



STEELE COUNTY Times



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

New public works brings 2 under same roof

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

With all of the public works staff now under the same roof, the new facility for Steele County is fully functional.

On Friday, Aug. 16, the Steele County Highway Department began moving into the facility, completing that move on Monday, Aug. 19.

The new facility, located at 3000 Hoffman Dr. NW in Owatonna houses the entirety of the county's public works department and boasts enough room for maintenance and engineering staff to be

housed under one roof, in addition to salt and cold storage, as well as improved space for equipment.

Totalling approximately 37,000 square feet, the new building carried a price tag of \$10,752,000. The county received monetary assistance from a \$1.6 million FEMA grant and \$4 million from the State Department of Employment and Economic Development. This lowered the total cost for the county by \$5.6 million and allowed the new building to be constructed with a smaller budget.

After issues with flooding caused maintenance staff to move to a rented space for roughly

\$15,000 a month, county officials found the new facility was sorely needed. During this time, engineering staff was also operating out of the County Annex building.

"We're in the process of bringing all of our files over," County Engineer Greg Ilkka explained of the ongoing move. Ilkka and his staff are still settling into the new building as furniture and other additions are in the process of being moved in.

While maintenance has been operating out of the building since April, the engineering staff waited until the blackout was complete on Friday, August

16 before making its move. "I didn't want to open up for public business here until we at least had that done," Ilkka explained. There is still some landscaping to be done around the building.

"We love it, it's new compared to what we were in," Ilkka said of the new facility. "Like everything, because the board had a budget to work with, it's not perfect but that's certainly not a problem. We're going to adapt and overcome any small issues we come across."

One of the biggest upsides is having all of the staff under the

SEE NEW PUBLIC WORKS, A10



County Engineer Greg Ilkka stands next to a plaque commemorating the completion of the new public works facility located at 3000 Hoffman Dr. NW in Owatonna. The facility houses both maintenance and engineering staff and was fully completed this summer.

Health alliance seeks mediation

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On July 25, South Country Health Alliance received notice from the Minnesota Department of Human Services that they would be rejecting a proposal to provide health care to South Country Health Alliance.

SCHA is a 12-member county-based purchasing organization owned by the counties, which was formed in 2001 in order to improve the way members receive health care. They have 39,000 enrollees currently across the 12 counties.

"If this decision moves forward, it will impact 26,000 people," SCHA CEO Leota Lind said. In an attempt to reverse the decision, all of the counties except those leaving at the end of the year have submitted a request for mediation. Steele County adopted a resolution at last week's county board meeting pertaining to the mediation.

The mediation is scheduled for Sept. 20 in St. Paul and will determine the future of SCHA. "The immediate impact will be a disruption in care for all those members," Lind explained of the potential result of an unsuccessful mediation. "If we close our doors, there is no way we can reopen."

"It will also have an economic impact seeing as we employ 83 individuals and all of those individuals will lose their jobs," Lind said. "It could also impact some of those local providers, particularly small providers."

SCHA's main office is located in Owatonna.

There was a previously successful mediation after DHS did not offer contracts to providers in 2015. "This is to get on a mediation docket with the Department of Human Services and the State of Minnesota," County Board Chair Greg Krueger explained.

"They went through this five years ago and the outcome was very favorable five years ago, and they are kind of assuming it's going to be the same direction because there are more counties involved than five years ago," Krueger said.

While the county board is optimistic, there is still the chance that mediation will not resolve the denial. "We are going to push forward and hope for any positive result we can receive," Lind said of the pending mediation.

"There is a Minnesota statute to give counties the choice," she explained. "This decision by DHS is in direct violation of this statute." As well as the mediation, SCHA has also filed a lawsuit against DHS.

There has been a trend in recent years of small providers being abandoned for larger, metro-based ones. "We've seen more and more consolidation over the years because of the challenges," Lind said. "Small providers have been bought up by larger providers."

The county board stated that they object to the selection of participating health plans by DHS in the resolution adopted at last week's meeting. Commissioner Krueger also penned an accompanying letter, which specified that such action is in violation of Statute 256B.692, which affords counties statutory right to provide health care services under county-based authority.

SCHA contracts the following counties as members: Steele, Dodge, Brown, Freeborn, Goodhue, Kanabec, Morrison, Sibley, Todd, Wabasha, Wadena, and Waseca.

Governor gets a hearty 4-H welcome



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Steele County 4-Her Lauren Arthur gives a hearty 4-H welcome to Governor Tim Walz Saturday night at the Minnesota 4-H Purple Ribbon Livestock Auction at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in Falcon Heights. Arthur presented the governor with a maroon Minnesota 4-H State Fair t-shirt just prior to the auction. "Through 4-H, it broadens us into such bigger things like meeting the governor," Arthur said. Arthur later sold a market sheep in the auction. She is a member of the Meriden Meadowlarks. The Times will have complete State Fair coverage in next week's edition.

Minimizer moves forward to Owatonna

Company buys 13-acre site for new facility

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The plan for Minimizer to move into Owatonna has taken another step forward as the Owatonna City Council has approved the sale of land to the company.

On Aug. 20, Owatonna gave its approval to the 13-acre site west of the Cybex campus on SW 18th Street close to the intersection of Interstate 35 and U.S. Highway 14. Following the action, Minimizer signed a purchase agreement with the city.

With the land now secured, Minimizer plans to break ground on the new facility next month. The company hopes to move in by the spring of 2021.

"Given our current and future sales growth, as well as new product introductions, the new facility is a necessity," Minimizer CEO Christopher Thorpe said. "We are currently operating out of three buildings, and we are simply out of room in Blooming Prairie and need more efficient space."

The proposed site in Owatonna will house all 83 employees in one facility while substantially increasing the company's



Minimizer's new home will be located in the shaded yellow, which is west of the Cybex campus near the intersection of Interstate 35 and U.S. Highway 14 in Owatonna. Construction is expected to begin next month.

"We worked hard to keep them (Minimizer) here."

H. Peterson
Former BP Mayor

operating space from 54,000 to 96,000 square feet.

Thorpe said the company explored several different options, including existing commercial real estate, but nothing met Minimizer's needs. "We then decided to build a facility that would gain us the most efficiencies and meet our needs for the foreseeable future," he said.

Owatonna, Thorpe said, was the best choice for Minimizer as a business-friendly area with room for current requirements and future growth.

"Blooming Prairie is a better place for a business such as Minimizer."

Becky Noble
BP Chamber Director

Minimizer wants its employees in on the ground floor of the new building project. "The new facility represents a better work environment for everyone, as well as more amenities, so employee input and feedback is critical," Thorpe said.

Minimizer has been located in Blooming Prairie since Dick Kruckeberg founded it about 35 years ago. The company is currently scattered on three locations around Blooming Prairie.

Disappointment felt by many leaders

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It takes just one word to describe the reaction of many city leaders to the recent announcement that Minimizer is leaving Blooming Prairie to relocate in Owatonna.

That word is DISAPPOINTMENT.

Another word, EXCITEMENT can be used by Minimizer officials to illustrate their search for a site to handle its growth.

Minimizer employees were notified on Thursday, Aug. 15 of plans to move the entire plant and corporate location to Owatonna where a building site has been located. That 13-acre building site is owned by the City of Owatonna. It is located west of the Cybex campus on SW 18th Street, near the intersection with Interstate 35 and State Highway 14.

"I'm extremely disappointed," remarked former Mayor H. Peterson, who worked closely with Minimizer on its growth projects.

"We worked hard to keep them (Minimizer) here," Peterson said. "It's a tremendous loss of Blooming Prairie's largest manufacturing employer," he continued.

Minimizer has a tremendous opportunity for growth, Peterson believes. "Over time, they would have outgrown Blooming Prairie," he said.

Minimizer's move points to lack of industrial space, said Peterson.

The former mayor said he is hopeful that many of Minimizer's employees will continue to reside in Blooming Prairie because of the existing camaraderie of its residents and because of its strong school district.

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AREA DEATHS

Helga M. Grant, 78, Austin
Rosealee Grace Ille, 99, Albert Lea
Timothy Boever, 70, Blooming Prairie

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and Steele County
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OUR VIEW

Safety is the most important lesson as school is back in session

It's hard to believe but summer's last hurrah is upon us with Labor Day weekend. Beginning next week our focus will turn to fall and sliding back into a routine with school getting back into session.

As students head back to the classroom across the region, it's important for all of us to practice safety skills, especially around on the roadways near buses.

Buses will be taking to the streets and rural roads to haul our precious cargill to and from school.

Children should line up away from the street and avoid roughhousing while they wait for the bus. Kids should never proceed into the street until the bus is completely stopped. If you have to cross the street to reach the bus, make sure you are at least 10 feet ahead until you see visibly see the bus driver.

For motorists, it's imperative to practice driving safety around buses. Obey the school bus stop arms. For a refresher, stop when the bus lights are flashing red and stop arm is fully extended. It's the law. Take extra caution when driving near schools. Watch for increased traffic as there will be more teen drivers on the road.

And for the first school year, remember Minnesota now has a "hands-free" law. Cell phones cannot be in the hands of drivers while in motion.

Last year, Blooming Prairie lost a school teacher and child on their way to school allegedly at the hands of a driver who was using his cell phone to do on-line banking. This kind of behavior is unacceptable behind the wheel. We all need to do our part to avoid using cell phones in the vehicle while driving.

School is back in session for another year. Children are the most precious thing we have. Let's all do our part to help ensure the safety of children heading back to the classrooms next week.



GUEST COLUMN

Growing the local foods economy

BY TIM PENNY

This time of year, the farmers' markets are rich with local vegetables, berries, meats, breads and jams. It's a visual testament to the abundance of our region and the ever-growing local foods economy that is sustained by consumers who want to buy directly from area farmers. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we have been supporting the local foods economy in our 20-county region through a variety of initiatives over the years.

In 2013 the FEAST! Local Foods Network was launched with the purpose of supporting local food producers and food-makers by boosting access to financing, resources and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. The network, which started with a partnership between SMIF and Renewing the Countryside, is comprised of more than 60 organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to growing a sustainable, local and regional food system.

One of the outcomes of this network is the Grow a Farmer Fund. The fund, which was supported by more than 250 generous donors and is managed by SMIF, offers low interest loans of up to \$15,000 to help small scale farmers in SMIF's region purchase the equipment and supplies they need to be successful. EJ Mushrooms in Kasota used the loan to convert a detached garage into a year-round mushroom farm. Hare and Tortoise Farm in Zumbro Falls used the loan to scale up their operations by installing a waterway and purchasing a root washer for their vegetable farm. Other Grow a Farmer loan clients include Antonia Navarro (a chicken farmer in Faribault) and two additional vegetable farms – My Sweet Greens MN in Zumbrota and Pearson Organics in Oronoco. SMIF also participates in support of another fund, the Minnesota Good Food Access Fund, which provides grants, technical assistance and loans to enterprises working to increase access to healthy and affordable food.

The FEAST! Local Foods Network also supports farm and food entrepreneurs through technical assistance. Each month, a Local Foods Peer Group meets to discuss business challenges and successes, learning from each other in order to grow their businesses. A program called FEAST! Smart Start Initiative provides customized coaching for business owners. In 2018, SMIF provided grants to Region Nine Development Commission and the Sustainable Farming Association of MN (SFA), Cannon River Chapter to expand this program. Region Nine worked with entrepreneurs over a seven-month period to support them in building a network of relationships that will help grow their businesses and expand operations. The SFA Chapter used the grant to launch a regional brand, Cannon Valley Grown, which identifies food produced in the Cannon River watershed.

An event that I look forward to every year is the FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace. 1,500 people attend the event, which is a tradeshow experience for food-makers and farmers from southern Minnesota and the surrounding areas to make sales to retail and food service buyers, and the general public. The event will be held Dec. 6-7 at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center, just in time for holiday shopping.

It's amazing to see the partnerships that have been made, the relationships that have been strengthened and the businesses that have grown since the FEAST! Local Foods Network launched six years ago. As we like to say at SMIF, collaboration is the key to vitality in our region. This is especially evident in the local foods economy.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Tim Penny is the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in Owatonna. He represented Minnesota's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1982-1994.

Music gig provides relief for this prosecutor

For the past several years as the top prosecutor handling what will likely go down as one of the greatest crimes ever in Minnesota's history, Janelle Kendall has needed a stress reliever more than ever. She has found one through a love of music and sharing that passion as the lead singer for a band.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

For the record, Kendall is the Stearns County Attorney based in St. Cloud. She handled the Jacob Wetterling case and finally after nearly 30 years brought successful prosecution to Wetterling's killer.

In the past year or so, she has been dealing with the release of the Wetterling files. State law requires investigative documents to be released upon the conclusion of the case. The Wetterling family sued to stop Stearns County from releasing parts of the file. The family lost as a judge ruled that the documents must be released.

Kendall was torn on the case. She wanted to do everything she could to protect the rights of victims, but she also had to comply with state law to release records, despite what the family wanted. "We found there is no way victims could be protected with state and federal laws being followed," she said. She told me last week that the Wetterling case is finally closed and off her desk.

Kendall is familiar in Steele County as she grew up in Blooming Prairie and graduated as an Awesome Blossom in 1983. She was also a 4-H member for many years and has many fond memories of the Steele County Free Fair.

In 2012, Kendall formed a band called Walter's Wheelhouse. They perform gigs all over the state with the majority in northern Minnesota. She came back to perform on Wednesday night during the Steele County Fair.

"It has been my escape," Kendall confesses. "It gives you something different to do and something positive."

As a prosecutor, Kendall sees "so many nasty things" that take place with human nature. Playing in the band also keeps her in check realizing that there are so many more good people out there than what she deals with during her day job.

Kendall's group plays music with a groove, including Sheryl Crow, Santana, Pat Benatar, Meghan Trainor, Jack Johnson, Guns N' Roses and some Prince. They specialize in playing for fairs and other outdoor festivals. They also play at bars.

The group recently added a fiddler, which has allowed them to take on some country music. "We appeal to a different demographic," Kendall says. "We're a family band."

She is honored and humbled to have been playing at Minnesota's largest county fair for the past four years. Kendall said when she first started playing at the Steele fair in 2016, she got some cross-eyed looks from her family wondering about the significance of the fair. "You have no idea what a big deal this is," she told her family. "It's one of a kind in a good way."

Kendall remembers back to her childhood when a big highlight was getting interviewed by Todd Hale of KRFO Radio about her flower exhibit. "I remember how nervous I was," she said.

"It's always awesome," Kendall says of the Steele fair. "How can it not be awesome? It's the biggest fair ever."

She said growing up that her family planned their entire summer around the fair. "We picked rocks and weeds so that we could save money to spend on mini-donuts," Kendall said.

Kendall admits it's hard to escape her day job at times. During the Crossroads Mall terroristic attacks in St. Cloud in 2016, Kendall was performing a gig on her guitar when people came up to her asking what was going on at the mall. She went directly from playing to the mall to deal with 37 law enforcement agencies involved in the incident. "We don't get to predict the day when things happen," she said.

While the top prosecutor will continue locking up criminals, she will never forget her roots and the love she developed at a young age for the Steele County Fair.

Kendall will be in hot pursuit of decompressing from the stress of her day job by performing music at night.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Janelle Kendall is the lead singer and guitarist for Walter's Wheelhouse, which performed at the Steele County Free Fair. Kendall grew up in Blooming Prairie and now is the top prosecutor in Stearns County.

YOUR VIEW

Fair appreciates support from area

To the Editor:

The Steele County Free Fair Board of Directors, volunteers and staff would like to thank all fairgoers for their outstanding support of the 2019 Steele County Free Fair.

We are proud of the support we receive from Steele County and surrounding areas. The fair is a reflection of our county, and we continually receive praise from visitors and vendors about the courteous and thoughtful people that attend the fair.

The 2019 Steele County Free Fair attracted 322,347 fairgoers compared to

313,347 in 2018. Total Mega Ride tickets were 4,939 versus 4,789 in 2018. There were over 3,300 open class entries and over 2,000 4-H projects.

Again, thank you for participating in the 2019 Steele County Free Fair and look forward to seeing everyone at the 2020 Steele County Free Fair Aug. 18-23. Next year's theme is "Food, Fun and Friends a Plenty in 2020."

Dan Deml, Fair president
Fair Board and Staff

Appreciates the fair section

To the Editor:

Congratulations to the Steele County Times on this week's publication (Aug. 21), particularly the section on the Steele County Free Fair.

The picture of Sleeping Beauty should win awards. The article on pen pals was inspiring and uplifting. I appreciate this publication and the fact that the fair articles

are not about the editor as in another publication (Owatonna People's Press).

I will intentionally shop at advertisers of this publication as the quality is best and the written communication is vital to our community.

Neal Jorgensen
Owatonna

Painting the town pink

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD



It's Paint Blooming Prairie Pink to bring about cancer awareness and prevention. Two hundred fifty flags were posted on Sunday afternoon with the help of numerous volunteers.



With the help of some Blossom Power (aka Blooming Prairie football players), pink flags went up for Paint BP Pink during cancer awareness weeks. Shown from left are: Karson Vigeland, Mitchell Fiebiger, Ryan Weinberger, Dylan Nirk and Charlie Heimerman.



The Hultgren brothers and their grandmother, Connie Trom, brought a small flag to be attached to a larger pink flag at the Field of Flags near the intersection of Main Street and Highway 218. Shown with Grandma Connie are: Mason, 11, Gage, 9 and Tyrus Hultgren, 7.

It's the Max and Eddie Show



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

For Minnesota Twins fans, the 2019 Major League Baseball season has been a fun ride thus far. The Twins have led the Central Division standings for most of the season, with the Cleveland Indians close behind. Thirty-four games remain and then we will be entering the fun and exciting playoffs.



