

OUR VIEW

Down-to-earth ambassador takes reign as Princess Kay

This year's Princess Kay of the Milky Way is no stranger to Minnesota's dairy industry.

Amy Kylo grew up on a farm north of Byron, just on the edge of Dodge and Olmsted counties. On Aug. 21, she was crowned Princess Kay at the 66th annual coronation on the eve of the Minnesota State Fair in Falcon Heights.

It's not every year that we end up with a Princess Kay from southeastern Minnesota. Since its inception in 1954, Princess Kay has only come from Olmsted County twice. The last one was also from Byron in 1987. There have been three Princess Kays from Steele County in 2008, 1978 and 1976.

Kylo is one of the most down-to-earth people you're ever going to meet. She's not afraid to get her hands dirty by helping out on her family's dairy operation, which milks 95 cows. If she's not milking, she's out there driving the tractor around and baling hay or doing whatever other farm work comes calling at the time.

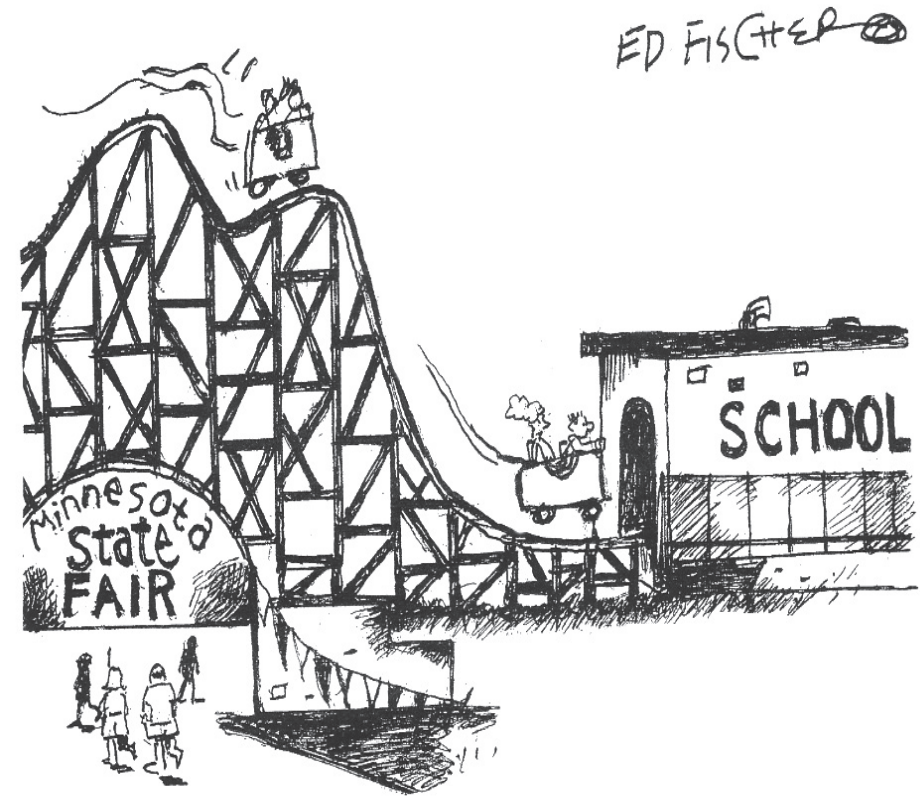
Princess Kay is an ambassador for dairy farmers in Minnesota. She loves to share information about the role of dairy in healthy eating habits and how dairy farmers care for their cows, community and land. The name, Princess Kay, was selected in a contest by the Department of Agriculture almost 60 years ago.

For Kylo, she is getting to live the dream she's always had. In a recent interview, she told us that ever since she was a young girl, she always looked up in awe to Princess Kay, the highest honor bestowed on anyone in the dairy industry. Now she's getting the chance to be that Princess Kay she's been watching for years.

The new Princess Kay will be a great official goodwill ambassador for nearly 3,000 Minnesota dairy farm families. She has a positive attitude that's often times hard to find in this negative and divided society we live in. She will definitely carve out a path to doing great things for Minnesota's dairy industry over the next year.

Kylo is humble about the honor that she has achieved. Through her humbleness, she radiates with great fondness for the work she has accomplished in her 19 years. "I'm doing something important," she says. "I get to take care of land, water and animals. It's a family farm."

She has shown all of us that dreams can become reality. And what a better person to show us that than Amy Kylo. Congratulations Princess Kay!



SHERIFF HONORS DRIVER: who saved boy

FROM A1

"If it wasn't for him stopping and doing what he did, Jaxon wouldn't be here today."

Sheriff Scott Rose
Dodge Sheriff

He found Jaxon Harberts, still in his mother's vehicle, with a compromised airway. He helped officers remove Jaxon from the vehicle and used his training to get him breathing again.

"If it wasn't for him stopping and doing what he did, Jaxon wouldn't be here today," Rose said. "That makes us all kind of pause, especially if you have kids."

"I don't really feel I deserve this," Royer said. The award, he said, belonged to the first responders, officers, ambulance personnel, helicopter pilot and all who helped.

Royer said that he was an EMT in Oklahoma for 12 years. "I used to train paramedics," he said.

He said that his first concern was to get Jaxon breathing again, because without an airway you do not have a patient who will survive.

Jaxon survived the crash. His mother, Rachel, and sister, Emerson, died in the crash. It happened during the first week of school last September.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office also gave out life saving awards to a number of individuals and groups for their efforts at the 2018 Citizen Awards program.

Benjamin Rippentrop and Mariah Gilman received a plaque and certificate for an incident on Jan. 7, 2017 when they helped save the life of Gilman's father, Richard Fuller.

The Kasson Police Department, Kasson First Responders and the Dodge Center Ambulance were recognized with a Life Saving Award for their actions in saving the life of Michael Nockels on April 4, 2017.

Hayfield Ambulance received the award for saving the life of Fredricka Lux on Jan. 16, 2018.

The Kasson Police Department, Mantorville First Responders and West Concord Ambulance received Life Saving Awards for an incident on April 15, 2018 where they saved the life of Douglas Kracht.

This was the third year the Sheriff's Office has given out the Citizens Awards, said Dodge County Investigator Bob Morris.

The awards recognize individuals and agencies who are instrumental in saving lives in Dodge County.

Situations reported to the office are reviewed by a team of four members of the Sheriff's Office who make the decision on the awards, Rose said.

Do we need newspapers?

Part of my enjoyment with the Minnesota State Fair is to go work at the fair doing, what else, newspaper work.

Besides doing stories and taking photos of local people at the fair, I also volunteer at the Minnesota Newspaper Museum, which is operated by the Minnesota Newspaper Foundation of which I serve on the board.

I know that probably doesn't sound real appealing to many people, but it's actually fun for me. I love to connect with people asking various questions about the newspaper industry. I have a real sense that there is still a strong tie to newspapers for most people, despite the struggles we've all heard about over recent years.

As part of the museum, the foundation prints a daily edition of the Maynard News for fairgoers to take. It is a four-page newspaper containing news about the museum's effort to educate Minnesotans about newspapers and journalism.

In the newspaper, Linda Falkman, president of MNF, wrote a column, "Do we need newspapers?" What really caught my eye about this article was a quote that she used: "To say you don't need newspapers because you've got the internet—is like saying you don't need farmers because you've got a grocery store."

I'd like you to just think about that for a second. How true about newspapers. It's such a powerful statement that exemplifies what we work our tails off every week to provide readers. I don't think many people realize or understand how newspapers are so relevant in our society.

While we are far from perfect, your local newspaper is a reliable source to provide you information that is researched, written and edited. You are not going to find the same kind of news from the internet, at least when it comes to local happenings going on in your community.

Social media has its place, but it is not generally a source of credible news.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Social media is far from providing factual and reliable information. What newspapers provide are trained journalists to search out accurate information that you can trust and rely on.



STAFF PHOTO BY KYRIE BUSSLER

Steele County Times publisher Rick Bussler takes on the role of editor for the day at the Minnesota Newspaper Museum at the State Fair. Bussler also serves on the board of the Minnesota Newspaper Foundation, which operates the museum during the fair.

"To say you don't need newspapers because you've got the internet—is like saying you don't need farmers because you've got a grocery store."

I implore you to take note of the value of your community newspaper and not let it disappear. Support it and embrace it through buying subscriptions and urging businesses to advertise. Let businesses know when they do advertise that their ads are being read. Help us help keep our communities informed and progressing.

ings of the people within the community. We are here to celebrate right along with the community, but we also serve an important role to expose the truth whether it's good or maybe not so good.

It's time we all go in hot pursuit of supporting community newspapers to keep the printed word thriving for years to come.

Our hope for a cure is in the survivors

Take time to pause this next weekend during the 19th Annual Blooming Prairie Cancer Auctions and think about how cancer has affected you, your family and friends.

Cancer has indeed touched all of us in one way or another. Our hope to finding a cure and for protecting our loved ones in the future lies with our survivors. Our increasing number of survivors shows proof that research is leading to more cancer cures.

My mother, Alma Lestrud, was a cancer survivor. She fought cancer in the mid-1960s when cancer treatment and surgery were still in the experimental stages. My mother had a single mastectomy in 1964. She lived 30 more years and passed away at age 84, not because of cancer.

Dr. Harry B. Neel II of Albert Lea was my mother's physician, and he was a pioneer in treating all forms of cancer. He lived to be 103.

I took time recently to write down the names of family members and friends of ours who fought cancer.

My great niece Rhianna of Colorado died of colon cancer at the young age of 22. She was diagnosed just weeks before her passing. She was the same age as my daughter who died of a liver disease (not cancer).

Pancreatic cancer took three good friends of ours, Norman Tolzmann, Debbie Peterson and Ken Jarvis. Norman fought the



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

cancer for a year. Debbie, wife of our Lutheran pastor in Forest Lake, was diagnosed in July and died the following January. Ken last only three months after being diagnosed.

Thankfully, we also know many people who have successfully battled cancer and are survivors. My brother-in-law (wife Judy's brother) Craig was diagnosed eight years ago with throat cancer and had surgery soon after. His journey through treatment was a struggle but he fought valiantly and won the battle.

