scout outfit," she said.

In 2016, Pogones said she was going through some "tough times" and did not write much at all at that time. "I had broken

SEE PEN PALS CONNECT, B5



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Champion – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers.

Cat:
Champion – Cody Shaw, Meriden Meadowlarks; Reserve – Carter Ratcliff, Happy Hustlers; Other Purples – Josie Hoffmaster, Meriden Meadowlarks.

Child Development:
Junior Champion – Anna Simmons, Pratt Commandoes; Junior Reserve – Grace Walburn, Happy Hustlers; Senior Champion – Derek Klecker, Pratt Commandoes; Senior Reserve – Brianna O'Connor, Deerfield Get There; Other Purples – Abigail Munns, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Jessica Willette, Happy Hustlers.

Citizenship:
Champion – Jack Walburn, Happy Hustlers.

Clothes You Buy:
Junior Champion – Henry Miller, Happy Hustlers; Junior Reserve – Miley Ahrens, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Senior Champion – Charlea Underwood, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Senior Reserve – Baylee Sorensen, Merry Lane; Other Purples – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Katelyn Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Hannah Parrish, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Nicole Behne, Happy Hustlers; Henry Miller, Happy Hustlers.

Clothes You Make:
Champion – Nicole Behne, Happy Hustlers; Reserve – Kaitlyn Resler, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Club Banner:
Champion – Pratt Commandoes.

Club Go-For (Gopher) Display:
Champion – Pratt Commandoes; Reserve Champion – Happy Hustlers.

Club Project – Container Garden:
Champion – Happy Hustlers; Reserve Champion – Medford Go Getters.

Club Scrapbook:
Champion – Pratt Commandoes; Reserve Champion – Happy Hustlers.

Computer:
Champion – Derek Klecker, Pratt Commandoes.

Consumer Education:
Champion – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Reserve – Jack Walburn, Happy Hustlers.

Crafts:
Junior Champion – Conor Rennie, Merry Lane; Junior Reserve – Micah Gentz, Pratt Commandoes; Senior Champion – Sophia Schiller, Straight River Stars; Senior Reserve – Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Other Purples – Kaitlyn Resler, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Molly Simmons, Pratt Commandoes; Mason Klecker, Pratt Commandoes; Addison Poe, Deerfield Get There; Jessica Waldron; Anastasia Carreon-Sorensen, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Makenzie Oltmans, Pratt Commandoes; Isis Walters, Deerfield Get There; Grace Krejci, Merry Lane; Samantha Miller, Medford Go Getters.

Demonstrations:
Junior Champion – Khloe Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Senior Champion – Brenna Sommer, Straight River Stars; Senior Reserve – Lexie Ignaszewski, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Other Purples – Anton Schroeder, Chole Schroeder, Pratt Commandoes; Kaden Nelson, Kali Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Dog:
Champion – Sierra Larson, Merry Lane; Reserve – Lydia Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks.

Electric:
Champion – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Reserve – Henry Miller, Happy Hustlers.

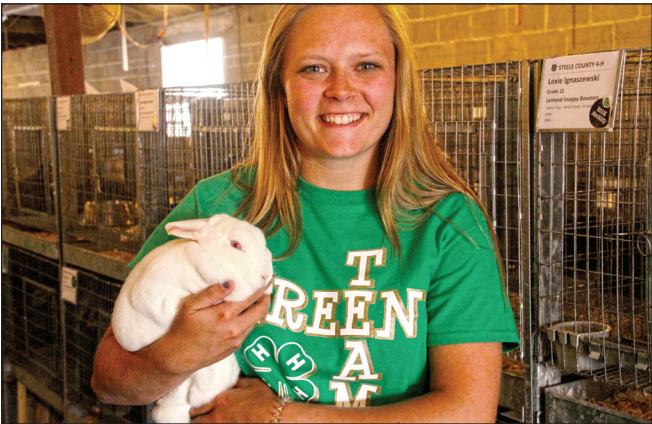
Robotics:
Champion – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Reserve – Jack Walburn, Happy Hustlers.

Entomology:
Champion – Josie Hoffmaster, Meriden Meadowlarks; Reserve – Jack Walburn, Happy Hustlers.

Exploring Animals:
Champion – Isabella Schultz, Pratt Commandoes; Reserve – Isabella Schultz, Pratt Commandoes.

Exploring the Environment:
Champion – Sierra Larson, Merry Lane; Reserve – Sophie Oswald, Pratt Commandoes.

Fashion Revue:
Clothes You Make Fashion Revue Champion – Kaitlyn Resler, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Reserve – Vitaly Bauer, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Junior Clothes You Buy Fashion Revue Champion – Kathryn Walsh, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Junior Reserve – Miley Ahrens, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Senior Clothes You Buy Fashion Revue Champion – Kaitlyn Schubert, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Senior Reserve – Katelyn Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Fashion Revue Court of Honor Members: Nicole Behne, Happy Hustlers; Charlea Underwood, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Hannah Parrish, Owatonna Victory Boosters.



Lexie Ignaszewski of the Lemond Snappy Boosters will be going to the Minnesota State Fair after receiving champion rabbit.

Fine Arts:
Junior Champion – Lowell Schultz, Pratt Commandoes; Junior Reserve – Aiden Anderson, Deerfield Get There; Senior Champion – Journey Utpadel, Ellendale Hustlers; Senior Reserve – Jessica Waldron; Other Purples – Micah Gentz, Pratt Commandoes; Kaylee Sammon, Medford Go Getters; Natalie Winzenburg, Merry Lane; Becca Hansen, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Avry Hoffman, Merry Lane; Anna Simmons, Pratt Commandoes; Ethan Schubert, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars; William Behne, Happy Hustlers; Gabriella Yciano, Happy Hustlers; Melanie Winzenburg, Merry Lane; Kiara Gentz, Pratt Commandoes; Lilly Trager, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Olivia Anderson, Straight River Stars.