MAX KEPLER

I'm saddened that my father-in-law is not here to share the successes enjoyed by the Twins. My father-in-law Dale Mowers was a devoted Twins fan. He left us on June 6 and is watching from above. Dale lived with us from April 2018 to June of 2019. When the Twins were playing, Dale was in front of the television cheering them on, or even chastizing the manager if he didn't call for a bunt like he should have done. Dale and I each had our favorite players. Dale chose Max Kepler, a young outfielder, and I selected Eddie Rosario, a flamboyant left fielder. We cheered when our boys cracked a key hit, or made a dazzling catch. As we approach the playoffs, Max Kepler and Eddie Rosario have been key components of a smooth-running baseball machine. As of early this week, Kepler had 35 home runs and Rosario had notched 27. Let's take a look at the biographies of these two Twins players. Maximillian Kepler-Rozycki was born in Berlin, Germany on Feb. 10, 1993. His parents were both professional ballet dancers. They met when they performed in the same ballet company in Berlin. Max's mother is from San Antonio, Texas while his

father is from Poland. Max has one sister. Wikipedia tells us that at the age of 6, Kepler started baseball at the Little League level with the John F. Kennedy School in Berlin. He received a scholarship at age seven to the Steffi Graf Tennis Foundation, but he preferred baseball. Kepler attended John F. Kennedy School, and the St. Emmeram Academy in Regensburg in 2008, where he was able to practice in baseball more than the average American teenager. He played association football with Hertha BSC, and played baseball for Buchbinder Legion?re Regensburg of Bundesliga, the highest baseball league in Germany. Minnesota Twins international scout Andy Johnson first noticed Kepler when he played in a junior national tournament at age 14. At age 16 in 2009, Kepler signed with the Twins. He received a whopping \$800,000 bonus, the largest signing bonus given by an MLB franchise to a European-born player. Kepler made his American debut in the Rookie-level in 2010. He played in the Gulf Coast League (GCL). He was assigned to Elizabethton for the 2012 season. An elbow injury delayed the start of Kepler's 2013 season, when he was assigned to the Cedar Rapids Royals of the Class A Midwest League. Following the regular season, the Twins assigned Kepler to the Glendale Desert Dogs of the Arizona Fall League. Eddie Rosario was added to the Twins' 40-man roster following the 2013 season. He played for the Fort Myers Miracle in Class A. He advanced to Class AA in 2015, playing for the Chattanooga Lookouts. The Twins promoted Kepler to the major leagues on Sept. 21, 2015. He made his major league debut on Sept. 27, 2015 and recorded his first hit on Oct. 4, 2015. Kepler is the second German-developed player to play in the modern Major

SEE MAX AND EDDI, A5

BP Chamber members get sneak preview of website

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce members who attended a regular meeting of the chamber on Wednesday, Aug. 21 got a sneak preview of a new website being developed by the chamber. A regular monthly meeting took place at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. Miranda Camery, vice president of the BP Chamber, introduced Chamber summer intern, who gave the members a summary of the work done on the new website. She worked closely with Jamie Klemmensen of Klemmensen Creative Design and with Becky Noble, Chamber executive director. Vorlicek attempted to contact all Chamber mem-

bers to solicit information on their businesses. She interviewed many business owners and then supplied the information to Klemmensen for the adding of a design touch. The website will also have a link to the Blooming Prairie city website. Klemmensen used a drone to capture photos of Chamber businesses. It is hoped that the website will be ready in September. "It's going to be fantastic," remarked Vorlicek. Vorlicek was also thanked by acting president Camery and by Noble for the contributions she made by making contacts with chamber businesses. "Thanks for letting me be part of this community," Vorlicek said. She is entering her senior year at the University

of Wisconsin River Falls. She began her chamber internship on June 10 and completed her summer internship on Aug. 23. She is the daughter of Jason Vorlicek and Jackie Reiter-Vorlicek and granddaughter of Frank and Diane Vorlicek. After graduating in 2016 from Bloomington Jefferson High School, Vorlicek began her studies at River Falls, majoring in marketing communications. Her marketing interests include website design to social media. She also works with community outreach. Addressing her comments to Vorlicek, Camery said, "You are a breath of fresh air." She did a lot of work on events in addition to her work on the website, Camery informed.



MADDIE VORLICEK

Chamber associate member Joanne Sorenson brought two guests from Germany, Christa Gutenberg and Christa Futing. Christa Gutenberg's daughter Yvonne was a foreign exchange student to Blooming Prairie in 1990 and stayed with Joanne and Roger Sorenson. Acting president Camery conducted the business session of the meeting by reviewing the work of these committees: Executive; July 4th; Civic/Ambassadors/promotion; beautification and visitor; government relations and junior entrepreneur.

SEE BP CHAMBER, A5

GERMAN FRIENDS FOREVER

Visitors enjoy hospitality in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A 1990 Blooming Prairie High School graduate is responsible for a friendship connection that has continued to the present time. German student Yvonne Gutenberg attended her senior year at Blooming Prairie High School and was hosted by Roger and Joanne Sorenson. Yvonne last visited Blooming Prairie with her son Tom in the summer of 2018. Her parents, Lothar and Christa Gutenberg returned to Blooming Prairie on Aug. 8 for their third visit. They were accompanied three German friends, Klaus and Katrin Martens and by Christa Futing. Lothar and Christa and Klaus and Katrin stayed at Eaton Miller's Air B & B in downtown Blooming Prairie. Christa Futing stayed with the Sorensons. The German visitors busily toured Minnesota, including Duluth and the Lake Superior area. The Sorensons took their guests to the Amish settlements in Iowa, to New Ulm and to Two Harbors where they ventured to Gooseberry Falls and Split Rock Light-house. Joanne and Roger's son Jeff was their driver on their northern trips. "I absolutely love these people and wish I lived next door to them," said a grateful Joanne for their friendship. "They are some of the finest people you could have come to your home," added Roger.



Joanne and Roger Sorenson played host to five German guests recently. The Sorensons hosted Yvonne Gutenberg as a foreign exchange student in 1990. Pictured from left are: Joanne and Dachshund "Addie," Christa Futing, Lothar Gutenberg, Christa Gutenberg, Katrin Martens, Klaus Martens and Roger. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

The Gutenberg and Martens couples are from the German city of Leverkusen. Christa Futing is from Langenfeld, Germany. "We are friends forever with the Sorensons," remarks Lothar, indicating that their friendship spans over 7,000 kilometers. Klaus said he was most impressed by the friendliness of their host and hostess, Roger and Joanne. "We also had the best steaks ever," said a beaming Klaus. Lothar nodded his head in agreement, praising steaks coming from Steve's Meats in Ellendale and from Vandal's Family Market in Blooming Prairie.

Lothar said he is very impressed with expanse of the Blooming Prairie area. He said Blooming Prairie's Memorial Drive is larger than some of the German Autobahns. "We have little streets," he said. Lothar said he was pleased with the friendliness of the people in Blooming Prairie. Roger and Joanne took their German guests to church services at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, Aug. 11 and met many of the locals. "They have such a nice home and welcomed us as friends" and not just as tourists, said Christa Futing. Will the German guests return to Blooming

Prairie in the near future? Lothar quickly gave a thumbs up. "The exchange goes on," Lothar grinned widely. During their stay in Blooming Prairie, the German guests enjoyed swapping stories about the histories of their two countries. Roger also shared a video of his visit to Germany. "They did everything to make our trip wonderful," Lothar said. Joanne summed up their friendship with their German guests by pointing to a small plaque in German and English given to them by Yvonne, saying "Real friends count as family."

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

Police arrest man for violating domestic order

A man faces multiple charges in connection with a domestic violation in Owatonna.

Daron Taylor, 49, has been charged with violating the no contact order, fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance and DWI.

On Aug. 18, Owatonna Police responded to Riverside Avenue on a report of a domestic abuse no contract order violation. It was reported that Taylor came to the home in violation of the order, police said.

During a search, methamphetamine was found on Taylor, according to police. Officers also determined Taylor showed signs of impairment and had driven to the location, police said. Taylor is accused of failing roadside field sobriety tests.

The DWI charge filed against Taylor accuses him of operating under the influence of a controlled substance.

Justice to help mark opening of Vets Court

Chief Justice Lorie Gildea of the Minnesota Supreme Court will participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Friday, Sept. 20.

Two ribbon cuttings are planned, one at 10:30 a.m. at the Steele County Courthouse in Owatonna, and the other at 1:30 p.m. at the Fillmore County Courthouse in Preston.

Most veterans are strengthened by their military service, but the combat experience has unfortunately left a growing number of veterans with issue such as PTSD and traumatic brain injury.

One in five veterans has symptoms of a mental health disorder or cognitive impairment.

One in six veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom suffer from a substance use issue. Research continues to draw a link between substance use

and combat-related mental illness. Left untreated, mental health disorders common among veterans can directly lead to involvement in the criminal justice system.

The veterans treatment court model requires regular court appearances, as well as mandatory attendance at treatment sessions, and frequent and random testing for drug and alcohol use.

Veterans respond favorably to this structured environment, given their past experiences in the Armed Forces. However, a few will struggle, and it is exactly those veterans who need a veterans treatment court program the most.

Without this structure, these veterans will reoffend and remain in the criminal justice system. The veterans treatment court is able to ensure they meet their obligations to themselves, the court, and their community.

Recovery includes volleyball for drug court members

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Participants in the Steele Waseca Drug Court program will put on their tennis shoes and compete in a special district-wide volleyball tournament on Saturday, Sept. 7 in Waseca.

Heather Olson of Blooming Prairie came up with the idea to have a volleyball tournament for Drug Court participants and for those in the recovery community.

“I love volleyball and prefer it to any other sport,” said Olson, who expects to graduate from the Steele Waseca Drug Court program this fall.

“Volleyball is a team sport where you build trust with others,” remarked Olson. “In recovery, it’s important to trust others,” she pointed out.

The volleyball tournament represents the first time that the Steele Waseca Drug Court participants have hosted a special event. She expects 14 or more participants from the Steele Waseca Drug Court program to participate in the volleyball action.

Action will be featured simultaneously on three volleyball courts. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

The family-friendly event will start at 10:30 a.m. “We hope to have played 6-9 games before lunch which will then be served. Championship bracket action begins right after lunch.

Friends of recovery will come from “I could have gotten high, but instead I chose Drug Court and rebuilt my life.”

That’s what Olson says about choosing to enter the Steele Waseca Drug Court rather than to continue a path of “getting high” on meth.

“I could have gotten high, but instead I chose Drug Court and rebuilt my life.”

Olson, a mother of four children, faced eight years of probation and had committed a seventh parole violation. Drug Court helped Heather build a foundation of recovery, she says. Her charges stemming from drug use (meth) came in Mower County.

Olson has logged 445 days of sobriety. She hopes to graduate Drug Court this fall. “It helped change my life,” she continued.

BP man faces check forgery charges

A Blooming Prairie man is accused of check forgery in Mower County.

Ryan Ervin Whelan, 37, was charged Aug. 15 with felony check forgery- offer/possession with intent to defraud in Mower County District Court.

Authorities allege Whelan attempted to cash a fraudulent check from McDonald’s in Albert Lea totaling \$449 at the Hy-Vee Foods store in Austin on June 28.

Police responded to the store reporting Whelan was allegedly trying to cash a suspicious check.

According to police, Whelan told officers he received the check “in the mail.” He said he knew it was a “bad check,” but tried to cash it anyway.

Criminal records show Whelan has prior convictions for issuing dishonored checks.

Whelan will appear in court on Aug. 29.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 12 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

John C. Eppel, 52, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony receiving stolen property and felony possession of pornography. He was sentenced to \$481, 91 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, attend sex offender program, predatory offender registration, no possession of pornography, no contact with minors, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, no access to Internet without approval, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Jeffrey L. Jones, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Jones was sentenced to \$131, 59 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency, attend AA, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, complete drug court and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 12 – 18:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cameron R. Johnson, 16, Austin, speeding, \$101; Brayan E. Mata, 24, Austin, speeding, \$121; Hayley N. Mueller, 23, Stacyville, IA, unsafe passing, \$131; Kenneth B. Nelson, 41, Granada, expired tabs, \$101.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Matt J. Peterson, 43, Ellendale, revoked license, \$281.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

John D. Ball, 52, Tunnel Hill, GA, speeding, \$121; Xavier G. Bicott, 35, Bloomington, speeding, \$121; James R. Brunn, 68, Minnetonka, speeding, \$131; Brandon J. Burgener, 19, Loveland, CO, speeding, \$221; Alexandra E. Burress, 22, Rapid City, SD, speeding, \$121; Vojtech Dosedla, 42, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$131; Derek C. Feldman, 41, Manchester, MO, speeding, \$131; Miguel O. Galarza, 36, Gentry, AR, speeding and no ID for interstate carrier, \$241; Paul W. Griffith, 69, Beaver Creek, OH, speeding, \$121; Keli D. Hanssen, 46, Columbia Heights, speeding, \$151; Max T. Helgeson, 27, Prairie Village, KS, speeding, \$121; Dana L. Holmes, 40, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Andrea R. Martin, 21, Mesquite, TX, speeding, \$141; Emrah Mustafa, 30, Sioux Falls, SD, seat belt, \$106; Sabina A. Peterson, 68, Owatonna, unsafe lane usage, \$131; Todd L. Peterson, 59, Hector, cancelled license and seat belt, \$306; Celsa D. Polo, 54, Burnsville, expired license, \$181; Randy D. Robinson, 60, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Denaira J. Rumler, 40, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Bhupinder S. Sandhu, 54, Carpentersville, IL, seat belt, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Thomas H. Stadler, 39, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Maria S. Taburnal Loomis, 43, New Virginia, IA, speeding, \$131; Napoleon B. Williams, 69, Anoka, speeding, \$141; Zachary D. Witte, 27, Morristown, seat belt, \$106.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ibrahim M. Abdi, 50, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control device, \$131; Daniel A. Acosta, 30, Owatonna, DWI, \$156, 2 days in county jail, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Kevin S. Argueta, 19, seat belt, \$106; David A. Barrera, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Nyantut Chan, 49, Waseca, assault, \$971, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the

state and 1 year of supervised probation; Tasheena R. Cooke, 34, Owatonna, expired license, \$181; Brendan S. Crayne, 19, Superior, WI, speeding, \$121; Michelle De La Paz Carranza, 21, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Cole J. Deason, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Matthew D. Economy, 31, New Richland, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Mason L. Evans, 20, Waterville, permit violation, \$131; Brian A. Freerksen, 57, Owatonna, failure to use designated lane, \$131; Brandon C. Froid, 33, revoked license, \$281; Julio C. Garza, 36, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Colton P. Heilman, 21, Owatonna, registration violation, stay of adjudication, 6 months of unsupervised; Jeremy J. Herrera, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Anab A. Jama, 38, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Abdirahman A. Mahamood, 22, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Sara N. Martinez, 19, Faribault, permit offense and registration violation, \$281; Nicholas L. McDonald, 37, Utica, revoked license, \$281; Efen Mendoza Jr., 30, Faribault, expired license, \$181; Joseph J. Meyer, 39, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Fernando Mireles, 24, Owatonna, expired license, \$181; Irving Mixteco Vasquez, 37, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Jose M. Palacios, 38, Owatonna, no insurance and invalid license, \$381; Dakota J. Plants, 25, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Jonathan L. Pogones, 28, Ellendale, stop sign, \$131; Halle L. Rasmussen, 22, Rochester, DWI, \$381, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Darian O. Simmons-Williams, 22, Owatonna, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, \$50, no alcohol or controlled substance use, maintain employment, chemical dependency evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Timothy L. Summy, 34, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Amanda L. Thompson, 49, Morristown, expired tabs, \$111; Sam I. Thompson, 22,

Preston, no insurance and suspended license, \$481; MacKenzie M. Vanderlugt, 18, Owatonna, invalid license, no insurance and permit violation, \$431; Robert Velasquez, 42, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Tatum M. Wacholz, 27, stop sign, \$131; David R. Willis, 36, West Concord, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Tyler M. Young, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$131.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Edith Acosta, 18, West Concord, failure to stop for railroad crossing and invalid license, \$281; Anatoliyanovich Andriyets, 59, Minnetonka, multi-lane usage and seat belt, \$156; Arian Arenas, 34, Owatonna, littering, \$181; Thin Atae, 30, Seattle, WA, speeding, \$141; Krystal Bernal, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Jake L. Bickhard, 23, Wichita, KS, speeding, \$141; Barbara G. Bishman, 59, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Avalon E. Dykstra, 19, Shoreview, speeding, \$131; Ricardo Garcia, 24, Albert Lea, registration violation, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Nicholas R. Harenza, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Emily M. Hegna, 19, Austin, speeding, \$141; Duncan J. Higgins, 23, Austin, speeding, \$281; Darien L. Hornes, 37, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Elanda Y. Jefferson, 47, St. Paul Park, speeding, \$141; Oliver B. Lee, 31, Austin, cancelled license, \$281; Brandi L. Lemke, 20, Faribault, no insurance, stay of adjudication, \$75 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Robert V. Morgan, 36, Faribault, speeding and stop sign, \$171; Ivan M. Ortega Garcia, 30, Albert Lea, revoked license and open bottle, \$381; Nicole C. Verant, 48, St. Augusta, speeding, \$141; Jessica M. Wemeier, 23, Gibbon, speeding, \$141; Brianna R. Zapata, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Aug. 21

Crash: At 1:04 p.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in

property damage occurred in the 300 block of Main St. E.

OWATONNA POLICE

Aug. 16

Fight: Officers responded to a fight in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:25 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:12 a.m.

Animal: At 1:14 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 600 block of Greenhaven Lane NE.

Shoplifting: At 4:26 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 100 block of Oak Ave. S. at 8:17 p.m.

Aug. 17

DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Main St. E. and Park Square E. at 1:18 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of 15th St. NE at 9:31 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 10 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at Hobart St. SE and Elm Ave. S.

Aug. 18

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 100 block of Vine St. E. at 12:53 a.m.

Warrants: Officers made a warrant arrest in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 5:36 a.m.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 9:16 a.m.

Mental Health: Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 700 block of Paris Place SE at 9:37 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on 26th St. NW at 10:45 a.m.

Restraining Order: Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 1600 block of St. Paul Road NE at 10:55 a.m.

Weapons: At 1:42 p.m., police responded to a weapons-related incident in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 300 block of School St. W. at 2:36 p.m.

Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Oak Ave. N. at 3:59 p.m.

DWI: Police made DWI arrests in the 200 block of Riverside Ave. NW at 5:39 p.m. and at Main St. W. and Park Square W. at 7:04 p.m.

Aug. 19

Thefts: Police received theft reports from the 400 block of Pebble Beach Dr. NE at 9:21 a.m. and the 1600 block of Linn Ave. SW at 9:48 a.m.

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of Park Square E. at 12:49 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Allan Ave. SW at 3:16 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1400 block of Nottingham Dr. SE at 6:37 p.m.

Aug. 20

Theft: At 7:12 a.m., a theft occurred in the 2000 block of Bigelow Ave. NE.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Hoffman Dr. NW and 21st Ave. NW at 2:51 p.m.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:07 p.m.

Aug. 21

Crash: Officers responded to a motor vehicle crash resulting in property damage at Main St. W. and Park Square W. at 3:28 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 800 block of School St. E. at 10:31 a.m.

Theft: At 12:26 p.m., a theft occurred in the 200 block of South St. E.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 2:37 p.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:04 p.m.