Judy and I and Judy's sister Cindi (Hansen) accompanied Craig to a doctor appointment in Rochester just months ago and were elated to hear the doctor tell Craig: "You're cured."

As my fellow columnist LeMar Nelson would say, "A tip of the hat" to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group for the work they do in helping victims of cancer.

It's amazing how much time and effort are donated by the BP Cancer Group and by supporters of the group. The love of many people is sent to cancer victims by the many donations that are unselfishly made.

Thank you to everyone who has worked on these BP Cancer Group activities and thank you to everyone who has donated items to be auctioned on Sept. 6-7. Also, thanks to those of you who will buy items and thus, donate toward building on that hope for a cure.

7 BP alumni to be honored

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

They are regarded as Blossoms Forever. Seven special Blooming Prairie Blossom alumni will be saluted on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the 12th Annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Alumni Awards Banquet.

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation is observing its 20th anniversary this year.

The Blossoms Forever night is planned for the BP Servicemen's Club with social hour at 5 p.m., the meal at 6 p.m. and a program follows at 7 p.m.

Special awards to honor alumni and staff were created by the Blossoms Forever group in 2008. The fundraising banquet has been in existence since 2001, says Blossoms Forever Committee member Julie Noble, past president of the BP Education Foundation.

Becky Noble and Sue Zwiener will be emcees for the evening event.

Awards will be presented in three different categories:

- Distinctive Service (3) – Capt. Theodore (Ted) Schreier, Class of 1933, posthumously; Tom Burke, Class of 1961 and Shannon Pfeifer Kruckeberg, Class of 1989.
- Athletic Hall of Fame (3) – Alan Morton, Class of 1948; John Dale Worke, Class of 1984 and Lisa Meshke, Class of 2000.
- Honored Educator (1) – Diane Anderson, Class of 1972.

The BP Education Foundation always entertains nominations for these prestigious awards, says Blossom Forever Committee member Julie Noble.

Schreier was nominated by Jim PirkI. Carol Kruckeberg nominated Tom Burke. She is a classmate of Burke. Shannon Pfeifer Krucke-

berg was nominated by Janet Pfeifer. Tammy Bissel nominated her father, Alan Morton. John Worke was nominated by his wife, Mary Worke. Lisa Meshke gained recognition based on a nomination by LeMar Nelson.

The Honored Educator Diane Anderson was nominated by Blooming Prairie Superintendent of Schools Chris Staloch and by Julie Naatz, BP Elementary School secretary.

Blossoms Forever recipients last year were:

- Distinctive Service – Jay Iverson, Class of 1989
- Athletics Hall of Fame – Dennis Kruckeberg, Class of 1965
- Honored Teacher, Bob Nahlovsky; Honored Staff Member, Peggy Tashima

Special criteria is cited for each category.

For Distinctive Service, candidates must have graduated from BPHS at

least 10 years prior to the year selected. This person is known to have made a positive contribution to the benefit of mankind and has achieved success in one or more of the following areas: a profession, business, the arts, humanitarian efforts or community service.

For the Athletics Hall of Fame, candidates must have graduated from BPHS at least 15 years prior to selection. Accomplishments must have been achieved in a manner that exemplifies that of a student athlete. Outstanding athletic achievements may include setting school conference and state records, recognition at school conference and state levels, unusual distinction in one sport for two reasons or consistent distinction in several sports for more than one season.

For Honored Teacher/Administrator/Staff Member, candidates must have been an employee of the BP

school district for at least 10 years. The candidate must have served students in a manner that exceeded what is normally expected and many students should have gained positively from this service. The person may have earned awards at the state and national level. The

life of this person also must have had a positive effect on BP school district students.

Tickets for the Blossoms Forever recognition night are available at the New York Life office or by contacting Julie Noble, BP Education Foundation president, at 507-456-2410 or at jnoble2410@gmail.com



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Two Blooming Prairie High School graduates and two educators were honored by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation on Sept. 29, 2018 at the BP Servicemen's Club. Receiving Blossoms Forever awards were, from left: Peggy Tashima, Jay Iverson, Bob Nahlovsky and Dennis Kruckeberg.

Who's who and new in the Blooming Prairie Schools

Blooming Prairie Schools introduced some new staff members when school resumed on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Welcome new staffers and good luck in the future.

Here's a snapshot of the new staff.



KRISTIN ROMEO
Position: School social worker for both schools
Background: From Blooming Prairie. Graduate of Blooming Prairie High School. Graduate of Winona State University
Family: Husband Sam, 3 children, Bella, Mark and Charlie
Interests/hobbies: Spending time with family, traveling and reading



DAVID LASSAHN
Position: Health and Physical Education at BPHS
Background: From Ellendale. Graduate of NRHEG High School. Graduate of Winona State University
Family: Wife Kiley
Interests/hobbies: Spending time with family and friends, snowmobiling/outdoor activities and being active
Other: Huge sports fan of the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins. Coach football, wrestling and baseball



STEPHANIE ADELMAN
Position: Early Childhood Special Education
Background: From Apple Valley, currently reside in Albert Lea. Graduate of the University of Minnesota – Duluth
Family: Older sister
Interests/Hobbies: Volunteering, hiking, bike riding around the lake, hanging out with family and friends
Other: Grateful to join the Blooming Prairie team



BRYNN RHODES
Position: Speech-language pathologist, Pre-K-12th grade
Background: From Cedar Falls, Iowa. Resident of Owatonna since 2008.

Graduate of Cedar Falls High School. Graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato
Family: Husband Philip, kids Alexander, 15; David, 13 and daughter Maya, and her husband Josh Berggren who live in St. Francis
Interests/hobbies: Scrapbooking, music, reading, playing board games
Other: I am so excited to be in Blooming Prairie. and I've appreciated the warm welcome I've received.



BRIANA GOSKESEN
Position: Math, Middle School and High School
Background: From Austin. Graduate of Austin High School. Graduate of Winona State University
Family: 3-year-old daughter Lakyn, 1.5-year-old daughter Clara. Husband Logan
Interests/hobbies: Hunting, fishing, spending time with family
Other: I am excited to be joining the Blooming Prairie School District and am ready for a great year?



SARA REINKE
Position: math, global studies and Spanish at BPHS
Background: From Blooming Prairie. Graduate of Owatonna High School. Graduate of Winona State University and MA from Saint Mary's University in Winona
Family: Husband Jeremy, 3 kids in Blooming Prairie: Jamie, 8th grade; Drew, 6th grade; Karly, 2nd grade
Interests/hobbies: Golf, reading, spending time with my family
Other: I'm looking forward to an amazing year here in Blooming Prairie.



EMILY HENSLIN
Position: First Grade
Background: From Rochester. Graduate of Triton High School. Graduate of the University of Northwestern, St. Paul
Family: Parents Tom and Dawna Henslin, brother Josh, sister Sarah
Interests/hobbies: Running, basketball, watching/cheering on the Vikings.

Other: I taught at Blooming Prairie for seven years, teaching kindergarten. I left last year to teach First Grade with my mom at Triton Elementary. I'm so excited to be back teaching at Blooming Prairie. Blooming Prairie is an amazing community and has an awesome staff and students.



ALLI SCHMIDT
Position: Third Grade
Background: From Kaukauna, Wis. Graduate of Kaukauna High School. Graduate of Winona State University with a degree in elementary and special education LD
Family: Parents Tom and Jean Schmidt, brothers Zach and Erik Schmidt
Interests/hobbies: Track and field, reading, roller blading and painting
Other: This will be my first year working in BP and I will be the new head track and field coach.



LAUREN LAU
Position: English Language, SMART Room and computer at both schools
Background: From Albert Lea. Graduate of Lake Mills High School. Graduate of Winona State University and MA from Hamline University
Family: Husband Dennis
Interests/hobbies: Reading, hunting pheasants, turkey and deer. Spending time with friends and family.
Other: I taught at BP for five years previously. I am returning because Blooming Prairie is an amazing place to work!



DARREN PAULY
Position: Special Education
Background: From Blooming Prairie. Graduate of Redwood Valley High School. Graduate of Minnesota State University of Mankato
Family: Wife Angie, children Anna, Jacob and Amelia
Interests/hobbies: Spend time with family at the lake



KELSEY VANDERHORST
Position: Special Education Para
Background: From Hollandale. Graduate of Albert Lea High School
Family: Fiance' Travis Peters, son Ethan Peters and daughter Khara Peters
Interests/hobbies: Spending time with family and friends



CINDY BEINHORN
Position: Working in high school office
Background: From Albert Lea. Graduate of Albert Lea High School. Graduate of Rochester Community College
Family: Husband Roger, son Tim (Kelsey) and daughter Becky (Cory) Rislov, 2 grandchildren, Harper and Mason
Interests/hobbies: Reading, baking, hard work and gardening
Other: Roger and I moved back to the area three years ago. I had previously worked at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and wanted to work closer to home. I am excited to be working with the community and getting acquainted with your family.

Once top pick for Steele County administrator fired from Prior Lake

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The finalist chosen to be Steele County administrator two years ago has been fired from his current city manager's job in Prior Lake.

The Prior Lake City Council fired Michael Plante from the top job on Aug. 19 after allegations of domestic abuse surfaced against him. The Scott County Attorney's Office charged Plante, 36, with felony assault by strangulation and two misdemeanor counts of domestic assault following an incident with his wife in which he's accused of choking her.

Plante grew up in Steele County and graduated from Owatonna High School in 2002.

The charges say the two were in an argument in their home that morning when the victim grabbed Plante's phone and "asked

if she should look through it." Things escalated from there. According to the complaint, Plante put his arm around her neck from behind and began to squeeze her neck. The victim reported that she could not breathe or speak for part of this time. He then is accused of throwing the victim to the floor and pinning her to the floor with his knee.

In 2017, Plante was chosen to be the new administrator for Steele County. However, Plante rejected the county's offer, and the board went on to promote Scott Golberg to the top post.

Plante had been the county administrator in Wabasha since March 2014 before leaving earlier this year to be city manager for Prior Lake. Previously, Plante was an assistant county attorney in Wabasha County as well as

Hubbard County.

During the recent Prior Lake council meeting, a small crowd applauded following a unanimous vote by the council to fire Plante without severance or notice less than a year after he took the job. The decision came after a 30-minute closed session discussion.