Fishing Sports:
Champion – Samuel Bartness, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Micah Gentz, Pratt Commandoes; Other Purples – Sean O'Brien, Merry Lane; Juakin Yciano, Happy Hustlers.

Flower Garden:
Junior Champion – Lacey Haberman, Merry Lane; Junior Reserve – Anna Simmons, Pratt Commandoes; Senior Champion – Parker Erickson, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Senior Reserve – Madison Jaster, Medford Go Getters.

Food & Nutrition:
Junior Champion – Alexandra Herget, Meriden Meadowlarks; Junior Reserve – Lowell Schultz, Pratt Commandoes; Senior Champion – Kiya Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks; Senior Reserve – Elizabeth Roesner, Happy Hustlers; Other Purples – Benjamin Sheehan, Happy Hustlers; Isabella Schiller, Straight River Stars; Sophie Oswald, Pratt Commandoes; Zachary Roesner, Happy Hustlers; Sophie Schiller, Straight River Stars; Miya Weber, Medford Go Getters; Lydia Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks; Miya Weber, Medford Go Getters; Lilly Zollner, Pratt Commandoes.

Food Review:
Champion – Elizabeth Karl, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Katherine Trendera, Pratt Commandoes.

Food Preservation:
Junior Champion – Taylor Brady, Medford Go Getters; Senior Champion – Rachel Winzenburg, Merry Lane; Senior Reserve – Brianna

Levisay, Pratt Commandoes; Other Purples – Brianna O'Connor, Deerfield Get There; Isabella Schultz, Pratt Commandoes; Morgan Camery, Merry Lane; Beth Ann Hanson, Deerfield Get There.

Forest Resources:
Champion – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Reserve – Sierra Larson, Merry Lane.

Geology:
Champion – Josie Hoffmaster, Meriden Meadowlarks; Reserve – Sawyer Erickson, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Other Purples – Savannah DeMars, Happy Hustlers.

Global Connections:
Champion – Auden Jensen, Happy Hustlers.

Health:
Champion – Lucy Paschke, Medford Go Getters; Reserve – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Other Purples – Abigail Munns, Owatonna Victory Boosters.

Home Environment:
Junior Champion – Isabella Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Junior Reserve – Mason Klecker, Pratt Commandoes; Senior Champion – Charlea Underwood, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Senior Reserve – Baylee Sorensen, Merry Lane; Other Purples – William Behne,

Samantha Hefling, Merry Lane; Jacob Karl, Straight River Stars; Katlyn Schubert, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Braxton Skalcicky, Medford Go Getters; Madi Murphy, Meriden Meadowlarks, Alexa Sommers, Ellendale Hustlers; Anna Haberman, Merry Lane; Ashlynn Schwering, Deerfield Get There; Lydia Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks; Cole Sheehan, Happy Hustlers; Elizabeth Karl, Straight River Stars; Noah Kubicek, Happy Hustlers; Brianna Levisay, Pratt Commandoes; Anton Schroeder, Pratt Commandoes; Katlyn Schubert, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Plant / Soil Science and Crop Sciences:
Crop Science Champion – Tim Wolf, Merry Lane; Reserve – Henry Miller, Happy Hustlers; Plant/ Soil Science Champion – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Reserve – Josie Hoffmaster, Meriden Meadowlarks.

Potato:
Junior Champion – Jules Brady, Medford Go Getters; Junior Reserve – Samuel Bartness, Straight River Stars; Senior Champion – Hunter Jensen, Meriden Meadowlarks; Senior Reserve – Carson Ahrens, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Other Purples – Halle Underwood, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Quilting:
Champion – Brianna O'Connor, Deerfield Get There; Reserve – Callie Iverson, Merry Lane.

Safety:
Senior Champion – Abigail Munns, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Reserve – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Other Purples – Abigail Munns, Owatonna Victory Boosters.

Self-Determined:
Junior Champion – Carter Ratcliff, Happy Hustlers; Junior Reserve– Benjamin Sheehan, Happy Hustlers; Senior Champion – William Behne, Happy Hustlers; Senior Reserve – Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Other Purples – Alexander Rhodes, Happy Hustlers; Brianna



Parker Erickson, 16, of the Lemond Snappy Boosters 4-H Club earned senior champion with his flower gardening project.

O'Connor, Deerfield Get There; Alexander Rhodes, Happy Hustlers.

Shooting Sports / Wildlife Management:
Junior Champion – Brooktyn Dolan, Deerfield Get There; Junior Reserve – Grace Walburn, Happy Hustlers; Senior Champion – Ashlynn Schwering, Deerfield Get There.

Shop:
Junior Champion – Micah Gentz, Pratt Commandoes; Junior Reserve – Logan Hartle, Straight River Stars; Intermediate Champion – Katlyn Schubert, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Intermediate Reserve – Kelton Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks; Senior Champion – Noah Kubicek, Happy Hustlers; Senior Reserve – Caden Kubicek, Happy Hustlers; Other Purples – Noelle Kubicek, Happy Hustlers; Khloe Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Joseph Resler, Lemond Snappy Boosters; William Behne, Happy Hustlers; Nicole Behne, Happy Hustlers.

Small Engines / Tractor:
Small Engines Champion – Ethan Schubert, Lemond

Snappy Boosters; Reserve – Kaden Homuth, Pratt Commandoes.

Vegetable Garden / Fruit:
Junior Champion – Taylor Brady, Medford Go Getters; Junior Reserve – Sophie Oswald, Pratt Commandoes; Senior Champion – Carson Ahrens, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Senior Reserve – Charlea Underwood, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Other Purples – Halle Underwood, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Science of Animals:
Junior Champion – Jessica Waldron; Senior Reserve – Jessica Waldron.

Veterinary Science:
Junior Champion – Lowell Schultz, Pratt Commandoes; Senior Champion – Jessica Waldron; Senior Reserve – Erin O'Brien, Merry Lane; Other Purples – Sierra Larson, Merry Lane.