Weapons: Police responded to a weapons-related incident in the 200s block of 24th St. NE at 5:23 p.m.

Arrests: Police arrested motorists during traffic stops at Elm Ave. N. and Vine St. E. at

SEE BLOTTER, A6

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

1. Joshua Moreno – domestic assault - \$1,000 bail

2. Omar Moreno Jr. – damage to property - \$5,000 bail

3. Jose Mota – theft - \$1,000 bail

4. Guadalupe Munoz – false name - \$3,000 bail

5. Ricardo Munoz – DWI - \$6,000 bail

6. Deris Murillo-Benitez – DWI - \$12,000 bail

7. Charlene Murry – DUI – no bail

8. Deq Mursal – DWI - \$3,000 bail

9. Hailee Nagelstad – speeding, careless driving - \$200 bail

10. Olvidio Narraez – DWI, no license - \$1,000 bail

11. Jennifer Nekolite – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail

12. Theodore Nelson – speeding - \$200 bail

13. James Neubauer – traffic - \$500 bail

14. Dai Nguyen – drugs – no bail

15. Benito Nieto – terroristic threats – no bail

16. Jason Nolan – theft by check - \$5,000 bail

17. Pedro Nolasco – revoked license - \$500 bail

18. Gracie Nunez – theft - \$10,000 bail

19. Joan O'Quist – FTA-obey order - \$3,000 bail

20. Kelley Oelker – worthless check - \$500 bail

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

Agencies partner to stock fish at Austin's Todd Park

Austin's largest city park will get hundreds of rainbow trout stocked in its creek each spring starting in 2020 thanks to a partnership between the state and local watershed district, officials announced last week.

Next April, Wolf Creek, a Cedar River tributary that flows through the nearly 150-acre Todd Park in northeast Austin, will receive up to 600 rainbow trout raised and stocked by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

This is the result of a proposal made by Cedar River Watershed District technician James Fett, who collected water-temperature data in 2017 and 2018 at an unshaded part of Wolf Creek in the park.

"It is uncommon for new trout waters to be added like this, at least in our nine-county area of south-central Minnesota," said Craig Soupir, DNR's Waterville Area Fisheries supervisor. "Most streams with decent cold-water habitat already are stocked or managed for trout."

Fett and Soupir announced the project along Wolf Creek in Todd Park with City of Austin officials, including Austin Mayor Tom Stiehm.

DNR's Waterville staff will retrieve 300 rainbow trout raised at the DNR's State Fish Hatchery in Lanesboro and place them in Wolf Creek a day before next year's trout season opener on April 18.

This project will start a "put-and-take" fishery in Wolf Creek by stocking rainbow trout of a larger size for anglers to catch and keep, if desired, through Sept. 15, 2020. A catch-and-release trout season then will run from Sept. 16 to Oct. 15, 2020, and Jan. 1, 2021, to the April 2021 opener.

Another 300 rainbow trout likely will be stocked in Wolf a few weeks after the April 2020 opener to boost numbers, Soupir said.

"We will stock harvestable rainbow trout around a half pound each, which is a nice, catchable size to anglers and above a size that predator fish like northern pike and bass can eat," Soupir said.

Mower County does not have streams stocked by



A major announcement was made on Thursday, Aug. 22 about local agencies partnering to stock fish in 2020 in Austin. Those pictured at the announcement are: (left to right) Tim Ruzek (CRWD); Austin Mayor Tom Stiehm; Craig Soupir (MN Dept. of Natural Resources' Waterville Fisheries); James Fett (CRWD); and Steve Persinger, a landowner on Wolf Creek working with CRWD to convert about 100 acres of cropland into permanent native prairie and wetlands through the MN CREP program.

DNR for trout. However, Fett, who does water-quality testing and works on enrolling cropland into native prairie and wetlands, thought the Wolf Creek watershed could host trout given its cooler water fed by springs and large amount of wooded areas and conservation land.

"We're very grateful for DNR's strong support of our idea," Fett said. "It's exciting to think about what's ahead. Todd Park is an ideal public access for trout anglers, and we think this partnership can get future funding to enhance access and habitat."

Todd Park has more than 8,800 feet of public shoreline on Wolf Creek for fishing access, Fett said. The park hosts a spring-fed pond that outlets cold water into Wolf Creek, which begins northeast of Brownsdale.

In recent years, Wolf Creek's watershed has had a significant amount of native prairie and wetlands installed through conservation projects on land along the creek upstream from Todd Park, Fett said. These have included conservation enrollments through the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and state Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) program.

Fett is working to finalize a new MN CREP enrollment with Steve and Diane Persinger of 100 cropland acres to be converted permanently into native prairie and wetlands along Wolf Creek, just upstream from Todd Park. He's also working on a MN CREP contract for an additional 104 acres of cropland along Wolf Creek, north of the Persinger parcel.

DNR tried managing trout in Wolf Creek in the 1980s and '90s when Mower County was managed by DNR's Lanesboro Fisheries, Soupir said. Young trout stockings failed to develop into a fishery over several years, and DNR stopped the effort. Surveys indicated a problem from predator fish – northern pike and largemouth bass – coming into Wolf from the Cedar River.

"We plan to take a bit of a different approach, and our goal is to utilize the cold-water resource of Wolf Creek and the great access provided by Todd Park," Soupir said.

Waterville Fisheries started managing Mower County in 2004 but has limited trout resources compared to the Lanesboro office. That makes a stream like Wolf Creek a great opportunity for Waterville

staff to manage and offer anglers, Soupir said.

At this time, Wolf Creek is not a designated trout stream, which involves a lengthy process that might not be pursued, but anglers need a Minnesota fishing license and trout stamp to possess trout from non-designated waters like Wolf, Soupir said. Trout stamps are not required for children age 17 and younger and adults age 65 and older.

"Our goal is to provide a unique angling opportunity in southern Minnesota, and we encourage anglers to harvest the fish – that's why we stock them," Soupir said. "A few fish could survive the 2020 angling season and take residence in Wolf Creek. If that happens, it would be great but the trout stocking will continue annually every spring if it proves successful."

Waterville DNR Fisheries also manages trout in Rice Creek near Northfield (a self-sustaining brook trout fishery) and Pauls Creek, east of St. Peter, which it manages as a "put-and-take" rainbow trout fishery similar to the plan for Wolf Creek.

"Pauls Creek has been tremendously successful," Soupir said, "and we envision a similar result on Wolf Creek."

Spotted Wing Drosophila in Minnesota

Several gardeners and homeowners have asked me about their sickly looking raspberries this year. A few have mentioned glimpsing little white



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

raspberry when you harvest it, which is known as the receptacle, can serve as a visual cue. A receptacle that has a white or maybe a tint of red is okay,

worms in their raspberries. Aside from not being very appetizing, this is an unfortunate discovery because it's an indicator of a problematic fruit pest in Minnesota. Spotted Wing Drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii*, is a non-native, invasive fruit fly that has become a pest of raspberries and blueberries, and has also been found infesting blackberries, stone fruits, and strawberries. It's become one of our most damaging pests in Minnesota.

Spotted Wing Drosophila adults look very similar to other small fruit flies you might see near overripe bananas on your kitchen counter. However, unlike these other fruit flies, which typically feed on overripe or deteriorating fruit, Spotted Wing Drosophila can feed on perfectly healthy, ripening fruit.

These buggers can lay eggs in fresh fruit because the females have a unique, serrated egg-laying structure, called an ovipositor, that can puncture the unblemished skin of many berry species. While they're at it, they lay three or more eggs per berry, resulting in several white maggots in each berry. This is rather unappetizing for most people. One generation, from egg to adult, may occur in as few as 7-10 days, depending on temperature. Therefore, multiple generations of Spotted Wing Drosophila can occur in a year, with populations building throughout the summer.

There's a simple visual cue that UMN horticulturists say is a telltale sign that a raspberry is infested. The part of the plant that slides out of the

but if it has turned red, it is likely infested.

One way to manage Spotted Wing Drosophila is to harvest your berries every day; pick the ripe ones as soon as possible. Keep in mind that Spotted Wing Drosophila can also lay eggs in over-ripe fruit, making sanitation important as well. Also, clean up fallen or over-ripe fruit frequently. To minimize egg laying and larval development, you can pick through your gardens or fields with one container to collect good fruit and another container to collect over-ripe fruit, which is discarded.

Another step could include the removal of wild host plants near production fields that can support Spotted Wing Drosophila populations. This practice has not been field tested but has potential. Wild hosts include plants such as black raspberry, pokeberry, and blackberry. Insecticides can be effective, but be sure to follow the instructions on the label. You have to abide by the regulations on the insecticide label that tell you when it is safe to re-enter the area (re-entry interval) and when it is safe to harvest (pre-harvest interval) following an insecticide application.

Good luck with your berries. If you have any questions about Spotted Wing Drosophila in your yard or garden, please contact me at 507-332-6165 or lacanne@umn.edu.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for the University of Minnesota for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

BP CHAMBER: members get sneak preview of website FROM A3

Chamber Secretary Sarah Esplan offered a review of the past Fourth of July celebration. "I think everything went well," Sarah said. She thanked Maddie and Pam Ingvalson for their help with the run/walk event.

Blooming Prairie Mayor Curt Esplan represented the government relations committee and said the "big news" surrounds the decision of Minimizer to leave Blooming Prairie to expand its facilities at an Owatonna location.

Esplan said the move will definitely have an economic effect on Blooming Prairie. He said the city is hopeful that Craig Kruckeberg, chairman of the Minimizer Board of Directors, will find some

other business/industry to fill the building space to be vacated by Minimizer.

The projected 13-acre building site is west of the Cybex campus on SW 18th Street close to the intersection of Interstate 35 and state highway 14.

The city of Owatonna passed a vote Tuesday, Aug. 20 to sell the land to Minimizer, which now has a signed purchase agreement with the city.

Minimizer currently employs 83 people across three separate campuses in Blooming Prairie. The proposed site in Owatonna will house all employees in one facility while substantially increasing the company's operating space from fifty-four thousand square feet to ninety-six thousand square feet.

Esplan said the move will have a definite economic effect on B to Z Hardware. Board executive director Noble urged existing manufacturers to continue to support the local hardware store.

Camery said she is sending an e-mail to Minimizer CEO requesting that he or a representative come to a future Chamber meeting to explain Minimizer's upcoming plans.

In other business, charitable gambling manager Amanda Schumacher presented a gambling report. She said business is slow at this stage at the gambling sites, Bunkie's, Cue Company and the BP Country Club.

Noble said the Chamber Golf Fun Day was successful with 60 golfers

participating. This was the 25th annual BP Chamber golfing event.

"We had more younger golfers this year," said Noble. Jennifer Milton of the BP Cancer Group gave a report on the Paint Blooming Prairie Pink weekend coming up Sept. 6-7. This will be the 19th annual cancer auction weekend. She also said a gun bingo is planned for Thursday, Sept. 12 at the BP Servicemen's Club.

Jackie Vorlicek, owner of Prairie Home Floral & Gift Shop, said she plans an open house on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

Next meeting of the chamber is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 18, at noon at the City Center. The meal will be catered by Casey's.

IT'S THE: Max and Eddie Show FROM A3

Leagues. He bounced back and forth from Rochester in the Minor Leagues to the Twins in the Major Leagues. He stuck for good in June of 2016 when he replaced the injured Miguel Sano in the lineup.

The rest is history, Kepler signing a multi-year contract just before the 2019 season started. He has been enjoying a career year this year. He is single.

Eddie Manuel Rosario was born Sept. 28, 1991 in Puerto Rico. Rosario represented Puerto Rico in the 2013 and 2017 editions of the World Baseball Classic, winning a silver medal in both.

Rosario received a 50-game suspension for substance abuse following

the 2013 season. He served the suspension at the start of the 2014 season.

The Twins promoted Rosario to the major leagues on May 4, 2015. Rosario made his major league debut on May 6, and hit a home run in his first at-bat, on the first pitch, off Scott Kazmir of the Oakland Athletics. He became the 115th player in Major League Baseball to hit a home run in his first at-bat.

Rosario played in 122 games for the Twins in 2015, sharing outfield duties with Torii Hunter, Aaron Hicks, and fellow prospect Byron Buxton.

Despite being called up a month into the season, Rosario led all of baseball

in triples with 15, and was second in outfield assists with 16, just one behind Avisail Garcia of the Chicago White Sox. Rosario finished his rookie campaign with a .267 batting average and 13 home runs.

Rosario was projected to be the regular left fielder in 2016. He got off to a slow start, was shipped to Triple-A, called back up to the Majors and finishing with a .269 batting average, 10 home runs and 32 RBI in 92 games played.

The year 2017 saw Rosario develop into one of the American League's best hitters. He finished the season batting .290, hitting 27 home runs and recording 78 RBI.

Rosario finished the 2018 season with the lowest fielding percentage among major league left fielders, at .967, and batted .288 with 24 home runs, 77 RBI, and a career high 161 hits in 138 games. Rosario was considered an All-Star "snub" in 2018.

With chants of "Eddie-Eddie" at Target Field, Rosario began the 2019 season on fire. An injury slowed him down but he returned to have his best Major League season ever.

Eddie and wife Milany have three children: Mileidy, Raydiel, and Lucas.

If the Twins make it to the World Series in 2019, it will be partly because of the contributions of Max Kepler and Eddie Rosario.

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How to Get Social Security Disability Benefits When You Can't Work



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus

220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
What do I need to do to get Social Security disability benefits? I'm 60 years old and have some health problems that won't allow me to work, but I've read that getting disability benefits is difficult.
Laid Up Lenny

Dear Lenny,
Getting Social Security disability benefits when you're unable to work can be challenging. Last year, more than 2 million people applied for Social Security disability benefits, but two-thirds of them were denied, because most applicants fail to prove that they're disabled and can't work. Here are some steps you can take that can help improve your odds.

GET INFORMED

The first thing you need to find out is if your health problem qualifies you for Social Security disability benefits.

You generally will be eligible only if you have a health problem that is expected to prevent you from working in your current line of work (or any other line of work that you have been in over the past 15 years) for at least a year or result in death.

There is no such thing as a partial disability benefit. If you're fit enough to work part-time, your application will be denied. You also need not apply if you still are working with the intention of quitting if your application is approved, because if you're working your application will be denied.

Your skill set and age are factors too. Your application will be denied if your work history suggests that you have the skills to perform a less physically demanding job that your disability does not prevent you from doing.

To help you determine if you are disabled, visit [SSA.gov/planners/disability/qualify.html](https://www.ssa.gov/planners/disability/qualify.html) and go through the five questions Social Security uses to determine disability.

HOW TO APPLY

If you believe you have a claim, your next step is to gather up your personal, financial and medical information so you can be prepared and organized for the application process.

You can apply either online at [SSA.gov/applyfordisability](https://www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability) or call 800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply at your local Social Security office, or to set up an appointment for someone to take your claim over the phone.

The whole process lasts about an hour. If you schedule an appointment, a "Disability Starter Kit" that will help you get ready for your interview will be mailed to you. If you apply online, the kit is available at [SSA.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm).

It takes three to five months from the initial application to receive either an award or denial of benefits. The only exception is if you have a chronic illness that qualifies you for a "compassionate allowance" (see [SSA.gov/compassionateallowances](https://www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances)), which fast tracks cases within weeks.

If Social Security denies your initial application, you can appeal the decision, and you'll be happy to know that roughly half of all cases that go through a round or two of appeals end with benefits being awarded. But the bad news is with backlog of around 800,000 people currently waiting for a hearing, it can take 12 to 24 months for you to get one.

GET HELP

You can hire a representative to help you with your Social Security disability claim. By law, representatives can charge only 25 percent of past-due benefits up to a maximum of \$6,000 if they win your case.

It's probably worth hiring someone at the start of the application process if your disability is something difficult to prove such as chronic pain. If, however, your disability is obvious, it might be worth initially working without a representative to avoid paying the fee. You can always hire a representative later if your initial application and first appeal are denied.

To find a representative, check with the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives ([NOSSCR.org](https://www.nosscr.org), 845-682-1881) or National Association of Disability Representatives ([NADR.org](https://www.nadr.org), 800-747-6131). Or, if you're low-income, contact the Legal Services Corporation ([LSC.gov/find-legal-aid](https://www.lsc.gov/find-legal-aid)) for free assistance.

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

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

I would like to thank the Claremont and Dodge Center ambulance crew for the quick response when I had a medical emergency. Also thanks to the staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. A special thanks to nurse Lori Wencil and husband for being close by. God Bless you all! Thanks again.

Gerald (Bud) Rysavy and family
Claremont

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Sept. 1, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

It was a dream come true for a Blooming Prairie couple when they walked down the aisle at the Steele County Free Fair on Aug. 21. Steve Gilman and Becky Hohenstein got married at the fair. The wedding was put on KOWZ Radio out of Owatonna. The event was named "Wedding With the Stars." The two are very in love and looking forward to spending each second as a loving family.

Keli Ooms of Hollandale was selected as a winner of the Kohl's Kids Who Care \$1,000 scholarship for her work at a relief shelter after a tornado that hit Parkersburg, Iowa last year. "Being a Christian, God wants us to be helping," Ooms said.

With summer winding down and the days becoming shorter, it is time once again for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Auction. The event will be held on Sept. 11-12. The emcees for the event will be Matt Braaten and Mike Trom.

20 Years Ago Aug. 31, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Most likely the oldest church in this area, Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church will celebrate with a special program on Sept. 12. For its 140th anniversary, Red Oak has planned to have renowned pianist Dr. Timothy Schmidt perform following a lunch and worship service on that Sunday. Schmidt, 50, is a professor of music and piano at Waldorf College in For-

est City, Iowa, where he has served on the faculty for 28 years.

Heather Haus held its Fashion Show Aug. 25 and had 13 models show off their beautiful clothes. Heather Haus manager Deb Brown introduced the program with Clara Berg as narrator and Verna Magnuson, coordinator. Musicians were Betty Ingvalson, organist and Lisi Ingvalson, violinist.

Triax Cablevision, the local cable system franchiser, notified the city last week that the upgrade which was negotiated in the last franchise agreement will be starting this week. Upon completion of the upgrade by the end of this calendar year, customers should notice enhanced reception and greater reliability of the local cable system.

50 Years Ago Aug. 27, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Twelve new faculty members are joining Blooming Prairie Schools for the 1969-70 school year. They are Scott Nelson, math; D. Dale Erickson, math; Franklin Vorlicek, social studies-English; Lloyd Mans, instrumental music; Howard Bode, agriculture; Julie Thacker, physical education; Dennis Johnson, vocal music; Mrs. Michael Linse, second grade; Ilene Christensen, second grade; Mrs. Suzanne Lennberg, second grade; Mrs. Bonnie Pruett, third grade and Mrs. Kinley Peterson, fourth grade.