Mayor Kirt Briggs said he looked to the community response and the International City/County Management Association's code of ethics, which calls on city employees to "demonstrate by word and action the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity in all public, professional and personal relationships."

Briggs said the termination was in the "best interest of our employees and our residents."

Plante's first court appearance is scheduled for Oct. 4.

Blooming
Prairie Cancer
Group

Cancer
Corner

Raffle offered during BP Cancer Auction

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The 19th annual BP Cancer Auction Raffle will be taking place this weekend in Blooming Prairie. First prize is \$1,000, second prize is \$300 and third prize is \$200. The raffle is in memory of Steve Prihoda. Tickets cost \$10 each. The drawing will be at 10 p.m. on Saturday at the Cue Company. Need not be present to win.

Some of the items donated already include racing helmet donated by the Ford Motor Company Racing team; five quilts created by local crafter Mary Burr; casino packages; autographed Major League Baseball pink bat and an Adam Thielen autographed jersey donated by Howard and Judy Lestrud.

Other items that should tweak the interest of auction goers include:

- Red Case tractor from Whispering Oak Farms
- John Deere tractor, donated by Jerry Ingvalson
- Fire truck donated by David Spinler family
- Yellow quilt made by Irene Sheppard, in memory of her sister Alice
- Cases of Big'un's nuts, Kruckeberg Industries

Left photo: This fancy kids Case tractor is donated to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group auction by Whispering Oak Farms.

Middle photo: This John Deere kids tractor is donated by Jerry Ingvalson and the fire truck is donated by the David Spinler Family for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Auction.

Right photo: Irene Sheppard is donating this beautiful yellow quilt in memory of her sister Alice. The quilt will be auctioned off either Friday, Sept. 6 or Saturday, Sept. 7.

Right bottom photo: Cases of Big'un nuts are donated by Kruckeberg Industries for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Auctions on Sept. 6-7.

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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 investigate shooting in Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A man was seriously injured in a shooting incident in Owatonna.

Police found a 39-year-old man with gunshot wounds in a parked vehicle along 24th Avenue NW around 11:20 p.m. Aug. 29. The man reported he had been shot in the upper torso, according to police.

Mayo Ambulance transported the man to Owatonna Hospital where he was later airlifted to St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester. He is being treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Officers responded to the area of 24th Avenue and Hoffman Drive on a report of gunshots fired. When police arrived in the area, they found the man with gunshot wounds in the vehicle.

There also was a woman in the vehicle, but she was not injured.

No arrests have been made in the case. Police also have not released the names of the subjects involved.

The Steele County Sheriff’s Office and Faribault Police assisted at the scene.

The shooting remains under investigation. Anyone with information regarding this shooting is encouraged to contact Owatonna Police at 507-774-7207.

Keep recreational marijuana out of Minnesota

Governor Tim Walz ordered state agencies to prepare for legalized recreational marijuana within the past few weeks.

Does anyone else find it oddly ironic that a state that has spent millions and millions of dollars on the fight against big tobacco and made it illegal to smoke legal cigarettes virtually anywhere, including private businesses and public outdoor areas, now is embracing the recreational marijuana movement?

There several alarming statistics coming out of Colorado that contradict a lot of the positive points being made in our state capital about the benefits of legalizing recreational marijuana.

“It could reduce the number of people locked up for drug offenses....”

I’ve been in law enforcement over 20 years and have never arrested someone for possessing a small amount of marijuana. In Minnesota, possession of a marijuana joint is a petty misdemeanor – it’s like getting a parking ticket. Those being arrested here in Minnesota are in possession of larger quantities for sale – that won’t change with recreational marijuana being legalized here. These arrests are still happening in states where it is legal.

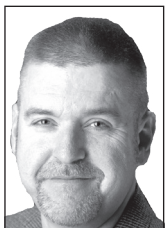
The suggestion that legalizing it will help reduce illegal sales or “black market” marijuana crimes is just not accurate. In 2017, Colorado’s state drug task force seized 7.3 tons of marijuana that was headed for 24 different states throughout the country. Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail system have increased 1,042%. The Colorado Highway Patrol has seen marijuana seizures increase 39%. They’ve also seen an increase in violent crimes and property crimes related to the marijuana trade.

Public safety on our highways is a concern as well. In Colorado, marijuana related traffic deaths are up 151%. Traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled.

“Legalizing pot could bring in a new source of tax revenue if regulated properly....”

In Colorado, Marijuana tax revenue represents approximately nine-tenths of 1% of Colorado’s FY 2017 budget. Some data estimates for every sales tax dollar brought in, the state is spending \$4.50 to manage the program and all the challenges that come with it – state program management, increased law enforcement expense, increased medical and treatment expenses, etc. Granted, there is other revenue besides tax dollars coming from this industry to be considered. In a recent economic impact study in Pueblo County alone (similar in population to Olmsted County), the marijuana industry led to increased demand for law enforcement and social services totaling \$23 million dollars in added costs. Advocates will tell you those costs were offset by the \$58 million that marijuana generated for the county in the same year – a positive net impact of \$35 million. Locals, including the sheriff, will argue that the compromised public safety, public health, and quality of life in their county caused by legalizing recreational marijuana is absolutely NOT worth the net impact.

These statistics weren’t drummed up by some right wing anti-marijuana group – they were compiled by HITDA – the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program. This program was created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to provide assistance to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States. This grant pro-



Dodge Sheriff
SCOTT ROSE

gram was administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Its website is www.dea.gov/hidta.

According to HIDTA, additional negative impacts to Colorado’s budget include a 52% increase in emergency room visits related to marijuana incidents. Their yearly rate of marijuana related hospitalizations are up 148%. Much of this is because of the increased potency of Colorado marijuana products – smokeable marijuana with THC potency exceeding 19% and concentrates and edibles over 100% THC. Compare this to 1995 marijuana THC potency averages of 4-5%. Bottom line is this isn’t the weed we knew of in the 90s, 80s, 70s, or earlier. With these levels of THC, this is a completely different drug, and no one knows the long-term effects and consequences of use. In the public health and medical communities, they’ll tell you that today’s marijuana users risk physical withdrawal symptoms, cravings, and psychological dependence. This is a completely different drug.

We already have medicinal marijuana here in Minnesota, which I support. Medicinal marijuana has shown legitimate benefits and has helped many people, including friends of mine, who struggle with various illnesses and pain. The marijuana produced for medicinal use has a high CBD (Cannabidiol) content (the active ingredient that helps pain, insomnia, anxiety, etc.) and a low THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) content (the principal psychoactive constituent of marijuana that gives you the high sensation). Recreational marijuana is a completely different drug and a completely different industry – don’t confuse the two.

Is this really about what’s best for Minnesota, or is it simply about party politics, public perception, and money? I believe legalizing recreational marijuana will be a mistake that will prove costly and have a lasting negative impact on our state, our law enforcement, our schools, our kids, and our grandkids. Unfortunately, at the state level here in Minnesota, a lot of the negatives that go along with legalizing recreational marijuana aren’t being shared – their focus is on the potential revenue source this legislation could produce. But at what cost?

Colorado now ranks third in the nation for marijuana use with kids 12 and older (85% higher than the national average). Is that what we want for our kids? For our state?

Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose is in his second term as sheriff of Dodge County. He writes for this newspaper periodically.

High drug activity at house leads to 7 arrests

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A high volume of suspected drug activity at a house in Owatonna has led to serious drug charges against the homeowner and at least six others.

The Steele County Attorney’s Office has charged Nicholas Martin Balfe, 43, of Owatonna with first-degree possession of 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. If convicted of the charge, he faces a maximum of 30 years in prison with a minimum of 65 months in prison.

Agents with the South Central Drug Investigation Unit conducted surveillance at Balfe’s residence at 216 Hobart St. where they observed several vehicles coming and going from



Balfe



Millhouse



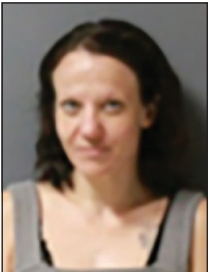
Hoisington



Baumeister



Nielson



Mitchell



Schoenecker

the place. Police stopped multiple vehicles leaving the residence and found controlled substances. Those arrests led to police obtaining a search warrant for Balfe’s house.

According to the complaint filed against Balfe: On Aug. 21 at about 10:21 p.m., police executed the search warrant. As officers came to the door, Balfe opened the door with “a curious look on his face.”

When Balfe realized it was police, he froze momentarily. Police then entered the residence where they found four people sitting around a table. Officers noticed the table was “covered in methamphetamine, marijuana and paraphernalia.” There was still smoke of some type in the air.

During the bust, agents searched Balfe’s bedroom where they found a safe. The safe contained a large bag of what appeared to be meth. The baggie weighed about 350 grams. Police also uncovered a small zippered bag that contained a large amount of cash.

Balfe identified the supplier of his meth to police. He admitted to doing “hot rails” of meth when police arrived.

Also arrested during the bust were Brennen Millhouse, 19, of Albert Lea, Kierra Hoisington, 18, of Faribault, Brett Baumeister, 22, of Faribault and Tosha Nielson, 32, of Albert Lea. They have been charged with fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance.

Police stopped a vehicle leaving Balfe’s house for a moving violation. The State Patrol’s K-9 conducted a narcotics sniff, which alerted to the presence of drugs in the car. A search uncovered 11.72 grams of meth and paraphernalia. Katrina Schoenecker, 33, of Lakeville, has been charged with third-degree possession of a controlled substance.