Wildlife Biology:
Junior Champion – Candace Chavie, Deerfield Get There; Senior Champion – Sierra Larson, Merry Lane.

Youth Leadership:
Champion – Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers; Reserve – Henry Miller, Happy Hustlers.

ANNUAL LABOR DAY AUCTION

Located: Hamilton Auction Co. at 130 State Hwy 16, Dexter, MN 55926—off Interstate 90 at Dexter, MN exit #193 then 1/4 mile east on Hwy 16

Date: Labor Day-Monday, Sept. 2, 2019 — 9 a.m.

ON LINE BIDDING AVAILABLE--Equipment taken in thru Monday, Aug. 26 —No consignments taken in Aug. 27 thru and including sale day.
NO TIRES — Selling 4 rings all day

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TRACTORS: 2015 JD 9420 R tractor, 1207 hrs; 2012 T6050 New Holland tractor, w/840 TC loader, 2550 hrs; 2015 JD 6105m tractor, fwd, 1700 hrs; 1992 C/IH 9230 tractor, 4x4, 4600 hrs, ps; 2008 JD 6430 premium mfwd w/Tiger mower side cutter and rear fail, 24 spd; plus 30 other tractors; **FARM EQUIP:** C/IH 5300 NH3 bar, 52 1/2", 21 knife; JD 3710 10x plow; other 6-8-10x plows; Case #800 10x plow, 2014 JD 2720 5 shank disk ripper; Krause Dominator #4850-18 ripper; DMI Tigermate II 50.5' field cult; plus 80 other pieces of tillage equip; **COMBINES & HEADS:** 2012 C/IH #8230 combine, 1239 sep. hrs, Pro 700 monitor, JD Green Star capable; 2009 JD 9670 STS Hillco sidehill, 2500 sep. hrs; JD 9600 combine, 3147 sep. hrs; 2010 Geringhoff RD800 B roto-disc chopping corn hd, 8r; 2005 JD #1293 corn hd; 2005 JD #1293 corn hd; 2005 Harvest Tec 4306c 6r chopping head; 2016 C/IH #3162 terra flex draper head; plus 8 other combines & 20 other bean & corn heads; ---**FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR HARVEY HEIMER:** 2005 JD 7820 mfd tractor, quad, Green Star Ready; C/IH 1640 combine, updated chopping kit, 3218 engine hrs; C/IH 1063 corn hd; C/IH 1020 20' platform; White #588 5x plow; 250 bu. Flow Ez gravity wagons & gear; Brady 6 row stalk chopper---**TRUCKS-TRAILERS-PICKUPS-CARS-MOTOR HOME:** 2010 Trail King 48' detach; Raven 46' x 98" alum flat bed trl; 2014 R-Way side dump, elec. tarp, 10'1"spread, tri axle; 1997 Raglan 36' end dump; 2-1998 Helwood hopper bottom trls; 2007 Timpfle hopper bottom trl; 2004 Jet hopper bottom, 42'; 2006 Freightliner Columbia 120 semi; 2006 Volvo 630 semi, sleeper; 2005 Int. Eagle 9200 day cab; 2004 Mack Vision day cab semi; 2003 Mack CH 613 semi; 2007 Utility dry van, 53'; 1973 Fruehauf tanker trl; 1986 Ford L9000 single axle; 2003 Sterling single axle plow tk; 1991 Mack tri-axle dump tk; 2016 Big Tex 30' tandem axle dually; 2011 Tow Master 20' trl; 2001 Load Trail trailer; 2016 Ford F-550 truck, crew cab w/dump box; 2001 Ford F-550 tow truck; 1994 Ford F-350 diesel XLT, fire truck; plus 50 other trucks, trailers, pickups; **19 COLLECTOR TRACTORS: 13 ATV'S & SIDE BY SIDES: PLANTERS-DRILLS:** Kinze 2600 12/24row, 15" or 30", corn & bean units, no till coulters; C/IH #8600 air drill, 30'; **SPRAYER:** 1997 Lorai Easy Rider turbo liquid applicator, 55' boom; **SKID LOADERS-FORK LIFT-BACKHOE-MOTOR GRADER:** 2002 Cat 420D back hoe; 1991 JD 770 BH motor grader; JD 4475 skid loader; JD 333E skid loader on tracks; Case 1816B skid ldr; MF #202 backhoe; plus 10 other skid loaders, attachments, scissor lift, forklifts; **LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT:** 2005 Houle 6000 gal. applicator, 6 shank mole knife, Raven 660 monitor; 2000 N-Tech vertical hyd. pump, 7"; Shop Built hose, 8 hp. motor, hydro drive w/200' of 4" line; large selection of pump hose, pump parts, fittings, etc; 2015 Houle vertical pump; White multi fuel pump engine; manure spreaders; grinders, mixers; **WAGONS:** 2017 Brent grain cart, Model 782, tarp; 2012 Brent #1194 grain cart; (2) Brent #644 gravity boxes; plus 35 other gravity wagons various size and kinds, seed tenders, weigh wagons; **NEW WHEELS & TIRES:** Various sizes; **DRYER-AUGERS-GRAIN VAC:** Rem #3700 grain vac. & pipe; Farm Fans C 2125 grain dryer, 3 phase; **NEW INVENTORY OF GARAGE ITEMS-GRAPPLES-WHEEL BALANCER-DOZER BLADES; --CONSIGNEED BY MOWER COUNTY:** 2006 Dodge Caravan, 2002 Ford F-150, 1990 Ford F-150, other misc. items;--**PORTABLE BLDG-DIMENSIONAL LUMBER: HAY & MISC. EQUIP:** Hesston #4760 square baler, 3x3 bale, Harvest Tec preservative, nice; AG Bag Model 7000 truck bagger; Chopper boxes; snow blowers; small square balers; rakes; tractor loaders; **SHOP & TOOLING EQUIP:** Bridge Port metal milling machine; Clausing metal lathe; welders; planers; saws; **LAWN & GARDEN:** Lots of misc. items.