Blooming Prairie Public Schools will open for the 1969-70 term on Thursday morning of this week, Aug. 28, with the teaching staff expected to

greet 1,334 students for the first-day classes, Superintendent M. McFarlin announced. Advanced registration placed the enrollment at about 696 pupils in K-6 and 638 students in grades 7-12.

Purchase of the old creamery building in southwest Blooming Prairie by McNelius Ready-Mix was announced today by Linden McNelius, local manager. McNelius said after disposing of some of the connecting structures, the main creamery building will be destroyed by fire.

75 Years Ago Aug. 31, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

"Killed in Action." Another one of those dreaded War Department messages arrived here Wednesday morning of this week bearing the sad tidings that Pfc. Frances Cochlin had paid the supreme sacrifice on the field of battle somewhere in the Southwest Pacific. George Daym officer with the local Legion, received the telegram and it was his sad mission to deliver it to Frances' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cochlin at Austin.

Sgt. Floyd O. Severtson, member of the Fifth Army, Italy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Severtson of Blooming Prairie, fought in the drive on Rome with a 105-millimeter howitzer battalion of the 88th Infantry Division that played a vital role in capturing the Eternal City.

Mark Kruger has decided to retire from farm life, consequently he will sell his fine highly-improved 80-acre farm one mile north and 1 1/2 miles south of town on Sept. 7 at a public auction. This is one of the best farms in Steele County.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

at 8:34 p.m. and at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. at 9:14 p.m.

Aug. 22
Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 800 block of School St. E. at 7:37 a.m.
Warrants: Officers made warrant arrests in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 8:29 a.m., the 1000 block of Oak Ave. S. at 11:09 a.m. and at Elm Ave. S. and Leisure Lane SE at 2:19 p.m.
Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 11:54 a.m.
Vulnerable Adult: Police received a vulnerable adult report from the 200 block of South St. E. at 11:54 a.m.
Shoplifting: At 6:30 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred

in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.
Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Mill St. W. at 8:19 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Aug. 16
Thefts: Deputies took theft reports in the 800 block of 3rd St. NE in Medford at 9:01 p.m. and in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. S. in Owatonna at 10:16 p.m.
Aug. 17
Intoxication: Deputies responded to an intoxicated subject at Cedar Ave. S. and Oak Ave. S. in Owatonna at 8:50 p.m.
Juvenile: Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 100 block of Cedar Ave. S. in Owatonna at 10:52 p.m.
Aug. 18

Assault: Deputies responded to an assault in the 1500 block of Cedar Ave. S. in Owatonna at 2:53 p.m.

Aug. 19
Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 2500 block of 28th St. SW in Owatonna Township at 11:22 a.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Shannan Marie Mitchell, 37, arrested Aug. 21, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.
Katrina Rose Young Schoenecker, 33, arrested Aug. 21, felony possession of meth, held for court.
Nicholas Martin Balfe, 43, arrested Aug. 21, felony sales of controlled substance, held for court.

Brennan Richard Millhouse, 19, arrested Aug. 21, felony controlled substance, held for court.
Brett Richard Baumeister, 22, arrested Aug. 21, felony controlled substance, held for court.
Tosha Sue Nielsen, 32, arrested Aug. 21, felony controlled substance, held for court.
Kierra Joy Holsington, 18, arrested Aug. 21, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Mario Brown, 40, arrested at 12:02 p.m. Aug. 20, warrant arrest, \$3,000 bail.
Sean Martin Cicero, 39, arrested at 12:40 p.m. Aug. 20, probation violation, held for court.
Jesse James Niesen, 20, arrested at 4:34 p.m. Aug. 20, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

DISAPPOINTMENT FELT: by many leaders FROM A1

"We are saddened by the news of Minimizer leaving Blooming Prairie," commented Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Becky Noble.

With minimizer employing 83 people, it is likely the community will see an economic impact, Noble said. It will be felt by the city's restaurants, gas stations, grocery store and hardware store, she continued.

"I feel Blooming Prairie is a better place for a business such as Minimizer. We do not have the competition for employees that Owatonna has. We can draw employees from the smaller communities, and we are situated right in the middle of Owatonna and Austin."

Noble said she understands Minimizer's need for more buildable property. "Minimizer has to go where they can build," she said.

"We wish all the best for Minimizer and thank them for the 30-plus years they were in Blooming Prairie, growing their business along with our community," Noble said.

"It's going to be a hit for Blooming Prairie," believes current Mayor Curt Esplan. "You'll have nearly 90 people not buying gas, lunch or groceries here," he said.

Esplan and City administrator Andrew Langholz met with Minimizer officials Christopher Thorpe, CEO and James Richards, vice president of operations, on Aug. 15, the same day they notified employees of the planned move. "I had not a clue this was happening," Esplan said.

"I know the move will hurt the hardware store, gas stations and our utilities," Esplan stated.

Esplan is hopeful many of the Minimizer employees will continue to live in Blooming Prairie and will commute to the new location in Owatonna. He is also hopeful that Minimizer's Blooming Prairie buildings will be filled by other industries or businesses.

"It's kind of depressing, but I feel we will come through this on a positive note," Esplan said.

Minimizer's projected move may also have an effect on the Blooming School District.

Superintendent Chris Staloch said all of Blooming Prairie's businesses are important to this small community. "It's unfortunate to lose any business," he commented.

Staloch calls Blooming Prairie a "tight community" and one where people want to be there. He said it is possible that people currently working at Minimizer and living outside the school district may choose to move here.

Staloch also said he understands why Minimizer would choose to locate near major roadways, Interstate 35 and Highway 14.

Former city administrator Mike Jones, who retired earlier this year, said he has been in discussion with Minimizer officials about a need to expand.

"Blooming Prairie is land locked in respect to industrial development," Jones said.

With any planned expansion, Minimizer might require more water pressure and this might necessitate a need for an investment in a new water system, said Jones.

Jones said Minimizer's move to Owatonna will have a major economic

impact on small business in Blooming Prairie. He said Minimizer employees will spend money elsewhere and will not be eating at the Dairy Queen or doing business at Casey's.

Jones said he doesn't hold it against anyone to find a suitable place to expand. "They did all the numbers," he said.

Langholz told The Times that he had not had time to process Minimizer's decision.

The meeting of Langholz and Mayor Esplan was the first Langholz said he knew of Minimizer's plans.

Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz said he has "mixed reactions" about Minimizer's plans. "I don't like to see one community lose and another win," Kuntz said.

"The good news is that Minimizer is staying in southern Minnesota," said Mayor Kuntz.

The City of Owatonna, Kuntz said, has been in discussion with Minimizer representatives before Minimizer told its employees. He said the City of Owatonna had not made any special concessions to lure Minimizer.

Owatonna is heavy industry and will also be welcoming a Costco distribution center and a modular home company. "We are in an ideal location to I-35 and Highway 14," Kuntz believes.

The Minimizer news was also a surprise to Blooming Prairie Public Utilities General Manager Jerry Mausbach. "They are one of our largest customers," Mausbach said.

Mausbach said he plans to seriously study the impact the move will have on electric sales.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP Elementary
Sept. 3- Roasted Hot Dog, Cheeseburger, Tator Tots
Sept. 4- Crispy Chicken, pulled pork sandwich, calico bean bake, chocolate chip cookie
Sept. 5- Cheese personal pizza, chef salad, roasted cauliflower
Sept. 6- Soft beef tacos, ham deli sand-

wich, Firenze corn salad
BP High School
Sept. 3- Build your own hot dog, tator tots, cheeseburger on bun, pizza, ham deli sandwich, turkey BLT salad, crispy chicken salad, pizza munchable, ham & cheese pinwheel, orange chicken
Sept. 4- Pulled pork sandwich, broccoli salad, baked beans, cookie, crispy

chicken tenders, ham deli sandwich, taco bar
Sept. 5- Italian turkey Panini, roasted cauliflower, BBQ rib sandwich, pizza, Ham deli sandwich, build your own baked potato
Sept. 6- Soft beef taco, Firenze corn salad, pico de gallo, corn dog, ham deli sandwich, build your own sub

BACK TO SCHOOL

Safety Checklist

School Safety

Many school-related injuries are completely preventable. Follow these steps to ensure your child’s safety at school.

Preventing backpack-related injuries

- Chose a backpack for your child carefully. It should have ergonomically designed features to enhance safety and comfort.
- Don’t overstuff a backpack; it should weigh no more than 10 to 20 percent of your child’s body weight. For example, a child that weighs 60 pounds should carry a backpack no heavier than 12 pounds.
- Ask your children to use both straps when wearing their backpack to evenly distribute the weight on their shoulders.

Preventing playground-related injuries

- Encourage your child to use playgrounds with a soft surface. Avoid playgrounds with concrete surfaces, as they are too hard if your child falls.
- Children under the age of four should use climbing equipment with assistance and adult supervision, and watch older children when they’re climbing, especially on monkey bars.



School Zone Driving Safety

- Always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading children.
- Never text while driving in a school zone.
- Never pass other vehicles while driving in a school zone.
- Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.
- Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, in school parking lots, etc.
- Be on the lookout for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the speed limits.
- When entering a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.

Transportation Safety

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to school.

Walking to school

- Review your family’s walking safety rules.
- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available. When on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Never dart out in front of a parked car.
- Practice walking to school with your child. Cross streets at crosswalks when available.

Riding a bicycle to school

- Make sure your child always wears his/her helmet when leaving the house.
- Make sure helmet is fitted and secured properly.
- Teach your children the rules of the road.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic and in a single file.
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street. Walk bike across street.

Riding the bus to school

- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus.
- Make sure your children stand six feet away (or three giant steps) from the curb.
- If your child and you need to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the side of the road until you are 10 feet ahead of the bus. You always should be able to see the bus driver, and the bus driver always should be able to see you.

Slow Down • Be Alert • Eliminate Distractions • Be Safe

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OBITUARIES

Timothy C. Boever, 70,
Blooming Prairie

Memorial services for Timothy C. Boever of Blooming Prairie will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Bonnerup Funeral Services in Albert Lea. Pastor Dwight DoBell will officiate. Military Honors will be accorded. Friends may visit with family one hour before services at the funeral home.

Tim passed away at his home on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019 at the age of 70. He was born on Nov. 12, 1948 in Marcus, Iowa, the son of John and Geraldine (Dixon) Boever.

Tim attended Holy Name Catholic School in Marcus, Iowa through the sixth grade and then graduated from Marcus Community High School. He then proudly served our country in the U.S. Army, enlisting in 1968, serving two terms and receiving his honorable discharge in April of 1970.

He married Catherine Schneider on Dec. 23, 1975, and they were blessed with four children: Erica, Allison, Christina, and Thomas “TJ.”

Tim attended Western Iowa technical college and trained to be a butcher. Throughout the years, he also worked as a trucker and did landscaping. He finished out his working years, at Minimizer Manufacturing in Blooming Prairie. He is a lifetime member of the V.F.W. He was always known to have a good time, no matter what the activity. He enjoyed golfing, bowling and playing cards or poker. His favorite times were those spent with family, especially his grandchildren. His family and friends will greatly miss his keen sense of humor and quick witted one liners.

Tim is survived by his wife, Cathy, his Children: Erica (Todd) Nelson, Allison (Travis) Hensrud, Christina (Jeffrey) Getchell, Thomas (Alisha) Boever all of Blooming Prairie; his grandchildren: Arri Meiners, Dustin, Brianna and Hailey Hensrud, Connor and Myah Getchell, Madilynne Boever, Blake and Savannah Kramer; siblings: John “Jack” (Dorothy) Boever, Kitty (Jerry) Galles, Sherry Willis, Julie (Pete) Mundell, Deanna (Jim) Beck, Mary (Art) Ewoldt; Father in law Melford (Darlene) Schneider; sisters in law and brothers in law: Carol Boever, Karen Boever, Julie Boever, Terry (Barb) Schneider, Cheryl (Larry) Shoden, Brenda (Scott) Thompson, Rhonda (Dennis) Underdahl and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father John, mother Geraldine, siblings: Norbert “Nubs” Boever, Peggy Larson, Richard “Dick” Boever, Gail Boever, Steve Boever; mother in law Esther Schneider; sister in law Karen Schneider; brother in law Randall Schneider.



Helga M. Grant, 78, Austin

Helga M. Grant, age 78 of Austin, passed away Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 at Mayo Clinic Hospital Rochester, Saint Mary’s Campus.

Helga Maria Stroebele was born July 11, 1941, in Wilhelmskirch, Germany, the daughter of Erwin and Berta (Strasser) Stroebele. She grew up and attended school in Germany. Helga was trained as a seamstress and worked in factories while in Germany.

In 1960, she met David Grant who was in the Army and later married him on Feb. 10, 1962, in Gablingen, Germany. The couple raised two daughters.

After their marriage, they returned to the United States and resided in Austin, where Helga started working at St. Mark’s Living in the dietary kitchen for 23 years. She was well known for her great baking. Helga was a member of Queen of Angels Catholic Church. She loved to spend time outside in the yard, and feeding the birds. Helga also enjoyed cooking, baking, and sewing in her free time. We will miss her joyful laugh, her accent, her guidance and love, but most of all having her beside us through thick and thin.

Survivors include her two daughters, Diana (Randy) Olson of Austin and Ruth (Robert) Sherman of Blooming Prairie; four grandchildren, Rachel and Nicole Olson and Kyle and Scot Novitski; three step grandchildren, Danielle, Desiree, and William Sherman; one great grandson Karter Sherman; two great granddaughters, Brookelyn Lenz and Hayden Sherman; siblings, Bertha (Max) Fichtel of Germany, Erwin (Marianne) Stroebele of Germany. She was preceded in death by her husband, David; and her parents, Erwin and Berta Stroebele.

Memorial services were held on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019 at Worlein Funeral Home Chapel in Austin. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Austin.

Memorials can be directed to Queen of Angels Catholic Church or Shriners Children’s Hospital. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



Rosalee Grace Ille, 99, Albert Lea

Private memorial services for family and close friends will be held Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2019 for Rosalee Grace Ille of Albert Lea.

Rosalee passed away on Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019 at St John’s Woodlands in Albert Lea at 99 years young.

Rosalee was born June 14, 1920 to Julius and Grace (Kruger) Newgard in Little Rock, Iowa. She graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1938. On Feb. 27, 1942, she was united in marriage to Roger Ille.

Rosalee loved gardening vegetables and flowers, boating, fishing, taking trips with Roger in their RV to California, winter home in Florida and flying to Germany to visit their daughter Linda. She also loved doing cross stitch, latch hook and sewing. She was a meticulous house keeper and loved conversing with acquaintances.

Rosalee and Roger worked together at the Club 90 which they owned together in Alden for several years. Rosalee enjoyed spending time and seeing her son Larry every day. She deeply loved her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and oh how she loved her dog Pepper. She will be missed by all who knew her especially her family. She will never be forgotten, and she remains in our hearts.

She is survived by her son Larry and his wife Deanna of Albert Lea, grandchildren; Stephanie Johnson and husband Jay, Laura Kuethe and husband Douglas, Cheryl Christenson and husband Aaron, grandchildren in Germany Johannes, Thomas, Andreas and Marcus. Great grandchildren Matthew and Johnathan Fethke, Samantha, Breanna, Alyssa, Taylor and Collin Kuethe, Khyzer Christenson, Magdalena, Jakob, Johanna, Jonathan and Maria Mosmann, son-in-law Heinz Mosmann in Germany. Also surviving are nieces Theresa Newgard, Fidelis Atkinson and their children in California.

Rosalee was preceded in death by her parents, husband Roger, daughter Linda Mosmann and grandparents.



BOOK NOOK



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Library available to answer questions

One of my favorite responsibilities at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library is to answer questions! In the course of a day or a week, the variety of questions is amazing and sometimes challenging, but never boring. “How do you tell if a Monarch butterfly is male or female?” “Can you help me find a book that I won’t want to put down?” “What happened on D-Day?”

Today many people will ask questions to their digital assistants like Siri, Alexa, or Cortana. These devices do a search of the internet and find an answer there that has already been published online. This is great for simple questions such as dates, names, procedures, etc.

But what if your query is more complex? Perhaps you will be given a link to a Wikipedia or scholarly article. Have your digital assistants ever stated that they do not understand the question?

If the question hasn’t been asked or there isn’t a clear or concise answer available on the internet, you will not receive an answer.

At that point it is time to call the library. While we may need to do some research ourselves, we can point you in the right direction. Plus, as a branch of the Owatonna Public Library, we are able to call on the experienced reference librarians there to help you. So if your digital assistant doesn’t know the answer, don’t give up. Call the library!

Recipe Corner

Grilled Chicken Skewers

Serves 6

6 boneless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch cubes	4 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons lemon juice	1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 cup olive oil	1 tablespoon ground coriander
	1 tablespoon dry oregano
	1 teaspoon turmeric

Toss the chicken with all the other ingredients and let marinate in the refrigerator for 4 hours (up to 24 hours is ideal). Thread chicken evenly onto 6 wooden or metal skewers. Prepare a grill on medium-high heat and grill the skewers for about 5 minutes per side, until chicken is cooked through.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

AUG 28:
BO ZWIENER, TAMMY JOHNSON, DEANNA WEISS, PEYTON BROWN, DEB WILLIAMSON AND CHRISTIAN HJELMAN

AUG 29:
BRIAN RUTT, TONY LEA, ELAINE TROTMAN, NANCY HANSEN, TOM RESSLER, VALERIE WINZENBURG, BRINLEY HOFFMAN, ROBYN KRUCKEBERG AND BILL RESSLER

AUG 30:
KEITH DOERHOFER

ANNIVERSARIES

AUG 31:
KRAIG OLSON, BELIA ROMEO AND DELMAR EHLERS

AUG 28:
KATY & MICHAEL CLAYTON, DENNY & TERRY ZWIENER, JOHN & SUE SWENSON AND BRADY & BRANDY HOLMBERG

AUG 30:
JAY & KELLY BRAATEN

AUG 31:
JEFF & RHONDA MCCABE AND TOM & DOREEN BLOME

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BP Community Ed

Number Search Corner

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7	2	8	7	6	5	3	2	8	0	8	5	8	1	8
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3	2	2	9	4	2	5	5	0	0	6	3	9	0	0
3	8	7	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	8	2	1	6	5
9	6	5	4	9	8	7	2	5	2	0	6	8	0	1
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150526	433334	567037
253060	436234	572855
270159	444791	588586
280858	454908	592884
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Some things change

I think my calendar has it out for me. Summer just started a few weeks ago, right? But now my calendar’s telling me it’s the end of August. Labor Day’s right around the corner. There must be a couple more weeks of summer hidden somewhere between the pages for “June” and “July.” Maybe they’ll come tumbling out if I give the calendar a good shake.