Another vehicle was stopped in the area. The K-9 also conducted a sniff on the vehicle and alerted to drugs. However, the driver uttered to police that “there were a lot of drugs in the car.” A search revealed 30.5 grams of meth. Shannon Mitchell, 37, of Owatonna has been charged with second-degree possession of meth.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 19 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding: Samuel T. Delaney, 40, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal neglect. He was sentenced to \$381, 120 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, psychological evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 19 – 25:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Ariet C. David, 40, Austin, suspended license, \$281;

James E. Slavan, 62, Austin, revoked license and speeding, \$321.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Mohamed M. Arab, 23, Faribault, permit violation, \$131; Scott H. Armstrong, 66, Leesburg, VA, move over law violation, \$131; Martial H. Besombes, 48, Edina, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey J. Chalupsky, 36, Oak Grove, suspended license, \$281; Alan B. Cloutier, 40, Clarks Grove, suspended license, \$281; Dylan J. Ganske, 34, Montrose, speeding and revoked license, \$331; Jeremy T. Griffin, 30, San Augustine, TX, speeding, \$131; Matthew A. Hellickson, 40, Preston, speeding, \$131; Jazmin Herrera, 29, Austin, speeding and child passenger restraint system violation, \$181; Rocco F. Krook, 16, Byron, seat belt, \$106; Samantha M. Lemay, 24, Belle Plaine, speeding, \$221; MacIntyre S. Loven, 22, Plymouth, speeding, \$131; Juliana J. Martinez, 20, Ankeny, IA, speeding, \$141; Barbara J. Mitsch, 67, Grant, speeding, \$141; Lula A. Omar, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Ashley M. Padilla, 28, Owatonna, no license, child passenger restraint system violation and revoked license, \$431; Stacey Y. Powell, 47, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Gursewak S. Sandhu, 38, failure to use designated lane, \$131; Sarah E. Strahler, 37, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, \$141; Robert L. Tarnaski, 36, Rockville, speeding, \$141; Varian M. Townsend, 45, Albert Lea, speeding and suspended license, \$421; Erin E. Truax, 35, Osseo, speeding, \$141; Jose R. Vasquez, 29, Shakopee, no license, \$181.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Shana M. Andersen, 31, Ellendale, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$50, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation; Logan A. Anderson, 16, Faribault, squealing tears, \$121; Jackieleyn A. Barajas, 19, Owatonna, invalid license and no insurance, \$381; Daniel W. Briard, 18, Janesville, speeding, \$121; Ismael R. Diaz-Ramirez, 23, Waseca, invalid license, \$181; Russell J. Docken, 63, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Daniel A. Garcia, 20, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Jacob D. Goerd, 19, Owatonna, window tint violation and no front plate, \$161; Mohamed H. Hassan, 28, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Zakkariah O. Helton, 19, Ellendale, windshield violation, invalid license, lights violation, no insurance and license plate light violation, \$511; Tiffany A. Hernandez, 30, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Jeremy T. Herron, 29, Chicago, IL, invalid license, \$181; Jeremy J. Kelsey, 43, Faribault, expired tabs and no insurance, \$311; Corbin W. King, 21, Rosemount, expired tabs, \$111; Austin A. Lindberg, 22, Crystal, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, \$281; Abdurahman A. Mahamood, 22, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$106 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Masud A. Moktar, 19, Faribault, permit violation, no insurance and seat belt, \$356; Delmar D. Mullenbach, 62, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Jonathan Mundt, 38, Owatonna, possession of burglary or theft tools, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Juan J. Palacio, 25, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Seth A. Peterson, 43, Belle Plaine, criminal

damage to property, \$131, 60 days in county jail and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Keshawn D. Powell, 22, Brooklyn Center, suspended license, \$281; Patrick D. Powell, 25, Minneapolis, suspended license and possession of marijuana, \$331; Centeno Rodriguez, 41, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Olivia P. Schute, 22, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Shannon E. Shotwell, 41, Medford, seat belt, \$106; Jonathon S. Skunberg, 22, Bloomington, revoked license, speeding and registration violation, \$431; Adam J. Techau, 35, Owatonna, revoked registration, \$381; Abby J. Wilker, 22, Owatonna, speeding and possession of paraphernalia, \$171; Mathew T. Willett, 28, Lakeville, expired tabs, \$111.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Jacqueline E. Boese, 58, Waterville, passing parked

SEE BLOTTER, A5

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

1. David Olivo-Santana – unauthorized use – no bail

2. Janice Olmo-Munoz – shoplifting - \$500 bail

3. Bobby Olseth – property damage - \$400 bail

4. Rodger Olson – DWI – no bail

5. Steven Olson – warrant – no bail

6. Omot Oman – DWI - \$12,000 bail

7. Authoro Ortega – DWI – no bail

8. Abraham Osorio – theft - \$500 bail

9. Manuel Ozornia – DWI - \$1,400 bail

10. Sandy Pack – theft – no bail

11. Gary Padilla – domestic assault – no bail

12. Jorge Pani – DWI - \$1,000 bail

13. Jose Parajon – fleeing motor vehicle – no bail

14. Curtis Parker – domestic assault - \$1,000 bail

15. Victor Parraga – DWI - \$350 bail

16. Julie Patrin – theft - \$20,000 bail

17. Sheronda Payne – assault - \$500 bail

18. Patrick Pearson – no license - \$12,000 bail

19. Jeffery Peltier – possession - \$10,000 bail

20. Eduardo Pena – assault – no bail

Will my corn make it to maturity before a killing frost?

As of Aug. 28, the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca reports growing degree units (GDUs) since May 1 are 5% less than normal. The Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton reports GDUs are behind as well, running 5.8% behind the long-term average as of Aug. 26. Corn has generally been at least 1 crop stage behind where we would expect it to be and cooler-than-normal conditions combined with late planting dates continue to make us question if crops will reach maturity before a killing frost.

Grain corn killed by frost before reaching physiological maturity can not only result in lower yields, but grain that is lower in test weight and higher in moisture. Kernel quality can be reduced and harvestability may be a challenge. There is also potential for more ear molds, ear drop, stalk rots and/or stalk lodging.

The Midwest Regional Climate Center website,

which hosts the “Useful to Useable” Growing Degree Day Decision tool at <https://mrcc.illinois.edu/U2U/gdd/>, uses long-term weather data to make trend projections in crop development. I ran the tool on Aug. 29 to predict when we might reach physiological maturity (black layer or maximum dry matter accumulation) this fall under various scenarios, using a location in Martin County. You can run the tool for your own location: Results will vary by location depending on the weather data being used for that location.

At the selected location, the tool calculated the average first freeze date to be Oct. 13, although dates ranged from Sept. 23 (in 1983) to Nov. 10 (in 2005). 28° F was used as the killing freeze temperature for corn. Here are six different combinations of hybrid maturity and planting dates through the tool. The relative maturity, planting date, and estimated black layer date (Est

BL) as predicted by the tool are listed below:

C1) Planted 103 RM hybrid May 15, Est BL = Oct. 20*
C2) Planted 103 RM hybrid May 25, Est BL = < Dec. 1*
C3) Planted 95 RM hybrid May 25, Est BL = Oct. 3
C4) Planted 95 RM hybrid June 1, Est BL = Oct. 14*
C5) Planted 90 RM hybrid June 1, Est BL = Sept. 29
C6) Planted 90 RM hybrid June 5, Est BL = Oct. 6

*Corn will likely reach black layer prematurely due to a killing frost

Will my corn dry down in the field this year?

At physiological maturity or black layer (when it occurs naturally), moisture content of corn grain is expected to be around 28 to 35%. For safe storage up to 6 months, clean, aerated corn grain should be no more than 15% moisture,

and no more than 13% moisture for storage longer than 6 months.

Allowing corn to dry in the field after reaching maturity is a common practice to help save on drying costs. Daily moisture loss for corn grain drying in the field in Minnesota can range from 0.75 to 1% from Sept. 15 -25; 0.5 to 0.75% from Sept. 26- Oct. 5; 0.25 to 0.5 % from Oct. 6-15; and 0 to 0.33% from Oct. 16-31. After Oct. 31, very little dry down is expected to occur.

These scenarios reflect a snapshot in time and what actually happens this fall remains to be seen since it all depends on the weather for the rest of the growing season. Depending on when you were able to plant corn and what maturity was planted will be key factors in whether or not the crop reaches maturity before a killing frost. One message is clear, we should be prepared to handle wet corn this fall as we will likely have less natural drydown of grain in the field than we normally expect.

Cost-share program offered for sealing wells

Mower County landowners with an unused well now can apply for help in paying to seal the hazard, especially if located in a highly vulnerable area for drinking water.

As part of a 10-county initiative for southeast Minnesota, Mower Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is seeking Mower County applicants for the program that offers a 50% cost share up to \$1,000 for sealing an unused well.

The program seeks to seal 50 unused wells with a \$50,000 state grant in southeast Minnesota’s vulnerable drinking-water areas by the end of 2020.

Mower SWCD hopes to seal up to 10 unused wells by next year under the regional grant, said Tim Ruzek, Mower SWCD’s water plan and outreach coordinator. Overall, cost-share funds for the region total \$50,000 for 50 projects through a state grant from the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR).

“We’re going to process applications on a first-come, first-served basis, with the focus this year on interested landowners in our county’s priority areas,” Ruzek said.

All interested landowners should apply, though, in case funds remain in 2020 for wells in non-priority areas, he added.

BWSR awarded the grant that expires at the end of 2020 to the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board (SEMNRB), which includes 10 member counties, including Mower.

Overall, the regional program seeks to seal unused wells in vulnerable drinking water areas in southeast Minnesota to prevent pollution in aquifers used for public drinking water.

Groundwater is the primary source of water for residents in southeast Minnesota. Due to

karst geology, southeast Minnesota groundwater is more vulnerable to contamination due to the quick transport of surface pollution to aquifers.

Unused wells should be sealed for physical safety; health and environment; and legal responsibilities, according to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

An unused well can act like a drain that allows surface water runoff, contaminated water or improperly disposed waste a direct pathway into drinking water sources. When this happens, the quality of everyone’s drinking water is threatened – city water wells, neighbors’ wells; and the landowner’s current well – which is why MDH recommends homeowners test their water annually.

Prioritization of well sealing starts with wells in an identified drinking water supply management area (DWSMA), Wellhead Protection Plan (WPP) or area of documented groundwater contamination. Others are considered after that.

Mower County landowners interested in cost-share assistance for well sealing should contact Tim Ruzek at Mower SWCD at 507-434-2603, ext. 5 or by email at tim@mowerdistrict.org.

Those interested also can stop by the Mower SWCD office in Austin between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 1408 21st Ave. N.W.

Under the program, Mower SWCD’s Board of Supervisors, which meets monthly on the second Wednesday, must approve each cost-share contract for sealing an unused well.