Check web site for complete listing & pictures. For any questions call Hamilton Auction Co. at 507 584 0133 office. ON LINE BIDDING AVAILABLE.

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Zach Finholdt, 18, swept the senior showmanship competition by earning champion showman with his meat goat. Finholdt is a member of the Medford Go Getters 4-H Club.

Livestock auction nets \$88K for 4-H

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Support for the 4-H program in Steele County is as strong as ever. At least that's the way it appears after the 4-H Market Livestock Sale took place Saturday during the Steele County Free Fair. The sale netted almost \$88,000 for the 4-H program, which is believed to be a record. Livestock exhibitors in 4-H sell their champion animals and other show placings at the auction. More than 100 bidders come from

around the region, mostly from Steele County, to purchase the animals. The top animal in the auction was the champion market beef steer shown by Jacob Klecker of the Straight River Stars. His animal brought \$2,800 and was purchased by Hy-Vee Foods. The champion senior market gilt and market lamb each brought \$1,600. One of the 4-Hers who benefitted from the auction was Walker Nelson, a 13-year member of the Lemond Snappy Boosters.

His market barrow sold for \$450. "It's going to be used for college," Nelson said, noting he is currently attending Riverland in Albert Lea for industrial maintenance. "It means a lot to me with the support in the 4-H community and helping us succeed," he said. "We wouldn't be able to do it without the support." Proceeds from the sale are divided with 60% going to the individual 4-H member and the remaining 40% to the 4-H program. Missy Koch, 4-H program coordinator, said the money for the 4-H program helps fund leadership retreats, 4-H camps and 4-H on wheels throughout the summer months. "We are grateful that we have a community that wants to support our community and give back to the next generation," Koch said. "This helps make the program continue and to grow," she added.

The 4-H auction began in 1945. This year 124 animals were sold throughout the three-hour auction. A market sale committee governs the auction. Koch said 4-Hers work hard for that one time of the year to support 4-H. The auction is the largest fundraiser for Steele County 4-H, and one of only about three fundraisers held during the year. The other fundraisers are the 4-H Grill at the fair and a Pasta Dinner.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Jacob Klecker of the Straight River Stars received \$2,800 for his champion market beef steer during the annual 4-H auction Saturday. Hy-Vee Foods of Owatonna purchased the animal. The Hy-Vee manager is shown in the background holding a ribbon marking the sale.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Auctioneer Justin Krell of Blooming Prairie takes another bid on a dairy cow during the 4-H Market Livestock Auction Saturday morning at the Steele County Free Fair. The auction raised nearly \$88,000 for the 4-H program and the individual 4-Hers.

The 4-H program, Koch said, remains strong in Steele County. In fact, Steele has the second highest 4-H enrollment in the state behind Dakota County. There are 520 traditional members and about 400 others are impacted by other programming offered through the schools. "It's a growing program," Koch says of 4-H. Asked what keeps the 4-H

program so vibrant in the county, Koch replied, "Tradition, families keep coming back. The county fair is so important in Steele County. Kids see their friends involved in 4-H, and they gravitate to joining 4-H." As she looked out to the auctioneers selling off animals one after another, Koch said, "Our showcase this week helps sell 4-H."

For Nelson, 19, it will be his last fair as a 4-H member. "It's going to be sad," he admitted. But he hopes to come back in the future and help his cousins show animals in 4-H. "It has meant a lot to me," Nelson said of 4-H. "It has helped with my leadership. And through 4-H, I have made a lot of new friends."



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Anna Simmons, a sixth grader at St. Mary's School in Owatonna, collects some money from a Bingo lover during the Steele County Free Fair. St. Mary's has operated the Bingo stand for several years as a way to collect money for the private school.

B-5, I-26, N-40, G-51, O-75

St. Mary's School profits from Bingo at the fair

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It's become known as a great place to come and relax and maybe if you're lucky, win a few bucks. St. Mary's School of Owatonna operates a Bingo stand at the Steele County Free Fair. There is room for dozens of players under the big tent as students, parents and teachers work the stand. The Bingo tent attracts people of all ages from little tykes to senior citizens and everything in between. "The young and old come out to play Bingo," said Sharleen Berg, who teaches at St. Mary's. "Bingo seems to be an ageless game of chance," Berg said. "Bingo seems to be such an iconic game." The payout is \$5 per single winner of \$3 each for more than one winner. The black-outs, which close out the stand each night, offer \$25.

Berg said 20 cards are needed to be played each game for the school to break even. Most of the time St. Mary's has no problem finding people to play.

Profits, Berg said, go to St. Mary's home school association, which in return distributes some of the proceeds to the classrooms to offset the costs for classroom supplies. In a typical year, St. Mary's nets between \$6,000 to \$8,000. The school has two larger fundraisers during the year, including a spring auction and a fall marathon. But, as Berg pointed out, it's not all about making money. The students who work at the fair earn community service hours for their efforts. St. Mary's students earn about 6,000 community service hours each year through various efforts allowing them "to think beyond their own needs and focus on the needs of others."

It takes 12 people to staff each shift for Bingo. St. Mary's is open for 11 hours each day throughout the fair. The principal even comes out and takes a number of shifts calling Bingo. Berg says the Bingo fundraiser is energizing for the students. In announcements throughout the Bingo calling, St. Mary's lets fairgoers know "we humbly lead by example of love and meaningful service to others." Said Berg, "It's a great way to have a conversation outside of school, and, of course, an occasional cheese curd is nice, too." St. Mary's, which started 142 years ago, operates a school for students in grades K-8. The enrollment is around 300 students.