Believe it or not, the season is changing. It’s time to shift gears.

Head back to school. Get ready for harvest. Say goodbye to the lake, the camper, the long lazy week-ends for another year. Pull your favorite football jersey out of the closet. Even if you’re excited for what the new season might bring, it’s going to take some adjust-ment. Change always does.

Change is hard. Human beings need a measure of stability and security. But life keeps moving on, and nothing stays the same

for long. A death or an illness or a layoff can upset long-laid plans. Retirement, or marriage, or a new baby are causes for cele-bration, but they shake things up, too. Amid an ever-changing world, we often feel stressed and lost.

The Bible invites us to take refuge in One who does not change. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews explains that “Je-sus Christ is the same yesterday

and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). The love and hope and salvation He gives don’t waver, no matter what season you or I happen to be in. His Kingdom lasts forever. When you trust in Jesus, you can move forward with confidence. His promises provide the stability and security we all need. As summer ends, and as life moves on, may you find peace in Christ amidst a changing world.

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., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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

ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
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..

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppegard
Worship: 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.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6353
Father James Starasinich
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Sauer, Pastor
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.c with
Children’s Church
Reconciliation:
8:45 a.m. - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.:
Faith Formation for
K thru Confirmation
Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

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.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
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8 a.m. Thursday)
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CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
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Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW
Owatonna
Pastors 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:
7 p.m. Friday

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-413-0209
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across
the freeway from Cabela’s)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

(Fellowship, Church School, and
Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept –
May (see website for schedule)

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

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna’s oldest church)
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Cindy 507-451-2803
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Church: 9:45 a.m.

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A perfect day for corn and brats

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was indeed a perfect day to enjoy some bratwurst and sweet corn. The Blooming Prairie Fire Department sponsored the Brat & Sweet Corn Feed for the 12th year. It was held in the truck bays of the fire hall.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Caleb Peterson, son of Lee and Karen Peterson of Blooming Prairie, helped the Blooming Prairie Fire Department shuck corn for its annual brat and sweet corn feed last Saturday, Aug. 24.

Chief Dean Naatz said freewill offering collector Mike Hoffman reported 562 went through the serving line. Hoffman collected monies by welcoming donations he placed in a firefighter's boot. Nearly all of the 25 members on the fire department worked on the event. Home-made bars and cookies

were provided for dessert by wives of the firemen. Naatz said monies from the brat and sweet corn feed are used to purchase needed firefighting equipment. The fire department recently received a grant of \$111,377 to purchase a RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) pack. The special equipment is used to rescue a firefighter who may be in trouble while fighting a fire. The packs have a life of 15 years. The local fire department had to pay 5% of the equipment costs. Naatz said the fire department may look at adding an extractor in the near future. This equipment helps with the washing of fire gear, he said. Saturday's menu included: bratwurst, pork patties, hot dogs, beans and sauerkraut and dessert. Sweet corn was donated by B & B Farms (Bob and Bruce Wolf) and by Ahrens Farms of Owatonna. Kids games and a bounce house were run by volunteers of the fire department. Kids were also given the opportunity to sit in the BP fire trucks. Carol Iverson offered free face painting to kids and adults alike. Naatz thanked those who attended the feed and also offered gratitude to those who donated food products. Supporting the brat and

sweet corn feed were the following businesses: -- Geneva Meats/Dean's Smoke Shack of Geneva; Travelin' Picnic Tables of Blooming Prairie; The Bakery of Blooming Prairie; Vandal's of Blooming Prairie; Dairy Queen of Blooming Prairie; CFS of Blooming Prairie; B to Z Hardware of Blooming Prairie; Sportstitch of Blooming Prairie; Hope Creamery of Hope and J & H Liquors of Blooming Prairie.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Leah Krell, 3 1/2, of Blooming Prairie, enjoys her ear of corn at the annual BP Fire Department Bratwurst and Sweet Corn Feed on Saturday, Aug. 25.

-- Joe's Repair of Blooming Prairie; Metal Services of Blooming Prairie; Cue Company and Pizza Cellar of Blooming Prairie; Farmers & Merchants Bank of Blooming Prairie; Skjeveland Enterprises of Owatonna; KIK Marketing of Blooming Prairie and Minimizer, LLC of Blooming Prairie.

NEW PUBLIC WORKS: brings 2 under same roof

same roof. "That's probably the best part," Ilkka said. "Already just this week the ability of us to even just yell down the hall so that we're not running back in forth." The facility currently houses 22 full-time employees in both departments. "I think if you talk to any one of the maintenance staff, they're more than pleased with the facility they have now," he said. "Most of that was a consequence of the fact that the building they leased was not meant to be a highway department so there was a lot of things to overcome." The county brought on

Al Forsberg as building construction project manager in order to make certain that the building would be the perfect fit for them. "It has a 75-year lifespan," Forsberg explained last April. "It meets the state energy requirements and is a very energy efficient building. The old building was not adequate for the current size of equipment and didn't meet healthy ADA requirements." Despite the shuffle to a new building, the county still had nine projects over the course of the whole summer and currently have five active projects.



The new county public works building in Owatonna. Now that the black-top has been paved, the engineering staff joined the maintenance staff under the same roof last week.

Now finally operating out of the new facility, Steele County Public Works will continue to push through the remaining projects as the summer season winds down. There will be an open house for the public to see the new building later this year.

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For the love of the fair



For 21 years, Steely and Stella have brought nothing but love to the Steele County Free Fair. The popular mascots make their rounds throughout the fair every day delighting people of all ages.

Mascots make their rounds and charm fairgoers

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Kayln Naatz of Blooming Prairie has been involved with the Steele County Fair for most of her life as a 4-H member, but this year she got a whole new perspective on the fair.

On Friday afternoon of the fair, Naatz made the rounds of the fair as Stella, one of the fair's mascots. The famous duo, Steely and Stella, has been charming fairgoers for the past 21 years.

The tradition of the mascots dates back to 1998

when a caricature was made of a steer. Former fair manager Elmer Reseland made Steely a live character in 1999. In 2010, Stella was added as Steely's sidekick.

This was Naatz's first time behind the mask of Stella. She said her sidekick, Steely, aka: Tim Nelson, encouraged her to try it out. And Naatz isn't sorry she did, even though she took only a single three-hour shift this year.

"It was a fun experience," Naatz said. "My favorite part was the special needs kids. They get so excited

and sometimes won't let you go. Whoever is with them has to pull them off."

Many fairgoers snapped pictures of Steely and Stella roaming through the grounds. "It was fun taking pictures and making the kids smile," Naatz said. "It's funny when we're in a mask, I found myself smiling even though I didn't have to," she said with a chuckle.

Young children get so excited when they spot the mascots that Steely and Stella nearly get taken out at the knees, Naatz said. "Your head is so big, you

can't see what direction the kids are even coming from," she added.

While portraying Stella, Naatz had some fun with her friends, who didn't know of her new role at the fair. "It's fun to tease some people when they don't know it's you under the costume," Naatz said.

The only drawback for Naatz was the temperature inside the mask. "It gets really hot in there," she said. They utilize ice packs in pouches around their costume, but Naatz pointed out, "within a half an hour they're melted."

Naatz is proud to keep a tradition of the mascots alive in Steele County. She points out that she doesn't know of any other fair that has mascots other than the Minnesota State Fair. "It's really neat for Steele County," she says. "Steely and Stella are the face of the Steele County Fair. It makes us more unique."

The fair has been a long tradition for Naatz's family. As long as she can remember, Naatz's family has camped at the fair. "It's a family tradition," Naatz said. "It has been our family vacation for our whole life."

Even though Naatz graduated from 4-H a couple years ago, she plans to continue being involved with the fair. She still helps out with livestock shows, including swine and beef cattle.

"I miss it so much," Naatz says of being away from 4-H. "It's hard to be a 4-H alumni and not do what I've done in the past."

Naatz says she envi-



Steele and Stella, the fair's popular mascots, take an opportunity to snuggle up to some children for a photo during this year's fair. Pictured with the mascots are Bryar Berg, 2, Gracie Berg, 4 and Ellie Ginther, 5, all of Owatonna.

"My favorite part was the special needs kids. They get so excited and sometimes won't let you go."

Kalyn Naatz
Stella Mascot

sions herself always being involved with the fair. "It would be different not doing something at the fair," she said. "I want to keep my foot in the door and support the fair," she added.

And as for Stella, well,

she would welcome the opportunity to continue charming fairgoers in future years.

"Hopefully they will ask me back," Naatz said. "The fair is an important piece of my life."



With 4-H aprons and caps, Mackenzie Suchanek, left, and Hannah Parrish display their grilling skills during the 4-H Grill Competition at the Steele County Free Fair. They were one of six teams competing in the competition by grilling a pork tenderloin along with a surprise ingredient, bacon.

FIRE UP THE GRILL

4-Hers display their grilling skills in competition

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

With grilling tools in hand and charcoal grills a blaze, young 4-H chefs from around Steele County displayed their grilling skills at a grill competition during the Steele County Free Fair.

It was held on Saturday afternoon of the fair after most of the other 4-H competitions were completed for another year. Six teams of four members each pulled together to show off their grilling techniques.

And for some of the 4-Hers, well, they were pretty honest about their skills behind the grill. "I have no idea what I'm doing," Hannah Parrish, 12, confessed. "I've never grilled before." She is a member of the Owatonna Victory Boosters.

Each team was provided with a pork tenderloin, a potato and a secret ingredient, which this year happened to be bacon. The team members huddled together to decide exactly how they would utilize bacon with their tenderloin. Parrish's team wrapped bacon around the tenderloin.

"It's the best thing that comes from a pig," Parr-

ish said of the bacon.

Other members of Parrish's team included Mackenzie Suchanek of the Pratt Commandoes and Rachel Miller of the Medford Go Getters. They also cut up fresh veggies to add to their creation.

The 4-H grillers used a meat thermometer to poke the meat to make sure it was cooked enough.

Tracy Ignaszewski, 4-H program coordinator, said this is the third year for the grilling competition at the fair. While the teams are judged in the competition, she said it's simply a fun reprieve for the kids from everything else they've been doing at the fair.

"It's cool to see the team work and the uniqueness of the kids wanting to grill together," Ignaszewski said, noting there is a build up to this particular event all throughout the week at the fair.

In addition to the items provided, Ignaszewski said each team is allowed to bring their own sauces, rubs and garnishes to add to the meat.

The teams are judged on food safety, uniqueness, presentation and how well they work

New vendors feature a local flavor

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

Every year new vendors come to the Steele County Free Fair and this year was no exception.

Of the new vendors, four of them were from the Steele and Dodge County areas.

Carmen Dorr and Jeanette Sanford are co-owners of the Harvest Coop in Owatonna.

They were located inside the Izaak Walton Building and said this was their first time at the fair.

The coop features a variety of products from local producers including honey from Waseca, coffee roasted in Ellendale, beef sticks from Farm on Wheels in Dodge County, Hope Butter and aroma therapy products from Clarks Grove.

While they were more an informational booth than having items for sale at the fair, they were doing



Carmen Dorr, co-owner of Harvest Coop in Owatonna, talks to a customer at their booth in the Izaak Walton League Building at the Steele County Free Fair.

a brisk business selling a variety of teas.

The coop has been doing well, Dorr said, and they were working on expanding their products. Coming to the fair was a good way to get their name before the public, she said.

Over at the Four Seasons, Rischaria Adams was promoting her Hands of Magic. Adams said she promotes her own organic

body lotions, therapy gels and other products. She is also a massage practitioner, she said. She recently moved to Owatonna from the Twin Cities area. She said she still has clients in the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage area, and she did not want to get too far away from that clientele.

Two other new vendors in the Four Seasons came from Dodge County.

Moenning Meats was selling chocolate covered bacon and beef and pork sticks under their Sweet Swine brand.

Cathy Moenning said their booth had been attracting attention and that people had been stopping by to see what they were offering. She said that they also sell a variety of meat products at the Tuesday farmers market in Owatonna, the Rochester Farmers Market and other venues. The animals, she said, are raised on the family farm south of Dodge Center and are processed at Geneva Meats.

Also inside the Four Seasons building, Jim Whitmarsh was giving out samples of the coffee Trail Creek Coffee Roasters is roasting in Kasson.

Like the other new vendors he said that the traffic at the Steele County Free Fair was enabling him to show his product to new customers.

How about a polka?



Steele County's World Hall of Famer Luverne Wanous performs old-time music once again at this year's Steele County Free Fair with fair director Glen Meger joining in on the fun. Wanous has been a regular at the fair for almost 70 years. He performed at the entrances of the Four Seasons Centre every day throughout the fair.

Steele County Free Fair Open Class Results 2019

Cattle:

Holsteins Intermediate
Champion Female – Jon
Schmidt, Owatonna;
Reserve – Megan
Gochnauer, West Concord;
Holsteins Senior Champion
Female – Reid Stransky,
Owatonna; Reserve – Mary
Franz, Northfield; Holsteins
Grand Champion Female –
Reid Stransky, Owatonna;
Reserve – Mary Franz,
Northfield; Guernseys
Junior Champion Female
– Traci Nelson, Ellendale;
Reserve – Traci Nelson,
Ellendale; Guernseys Senior
Champion – Dean Jirousek,
Ellendale; Guernseys Grand
Champion Female – Traci
Nelson, Ellendale; Reserve
– Traci Nelson, Ellendale;
Jersey Junior Champion
Female – Lisa Demmer,
Ellsworth, WI; Reserve –
Lisa Demmer, Ellsworth, WI;
Jersey Grand Champion
Female – Lisa Demmer,
Ellsworth, WI; Reserve –
Lisa Demmer, Ellsworth,
WI; Ayrshires Junior
Champion Female – Traci
Nelson, Ellendale; Reserve
– Traci Nelson, Ellendale;
Ayrshires Senior Champion
Female – Traci Nelson,
Ellendale; Reserve – Traci
Nelson, Ellendale; Ayrshires
Grand Champion Female
– Traci Nelson, Ellendale;
Reserve – Traci Nelson,
Ellendale; Overall Champion
Colored Breed – Traci
Nelson, Ellendale; Brown
Swiss Senior Champion
Female – Afton Nelson,
Glencoe; Reserve – Glenn
Johnson, Claremont; Brown
Swiss Grand Champion
Female – Afton Nelson,
Glencoe; Reserve – Glenn
Johnson, Claremont;
Milking Shorthorns
Junior Champion Female
– Bernie Manderfeld,
Faribault; Reserve – Bernie
Manderfeld, Faribault;
Milking Shorthorns
Senior Champion Female
– Bernie Manderfeld,
Faribault; Reserve – Bernie
Manderfeld, Faribault;
Milking Shorthorns
Grand Champion Female
– Bernie Manderfeld,
Faribault; Reserve – Bernie
Manderfeld, Faribault.

Culinary:

Yeast Bread Class
 Champion – Betty Hager,
 Owatonna; Yeast-Sweet
 Dough Class Champion –
 Betty Hager, Owatonna;
 Yeast-Bread Machine
 Class Champion – Ronda M
 Prechel, Faribault; Reserve
 Champion – Ronda M
 Prechel, Faribault; Quick
 Breads – No Yeast Class
 Champion – Jodi Schroeder,
 Owatonna; Gluten-Free
 Class Champion – Beth
 M Decoux, Owatonna;
 Scones Class Champion
 – Tom Walker, Owatonna;
 Unfrosted Cake Class
 Champion – Jennifer
 Harbal Anderson, Faribault;
 Decorated Cake Class
 Champion – Cheryl
 Ginnett, Owatonna;
 Frosted Cupcakes Class
 Champion – Tim Van Gelder,
 Owatonna; Drop Cookies
 Class Champion – Beth
 M Decoux, Owatonna;
 Reserve Champion – Sue
 Ann E Holz, New Richland;
 Other types of cookies
 Class Champion – Liz E
 Smith, Owatonna; Reserve
 Champion – Beth M
 Decoux, Owatonna; Bars
 Class Champion – Beth M
 Decoux, Owatonna; Pies
 Class Champion – Denise
 Lage, Owatonna; Mixes
 Class Champion – Sue
 Ann E Holz, New Richland;
 Candy Class Champion
 – Kayla L Mattick, Lyle;
 Holiday Favorites Class
 Champion – Beth M Decoux,
 Owatonna; International
 Foods Class Champion

- Beth M Decoux, Owatonna; Refrigerated Class Champion – Tim Van Gelder, Owatonna; Class Reserve Champion – Brian L Patterson, Rochester; Baking Light/Baking Healthy Class Champion – Ronda M Prechel, Faribault; Secret Recipe Class Champion – Brian L Patterson, Rochester; Reserve Champion – Ronda M Prechel Faribault; Butter Cookies Class Champion

Kylie Wencil, Claremont;
Assorted Sweets – Juniors
Class Champion – Maxum
Nguyen, Owatonna;
Chocolate Desserts Junior
Class champion – Lileigh
Nguyen, Owatonna;
Culinary Creations Junior
Class Champion – Mariah
Rions, Owatonna; Taffy
Award Grand – Mariah
Rions, Owatonna; Reserve
Grand – Cole A Balvitsch,
Ellendale; Canned Fruit
Class Champion – Charlie

Champion – Darlene Noble,
Owatonna; Sauces Class
Champion – Katherine L
Schultz, Owatonna; Syrup
Class Champion – Ayanna
C Kubat, Owatonna;
Canned Vegetables Class
Champion – Betty Hager,
Owatonna; Tomatoes Class
Champion – Betty Hager,
Owatonna; Dried Foods
Class Champion – Julie M
Schultz, Owatonna; Class
Reserve Champion – Julie
M Schultz, Owatonna;

Decoux, Owatonna; Division
Grand Champion Pies –
Denise Lage, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
Mixes – Sue Ann E Holz,
New Richland; Division
Grand Champion Candy
– Kayla L Mattick, Lyle;
Division Grand Champion
Holiday Favorites -Beth
M Decoux, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
International Foods – Beth
M Decoux, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion

Nguyen, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
Jr – Cookies & Bars –
Kylie Wencil, Claremont;
Division Grand Champion
Jr -Assorted Sweets –
Maxum Nguyen, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
JR – Choc,Choc,Choc –
Lileigh Nguyen, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
JR – Culinary Creations –
Mariah Rions, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
Canned Fruit – Shirley
Paulson, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
Jellies – Christ Minske,
Owatonna; Division Grand
Champion Jams and
Preserves – Laurel Seagrist,
Owatonna; Division
Grand Champion Pickles
– Katherine L Schultz,
Owatonna; Division Grand
Champion Sauces, soups,
syrups, meats – Katherine L
Schultz, Owatonna; Division
Grand Champion Canned
Vegetables – Betty Hager,
Owatonna; Division Grand
Champion Dehydrated
or Dried foods – Julie M
Schultz, Owatonna; Division
Grand Reserve Yeast
Bread – Ronda M Prechel,
Faribault; Division Grand
Reserve It's a Secret –
Ronda M Prechel, Faribault;
Division Grand Reserve
Junior – Yeast Bread – Ava
Cox, Owatonna; Division
Grand Reserve Canned
Fruit – Shirley Paulson,
Owatonna; Division Grand
Reserve Jellies – Christ
Minske, Owatonna; Division
Grand Reserve Canned
Vegetables – Betty Hager,
Owatonna; Division Grand
Reserve Dehydrated or
Dried Foods – Katherine L
Schultz, Owatonna; Adult
Supreme Ruler – Beth M
Decoux, Owatonna; Junior
Supreme Ruler – Ava Cox,
Owatonna.