For more information on sealing unused wells or finding them, visit the Minnesota Department of Health website at: www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/sealing/abandwel.html

Arts grants available through SEMAC

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council announces a call for proposals in three categories: Arts & Cultural Heritage, Presenter/Production Assistance, and Small Towns/Rural Areas.

All proposed projects must begin no earlier than Dec. 1, and be completed within 12 months, culminating in a capstone event that is accessible and open to the public. Online applications will be available throughout September. The LOI stage of the application must be completed by Sept. 24, with an Oct. 1 submission deadline.

SEMAC, a non-profit arts agency, is designated by the State of Minnesota Arts Board as the regional arts council for 11 southeastern Minnesota counties: Steele, Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha, and Winona.

For information about the grant application process, eligibility, or grant writing assistance, contact the SEMAC office at 2778 D Commerce Dr. NW, Rochester, MN 55901 or call 507-281-4848. Information

may also be found on our Web site at www.semac.org. With limited funding available each fiscal year, every SEMAC grant category is competitive and includes an LOI stage used as an initial screening for eligibility.

ARTS & CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND GRANTS

Proposals for Arts & Cultural Heritage grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000 are accepted from qualified applicants located in the SEMAC Region. A match of 20% is required in this category.

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund will support arts focused activities in three key areas: 1) Arts and Arts Access, 2) Arts Education, and 3) Arts and Cultural Heritage. SEMAC encourages applicants to research and develop proposals that incorporate two or more of the key areas with an emphasis on creating lasting partnerships among regional nonprofit arts organizations and other nonprofit groups. In addition to eligible arts organizations, nonprofits that do not have arts as a primary focus, such as schools, senior cen-

ters, community education, cultural groups and colleges are invited to apply.

Future funding of Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants depends on appropriate use of current funding. SEMAC urges arts organizations, non-arts organizations with an arts component, and government entities to apply. Due to the larger awards available, this is a highly competitive category.

PRESENTER/PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Proposals for Presenter/Production grants offer funding up to \$3,000 to qualified applicants located in the SEMAC Region. Matching funds are required.

Presenter Assistance grants are intended to help regional arts organizations and educational institutions sponsor appearances by touring artists or companies who have demonstrated high levels of artistic quality. These grants are not for local productions or artist residencies in schools.

Production Assistance grants support activities by arts organizations directly

involved in the creation, performance, publication, and exhibition of art. The two distinct subcategories within Production Assistance grants are: 1) Arts Production Projects, and 2) Administrative Support Projects.

SMALL TOWNS/RURAL AREAS GRANTS

The Small Towns/Rural Areas grants offer funding up to \$3,000 to qualified applicants located in areas of the SEMAC Region with populations under 7,500. Matching funds are required.

SEMAC wishes to support and encourage the creation and development of art and arts organizations in communities with populations under 7,500. This support may be used for assistance in activities, which directly involve the creation, performance, publication, or exhibition of art. Applicants may include arts organizations, government entities and public or non-religious private schools, either individually or in cooperation. These grants cannot be used to cover the costs of school residencies.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

authorized vehicle, \$131; Sabrina L. Bongers, 28, Faribault, child passenger restraint system violation, \$131; Jason A. Dalbec, 41, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Annelise M. Gedicke, 18, Medford, hands free law violation, \$131; Julia A. Haarstad, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, stay of adjudication, \$50, substance abuse subtle screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Stephen G. Kim, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Scott S. McGinley, 59, West Concord, speeding, \$121; Jorge A. Mendoza, 27, Ardmore, OK, speeding, \$141; Juan J. Mireles, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Ashley A. O'Brien, 17, Spring Valley, stop sign, \$131; Corey A. Schmidt, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Leann E. Stevermer, 41, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Dalton J. Stone Shouse, 17, Ashland, WI, speeding, \$121; Mary E. Van Sabben, 38, Austin, speeding, \$141; Michael L. Willard, 69, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Josh A. Wingen, 29, Faribault, give peace officer false name, \$131 and 17 days in county jail; Quentin L. Woods, 27, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE
Aug. 23
Theft: Officer took a theft

report in the 300 block of Highway Ave. S. at 9:16 a.m.

Aug. 27
Theft: Police received a theft report from the 400 block of 3rd St. SE at 3:02 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE
Aug. 23
Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Hoffman Dr. NW and Interstate 35 at 10:23 a.m.

Theft: At 3 p.m., a citizen reported identity theft in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Aug. 24
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Bridge St. W. and Florence Ave. NW at 1:36 p.m. Officers issued a citation to one of the drivers.
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 7:27 p.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 600 block of

Bridge St. W. at 7:31 p.m.

Aug. 25
Theft: Police received a theft report from the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:30 a.m.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 9:31 a.m.
Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Elm Ave. S. at 6:48 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

SEE BLOTTER, A10



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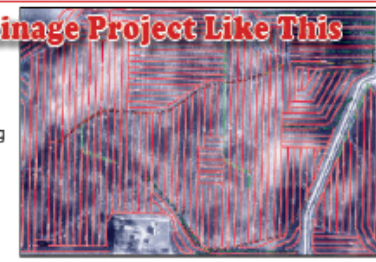
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Electric Bikes Are Booming Among Baby Boomers



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583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
What can you tell me about electric bicycles? A friend of mine, who's almost 70, recently got one and absolutely loves it. He told me he rides more now than he ever did his regular bicycle.
Interested Boomer

Dear Interested,
Electric bikes have become very popular among U.S. baby boomers over the past few years because they're super fun to ride and easier on an aging body.
Electric bikes, also known as e-bikes, are conventional bicycles with a battery-powered "pedal" or "throttle" assist. When you saddle up and push the pedals or throttle, a small motor engages and gives you a boost, so you can whiz up hills, ride into headwinds and cruise over challenging terrain without gassing yourself or taxing your knee joints.
Many older e-bike owners say that they ride more frequently and go further and longer than they ever would with a traditional bike. Here's what you should know about e-bikes, along with some tips to help you choose one.

WHAT TO KNOW

E-bikes are more complicated and expensive than regular bicycles, so you need to do some research before you purchase one. For starters, you need to know that there are three different types of e-bikes to choose from:

- **Class 1:** "Pedal-assist" electric bikes that only provides assistance when the rider is pedaling, and only up to 20 miles per hour. These are the most common type of electric bikes.
- **Class 2:** "Throttle-assist" e-bikes that let you use the electric motor without pedaling, like a motorcycle or scooter, but only up to 20 miles per hour.
- **Class 3:** "Speed pedal-assist" e-bikes, similar to Class 1, except that the motor will assist with bike speeds of up to 28 miles per hour.

Because they're electrically powered, states and local communities have varying regulations regarding the use of e-bikes. In many states, class one and two e-bikes are allowed to be ridden wherever a traditional bike goes, while class three are generally allowed on the street due to their higher top speed. For more information on your state's e-bike laws, visit *PeopleForBikes.org/e-bikes*.

You should also know that e-bikes come in many different styles – commuter, cruiser, mountain, road, folding, etc. – just like traditional bikes to meet different riding needs. They also run on rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, and their motors are either hub-driven mounted on the front or rear wheel, or mid-drive motors that are mounted to the frame at the bottom bracket between the cranks.

The only downsides of e-bikes are weight and cost. Because of the battery and motor, e-bikes are much heavier than traditional bicycles weighing 50-plus pounds, so it can be more challenging if you have to manually lift or maneuver your bike a lot. And e-bikes are expensive, typically range between \$2,500 and \$3,500.

E-bikes are made by many of the same established companies that make traditional bikes like Specialized, Electra, Schwinn, Trek, Giant, Cannondale and Felt, along with a number of upstarts like Juiced Faraday, Pedego, Elby and Hi Bike. To shop for an e-bike, find some good bike shops in your area that sell them so you can test ride a few.

If you're interested in a cheaper option, there are also e-bike kits you can purchase at places like Walmart, *Amazon.com* and *eBikeKit.com* that can convert your regular bike into an e-bike for a few hundred dollars.

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



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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Sept. 8, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

There is a new face around Blooming Prairie. Pedro Lezcano, 15, of Madrid, Spain arrived in BP on Sept. 2 after a nine-hour flight. He will be here for a 10-month stay with Tim and Amy Trotman and their family while attending school as a foreign exchange student.

Blooming Prairie has a TV star, and no, it's not who you are thinking. Father William Kulas of St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie has masses on TV every Sunday. Stations in Mankato, Rochester and Sioux Falls play his masses every Sunday morning. The Father says the masses are a great tool, but are not meant to replace regular mass.

For Blooming Prairie High School teachers Janet Oman and Jennifer Gaines, this summer had a learning experience they will take with them back to the classroom. On Aug. 3-6, the Blossom team attended a BestPrep's Technology Integration Workshop in the Twin Cities at the University of St. Thomas.

20 Years Ago Sept. 7, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

A large state grant awarded to them will allow county and local law enforcement agents to begin the Minnesota Safe and Sober program in October, if not sooner. Chris White-side, a police officer in Blooming Prairie, was busy putting up the Safe and Sober signs at the high school parking lot and both directions on Highway 218 and 30 last week, giving people notice the local officers will be strictly enforcing seat belt use and looking for impaired or aggressive drivers.

Familiar faces are filling out the top positions at Blooming Prairie High School. Superintendent Irv Peterson filled a high school principal position with Barry Olson, who is returning to Blooming Prairie after teaching and coaching in Owatonna for 12 years.

John Worke has been named the new athletic director. He is no stranger to administering athletics as he has been BP Recreation Director since 1991.

Chad Klemmensen of Steele County was selected to participate in the 1999 Livestock Auction at the Minnesota State Fair. The exhibit was purchased by the Steele County Purple Ribbon Club. Chad is the son of Rich and Chris Klemmensen.

50 Years Ago Sept. 3, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Blooming Prairie residents will go to the polls, along with other Steele County voters, next Tuesday, Sept. 9, to ballot on whether or not \$1,075,000 in bonds should be issued for the purpose of constructing and equipping a county-owned nursing home, to be located in Owatonna. Last November voters of Steele County defeated a bond issue for \$995,000 for the same purpose and the identical proposal is being presented to voters again, except that an additional \$80,000 is being requested at the Sept. 9 balloting.