Death ruled suicide after body found in the midway at fair

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The midway is typically a fun place for people to hang out during the county fair, but it turned out to be something different Friday morning as a dead body was discovered. At about 8:55 a.m. Friday, deputies from the Steele County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an unresponsive person near one of the carnival rides located in the southeast former of the midway, according to Sheriff Lon Thiele. He said deputies found a man hanging from the ride under a canvas. Thiele said the death of William A. Aiken Jr., 29, of

Michigan has been ruled a suicide. "No foul play is suspected," Thiele said. The incident happened between the late night hours of Aug. 15 and the early morning hours of Aug. 16, Thiele said. Aiken was found hanging from the ride by an employee with Gold Star Amusement. "He was not visible to the public," Thiele said. "We are not aware that any fairgoers saw anything because of the seclusion of it," he said, adding it is an "unfortunate thing" to happen during the fair. The fair was not open at the time of the discovery, Thiele said. The sheriff said Aiken's body was transported to the

medical examiner's office in Rochester for an autopsy. Thiele said this is the first suicide he is aware of that has happened on the fairgrounds. "The Steele County Sheriff's Office extends thoughts and prayers to the family of this person in this unfortunate circumstance," Thiele said. Thiele hopes this suicide will draw more awareness to suicide prevention. "If you know of anyone contemplating suicide, please contact authorities to get help or assistance," he said. Aiken was apparently in town assisting with the midway, though he was not believed to have been a Gold Star employee.

2019

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Two inducted into Livestock Hall of Fame



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN JORGENSEN
Ronald Van Burden was inducted into the Livestock Hall of Fame.

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

Robert “Bob” Chladek and Ronald “Ron” Van Nurdan were inducted into the Livestock Hall of Fame last week at the Steele County Free Fair.

The Tuesday afternoon program also recognized FFA and 4-H members, the Farm Family of the Year and conservation award winners.

The new Wayne and Betty Kubicek Family Cattle Haven was also officially dedicated.

Brad Rugg was emcee for the afternoon events.

Chladek, Rugg said, was a “steady Eddy” who worked behind the scenes to get things done. Many members of the Hall of Fame are there, he said, because of a legacy of breeding livestock or a long list of leadership positions.

Chladek’s legacy, he said, is his passion for young people.

Upon his death in 1994, he gifted his farm to the Owatonna High School Foundation for support of the FFA and 4-H youth in Steele County.

Chladek spent his career as a registered Holstein breeder and Dairy Herd Improvement Association member. He served on the board of the Steele County Holstein Breeders, Owatonna Elevator and was an

active member of the Steele County Farm Bureau.

His farm is now the site of the Owatonna Allina Hospital, Mayo Health Center, Koda Living Community and Hospice House. Funds from his estate also provide scholarships for Steele County High School graduates to further their education.

Chladek’s Hall of Fame plaque was accepted by the 761 School District Foundation.

Van Nurdan spent 44 years as a high school ag teacher and adult farm management instructor. He was also the Minnesota Dairy Initiative Team leader for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, a contributor and presenter for the National Farm and Ranch Business Education Association.

He was named Southern Minnesota Ag Ambassador of the Year in 2010, awarded the Outstanding 4-H Leader in 1999 and received the Steele County American Dairy Association Milk Pitcher Award.

He also was a Steele County Free Fair director for 22 years. In 2008 he received the National NAAE Outstanding Post-Secondary/Adult Farm Management Program.

Glenn Johnson and Deb McDermott-Johnson were also honored at the Farm Family of the Year. Their Clover Glen Farm is

located in Steele County near Claremont. The dairy herd started out as 100% Guernsey and has now added Holsteins and Brown Swiss and includes 70 milking cows and 90 heifers on 220 acres.

The Johnsons are known in the area for their annual “Cow Camp,” which is a hands-on experience for young people to learn about life on a dairy farm.

Conservation awards, presented by the Steele County Soil and Water District, included Dale and Mary Ramsey as Outstanding Conservation Farmer; Larry Stebbins, Outstanding Windbreak and Lynn Miller, Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist.

FFA award recipients recognized were Greg Larson of Medford and Kayla McGivey of Medford for the FFA American Degree; Beth Ann Hanson, Medford, FFA Proficiency Award; Tim West and Kaiden Finley, both of Blooming Prairie, for the Minnesota FFA State Degree.

Also recognized were 4-H National Dairy Conference winners Kylie Kruckeberg and Hannah Mundt, both of Owatonna.

Lexi Ignaszewski of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School and Anthony Manderfeld of Medford were recipients of the Robert Chladek Scholarship/761 School District Foundation.



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN JORGENSEN
Wayne and Betty Kubicek were honored by fair president Dan Deml, far right, Tuesday for the new Cattle Haven barn on the fairgrounds.

Changes to area near grandstand prove to be popular

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

When the Steele County Free Fair board decided to remove the racetrack and use the area for added vendors and a new Steele Saloon to sell hard liquor in addition to beer and wine, they hoped the changes would be welcomed by fairgoers. From initial responses the changes were met with the publics’ approval.

Final totals for the Steele Saloon and Beer Garden will not be available until they are tallied after the fair, but early indications were that sales were up at both locations, fair officials said.

“It’s about what I thought it would be,” said Fair Board Director Doug Meier.

One of the reasons the board decided on a second location was because some patrons had indicated that the noise level at the Beer Garden was higher than they like.

“They wanted a quiet place to talk and get a drink,” Meier said, and that was the feedback they were getting from those at the Steele Saloon.

The board also felt that there needed to be more options available for patrons to drink their beverage of choice.

Owatonna residents Brad and Brenda Breyer were enjoying a break Kruckeberg and Hannah Mundt, both of Owatonna.

Lexi Ignaszewski of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School and Anthony Manderfeld of Medford were recipients of the Robert Chladek Scholarship/761 School District Foundation.

Security was tight at the new Saloon with the tent enclosed by a fence with a second fence positioned



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
The Steele Saloon kept busy throughout the fair. It was the first time the fair offered a spot for hard liquor.