Fine Arts

Grand Champion – Marie Larson, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Janell M. Hammer, Welch.

Flowers:

Grand Champion Gladiolus – Cole A Balvitsch, Ellendale; Reserve Champion – Darlene Noble, Owatonna; Grand Champion Rose – Margo Wayne, Ellendale; Reserve Champion – Margo Wayne, Ellendale; Garden Flowers Annuals Grand Champion – Darlene Noble, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Barbara J Granowski, Owatonna; Garden Flowers Prennials Grand Champion – Andrea R Howard, Dodge Center; Reserve Champion – Andrea R Howard, Dodge Center; Dahlia Grand Champion – Gary Miner, Faribault; Reserve Champion – Lois Miner Faribault; Hostas Grand Champion – Daniel Dahle, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Marcia Dahle, Owatonna; Potted Plants Grand Champion – Kelli J Jacobson, Hartland; Reserve Champion – Dianne Lawson, Owatonna; The Strange and Unusual Champion – Whitney Noble, Blooming Prairie; Reserve Champion; Darrin Simon, Owatonna; Adult Non Professional Arrangement – Grand Champion – Luann Selover, New Richland; Reserve Champion – Amy Haycraft, Mankato; Professional Design & Arrangement Grand Champion – Jodi Klecker Owatonna, Reserve Champion – Jodi Klecker, Owatonna; Jr. Sr. Chil. Arrangement 5 & 6 Grand Champion – Sophia Warner, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Sophia Warner,

SEE RESULTS 2019, B3



– Beth M Decoux,
Owatonna; Butter Cakes
Class Champion – Nancy
Spindler, Hope; Butter
Pastries Class Champion –
Ronda M Prechel, Faribault;
Culinary Creations Adult
Class champion Ronda M
Prechel, Faribault; Taffy
Award Grand Champion –
Ronda M Prechel, Faribault;
Reserve Grand – Alexis A
Rions, Owatonna; Yeast
– in Oven – Junior Class
champion – Leigh Nguyen,
Owatonna; Yeast – Sweet
Dough – Junior Class
Champion – Ava Cox,
Owatonna; Yeast – Bread
Machine – Junior Class
Champion Kylie Wencil,
Claremont; Cookies &
Bars Juniors Champion –

Tucker, Owatonna; Class Reserve Champion – Shirley Paulson, Owatonna; Jellies Class Champion – Christ Minske, Owatonna; Class Reserve Champion – Christ Minske, Owatonna; Jams & Preserves Class Champion – Laurel Seagrist, Owatonna; Class Reserve Champion – Christ Minske, Owatonna; Sour Pickles Class Champion – Katherine L Schultz, Owatonna; Class Reserve Champion – Brent C Kubat Owatonna; Sweet Pickles Class Champion – Katherine L Schultz, Owatonna; Class Reserve Champion – Katherine L Schultz, Owatonna; Mixed Pickles & Relishes Class

Division Grand Champion
Yeast Bread – Betty Hager,
Owatonna; Division Grand
Champion Quick Breads –
Jodi Schroeder, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
Gluten Free – Beth M
Decoux, Owatonna; Division
Grand Champion Scones
– Tom Walker, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
Unfrosted Cake – Jennifer
Herbal Anderson, Faribault;
Division Grand Champion
Decorated Cake/Item –
Cheryl Ginnetti, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
Frosted Cupcakes – Tim
Van Gelder, Owatonna;
Division Grand Champion
Cookies – Liz E Smith,
Owatonna; Division Grand
Champion Bars – Beth M

Refrigerated – Tim Van Gelder, Owatonna; Division Grand Champion Baking light baking healthy – Jennifer Harbal Anderson, Faribault; Division Grand Champion It's a Secret; Brian L Patterson, Rochester; Division Grand Champion Everything's better w/ Butter – Beth M Decoux, Owatonna; Division Grand Champion Fair Theme – Ronda M Prechel, Faribault; Division Grand Champion Choc,Choc,Choc Adult – Sara Blaha, Owatonna; Division Grand Champion Culinary Creation Adult – Ronda M Prechel, Faribault; Division Grand Champion Jr – Yeast Bread – Lileigh

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STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR:
Open Class Results 2019

FROM B2

Owatonna; Jr. & Sr. Flower Arrangement 10-13 Grand Champion – Lileigh Nguyen, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Josaphine Nguyen, Owatonna; Table Artistry 19 and older Grand Champion – Ruth E Tibesar, Rochester; Reserve Champion – Darlene Noble, Owatonna; Niches Grand Champion – Ruth E Tibesar, Rochester.

Fruit Crops:

Apples Champion – Gary L Johnson, Ellendale; Tree Fruit Champion – Isabella Schultz, Owatonna; Vine Fruit Champion – Elizabeth Schultz, Owatonna.

Grains & Grasses:

Corn Class Champion – Brent Broulik, Blooming Prairie; Small Grains Class Champion – Tom D Hanson, Owatonna; 2019 Sheath Grain Class Champion – Scott S Balzer, Medford; 2019 Grasses Class Champion – Tom D Hanson, Owatonna; 2019 Baled Hay Champion – Jon Schmidt, Owatonna; 2019

Class Champion – Spencer A Smith, Owatonna; Basketry Class Champion – Cindy M Phiefer, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Jill Degen, Owatonna; Models Class Champion – Dick Wodnick, Owatonna; Paper Craft Class Champion – Lileigh Nguyen, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Jennifer Harbal Anderson, Faribault; Stamp Art Class Champion – Ruth E Anderson, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Millie Burns, Ellendale; Scrapbooking Class Champion – Jennifer Harbal Anderson, Faribault; Reserve Champion – Vickie Vavra, Owatonna; Jewelry & Beading Class Champion – Diane M Reese, Owatonna; Creative Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Class Champion – Brad M Ahrens, Claremont; Reserve Champion – Ruth E Anderson, Owatonna; Stained Glass Class Champion – Penny Louise Flavin, Byron; Reserve Champion – Steven Mundy,



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Auctioneer Mark Ditlevson attempts to sell an animal during the 4-H Livestock Auction at the fair.

Hayfield; Reserve Champion – Zach J Finholdt, Medford; Overall Champion – Jaelynn M Therring, Hayfield; Reserve Champion – Brad Struck, Glenville.

Organic Crops:

Small Grains Class Champion – Weston Schroht, Owatonna; Small Grains Beans Class Champion – Claire Noble, Owatonna; Shelled Corn Class Champion – Avyn Manning-Wallace, Owatonna; Sheaf Grains Class Champion – Finnegan A Noble, Kenyon; Sheaf Grain Class Champion – Avyn Manning-Wallace, Owatonna; Grasses Class Champion – Audrey Schroht, Owatonna; Baled Hay Class Champion – Audrey Schroht, Owatonna; Stalk Corn Class Champion – Avyn Manning-Wallace, Owatonna; Largest/Tallest Class Champion – Will Noble, Kenyon; Live Plants Class Champion – Allison Wencil, Blooming Prairie; Haylage Class Champion – Allison Wencil, Blooming Prairie; Organic Crops Grand Champion – Claire Noble, Owatonna; Reserve Grand Champion – Weston Schroht, Owatonna.

Photography:

Enlargements Class Champion – Jenny Braun,

– Don Grunzke, Alden; Other Wool/Wool Cross Breeds Ewe Champion – Don Grunzke, Alden; Other Meat/Meat Cross Breeds Purebred Ram Champion – Don Grunzke, Alden; Other Meat/Meat Cross Breeds Ewe Champion – Janet Haler, Kasota; Market Lamb Champion – Khloe Nelson, New Richland; Champion Breeding – Janet Haler, Kasota.

Textiles:

Crochet Class Champion – Diane Schirmacher, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Judy Brady, Waseca; Hand Knit Class Champion – Tammy Zimmerman Prohask, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Tammy Zimmerman Prohask, Owatonna; Hardanger Class Champion – Eva Bickell, Waseca; Machine Embroidery Class Champion – Nancy Spindler, Hope; Reserve Champion – Barbara Green, Owatonna; Mid or Long Arm Quilted Twin + Class Champion – Cathy Torrey, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Mary B Dallmann, Owatonna; Other Quilted Items Class Champion – Jess Wacek, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Pat Raetz, Owatonna; Best Challenge Class Champion – Cathy J Nelson, Owatonna; Garments & Accessories Class Champion – Mary B Dallmann, Owatonna; Miscellaneous Class Champion – Emily Winter, Worthington; Textile Grand Champion – Tammy Zimmerman Prohask, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Cathy Torrey, Owatonna.

Vegetables:

Potatoes Champion – Annette Balzer, Owatonna; Display of Vegetables Champion – Annette Balzer, Owatonna; Root Crops Champion – Ella Simon, Faribault; Reserve Champion – David R Schroht, Owatonna; Greens & Salad Crops Champion – Heather Duneman, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Kathy A Flicek, Owatonna; Legume Crops Champion – Nancy Kepka, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – David R Schroht, Owatonna; Vine Crops Champion – Nancy Kepka, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Mackenzie Noble, Owatonna; Squash Champion – Audrey Schroht, Owatonna; Bush Crops Champion – Annette Balzer, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Alexis Weinzell, Owatonna; Other Crops Champion – Orville Sneberger, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Orville Sneberger, Owatonna; Novelty Class Champion – Cole A Balvitsch, Ellendale Vegetables Grand Champion – Heather Duneman, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Annette Balzer, Owatonna.

Wine:

Grand Champion – Darin Johnson, Kenyon; Reserve Champion – Darin Johnson, Kenyon.

Youth Art Winners:

Judge's Choice Awards – Amanda Grabau; Adeline Reseland; Rebekah Grabau; Josiah Thayer; Nora Johnson; Boldin Krause; Sadie Fox; Dalila Spencer; Emily Kaplan; Archer Douglas. Steely/ Stella Competition Grand Champion – Ava Cox; People's Choice Awards – Alaysha Williams; Amelia Tolle.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Steele County Senior Volunteer of the Year Vern Wilker shares his top award with his great granddaughter, Fiona Decker, 1, of Plymouth. Wilker competes in the state competition at the Minnesota State Fair this Thursday.

Haylage Class Champion – Jon Schmidt, Owatonna; 2019 Green Stalk Corn Class Champion – Brent Broulik, Blooming Prairie; 2019 Green Hill Corn Class Champion – Brent Broulik, Blooming Prairie; Largest, Tallest, Most Champion – Tom D Hanson, Owatonna; Grains & Grasses Grand Champion – Tom D Hanson, Owatonna.

Hobbies:

Needlework Class Champion – Sam Hager, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Katherine Rypka, Owatonna; Fabric Crafts Class Champion – Joyce M Weese, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Nancy A Turnbull, Owatonna; Quilted Wall Hanging Class Champion – Bernie Jensen, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Julie Turnlund, Owatonna; Miniature Quilts Class Champion – Bernie Jensen, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Cathy J Martin, Owatonna; Quilt on a Stick Class Champion – Cathy J Nelson, Owatonna; Dolls & Toys Class Champion – Marion Schmolli, Rose Creek; Reserve Champion – Tina Rosacker, Owatonna; Woodcraft Class Champion – Nate Heers, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – David Boeddeker, Owatonna; Painting Crafts Class Champion – Geraldlyne Berg, Blooming Prairie; Reserve Champion – Elda A Krause, Owatonna; Ethnic/ Historical/Historical Crafts

Owatonna; Miscellaneous Class Champion – Geraldlyne Berg, Blooming Prairie; Reserve Champion – Melinda Wiese, Owatonna; Hobbies Grand Champion – Nate Heers, Owatonna; Reserve Champion – Bernie Jensen, Owatonna.



Homebrew:

Grand Champion – Bryan Christjansen, Kolsch; Second Place – Bryan Christjansen, Munich Helles; Third Place – Jon Hiilstad, Blonde Ale and Tim Pelton, California Common.

Meat Goats:

Commercial Champion – Brad Struck, Glenville; Reserve Champion – Lisa M Ahrens, Owatonna; Registered Champion – Jaelynn M Therring,

Hampton; Snapshots Class Champion – Katie Wolf, Blooming Prairie.

Sheep:

Southdown Purebred Ram Champion – Janet Haler, Kasota; Southdown Ewe Champion – Janet Haler, Kasota; Suffolk Purebred Ram Champion – Don Grunzke, Alden; Dorsets Purebred Ram Champion – Janet Haler, Kasota; Other Wool/Wool Cross Breeds Purebred Ram Champion



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Kibble Equipment of Owatonna purchases an animal from a young 4-H member at the fair.

Izaak Walton
announces
fair winners

The chapter of the Owatonna Izaak Walton League has announced the winners of the major prizes from its raffle conducted during the Steele County Free Fair.

The prize winners included: Mark Selbrade of Medford, quilt; Jan Tippet of Owatonna, gas grill; Marlys Overlie of Owatonna, fire ring; Alice Svoboda of Owatonna, Killen print; Christina Rowe of Owatonna, motorcycle planter; Don Overlie of Owatonna, fly rod and reel and Matthew Petsinger of Waseca, kids fishing package.

There were also 37 daily winners of gift certificates donated by local merchants. The businesses included: Knights of

Columbus, Hy-Vee Foods, Fareway Foods, Cashwise Foods, Firehouse Liquors, Harland's Tire and Steele County Free Fair.

"The Owatonna Izaak Walton League would like to thank all the merchants who donated prizes and our patrons who purchased tickets for the 2019 raffle," said Gary Schwartz, secretary of the league. He noted proceeds will be used for conservation projects which protect wildlife and their habitat in Steele County. "We will continue to strive for the clarity of air, the purity of water and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources," he added.

Talent show
winners
announced

The winners have been announced from the Amateur Talent Show at the Steele County Fair in Owatonna.

They include: pre-teen- Kelsie Skala with

vocal/piano; teen- Lainie Rahn with dance and open- Heather Burke with vocal.

The talent show was held on Sunday, Aug. 18 during the fair.

Bicycles given
to area kids

Eight area kids came away as big winners from the Steele County Free Fair as they were awarded bicycles.

The winners were Logan Pesta of Long Prairie, Lisa Johnson of Stewartville, Ary Anderson of

Medford, Emma Hoermke of Northfield, Aurora Stelpflug of Rochester, Lincoln Radloff of Austin, Mateo Dubray of Goodhue and Bradley Caranza of Austin.

The bicycles were given away during the fair on Aug. 17.

FIRE UP: the grill

FROM A1

together as a team. As for food safety, Ignaszewski stresses that pork should be cooked to 145 degrees. "We should be concerned about eating undercooked or raw meat," she said. She added it should be checked in the center, which is the thickest part of the meat.

One of the teams dropped a potato on the ground near the grill. Even though it was

wrapped in foil, Ignaszewski quickly advised them to dispose of it.

The kids also get to sample the creations they make. "That's the fun of it," Ignaszewski said.

Members of the top grilling team included Jacob Klecker, Mariah Schroht and McKenna Schroht. The winning teams received gift cards to Hy-Vee Foods for their accomplishments.

Arnold
receives state
arts grant

Arts grants have been awarded to several individuals and organizations across southern Minnesota, including Steele County.

Andrea Arnold of Steele County received a \$5,000 Advancing Artist grant for Exploring Hometown Sensibilities.

Twenty-three grants totaling \$91,000 were awarded last week by the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council. SEMAC is the State Arts Board-designated granting authority for local/regional arts producing and sponsoring organizations and disburses funds allocated for this purpose by the Minnesota Legislature.

Other grants awarded in the region included

the Albert Lea Community Band, which received \$4,000 general operating support for staffing and salaries; Miranda Moen of Mower County received \$2,500 for emerging artist grant for Watercolors and the Austin Symphony Orchestra received \$4,000 for general operating support.

Additional information about the grant process may be directed to SEMAC at 507-281-4848.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Dodge's comp plan approved by commission

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

The Dodge County Planning Commission gave its approval to the revised county Comprehensive Plan last week following a public hearing.

The plan is a revision of the comprehensive plan that was last revised in 2001. The new version was first presented to the public in February and further revised after public input was gathered from the public through public meetings, a survey and other comments. There also were discussions with other interested parties such as MnDOT, Mayo, schools and care centers.

Several changes were made after reviewing the public input, said Cris Gastner of CEDA, which prepared the plan.

In his opening remarks at the hearing, Gastner said that a comprehensive plan is not a zoning ordinance or regulations but rather a tool to develop those other documents.

Public input, he said, showed that residents were interested in maintaining the county's rural values and character, protecting prime agricultural land, growing and sustaining diversity and housing options, providing increased opportunity for business growth and increased jobs, supporting improved access to quality broadband in rural areas, increasing recreational opportunities, allowing for growth without jeopardizing clean air and water and improving and maintaining transportation infrastructure.

Following Gastner's presentation, several audience members spoke to address their concerns about the plan or offer their support.

Rob Westgard, a resident of Milton Township, said he was concerned about restrictions regarding building a home on a parcel less than 53 acres. He explains he owns a parcel that is now unbuildable because the limits permitting building has been reached in his quarter section. Allowing him to build, he said, would raise the tax base and also not be taking away any agricultural land.

SEE DODGE'S COMP PLAN, B7

Keeping cool in the hot sun



These youngsters got hold of a water sprayer and had some fun keeping cool in the hot sun. Shown from left to right are: Charlie Hendrickson, 5; Gannon Rafdal, 6; Max Hendrickon, 8 and Caleb Peterson, 10.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

MnDOT awards bid for 14 expansion

Construction appears to be one step closer to closing the gap on the two-lane stretch of U.S. Highway 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center and widening it to a four-lane roadway.