Wallace Wilkie, industrial arts instructor in the Blooming Prairie school system, was honored with 30 other Minnesota teachers at a recent luncheon at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. Wilke was selected last spring as one of the top 31 entries from Minnesota schools for the 1969 "Minnesota Teacher of the Year" title.

The annual stockholders' meeting of the Federal Land Bank Association of Blooming Prairie will be held at the high school building on Saturday, Sept. 6. The manager of the association is G.E. Frederickson. The association has 1,185 members in Steele, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties.

75 Years Ago Sept. 7, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

The Hugo Wojahn family, well-

COUNTY MOVES: ahead with Hope School sale FROM A1

"Nobody knows what's going on," Wilker said of Hope residents' reaction to the news. "Most people say well this is the end. You gave it to Mr. Mratz and you were going to give it to us."

"Mr. Mratz hasn't talked to anybody in the town about any of this," he said. "So, this is just speculation on how he'll do it." Wilker has been an ardent supporter of keeping the Hope School within the community.

Wilker also suggested that the commissioners did not put enough consideration into how the property would be used and instead merely opted to go with the highest bidder.

"In our solicitation, it specifically said you're not guaranteed to be able to use the property for whatever you want, you have to go through the same process as anyone else," County Attorney Dan McIntosh clarified. "The committee did take into account his proposed use for that part of it, which was to donate the school part back to the community, so that did carry some weight."

According to Wilker, the community wouldn't stand to benefit from only retaining the school. He used the example of the baseball field, which would be subdivided out from that portion as per Mratz's intent, as a space that is used for events. "It's separated, and we just get that little spot," he said of the school portion.

Commissioner Jim Abbe suggested that the Hope Businessmen's Club should reach out to Mratz and discuss this together with him. "When is the last time you,



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Steele County has sold the Hope School property for \$17,500 to Victor Mratz, the owner of Hope Creamery.

or someone from the Businessmen's Club has reached out to Mr. Mratz and talked about this?" Abbe asked.

"I'm looking at this proposal that we talked about in committee and it's a well thought-out proposal," Abbe said before reading a portion of the proposal in which Mratz stated that he intends to work with local residents to raise money that will be used to transform the school into a community center. "That's what you want, isn't it? You want a community building as you've told us."

Still, Wilker and several other Hope residents in attendance were not impressed by the proposal.

"Well, we want a better community building," he said. "Because I don't think this is sustainable as the way it is."

Again, the suggestion to work together with Mratz was floated to Wilker and the other residents. "If I were you, I would reach out to Mr. Mratz and talk to him," Board Chair Greg Krueger said. "It sounds like there is a total lack of communication that is going on that maybe can all get resolved over a cup of coffee and expressing your real concerns."

"I don't know if it's this board's position to get in the middle of this," Abbe opined. "It sounds as if

there is an issue between you and the Businessmen's Club and Mr. Mratz. I think you guys need to figure that out."

The board chose to move forward with Mratz' proposal of \$17,500 for the Hope School property. Once Mratz is approved for variances and rezoning on the property he and the county will be able to move forward on a purchase agreement.

The other two properties were approved without controversy. The Clinton Falls lot was awarded to Dan Niles for \$21,000 and the Crane Creek School property was awarded to Dan Bishman for \$15,000.

CHASE ENDS: in deadly crash FROM A1

woman who reported the domestic assault "involving a man hitting a woman" in the 100-200 block of 21st Street NW, Mundale said. He said Maani was the victim of the reported assault.

Mundale said Bennett was "familiar to us" with previous law enforcement contacts, though he did not reveal what they were.

When asked if Bennett intentionally crashed his vehicle, Mundale said, "We're trying to see if we can find that out." He added, "That's the unanswered question right now."

Police did not identify the officer involved in the pursuit. However, Mundale said, "It was a traumatic event for that officer." He said only one officer was in-

volved in the initial pursuit. Mundale said he has never seen a police pursuit end as tragically as this one did in his 25 years of law enforcement experience in Owatonna.

However, Steele County had a chase two years ago that ended with a different tragic twist. A high-speed chase through the county ended with the driver com-

mitting suicide by shooting himself outside of Blooming Prairie in August 2017.

The medical examiner will be performing autopsies on Bennett and Maani.

Besides Owatonna Police and the State Patrol, the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Owatonna Fire and the Minnesota Department of Transportation assisted at the crash scene.



With the ball in the air, Huskies quarterback Brayden Truelson executes a strategy with Nate Smith (72) and Zach Wiese (63) providing blocking in Friday night's home opener against Rochester Century. The Huskies crushed Century 44-7.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Huskies continue dominance in home opener

The defending state champion Owatonna Huskies continued their winning ways right where they left off last year. The Huskies smoked Rochester Century 44-7 in the season opener Aug. 30 in Owatonna.

The Huskies are learning how to cope on the

gridiron without their star running back Jason Williamson, who dominated last year's unbeaten team. And they seem to be doing it without missing a beat. The powerhouse Huskies kept a 20-game winning streak spanning over the past three seasons alive Friday night.

Owatonna took an early lead and never looked back. The Huskies scored two touchdowns in the first quarter, two in the second along with a field goal and two more in the third quarter. Century finally got on the board with just over 8 minutes left in the game during the fourth quarter.

Junior Zach Stransky rushed for 66 yards and scored Owatonna's third touchdown in the second quarter before he was forced to leave due to an ankle injury. It's unknown exactly when he will be able to return.

The Huskies travel to Northfield Friday night.

Blossom girls pick up first win

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The Awesome Blossom volleyball team won a home opener match Aug. 27, over JWP easily, displaying excellent teamwork and a good attitude along the way.

None of the three games put much pressure on the home team.

As Coach Renee Kittelson commented, "It was a great win tonight for our home opener. The girls came out with fire and carried that through the whole match. All of the girls played well."

Julia Worke led the offense with 11 kills, and Micaylyn Trihus and Maya Lembke contributed 7 and 6 kills. Maggie Bruns scrambled for 14 digs, and she and Heather PirkI combined for 11 and 10 assists.

ROCKETS WIN

The Awesome Blossom volleyball team opened the season on the road and suffered a hard fought five game loss at Randolph Aug. 22. The Blossoms took two of the first three games, but lost game four in an overtime contest. The Rockets then pulled away late in the deciding game 15-11.

Besides it being a tense-ly played match, one bright spot in the contest featured setter Heather PirkI recording her 1,000 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 Megan 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. PirkI 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.

Blossoms shut out Trojans in season opener

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

A 20-point second quarter blitz catapulted the Awesome Blossoms of Blooming Prairie to an easy victory, as the Blossoms steamrolled Rushford-Peterson 46-0 at Rushford Friday, Aug. 28 in the season opener.

The win put the district and section opponents on notice that the Blossoms were developing another strong contender for post-season success.

"I thought we played really well," remarked Coach Chad Gimbel. "We came out strong and pretty much dictated play from the get go. The only negative I saw was our inability to hang on to the ball. We lost three fumbles in the contest."

BP counted two touchdowns in the first quarter to take a 13-0 lead and then added those 20-second quarter scores to forge the big halftime margin. That was more than enough to earn the

season opening win of the 2019 campaign.

It was truly a team victory, but quarterback Kaden Thomas led the offense with pinpoint accuracy. He completed 14 of 17 passes for 217 yards and four touchdowns with 88 yards going to receiver Gabe Hagen on four receptions. The Blossoms also rushed for over 200 yards, led by Tyler Archer with 83 yards. Matthew Pryor added 55 yards and Karson Vigeland had 47.

Defensively, Bradley Simon led the way with 7 tackles, but Jarrett Larson added 6 and Hagen contributed 5. Twelve different Blossoms had at least one tackle each for the winners. All in all, the team had an auspicious opening game, and Blossom fans remain excited about the current schedule.

The Blossoms will open their home schedule Friday at 7 p.m. against Wabasha-Kellogg.

Panthers drop season opener

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

NRHEG opened its volleyball season with a three-game loss to Nicollet on the Raiders' court Aug. 27.

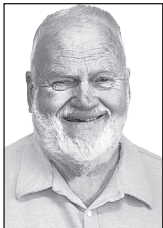
Playing without a number of last year's graduates, the Panthers competed about as well as could be expected.

Nicollet took game one in overtime 26-18 and won game two 25-24. The third game stayed close most of the way, with the Raiders

prevailing 25-22.

"With so many seniors graduating," commented Coach Onika Peterson, "we knew we would take our lumps early in the season. Our girls did some good things great but also acknowledged that we have many things to work on."

Kendall Johnson and Anne Jacobson had 5 and 3 kills, and Johnson scrambled for 13 digs. Grace Tufte had 13 assists, and Sophie Stork and Cambria Nissen had 8 digs respectively.



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

For most people Labor Day signals the end of summer and the beginning of another season. School begins for students, although many schools and students would rather the year begin a week or two before that date. The fall sports schedule kicks off in earnest, with the three fall sports at BPHS all seeing action even before the school session actually begins.

Locally, the Cancer Group's giant two-day auction to fight cancer takes

place the first weekend after Labor Day, and farmers start renovating equipment in preparation for the fall harvest. Other activities pop up on the calendars of residents, and everyone becomes resigned to new weather dominance. If the Farmer's Almanac is close correct in its forecast, we are headed for another cruel winter with much snow and very low temperatures.

Yes, another Labor Day is history, but it made me wonder a little as to what the holiday really signifies, how did it get its start, and where did it officially become such a major event. To read Wikipedia's take on Labor Day, the event originally began to honor all laborers for their contributions to the productivity, strength and well-being of our country. New York City

held the first Labor Day parade in 1887, and Oregon became the first state to officially make it a public holiday.

It has honored the labor movement in the U.S. since that time, and the federal government declared the first Monday in September an official national holiday in 1894. Canada is one country that celebrates the holiday the same day aser doe, and many countries throughout the world set aside a special day to honor the country's laborers. I guess we can't take much credit for the Labor Day history, but we all can claim to be a part of a deserved tribute to workers everywhere.

AWAY WE GO

Because of the Labor Day holiday, we have a

much earlier deadline for copy at the paper. That means this column will be shorter than average, which probably is fine with many readers. However, I must report that the BPHS volleyball team initiated its home season with a dominant three-game sweep over JWP last Tuesday. After a disappointing five-game defeat at Randolph earlier, the win over the Bulldogs was particularly satisfying.