Doug Meier

eight from the first one. The double fencing was to prevent an individual inside the Saloon from passing a drink to a person outside the tent.

Special deputies were also stationed at the entrance and were carding everyone before letting them enter.

Meier said that a Bloody Mary Bar on Saturday morning proved to be so successful with more than 200 drinks served in a two-hour period that he decided to have it again on Sunday. He also said that the Saloon was proving to be more convenient for those camping on the grounds and those who spent most of the day near the livestock barns and wanted a break.

The rest of the area opened up by the removal of the racetrack saw a variety of vendors and activities.

Several of the events were interactive, such as the Ninja fitness equipment and the Be Ultimate Sports activities.

The daily pig races were moved to the area and it also hosted the Stunt Dog Show. There was also a group of activities produced jointly by Kingdom Games and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival that included archery, axe-throwing and a Tomato Tormont booth where one could throw Bushel Boy tomatoes at a booth worker who had his head sticking out a hole in a piece of plywood at the end of the booth.

The Marine Corps also had an interactive display for those wanting to test if they had what it takes to become a Marine.

Although heavy rains overnight Saturday did cause some problems and the Renaissance Festival activities and the Marine display had to be closed as did a few vendors, all agreed attendance was good.

A number of people commented that they were happy the pig races had been moved to the area, and Abby Klein of the Stunt Dog Show said that they were seeing “pretty much packed shows” at each of their three daily performances.

Love for rendezvous spurs teepee project for 4-Her

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

One of the largest exhibits in the 4-H Building at this year’s Steele County Free Fair was a teepee created by a veteran 4-H member and his father.

William Behne, 19, of the Happy Hustlers 4-H Club will be heading to the Minnesota State Fair with his champion self determined project, a 12-foot teepee.

For Behne, it is a project that falls out of his love for rendezvous from the fur-trade era. He said he developed a special interest in rendezvous after attending one at the 20 Rifle & Pistol Club by Owatonna. “My dad and I were just fascinated with it,” he said.

Volunteers who come out to rendezvous generally bring their own equipment, including something to stay in. “We decided it would be much more unique if we made a teepee,” Behne said.

Behne went out to his grandparents’ home where they found lumber for 16 poles needed to make the teepee. Behne removed the bark and

treated the wood with Lin Seed Oil to make them water and weather proof.

He researched teepees on-line and found a blue print that they utilized to make their own teepee. Behne estimates it took about 50-80 hours to make the teepee, which sleeps two people. They started in May and finished the project in July.

“As much as I was making it my 4-H project, it was something for both of us to do together,” Behne said.

They utilized a vintage pedal-powered sewing machine to stitch the teepee together. His father had to restore the machine before it could be used for this project. “It worked beautifully,” Behne said, adding the most challenging part of it all was sewing “a massive bundle of fabric.”

It cost about \$200 to make the teepee. Included in the cost were \$80 for canvas and \$80 for Lin Seed Oil.

Behne said he likes to work with his hands, and this project proved to be a perfect match for that. “I’ve always really liked history and doing things the old way,” he said. “It



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
William Behne, a 14-year member of the Happy Hustlers 4-H Club, will be taking his 12-foot teepee to the Minnesota State Fair. Behne received a grand champion with the teepee last week at the Steele County Free Fair.

takes people back in time doing things with their hands,” he added.

Building teepees isn’t the only thing Behne has created this year. He also helped put together a 10 by 10-foot shed for Lazy Mowry’s Meadows of Owatonna. Behne spent about a week putting together the shed that will be used for storing riding supplies and saddles. He received a purple ribbon on that shop project, though it wasn’t displayed at the fair.

He hopes the teepee creation will help get him more involved with rendezvous around the area in the future. “It’s like a festival, and you need people to celebrate,” Behne said. “You’ve got to bring in new people to keep it going.”

But before he can use the teepee at any rendezvous, Behne said he needs to come up with some costumes to wear.

Working alongside his dad was a rewarding experience for Behne. “He is a good foreman,” Behne said. “It’s nice to be able to share it with someone.”

Behne will be judged at the State Fair on Monday, Aug. 26.

Rypka, ‘Unforgettable’ inducted into Equine Hall of Fame

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

Two more members, one human and one equine, were inducted in the Equine Hall of Fame last week on the opening day of the 2019 Steele County Free Fair.

This year’s honorees were Henry Rypka and “Unforgettable,” a 24-year-old Pony of America.

In opening the program, Equine Hall of Fame Superintendent Pat McCarthy began his introduction of Rypka with a quote from Jane Goodall.

“What you do makes a difference,” she said. “It’s you who decides what kind of difference.”

Rypka, he said, was born and grew up on a farm in Dodge County where he first learned about horses. In 1959, he married and he and his wife moved to Owatonna where he worked for the Gandy Co. In 1973, they bought a farm and home-



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN JORGENSEN
Henry Rypka accepted his Hall of Fame Plaque from Pat McCarthy at the Equine Hall of Fame ceremony last week to open the Steele County Free Fair.

site west of Claremont.

McCarthy described Rypka as a “professional volunteer.”

Over the years he has been active in both the 4-H horse project as well as other 4-H projects. He has been a Herdsmanship judge and Owatonna Saddle Club show volunteer. He was the

organizer and builder of the horse arena announcing stand.

In short, McCarthy said, Rypka “made a difference.”

The second inductee was the Pony of America “Unforgettable.”

When an athlete is extremely good, McCarthy said, it is often heard that the athlete “has game. Unforgettable has game.”

Unforgettable was raised in Iowa, McCarthy said, and when the pony was 10 years old he was bought by Todd Uptadel and came to Steele County.

For the last 10 years, he has been rode by Byrnn Hable of Medford in 4-H competitions. In those 10 years, he has earned more than 25 grand and reserve grand champion awards, qualified for the state 4-H show eight years, has earned top 10 awards more than 20 times and compiled more than 4,000 show points in judging and timed events.