Last week the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced Shafer Contracting of Shafer, Minn., is the apparent low bidder for the contract to expand Hwy. 14 from two to four lanes between Dodge Center and Owatonna.

Bids from prime contractors were opened on Wednesday, Aug. 21 in St. Paul with three teams submitting sealed bids. A MnDOT team scored the technical proposals and those scores were applied to the bids. The bids will be reviewed and certified before the contract is awarded in mid-October.

Construction could begin later this fall. Plans for a groundbreaking ceremony will be announced at a later date. The first full construction season will begin in spring of 2020 and be completed by 2022.

The bids were: Shafer Contracting Co., Inc., \$107,997,119.16; Mathiowetz Construction Co., \$117,587,970.79; and MZH Constructors LLC, \$132,367,024.00

The 2018 Minnesota Legislature passed a bonding bill that included additional money for Corridors of Commerce projects, which based on the scoring included Hwy 14 among the three projects selected in this round. The 2019 Legislature corrected language, which allows this project to use funds to begin the project this year.

This project will expand Hwy 14 from two lanes to four lanes between Owatonna and Dodge Center, thus completing a continuous four-lane roadway between I-35 and Rochester. The proposed project is intended to improve the capacity, safety, travel times and access to Rochester and Owatonna, as well as the Interstate 35 corridor. Hwy. 14 previously received more than \$58 million in Corridors of Commerce funding for road improvements.

Former Blossom takes over as Triton principal

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

There will be a new face at Triton Elementary School this year as a former Awesome Blossom assumes the duties of elementary school principal.

Mary Morem, who grew up in Blooming Prairie and graduated from Blooming Prairie High

School, assumed the duties of principal on July 1. She comes to Triton from Caledonia where she served as 6-12 principal.

Her experience also includes 19 years as a teacher at the elementary and middle school level in Blooming Prairie and Austin.

It was her years as a teacher that led to her becoming a principal.

"I decided to become a principal," she said, "because as a teacher I saw the need for leaders who had been teachers for a considerable time."

One needs to understand what happens (in the classroom) before you can lead, she said.

"I believe in student engagement," she said, "helping them find their passion."



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN JORGENSEN

Mary Morem, who grew up in Blooming Prairie, has taken over as elementary principal at Triton Schools in Dodge Center.

Is your family up to date on vaccines?



Steele Talkin' ANDREA MARSHALL

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the importance of getting recommended vaccines throughout your life. You have the power to protect yourself and your family against serious diseases like whooping cough, cancers caused by HPV, and pneumonia with vaccines.

During NIAM, Steele County Public Health encourages you talk to your doctor, nurse, or other healthcare professional to ensure you, your child, your family are up to date on recommended vaccines.

We also encourage you to visit CDC's Interactive Vaccine Guide, which provides information on the vaccines recommended during preg-

SEE YOUR FAMILY, B7

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

Everybody loves BINGO!

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer



Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, invites families to come and play BINGO at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 under the Big Tent, next to the Cue Company and Pizza Cellar. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

Everybody loves to play a game of BINGO! Bingo is a key fundraising tool for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. At least four BINGO events are planned during the year for the benefit of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

A family BINGO event is planned for Saturday, Sept. 7 under the Big Tent near the Cue Company and Pizza Cellar. BINGO starts at 4:30 p.m. and continues until 6:30 p.m. with Lindsey French calling BINGO.

Special packaged prizes will be the winning BINGO player reward for yelling BINGO! The Stix of Fury performs at 6:30 outside the Big Tent.

The BP Cancer Group also sponsors a Ham BINGO in March or April, a purse BINGO in April and a Turkey BINGO in November.

Gun BINGO is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemans Club for the benefit of the BP Cancer Group. This is a first-time event and it is sponsored by the Dodge County Corn Growers.

For more information on the BINGO event coming on Saturday, Sept. 7, call Cheri Krejci at 507-438-6895.

Krejci also urges auction item donors to drop them off at the Pizza Cellar/Cue Company between 4-9 p.m. or at Krejci Ford during business hours.

The Friday and Saturday auctions start at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by

Krejci

Ford

Volleyball team opens on the road with a loss

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The Awesome Blossom volleyball team opened the season on the road and suffered a hard fought five game loss at Randolph Thursday, Aug. 22.

The Blossoms took two of the first three games, but lost game four in an over-time contest. The Rockets then pulled away late in the deciding game 15-11.

Besides it being a tensely played match, one bright spot in the contest featured setter Heather Pirk1 recording her 1,000th career set assist. Coach Renee Kittelson also noted the absence of Micalyn Trihus, who was unavailable for family reasons. “It may not have made a difference, but her absence at the net was noticeable,” commented Kittelson.

The home team won a tightly played game one in the match 26-25, but the visitors bounced back for a 25-19 second game win. BP continued on a roll with a 25-20 third game win, but the Rockets clawed their way to the intense overtime decision in game four and then hung on for the deciding victory.

Julia Worke led the Blossom attack with 16 kills and 17 digs, and Me-

gan Oswald added 13 kills and 7 digs. Maya Lembke scrambled for 20 digs and served 3 aces, Maren Forystek had 21 digs, and Maggie Bruns served 2 aces and a kill, 13 assists, and 17 digs. Pirk1 counted 18 assists and 13 digs.

It was a tough way to open the season, but Kittelson commented that the girls played hard, and the match could have gone either way.

Chateau's regular season winding down, specials ahead next month

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

The 63rd season at Chateau Speedway still has plenty of action on the schedule for the next month, but after Friday night's racing action, just one week is left to decide the 2019 track champions for the seven classes that compete.

Next Friday is season championship night but that's just the first race of a big Labor Day weekend at Lansing. The track will also be hosting a Labor Day Special on Sunday night with the main six classes that compete on a weekly basis at the track going after some extra prize money as the purse will be increased including a \$1,000 to win A Mod Feature event. That will just be the first of several specials during the month of September at the track.

The following Saturday at noon Chateau Speedway will host the Southern Minnesota Promotions Season Championship Enduro Races. They will then take a couple weeks off to prepare for the 2nd Annual

Chateau Speedway Autumn Extravaganza. The Extravaganza will once again feature seven classes of action with two full shows but three purses. Racing action on Sept. 27 will get started at 7:15 p.m., then on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. Using the tracks regular point scoring system, points will be calculated for the two nights action and the top 10 drivers in each class will get paid a third purse based on their points. There will also be a “Corn Hole Tournament” on Saturday Afternoon.

Meanwhile, fans were treated to more of the wild three wide racing Friday night they have grown accustomed to. It was a picture perfect for the night's program, sponsored by Zumbrota Ford, with temperatures in the 70's and some nice white fluffy clouds floating over the trees along the back straightaway along the Cedar River as the night's action got underway. Adding to the beauty of the night was the celebrations of three drivers picking up their first career Chateau Speedway Feature wins.

Jett Sorensen of Rochester, who made his debut in the Action Builders USRA B Mod Class at Chateau Speedway in 2016, has been hunting that first Feature win and Friday Night he found it. Sorensen drew the pole position for the main event and out drove current point leader Noah Grinstead of Austin into turn one to grab the early lead. Grinstead gave up second to Kadden Kath of Owatonna on lap two and settled into third. Kath, who has five feature wins at the track this season, drew a bead on Sorensen, staying within striking distance lap after lap, but Sorensen held his line and drove all the way to Victory Lane for his first feature win.

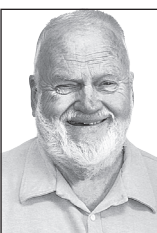
The French's Repair USRA A Mods showed they know how to keep a feature clean as well as they rolled off 25 caution free laps with Joel Alberts of Mantorville claiming his first Chateau Speedway feature win. Alberts jumped from row two to the front on the first lap and proceeded to stretch out a pretty nice lead. Jason Cummins of New Richland worked out

of row four up to second on lap seven and attempted to reel in Joel but it was not to be. Joe Horgdahl of Kasson held off Brandon Davis of Hayfield for third with Mark Noble of Blooming Prairie coming home in fifth. Noble was coming off his big feature win last weekend in the Big Rig Bandit Series in Kalama-zoo, Mich. Horgdahl and Cummins had the classes heat wins.

Yet another first time Feature winner came out of the WISSOTA Midwest Modified Class as Christopher Deno of Kasson made his first visit to Chateau Speedway Victory Lane. A single first lap caution is all that stopped this group from adding to the run of caution free features on the night.

The Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks continue to put on one of the best features each and every Friday night, and this week was no exception, although the end result was the same as its been much of the year. Zach Elward of Hayfield

SEE REGULAR SEASON, B6



Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

The BPHS volleyball team got the jump on the fall sports schedule with a tough hard-fought loss on the road at Randolph. It was one of those matches that certainly could have gone either way, but the Rockets managed to pull away late in the deciding game to claim the victory.

The team couldn't have been too disappointed though, as they played hard and the match went back and forth all night. It didn't help that hitter Mickalyn Trihus missed the match due to family reasons. I think the season looks promising for the girls, and I predict wins down the road.

In this last week of August, the cross-country teams spring into action as well. From now until the playoffs for all three fall sports begin, it will be almost non-stop action, and fans will have plenty to cheer about along the way. The football team will again be fighting for district and section superiority, and the other teams will also be striving for success on the course and on the

court. We wish all of the teams the very best of luck through the fall schedule.

AROUND THE AREA

Another county fair is in the history books, and another attendance record fell with over 322,000 visitors in attendance. The fair began with a close call from Mother Nature, but ended with good weather and huge crowds almost every day.

Now it is the state fair's turn, and if noted that good weather prompted a record first and second day attendance there too. Over 133,000 passed through the gates on Thursdays' opening day. Last year the attendance surpassed over 2 million for the 12 days of the annual event. No wonder that this fair is the biggest in the nation.

Last week's 'Ride for a Cause' also had a great success with over \$16,000 collected at the annual event. It was originally postponed by weather concerns, and now it gave more time for more fund-raising, and the proceeds were over a thousand dollars more than last year.

Harvey and Nancy Farr again sponsored the ride, and it is a given that if those two are in charge, the results will be successful. It was a lot of money raised for a very good cause. Congratulations to the couple for their volunteer labor in

making the event such a great one.

The annual Fire Department's brat and corn feed last Saturday proved another great time for many. The department does a fine job of providing the food, and they should be thanked profusely for the work they do at the feed and for providing great fire protection year around. They deserve our respect.

THE OLD DAYS

In my musings the other day, I was reminded how much rural life and farming has changed over the years. As summer winds down, the rituals of bringing in crops come to mind, and occupy thoughts of those old days.

I recall the hard labor and the sweat that prevailed as we shocked the wheat, oats, and flax that the reaper had strewn over the fields once the various crops were determined ready for cutting. The wheat and oats were fairly simple in being piled into standing shocks, but the flax became stubborn enough to make curses a certainty. Flax was usually cut low enough to the ground that we had to use hayforks to get the bundles into enough shape to keep them off the ground.

Once the grain was built into conical shocks, threshing occupied the farmers for several weeks, as they

organized into threshing units. We would use teams of horses (in later years, tractors and hayracks) to load the shocks into the hayracks and drive the team to the threshing machine where the racks were unloaded into the threshing machine, and the grain was separated from the straw.

I know it sounds primitive and complicated, but that was life on the farm, and it was a time I recall with a great deal of nostalgia. I was fortunate enough to have to return to school so that picking or cutting corn was not on my schedule. My time on the farm ended, and I reverted to the usual town boy for the rest of the year.

UPCOMING

It is not too early to make plans for the annual Cancer Group's two-night auction on Sept. 6 and 7. It promises to be another great time of fund-raising for that group, and it is less than two weeks away on the calendar. Be a good supporter, and we will see you at that great event.

And just a few weeks down the line, the annual Ed Foundation and Blossoms Forever banquet and awards program will be at the Servicemen's Club Saturday, Sept. 28. For now, enjoy the days of good weather, and we'll talk again.



Here are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of Aug. 23:

WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds

A Feature 1 (20 Laps):
1. 98D-Christopher Deno-Kasson, [5]; 2. G12-Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA, [8]; 3. 28S-Spencer Stock-Eyota, [4]; 4. 37-Michael Wytaske-Hartland, [6]; 5. 4-Brayten Cisneros-Blooming Prairie, [7]; 6. 44Z-Anton Nelson-Hayfield, [3]; 7. 79-Jeremy Misgen-New Richland, [12]; 8. 14-Cole Kroneman-Austin, [9]; 9. 53-Tianna Mithun-New Richland, [11]; 10. 79H-Luke Hainka-Wannamingo, [2]; 11. (DNF) 15-Paul Neisius-Hastings, [14]; 12. (DNF) 77T-Casey Trom-Austin, [10]; 13. (DNF) 86-Noel Hoppe-New Richland, [13]; 14. (DNF) 33-Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo, [1]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 98D-Christopher Deno, [6]; 2. 79H-Luke Hainka, [1]; 3. 33-Darryl Hainka, [2]; 4. 44Z-Anton Nelson, [4]; 5. 14-Cole Kroneman, [3]; 6. 53-Tianna Mithun, [7]; 7. 86-Noel Hoppe, [5]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 4-Brayten Cisneros, [3]; 2. 28S-Spencer Stock, [1]; 3. G12-Ryan Goergen, [6]; 4. 37-Michael Wytaske, [5]; 5. 77T-Casey Trom, [2]; 6. 79-Jeremy Misgen, [4]; 7. 15-Paul Neisius, [7]

Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stock

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

Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. 1-Troy Maas, [4]; 2. 17-Michael Wick, [1]; 3. 3G-Josh Sousa, [5]; 4. 44-PJ Duchene, [2]; 5. 11-Michael Gift, [3]; 6. (DNF) 7X-Andrew Eischens, [6]

Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. 26-Brady Krohnberg, [4]; 2. 0-Brian Adams, [2]; 3. 31-Jack Maas, [3]; 4. 96-Kyndra Neis, [5]; 5. (DNF) 75L-Devin Losee, [1]

Y Waste WISSOTA Hornets

A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 14-Justin Schelitzche-Cologne, [8]; 2. 193-Daniel Knish-Kilkenny, [18]; 3. 5-Nick Sillman-Minnesota Lake, [4]; 4. 16M-Matt Wieman-Owatonna, [12]; 5. 79T-TJ Pearson-Burnsville, [2]; 6. 112-Mike Ryan-Rochester, [7]; 7. 63-Bailey Wolff-Janesville, [6]; 8. 89-Timothy Gores-Garden City, [1]; 9. 88-Matt Tighe-Austin, [9]; 10. 20-Joe Frahm-Stewartville, [10]; 11. 13-Katelyn Wilson-North Mankato, [17]; 12. (DNF) 21-Brandon Downs-Austin, [3]; 13. (DNF) 6-TJ Barnett-Owatonna, [13]; 14. (DNF) 9-Nate Coopman-Mankato, [5]; 15. (DNF) 28-Patrick Andrus-Austin, [16]; 16. (DNF) 4-Talon Freerksen-Kasson, [11]; (DNS) 36-Adam Gransee-Waseca, ; (DQ) 19-Jerry Coopman-Mankato, [15]

Heat 1 (5 Laps): 1. 14-Justin Schelitzche, [2]; 2. 9-Nate Coopman, [4]; 3. 5-Nick Sillman, [3]; 4. 79T-Taylor Pearson, [6]; 5. 88-Matt Tighe, [9]; 6. 4-Talon Freerksen, [8]; 7. 6-Timothy Barnett, [5]; 8. 19-Jerry Coopman, [7]; 9. 13-Katelyn Wilson, [1]

Heat 2 (5 Laps): 1. 21-Brandon Downs, [2]; 2. 112-Mike Ryan, [7]; 3. 89-Timothy Gores, [1]; 4. 63-Bailey Wolff, [5]; 5. 20-Joe

Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks

A Feature 1 (18 Laps):
1. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield, [7]; 2. 01-Kory Adams-Stacyville IA, [8]; 3. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin, [6]; 4. 34JR-Braden Brauer-Eyota, [14]; 5. 46-Stacy Krohnberg-Walters, [4]; 6. 21-Jesse Stahl-Austin, [5]; 7. 4-Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center, [1]; 8. 101-Bernie Adams-Stacyville IA, [12]; 9. 47-Brent Holland-Glenville, [2]; 10. 39J-Dan Klingfus-Austin, [10]; 11. 16-Jacob Bennett-Austin, [9]; 12. 2-Fred Prudoehl-Winona, [13]; 13. 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca, [3]; 14. (DNF) 31-Raey Hastings IV-Austin, [11]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 46-Stacy Krohnberg, [3]; 2. 21-Jesse Stahl, [2]; 3. 32-Jason Newkirk, [6]; 4. 47-Brent Holland, [5]; 5. 16-Jacob Bennett, [4]; 6. 31-Raey Hastings IV, [7]; (DNS) 34JR-Braden Brauer,

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 01-Kory Adams, [2]; 2. 15-Zach Elward, [3]; 3. 4-Chris Hotovec, [4]; 4. 42-Cody Hyatt, [1]; 5. 39J-Dan Klingfus, [7]; 6. 101-Ken Adams, [6]; 7. 2-Fred Prudoehl, [5]

Action Builders USRA B-Mods

A Feature 1 (20 Laps):
1. 54-Jett Sorensen-Rochester, [1]; 2. 83X-Kadden Kath-Owatonna, [3]; 3. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin, [2]; 4. 55H-AJ Hoff-Mantorville, [5]; 5. 20-Mark Motl-Owatonna, [6]; 6. 72-Alex Schubbe-North Mankato, [7]; 7. 73-Kenny Boge-Orchard IA, [4]; 8. 83K-Kobie Kath-Owatonna, [8]; 9. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink-Austin, [10]; 10. 02K-Hunter Kennedy-St Ansgar IA, [9]; 11. 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin, [13]; 12. 38-Kenny Wytaske-Austin, [11]; 13. 81K-Caleb Korpi-Claremont, [14]; 14. (DNF) 40-Larry Scott-Northfield, [12]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 83K-Kobie Kath, [2]; 2. 72-Alex Schubbe, [3]; 3. 55H-Aaron Hoff, [5]; 4. 99-Noah Grinstead, [7]; 5. 54-Jett Sorensen, [6]; 6. (DNF) 44-Matthew Brooks, [4]; 7. (DNF) 81K-Caleb Korpi, [1]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 20-Mark Motl, [2]; 2. 83X-Kadden Kath, [1]; 3. 73-Kenny Boge, [3]; 4. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink, [6]; 5. 02K-Hunter Kennedy, [4]; 6. 38-Kenny Wytaske, [5]; 7. 40-Larry Scott, [7]