Coach Kittelson complimented the girls for their focus in the game and their play both at the net and on the court. With the experience that returns, and the talent these girls display, I predict a winning season for the team. That would be a good accomplishment for a good group of girls.

The other fall sports also

got underway last week, but because of the early deadline, results could not be reported in time. I hope the game results will still be of interest next week.

What's up?

By far the biggest happening in town this week is the annual Cancer Group's two-day auction. I am amazed at the number and the quality of items that get donated and appear on the sale. There is no doubt but that this auction and the Ed Foundation one in the spring are by far the two biggest fundraisers in the entire area. This latest cancer auction has some truly unique and great items, and should draw a huge crowd on both nights. Don't forget Sept. 6 and 7 and get in on the fun.

One other big event coming up in town is the

annual Education Foundation banquet and Blossoms Forever awards program. This special occasion is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28, and will honor several former BHS graduates and personalities who have achieved some quality accomplishments in their careers.

I have been unable to uncover any of the individuals who are going to be honored, but I know there will be some heavyweight personalities who have earned accolades. The banquet alone is well worth the money, and the various honors well deserved. Book your seat for the banquet at the Servicemen's Club Saturday, Sept. 28.

Enjoy these waning days of summer, root for your annual fall sports team, and we'll talk again.



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OBITUARIES

Jerome J. Kubista, 93,
Owatonna

Jerome “Jerry” Joseph Kubista, 93, of Owatonna, died Friday, Aug. 30, 2019 at Whispering Oak Assisted Living in Ellendale.

He was born Feb. 11, 1926 in Owatonna, the son of Walter and Agnes (Skalicky) Kubista. Jerome graduated from Owatonna High School. He attended Mankato Vocational School for two years and Boiler Engineering School in Owatonna for six months.



Jerome J. Kubista

He married Annette Arlene Sommer on Dec. 30, 1947 at St. Hyacinth Catholic Church in Owatonna. In their union they had 10 children. He worked at Star Cleaners and G & K Cleaners for 25 years. He also worked for C & S Coffee Service for five years.

Jerome volunteered for Meals on Wheels and he sold Watkins for 37 years. Jerome and Annette enjoyed traveling and visited 40 states. He was a Scout Leader for eight years and belonged to several study clubs and card clubs. He was a member of the Eagles #1791 for 47 years, and was P.W.P.2, and Fifth District Secretary for 32 years and past District President. He served on the Eagle Ritual Team for 20 years, Eagles Memorial Team for 18 years, Eagles Memorial Funeral Team for 30 years, and proudly served on the Eagles Cancer Fund Chair for 30 years. In 2002, he was Eagles Midwest Cancer Chairman in charge of 11 states and has served with the District Eagles Cancer Telethon over 40 years. He received several recognitions, 1978 Owatonna Eagle of the Year, Fifth District Eagle of the Year, and State Eagle of the Year.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and served as an usher for 18 years.

He is survived by his children, Michael (and Sherry) Kubista of Owatonna, Julie Kubista of Faribault, Mark (and Tammy) Kubista of Mankato, Kari Sletten of Owatonna, Laurie (and Bob) Evenson of Owatonna, Dennis (and Karyn) Kubista of Owatonna and Daniel (and Sandie) Kubista of Owatonna; siblings, Dorothy Gross of Owatonna and Judith Staley of Owatonna; 26 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-granddaughters and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Agnes; wife, Annette Kubista; daughters, Denise Kubista and Jolene Kennedy; son, David Kubista; son-in-law, Allan Sletten; brothers, Bernard Kubista and Cyril Kubista; an infant grandson and an infant granddaughter.

Visitation will be held at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna on Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 5-8 p.m. and at St. Joseph's Catholic Church one hour prior to Mass. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Father James Starasinich officiating. Interment will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Owatonna.

Memorials are preferred to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Eagles Cancer Fund or Homestead Hospice House.

Casting released
for LTO's 'Native
Gardens'

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) is pleased to announce the cast for its season opening production of 'Native Gardens' that will take place in the Sharon Stark Auditorium at West Hills.

The Director is Linda Karnauskas and the technical director is Brenda Hager.

Pablo, a high-powered lawyer, and doctoral candidate Tania, his very pregnant wife, are realizing the American dream when they purchase a house next door to community stalwarts Virginia and Frank. But a disagreement over a long-standing fence line soon spirals into an all-out war of taste, class, privilege, and entitlement. The hilarious results guarantee no one comes out smelling like a rose.

THE CAST

Tania Del Valle will be played by Jayden Kristine Schultz, Pablo Del Valle by Wesley Schultz, Virginia Butley by Wendy Rasp, and Frank Butley by Bill Wood.

Performances will be October 18-19 and 25-26 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances will be on Oct. 20 and 27 at 2 p.m. Season Membership holders can secure their seats with their season flex passes on Sept. 28 by going to www.LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org. Online tickets will be available at the same site for the general public on Oct. 5. The LTO Box Office opens Oct. 14.

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company. Sponsored by Federated Insurance.

COLLEGE NEWS

Nesseth named to
Dean's List at NDSU

Shannon M. Nesseth of Owatonna was named to the Dean's List at North Dakota State University for the Summer 2019 session.

Nesseth is majoring in nursing.

There were 190 students who were placed on the Dean's List. A student must earn a 3.50 GPA or higher and be enrolled in at least nine class credits for the summer.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP Elementary

Sept. 9- Cheese pizza, Italian meatball sub, Caesar salad
Sept. 10- Crispy chicken tenders, whole grain dinner roll, biscuits & gravy, berry kale salad, nectarine
Sept. 11- BBQ chicken sandwich, philly flatbread, calico bean bake, birthday cake
Sept. 12- Corn dog, ham, egg & cheese on biscuit, break-fast potatoes
Sept. 13- Cheeseburger on bun, fish sandwich with cheese, golden French fries

BP High School

Sept. 9- Italian meatball sub, Caesar salad, crispy chicken sandwich, ham deli sandwich, pasta bar
Sept. 10- Philly Panini, kale salad, nectarine, cheese-burger, pizza, ham deli sandwich, orange chicken
Sept. 11- Turkey BLT flatbread, cucumber ranch salad, birthday cake, crispy chicken tenders, ham deli sandwich, taco bar
Sept. 12- Biscuits & gravy, breakfast potatoes, BBQ rib sandwich, pizza, ham deli sandwich, build your own baked potato
Sept. 13- Buffalo chicken fajita wrap, black bean corn salad, corn dog, ham deli sandwich, build your own sub



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BOOK NOOK

Top readers
announced
at library

Wow! Did we have great readers at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library this summer!

Almost 300 books were given away to our youthful participants. In order to receive a book, each reader had to read for at least twenty minutes per day for at least ten days per month. That would mean, at a minimum, our pre-school through sixth grade students read 60,000 minutes since June 1. I know most read more than 20 minutes per day and more than 10 days per month. Way to go, kids!

But the teens are not to be outdone. Last week we celebrated with exceptional teen readers. The top two were Jaime Reinke, who read 8,000 pages, and Bella White, who read 2,500 pages this summer. (Jaime is a repeat winner from last year.) Congratulations to all the teens who participated.

The adults made a great showing in the first Adult Summer Reading Program. Seventeen people turned in their reading logs, each showing 10 hours that they read or listened to books. The group read for 560 hours this summer! The top three readers were Eric Westphal, 50 hours; Sara Reinke, 70 hours, and Tina Borgen 210 hours. They will receive gift certificates to Little Professor Book Store.

Finally, I want to thank Evan Westphal for his continuing assistance this summer. He was working on a badge for Boy Scouts and asked if he could volunteer here. He was here to help for just about every program. Thanks, Evan, you are a wonderful worker!



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Word Search Corner
Zodiac Signs

Y S R A W Y G P P R S V W E R
G C N A R Z J X E Y W L P V E
O O K R I I P E M A I O C W C
L R D K O H E B L B C O P U N
O P X H G C O S R S M N C Z A
R I L E L L I A O P H V B C C
T O Q F S U I R A T T I G A S
S Y L I A D O T P S U R U A T
A T I A J H I E W A O G A M K
V D A N J B D L L B C O M M S
T L M R I A Q U A R I U S E X
H N N L S M Z O D I A C C J K
B Q I B M I E Q S Q P S V R P
K T P Z X B G G H H I X P N L
Y J P J Q C Y N Z P V I X L Q

ARIES	LIBRA	STAR SIGN
TAURUS	SCORPIO	HOROSCOPE
GEMINI	SAGITTARIUS	ZODIAC
CANCER	CAPRICORN	SYMBOLS
LEO	PISCES	COMPATIBILITY
VIRGO	ASTROLOGY	DAILY

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

SEPT. 1
TAYLOR WURST, RUBY MILLER
SHARI MANGES, ADDISON
HUELMAN, LOIS NELSON

SEPT. 2
ELLIOT SCHILLER
DICK HEGAL, JOSIE LORENZ
DEBI WATKINS

SEPT. 3
JOHN WRIGHT, ASHLEY TINDAL
KALYN NAATZ, COLE WANGEN
EMMA THOMPSON

SEPT. 4
MARTHA WALTERS
DENNIS HEIMERMAN
AARON NILES, COLE WANGEN
HEIDI BASS ZIMMERMAN
ROBERT HANENBERGER

SEPT. 5
ADAM SWENSON
KURT BLOME, CAROL IVERSON
SARAH HALLA, SHAWN HALLA
BRYCE HALLA

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ
SEPT. 6
EVAN DOERHOEFER
L. DEAN CHRISTIANSON
BRANDON EMANUEL
JENNIFER THOMAS

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPT. 1
JOEL AND NIKKI NIELSON BAKKER
MARK AND LISA ANDERSON
KELLY AND PAT NJOS

SEPT. 3
MIKE AND VIRGENE DOOCY

SEPT. 5
DALE AND AUSTRAL HANSON

SEPT. 6
BRUCE AND LINDA
CHRISTIANSON
ELLIS AND DAWN
HARSHBARGER
DEREK AND KELLY LAMOTTE

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STEELE COUNTY

TIMES

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Recipe Corner

Corn Tortillas with rajas and queso

Makes 8 tacos

Rajas
4 fresh poblano chiles
Olive oil, for brushing
2 large yellow onions,
peeled and cut into
12-inch slices
Kosher or sea salt and
freshly ground black

pepper, to taste
2 cups shredded
Monterey Jack cheese
(for topping)

Soft Corn Tortillas
1 cup instant corn
masa flour
18 teaspoon salt
23 cup warm water

Prepare a hot fire in your grill. Brush the poblanos with oil and grill, turning often, until the skins blister and burn. Transfer to a plastic bag and let them steam. Brush the onions with oil and grill marks on both sides. Remove the stems, skin and seeds from the poblanos, and then slice into strips. Cut the onion slices in half and break apart. Combine the poblanos and onions and season to taste. Keep warm until serving.