Hable will be retiring Unforgettable after this year’s fair.



Byrnn Hable and her Pony of America Unforgettable at the Equine Hall of Fame program.

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Fun at the fair for all ages

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER AND HOWARD LESTRUD

There was fun for all ages at the Steele County Free Fair last week. Despite a scare with a tornado in the southern part of the county Tuesday afternoon, the fair went off without a hitch and had spectacular weather throughout the six-day run.



Fair president Dan Deml wiped down tables in fair square just prior to the opening ceremony so that fairgoers could enjoy the festivities without getting wet.



The opening flag raising ceremony was only delayed by 30 minutes because of rain. A bugler from the Owatonna American Legion 77 performed Taps after the flag was raised.



The Human Cannon Ball proved to be a hit once again as he shot himself across the midway every day throughout the fair.



Alexandra Herget keeps a tight leash on her cow during dairy judging at the fair.



Kathy Purdie was surprised by Steele County Free Fair mascots Steely and Stella during her walk through Fair Square Park last week.



Mr. Tomato ended up with a few tomatoes splattered in his face at the Tomato Torment insult zone.



Alecia Campbell of Owatonna found herself with \$100 extra cash after she successfully completed the Ultimate Bar challenge Saturday night.



Macie Doring, 2, of Owatonna fought with the bright sun as she walked with a sucker in hand at the Steele County Free Fair with her mother last Wednesday, Aug. 14.



Kraig Thoreson of Owatonna comforts one of his mules Saturday by scratching his head. Thoreson competed in the 6-year-old Percheron draft mule division.



Appropriate for what took place prior to the fair opening, the Owatonna Community Band performed "Thunder and Lighting," during a concert Tuesday night.



Smokey the Bear celebrated his 75th birthday at the fair by giving a youngster knuckles as he made the rounds.

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NOTICE

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: October 14, 2011 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$173,487.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Vivian Mubarak and Jack Evanhoe, wife and husband MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 17, 2011 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 17998 as Document Number T000067769 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: East 5 feet of Lot 13; and Lot 14; Block 2, Heers Addition No. 3, Owatonna, Minnesota. Steele County, Minnesota. REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 465 WILLOW CRK DR NE, 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: \$149,750.54 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-285-0214 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 24, 2019 at 10:00 AM. PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060. 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 24, 2020. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSON-

AL 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) RE-LEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: July 22, 2019
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Michael van Muelken, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (19-0751-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

7/31, 8/7, 8/14
8/21, 8/28, 9/4

NOTICE

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 10, 2008 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$50,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Craig S. Olson, un married person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on June 30, 2008 as Document Number A000358263; as reformed by Court Order recorded on July 23, 2019 as Document Number A000424632 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 716 OAK AVE S, 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: \$53,865.51 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Home Equity TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-016-1145 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICA-

TION 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: October 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM. PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060.

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 April 1, 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) RE-LEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: July 31, 2019
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Michael van Muelken, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (19-0148-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

8/7, 8/14, 8/21
8/28, 9/4, 9/11

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case No:74-CV-09-1164

ORDER FOR HEARING

In Re: Irrevocable Special Needs Trust of THOMAS FURNESS created pursuant to Court Order dated July 7, 2009.

The Petition of FIDUCIARY FOUNDATION, LLC for an Order Approving Settlement and Allowance of Trustee's Accounts from July 7, 2014 to July 7, 2019, and Approving All Acts of the Trustee, by and through its attorneys, Randy F. Boggio and Joshua T. Damberg of Maser, Amundson & Boggio, P.A., 6601 Lyndale Avenue South, Suite 320, Richfield, MN 55423, having come before the Court; IT IS ORDERED: That said Petition be heard on the 8th day of October, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. by the above-named Court at

Steele County District Court, Room B, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That Petitioner give notice of said hearing by mailing, at least 15 days before the date of the hearing, a copy of the Order for Hearing to all interested parties at their respective addresses, and have this Order published once, at least twenty (20) days prior to date of said hearing, in a legal newspaper.

BY THE COURT:
Dated: August 8, 2019

Joseph A. Buelte
Judge of District Court
August 8, 2019

Attorneys for Petitioner MASER, AMUNDSON & BOGGIO, P.A. Randy F. Boggio (Atty. Reg. No. 16379X) Joshua T. Damberg (Atty. Reg. No. 0399198) 6601 Lyndale Avenue South, Suite 320 Richfield, MN 55423 (952) 925-4147 rboggio@maserlaw.com jdamberg@maserlaw.com

8/21

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Family Education Rights & Privacy Act

The following information will be published in the local paper for two consecutive weeks. Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act announces that directory-type information on public school students in the district will be disseminated from time to time without further authorization from parents of such students.

Directory-type information under this policy is defined as:

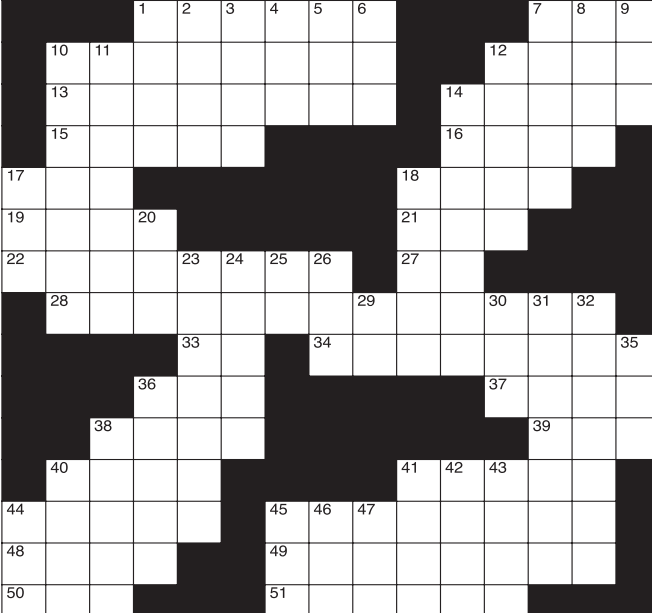
- The student's name
- The names of the student's parents
- The student's address
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- The student's extracurricular participation
- The student's achievement awards or honors
- The student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team
- The student's photograph or videotape of the student
- The school or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in Independent School District #756

Any parent wishing to withhold such information from distribution must make the request to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools within ten days of this publication.