French's Repair USRA A Modifieds

A Feature 1 (25 Laps):
1. 4A-Joel Alberts-Mantorville, [4]; 2. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richland, [8]; 3. 96J-Joe Horgdal-Kasson, [2]; 4. 50-Brandon Davis-Hayfield, [9]; 5. 74-Mark Noble-Blooming Prairie, [3]; 6. 23-Darwin Karau-Kasson, [7]; 7. 9-Ben Kraus-Britt IA, [5]; 8. 96-Greg Jensen-Albert Lea, [6]; 9. 77-Jacob Stark-Austin, [11]; 10. (DNF) 72-Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie, [1]; (DNS) 65D-Dustin Brown-Thornton IA,

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 96J-Joe Horgdal, [1]; 2. 50-Brandon Davis, [5]; 3. 23-Darwin Karau, [3]; 4. 96-Greg Jensen, [2]; 5. (DNF) 65D-Dustin Brown, [4]; 6. (DNF) 77-Jacob Stark, [6]

Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 71-Jason Cummins, [2]; 2. 74-Mark Noble, [1]; 3. 4A-Joel Alberts, [5]; 4. 9-Ben Kraus, [4]; 5. 72-Doug Hillson, [3]



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SEPT. 8
8 a.m.- Pancake Breakfast, First Lutheran Church

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

AUG. 30
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Department Meeting, Community Building

SEPT. 2
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
SEPT. 4
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

AUG. 29
6:30 p.m. – AAUW Kick-Off Meeting, Trinity Lutheran
City Council Session, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

AUG. 31
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
Noon – Labor Day Festival, Cabela's
SEPT. 8
9 a.m.- Women's Suffrage Brunch, Steele County History Center

SEPT. 3
4 p.m. – North Market, Grace Baptist
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna
SEPT. 14
1 p.m.- Orphanage Fall Celebration, Owatonna Orphanage Museum

Getting ready for school



Workers of this Mountain Lake business firm apply some blacktop patches on the street by the Blooming Prairie High School to get ready for the first day of school on Sept. 3.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD



Fall celebration to remember orphaned kids in Owatonna

The seventh annual fall celebration at the Minnesota State Public School Orphanage Museum in Owatonna will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14. The celebration will be on the grounds of the former state school campus at 540 West Hills Circle in Owatonna from 1-4 p.m. The public is invited to join in for this fun-filled event. This year's event is focused on sharing the history of the state school through family-centered fun, including horse-drawn wagon rides, children's games, 1930 historic film, scavenger hunt and a 50/50 raffle drawing. The formal dedication ceremony of the Maxine Ronglien Memorial Garden will take place at 2 p.m. There is no admission charge, but donations to the Children Remembered-Orphanage Legacy Trust will be accepted. Donations to the Legacy Trust are tax-deductible. Persons attending will also be able to purchase 50/50 raffle tickets as well as brick memorial pavers. There were 10,635 children orphaned, abandoned or abused and sent to the Owatonna facility between 1886 and 1945.



BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Gun BINGO, the first of a kind in this area, comes to Blooming Prairie on Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Blooming Prairie Service-men's Club. "It should be a fun night," says organizer Connie Trom. Winners will receive certificates for guns. No guns will be on site. Blooming Prairie has been big on Bingo as a fundraiser and this one is

expected to be a popular event, says Trom. The doors open at 6 p.m. and Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$50 for a ticket. All players must have a ticket and must be at least 18 years of age. Food and beverages will also be for sale. Trom said there has been lots of interest in the event thus far. She said she learned about the idea from her sister Michelle Faelaki's boyfriend, who said gun bingo was a

success in Pennsylvania. Proceeds went to a local fire department. All proceeds go to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Ten games will be played, thus 10 certificates for a gun will be given as a prize for shouting Bingo. Trom said five raffles for guns will also be held. Haley Tollefson will be the Bingo caller. The event is sponsored by the Dodge County Corn Growers.

To sponsor a gun in honor or memory of a loved one, contact Connie Trom at 507-456-8431, or Denise Krell at 507-438-3862, or Craig Anderson at 507-438-5499. More information can also be obtained by e-mailing Tromda@yahoo.com. All winners must pass a background check and pick up their winning guns directly from the gun shop: Weibke Fur Company, 218 Portland Ave., Eitzen, MN 55931.

Gun Bingo, first of its kind here

Pancakes, anyone? Come to 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.

CHATEAU'S: regular season winding down

scored his track leading 10th feature win of the season but had to battle from row four to get it. Elward moved into the top five on lap five just before Kory Adams of Stacyville, Iowa took the lead from Chris Hotovec of Dodge Center. The Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stocks just missed a caution free race, although they ran their 15 laps non stop. An opening lap caution set up a complete restart and from there they ran clean to the checkers. Josh Sousa of Alden, looking to add his name to the list of drivers with at least one Chateau Speedway Feature win came up just a half a lap short. Josh led all the way through the white flag before getting passed by Troy Maas of Faribault on the last lap and then fell to third behind Jack Maas of Faribault just before the checkers fell. The only feature of the night you would call caution filled was the Y Waste WISSOTA Hornet main event. Three cautions

slowed the race that saw the driver who pulled into Victory Lane get disqualified when he got to the tech lane. Jerry Coopman of Mankato worked all the way from row eight with the help of all the cautions and restarts to get to the lead in the final two laps only to end up on the outside looking in at the pay window. Justin Schelitzche of Cologne was credited with his fourth feature win of the season. Season championship night will kick off the Labor Day Weekend Friday at 7:15 p.m. before the first Fall Specials start on Sunday Night at 6 p.m. with that big \$1,000 paycheck awaiting the winner of the Labor Day Duel in the A Mods. Chateau Speedway is inviting all WISSOTA A Mod Drivers to compete over the final races of the season at Lansing as they have rules in place that allow the cars to run in the A Mod Class with there WISSOTA Rules Package.

“A Day Away” bus tour explores Scandinavian exhibits

The Steele County Historical Society is hosting a bus tour Oct. 11 to explore Winona. The escorted trip will include a sightseeing cruise on the Mississippi River and visiting area museums and historic sites. The morning excursion will include a photo stop at Garvin Heights for a view of the city and river, a tour of Merchants National Bank designed by Purcell & Elmslie who also designed Owatonna's Louis Sullivan bank, a stop at the Basilica of St. Stanislav and conclude with lunch buffet at Whalen's at Westfield Golf Course. The afternoon will feature a guided tour of the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, and an hour sightseeing cruise on the Mississippi River. Departure by Cavalier coach will be at 8 a.m. from the rear of the Steele County History Center with return approximately at 5 p.m. Cost is \$65 for SCHS members and \$75 for non-members. Reservations and payment by Sept. 27 can be made at the History Center, 1700 Austin Road or call 507-451-1420. This A Day Away trip, which is limited to 55 people, is part of the SCHS mission-based programming. For further information, contact the society at the above number or email the director, James. Lundgren@SteeleHistory-Museum.org.

Brunch celebrates a centennial of Women's Suffrage

The Steele County Historical Society is hosting a Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration Brunch on Sept. 7. On Sept. 8, 1919, Minnesota became the 15th State to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. To celebrate and commemorate this historic event, SCHS will host a brunch and program. The brunch will be served at 9 a.m. The menu is quiche, fruit, caramel roll, mimosa, & coffee, or juice. Participants must be 21 to have a mimosa. This brunch and program are sponsored by Sharon West. Following the meal, Judge Karen Duncan will present a program about women in the workforce and her career in the legal field. Tickets are \$20 for SCHS members and \$25 for non-members. Reservations and payment by Sept. 5 can be made at the History Center, 1700 Austin Road or call 507-451-1420. Tickets may also be purchased at Kottke's or Tri M Graphics.

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Loans available for downtown Owatonna businesses

Does the building you own or conduct business in located in Owatonna's historic district need a facelift? Want some money to help? Was it sided over with wood, vinyl or stucco? Were windows covered up? Doors replaced with residential doors instead of commercial doors? Does the brick need tuckpointing?

Buildings and business owners in downtown Owatonna are eligible for **EDA forgivable loans to undo building cover-ups** from the 1970s and earlier of windows, awnings, doors and storefronts and for interior improvements like ADA restrooms, the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce has announced.

The EDA loans have funds available for the following:

- Window replacement to original size with clear glass and replacement of tinted glass (the mirrored sunglasses look) with clear glass at street level. Uncover, replace or caulk and paint windows on and second and third stories and restore to original sizes (you can tell where the openings were filled in on the main floor and second or third stories with siding and short residential windows);



The Owatonna Chamber of Commerce has loans available to help businesses in downtown Owatonna on façade renovations.

- Front door replacement;
- Tuck pointing brick. Most buildings downtown have brick that could use tuckpointing at the top of building front, around windows and at the sidewalk level to keep water out of the walls. Tuck point with mortar to replace caulk or cement, which ruins the brick;
- Awning replacement – Take off the buck-a-roo wood awnings that came out in the '70s and replace with stripped or solid color canvas awnings;
- Facade restoration- removing siding, stucco & wood from front cover-ups

to expose original front;

- The EDA, MainStreet and the Owatonna Business Development Center, owatonna.biz, can help with forgivable loans and the guidelines for replacement or restoration. You will find the Design Guidelines there as well, that the renovation must comply with. Contact Shirley at MainStreet for more information and design guidance: sschultz@owatonna.org;
- Interior forgivable loans for ADA restrooms, sprinkler systems, elevators and more. Go to Owatonna.biz for loan applications.

Taking shape



The new parking lot at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie has been taking shape over the past week. Heavy equipment from Bishop Excavating worked on shaping the new parking lot at the church.

Road project underway near Ellendale

County Highway 3 from Highway 30 to County Highway 45 in Somerset and Summit townships near Ellendale is closed to thru traffic for construction.

The project began on Aug. 12. A detour has been posted using Highway 30 and County Highway 45.

The portion of the highway that is shared

with County Highway 4 will remain open but will be constructed under traffic. In this section, the highway will have lane closures with flaggers at times. Expect delays.

The project will regrade ditches that have silted in. The project will then reclaim the existing pavement and place new bituminous pavement and

aggregate shoulders. Construction is expected to be completed this fall. All dates are subject to change due to weather or other factors. Steele County advises motorists to drive with caution and slow down through work zones for their safety and for the safety of the construction crews.

IS YOUR FAMILY: up to date on vaccines? FROM B4

nancy and throughout your child's life. As your children head back to school this fall, make sure vaccination is at the top of your checklist. August is also a key time to make sure you are up to date on all the vaccines you need to stay healthy. Use CDC's adult vaccine assessment tool to see which vaccines might be right for you. Steele County Public Health (SCPH) will be hosting Immunizations Clinic for school children on Thursday, Aug. 29 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 26 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. SCPH is located at 635 Florence Ave. in Owatonna. SCPH offers Immunization Clinics on the third Thursday of the month for anyone needing immunizations throughout most of the year. We have free

immunizations available for people who do not have insurance or if their insurance does not adequately cover necessary immunizations. If you are unsure if you or a family member needs an immunization, please feel free to call Christine Hoffmann, RN at SCPH, at 507-444-7656 and she can let you know your immunization history and if immunizations are needed. You many need a certificate of immunization to enroll your child at school. SCPH can print off a copy of all immunization records you may need to enroll children in school or college. As protection from childhood vaccines wears off, adolescents need additional vaccines to extend protection. Adolescents need protection from additional infections as well, before the risk of exposure

increases. Also, if your child travels outside the United States, SCPH can help ensure he or she gets the additional vaccines if necessary. We are always here to help answer questions and concerns you may have about vaccinations and making the best decisions for you and your family. During NIAM, SCPH will be sharing information and resources on social media to highlight the importance of vaccines. Help us spread the word, use #ivax2protect to share why you choose to vaccinate. *Andrea Marshall is a health educator with Steele County Public Health in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.*

DODGE'S COMP PLAN: approved by commission FROM B4

Sonja Eayrs, representing Dodge County Concerned Citizens, told the commission that none of the issues that the group has raised in earlier meetings had been addressed. While there are limits on building a residence on less than 53 acres, she said, the county is still permitting factory farms on five acres. "There is no effort in the plan to address factory farms," she said, telling commission members they are only inviting more conflict. She said instead of putting the citizens first, the plan was pro development and pro factory farm. Brad Trom said that he raises dogs and that over the past few years whenever people come to look at the dogs their first comment is "what's that smell." "It's the hogs," he said. The odors affect the dogs, the animals and the people, he said.

Doug Eayrs commented that he appreciated the county doing the presentation on the plan but wished to point out that three branches of the Zumbro River in Dodge County go south right into Olmsted County and Rochester. That means, he said, that what Dodge County does affects neighboring counties. They also have a home in Concord Township, he said, and their well is contaminated. That area of the county is a karst area and that makes the water sensitive to contamination. Ken Folie, a member of the Canisteo Township Board, pointed out that there are always concerns about water usage. The water used in feedlots, he said, is returned to the soil where the water that used in communities is directed somewhere else. He also responded to comments made by Sonja Eayrs that controversies

over feedlots had let to trash tossed in ditches near her father's farm and road signs shot at. In Canisteo Township, he said, trash is regularly dumped in ditches and many signs are used for target practice. "We want to remain pro-ag," he added. County Commissioner Rod Peterson said he was speaking for himself and not in an official capacity but he wanted to thank everyone involved in preparing the plan and the citizens for their input. The discussion, he said, gives an indication of where the citizens want to go. "There are a lot of competing interests," he said. "Life is fluid and the plan needs to be fluid." Following the closing of the public hearing, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to forward the plan to the County Board with a recommendation for its approval.

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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. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 4 rods of the East 16 rods of the South 1/2 of Lot 18 in the North East 1/4 of section 16 in Township 107 North, of Range 20 West, 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)

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5. The student's class designation (i.e. 1st grade, 10th grade, etc.)
6. The student's extracurricular participation
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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Owed
 7. Shawl
 13. Slow tempo
 14. Bodily structure
 16. Sun-god
 17. Franklin or Eleanor
 19. Degree
 20. Norwegian poet
 22. Local school organization
 23. Consumer
 25. Brews
 26. Hero
 28. To clear or tidy
 29. 9th month
 30. Hit lightly
 31. Pinna
 33. DoD computer language
 34. One Direction won at 2014 awards
 36. No. Am. peat bog
 38. Clear wrap
 40. Napped leather
 41. In a way, takes
 43. Transported
 44. Back muscle
 45. Unhappy
 47. Wrong
 48. Chit
 51. Epic poem
 53. Capuchin genus
 55. traz: The Rock
 56. Weight unit
 58. Foot (Latin)
 59. Egg-shaped nut palm

60. A radioactive element

61. Roosevelt V.P.

64. Railroad track

65. More dense, less liquid

67. Block, Fire & Reunion

69. A set that is part of another set

70. Hair product

CLUES DOWN

1. Ineffective
2. 39th state
3. Skins
4. In a moment
5. Japanese Prime Minister
- Hirobumi
6. Tyrant
7. A cruelly rapacious person
8. Point midway between NE and E
9. Abnormal breathing
10. Essential oil or perfume

- obtained from flowers
11. Italian river
 12. Fixed firmly into
 13. Opera songs
 15. Cloth measurement
 18. 7th Greek letter
 21. Extractor
 24. For boiling water to make tea
 26. Possesses
 27. Edible tuberous root
 30. Glass window sheets
 32. Tactics
 35. More (Spanish)
 37. Our star
 38. Makes a choice
 39. Great Plains indians
 42. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
 43. Female sibling
 46. Diverge
 47. Adherent of Islam
 49. Defer
 50. Semitic gods
 52. Indian term of respect
 54. 10 decibels
 55. Surface regions
 57. Small amounts
 59. Liberal rights organization
 62. Teeny
 63. Volcanic mountain in Japan
 66. Atomic #71
 68. Canadian province

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KASSON-MANTORVILLE KOMETS
Middle School
has an immediate openings for the following position:
1.0 FTE Speech / Language Pathologist for SY 2019-20
Please complete an application on-line at www.komets.k12.mn.us and resume, application letter, transcripts and 3 reference letters.

COMMUNITY
Let people know what's happening!
Place your ad in the ADvantage over 13,000 viewers will see your event
Dodge County Independent
121 West Main Street
Kasson, MN 55944
dci@kmtel.com
634-7503
INDEPENDENT
Find us on Facebook

Request for Quotes
Snow and Ice Removal – Steele County Parking Lots
Closes Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Steele County, Minnesota
Quotes will be received by the County Auditor on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Steele County, Minnesota, until 12:00 PM on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at the County Administrative Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060, for the contract listed below:
Steele County is requesting quotes for snow and ice removal from Steele County parking lots for the 2019-2020 winter season.
A Quote Form with contract details is available on the County website at: https://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/public_works/transportation/request_for_bids_quotes_and_proposals.php
Hard copies are also available at the Steele County Administration offices located in the Administrative Center at 630 Florence Avenue, and at the Public Works Facility at 3000 Hoffman Drive, Owatonna, Minnesota.
Steele County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers and to enter negotiations with the party or parties which will provide the best value to Steele County.

8/28

HELP WANTED
CHS has multiple openings for seasonal operations/scale operators for fall harvest in Kasson, Claremont, Grand Meadow, Ostrander & Wykoff.
All shifts available.
Please apply online at www.chsrochester.com/about-us/careers.
If you have any questions contact
Thrishia (Kasson) at 507-634-7545 x424
Chris (Claremont) at 507-528-2175
Troy (Ostrander & Grand Meadow) at 507-657-2234
Mark (Wykoff) at 507-429-6577
EOE

A last look at Minnesota's largest county fair

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER AND HOWARD LESTRUD



Michael Tzakas, 8, of New York marches with a flag in hand behind members of the VFW as they stand at attention during the open flag raising ceremony at the fair.



A member of the Owatonna VFW stands at attention during the flag raising.



With chain saw in hand, a wood enthusiast carves out a sculpture during the fair.



Members of the Steele County 4-H clubs try their hand at grilling during a grill competition on Saturday of the fair.



Sheriff Lon Thiele squeezes with all his power during the cow milking contest.



Next year's theme will be "Food, Fun and Friends... a Plenty in 2020." The fair will run Aug. 18-23.



A member of the Owatonna Community Band performed during the opening festivities.



Livestock exhibitors from around the county sold their animals during the annual 4-H auction.



The Golden Tones Choir sang some patriotic songs on Senior Day at the fair. They performed on the Fair Square Stage.