8/21, 8/28

CLUES ACROSS

- Would
- Pitching stat
- Wounded
- Guitarist Clapton
- Penalizes
- Female MMA fighter VanZant
- Proverb
- Urban gym
- Midway between northeast and east
- La ___ Tar Pits
- Go out to eat
- Oral allergy syndrome
- Where some are put
- Spiral galaxy
- Lethargic
- Integrated circuit
- Let your mind wander
- Midway between north and northeast
- Nomadic palace
- Posted
- Trouble
- Wise
- Make happy
- Dog-___: worn or battered
- One who fixes
- Central European
- Sleighs
- Exponential time hypothesis



CLUES DOWN

- Typically noncoding molecules (abbr.)
- Former Secretary of State
- River in Belgium and France
- Unnilhexium
- "Fall Guy" actor Majors
- Tooth caregiver
- Lucci character "Kane"
- Latvian capital
- Pet detective Ventura
- Sporting dog

11. External genitals

12. "The Secret Room" novelist

14. Ancient wonder

17. Electronic data processing

18. Autocratic

20. Defunct European organization

23. Removed flesh

24. Indicating silence

25. Commercial

26. Chap

29. Farm state

30. Chief research officer

31. Poked holes in

32. Chutes and ___

35. What cows say

36. A desert in southern Israel

38. Isaac's mother

40. Sodium

41. Absence of effort

42. A way to articulate

43. Greek god of war

44. Midway between east and southeast

45. Run batted in

46. The longest division of geological time

47. Public broadcaster



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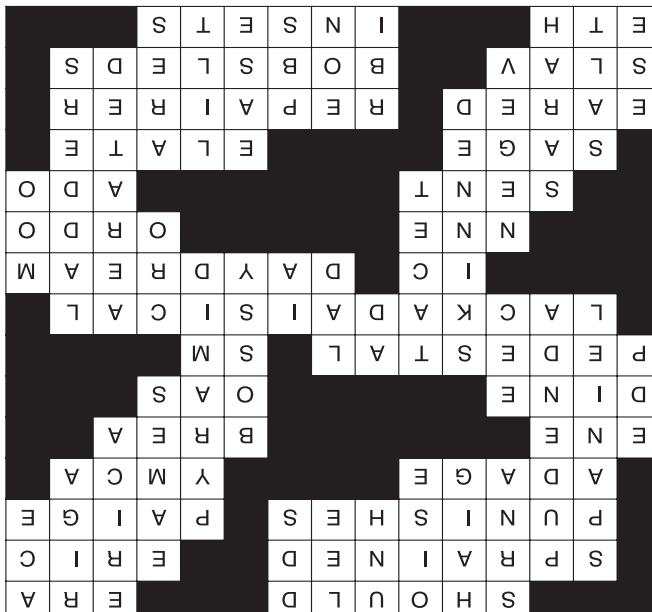
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chairs, space heater, small fan, bikes, trikes, wagon, baby stroller, pots and pans, dishes, antiques, wall clock, décor items, sheets, bed spread, blankets, records, scrapbook items, crafts, books, games, cigar boxes, and a lot more! (chg.36)
DODGE CENTER 66040 200 AVE August 23-24 from 8-6 Retired elementary teacher materials-Some new reading, science, math, children's and teacher books. Household misc., decorations, clothes, dolls, classroom wall mount bookshelf. (36 npd)
DODGE CENTER 306 10TH AVE NW Aug 22/23 Thurs/ Fri 8A-6P Multi-Family Garage sale. Household items, furniture, garage items, tvs, baby and adult clothing. Lots of misc.(36pd)

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DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Summer Days, Carnival Lights 2019

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER



With lots of determination, Lila Van Osdale, 4, of Owatonna lets the hammer fly as she pounds in nails to build a bird house during the fair. Lila is being held by her grandmother, Pam Krenke, also of Owatonna.



The fair means teamwork for 4-Hers. Allison Krohnberg,, 16, of Blooming Prairie and Andy Nelson, 8, team up to give Krohnberg's Guernsey cow a bath prior to showing at the fair. Krohnberg is a member of the Merry Lane 4-H Club while Nelson is with the Straight River Stars.



Paisley Schmidt, 5, of Owatonna enjoys a breath taking experience in the Butterfly Encounter as she tries to snag a monarch on her stick. Paisley enjoyed the butterflies with her father, A.J. Schmidt.



It may not be a Harley, but Ira Borland of Owatonna is set to zoom across the midway at the fair Saturday afternoon on the cycle ride. The 3-year-old enjoyed the fair with his parents, Dana and Amber Borland, and grandmother, Linda Borland of Albert Lea.



Known as the polka queen, Jeanette Raichle and Loren Clemmenson of Owatonna cut up a rug Saturday night in the barn as they enjoyed polka dancing to the Dan Stursa Band.



Despite a shower of rain just prior to the opening ceremony, the flag raising went off without any problems as area Legion and VFW members came together to open up the fair.



Darla Berg of Claremont calls yet another number at the Bingo stand sponsored by St. Mary's School of Owatonna.



The Steele County dairy princesses got their hands pumping as they milked a plastic cow during the fair. Chris of Garrick's Water won the milking contest.



Marilyn Meixner of Owatonna found herself floating in green—cash, that is. She won \$178 in the Money Booth by grabbing as much money as she could. United Prairie Bank sponsored the money stunt throughout the fair in recognition of its 100th year.

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