To make the tortillas, place the masa flour and salt in a bowl. Stir in the water to make soft dough, adding water if necessary. Divide the dough into 8 portions, forming each into a ball. Cover with a damp cloth to keep the dough moist. Place each ball of dough between two unopened plastic sandwich bags, then press to a 5- to 6-inch round in a tortilla press. Preheat an ungreased skillet over medium-high heat. Cook each tortilla for 1 minute on each side until golden brown. Cover with a damp tea towel until ready to serve.

Divide the rajas evenly between the 8 tortillas and sprinkle 1/4 cup of cheese on each taco.

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Pastor Paul Hauschild

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WORSHIP = PURPOSE

WORSHIP... as much as you can! Go to church as you are and offer your time of praise and intercession to our Lord. And support your fellow believers. I believe this is the very reason God created us, and why Jesus died for us and rose again. Worship is the exercise of discipleship... deepening your personal relationship with Him and others.

Jesus says to us: *“I am the vine, and you are the branches”* (John 15:5). When we worship, we are

nurtured through the power of God’s word and fellowship with the family of God. Paul writes: *“Christ makes us one body... connected to each other”* (Romans 12:5).

Following Christ includes belonging, not just believing. We are MEMBERS of his Body, the church. Theologian and famous writer, C.S. Lewis, noted that the word “membership” is of Christian origin, but the world has emptied it of its original meaning. Stores offer discounts to “mem-

bers,” and advertisers use member names to create mailing lists. In churches, membership is often reduced to simply adding your name to a roll, with no requirements or expectations.

In the New Testament, being a “member” of the church meant being a vital organ of a living body, an indispensable, interconnected part of the Body of Christ. Our community churches are bodies, not buildings; organisms, not an organizations. Like a stick

poked into a campfire, we catch the flame because we become part of the fire itself. You catch the flame of the Spirit by being part of the Body.

And so... let’s step up our honor of the Third Commandment! Worship whenever you can amidst your busy schedule. Balance your week out with God-Life, and not only your Busy-Life.

“Come, Let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).

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
goodshepherdawatonna.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
stjohnawatonna.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.sacredheartawatonna.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
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Father Thomas Niehaus
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Friday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
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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.

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4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across
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507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

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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.

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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

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

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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.firstbaptistawatonna.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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BLOTTER: FROM A5

Aug. 26
Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 3:08 a.m. and the 400 block of Pine Ave. NE at 5:20 p.m.
Drugs: Officers responded to drug activity in the 500 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 9:47 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.
Shoplifting: At 2:29 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW.
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:38 p.m.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 3:59 p.m.
Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 400 block of North St. W. at 10:05 p.m.
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 200 block of Hobart St. SE at 11:10 p.m.

Aug. 27
Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:33 p.m.
Arrest: Officers arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 24th Place NW and 24th St. NE at 4:33 p.m.
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of Pearl St. W. at 10:40 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Aug. 28
Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. N. and 17th St. NE at 5:59 a.m.
Civil: Officers assisted with a civil matter in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 10:33 a.m.
Animal: At 6:17 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 1300 block of 14th St. SE.

Aug. 29
Hit and Run: At 7:04 a.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 300 block of Riverview Place SW.
Vulnerable Adult: Police received a vulnerable adult report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 9:11 a.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1400 block of Oak Ave. S. at 9:16 a.m.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 11:40 a.m.
Disturbance: Police took a subject into custody following a disturbance in the 300 block of 14th St. NE at 4:16 p.m.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 400 block of 14th St. NE at 6:32 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Aug. 23
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 5400 block of 43rd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 9:35 a.m.

Aug. 24
Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2600 block of Rose St. in Owatonna Township at 1:31 a.m.
Arrest: Deputies arrested a subject in the 6800 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford at 3:32 p.m.

Aug. 27
Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 5:43 a.m.
Theft: Deputies received a theft report from the 700 block of School St. in Ellendale at 10:14 a.m.
Fraud: Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford at 2:46 p.m.

Aug. 28
Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 5200 block of County Road 45 N. in Clinton Falls Township at 6:25 a.m.
Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 7000 block of 34th Ave. NE. in Merton Township at 2:57 p.m.
Shoplifting: Deputy issued a shoplifting citation in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford at 4:12 p.m.
Restraining Order: Deputies responded to a restraining order violation in the 6200 block of Kenyon Road in Merton Township at 5:03 p.m.
Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 6:51 p.m.

Aug. 29
Restraining Order: At 11:40 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in

the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE in Owatonna.
Fraud: Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 100 block of Main St. N. in Medford at 2:30 p.m.
Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 11:03 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Shannon Armone Guy, 31, arrested at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 23, probation violation, held for court.
Melissa Ann Castillo, 32, arrested at 7:46 p.m. Aug. 24, warrant arrest, \$2,000 bail.
Philip Thomas Crosson, 42, arrested at 7:16 p.m. Aug. 25, felony domestic assault by strangulation and assault, held for court.
Bethany Lyn Butler, 35, arrested at 8 a.m. Aug. 26, restraining order violation, held for court.
Esperanza Marie Pena, 23, arrested at 3 p.m. Aug. 26, warrant arrest, held for court.
Tawna Marie Johnson, 44, arrested at 6:29 p.m. Aug. 26, warrants arrest, held for court.
Shandra Michelle Saufferer, 48, arrested at 6:44 p.m. Aug. 26, warrant arrest, held for court.
Patrick Keyoneau Powell, 22, arrested at 11:43 a.m. Aug. 26, felony burglary and possession, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Timothy Wour Kong, 26, arrested at 4:11 p.m. Aug. 24, warrant arrest, body only.
James Lee Halvorson, 53, arrested at 1:21 a.m. Aug. 25, DWI, held for court.
Leticia Lyn Castillo, 32, arrested at 4:46 p.m. Aug. 25, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.
Joseph Jacob Wallin, 23, arrested at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 26, domestic assault, held for court.
Tyreese Albert Johnson, 26, arrested at 10:45 a.m. Aug. 26, warrant arrest, \$50,000 bail.

MN STATE PATROL
Sydney Jayne Erickson, 30, arrested at 5:37 p.m. Aug. 24, controlled substance crime, held for court.

PINK IS BACK: again for 19th year FROM A1



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Terry Hughes and Dorothy Trom help erect pink flags for the Paint Blooming Prairie Pink celebration coming up this weekend. The pink flags, 250 of them, are located at the Field of Flags near the intersection of Highway 218 and Main Street.

New shirts will be available, \$25 for run and shirt, \$15 for run/walk and \$15 for just the shirt. Mandy Doocy and Ashley Valek are co-chairs of the run/walk.

Barb Kraling is again organizing the Cut for a

Cure and this, too, moves from its Highway 218 location to Central Park. This fun event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 with crazy hair, face painting, chair massages, manicures, games and lofts

of fun stuff. Kraling and her staff will offer hair cuts for \$5. Family bingo is planned under the Big Tent from 4:30 to 6:30 on Saturday. The Stix of Fury perform at 6:30. Saturday's live auction begins at 7 p.m.

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A Good Luck Smooch



Tory Buck puckers up for her meat market goat at the Minnesota State Fair just prior to the 4-H competition on Aug. 23 in hopes of giving her a smooch for good luck in the show. She received a blue ribbon with her animal. Buck, 19, is in her final year of 4-H with the Lemond Snappy Boosters 4-H Club of Steele County.

Wilker picked state runner-up senior citizen

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The great Minnesota get together has turned into great recognition for a senior citizen from Steele County.

Vern Wilker of Owatonna was named one of three runner-ups for the male outstanding senior citizen at the Minnesota State Fair Aug. 29. Wilker, along with Carol Prokopec of Blooming Prairie took part in the awards program representing Steele County.

Out of a pool of nominees from each county, winners are selected for their outstanding commitment to community service since reaching the age of 65.

The outstanding senior citizen awards went to Judy Popp-Anderson of Alden, representing Freeborn County, and Lowell Johnson of Fort Ripley, representing Crow Wing County.

In addition to Wilker, the runner-ups included Susan Hayes and Marn Flicker, both of Itasca County and John Rheinberger of Washington County.

Wilker is a member of the Exchange Club of Steele County. He has worked with youth by getting the youth camp ready each year for the Elks Club campers, teach-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Vern Wilker of Owatonna was named runner-up of Minnesota Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year at the State Fair last week.

ing farm safety, teaching geography to elementary-aged children, walking in parades to hand out flags to children and doing radio announcing for the Steele County Free Fair.

Some of Wilker's other talents are singing and auctioneering. Wilker, 79, is a member of the Steele County Pork Producers and serves on the board at United Prairie Bank. He is also a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Meriden.

"Volunteering is very fulfilling," Wilker says.

Bruce Kubicek of the Steele County Exchange Club said, "Steele County is blessed with lots of folks who do a lot of volunteering."



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Stacy Burton of Owatonna cooks up another batch of tater tot hot dish on a stick at the Minnesota State Fair in Falcon Heights. Burton operates Ole and Lena's stand, which is owned by Dave and Renae Jeno of Owatonna.

Vacation on a stick for Owatonna woman

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For Stacy Burton, her vacation is mostly all work.

Burton takes off 14 days from her normal routine as a mother and civic booster around Owatonna to work at the Minnesota State Fair. She's in charge of operating Ole and Lena's, a food trailer owned by Dave and Renae Jeno of Owatonna. Their specialty is churning out thousands of tater tot hot dish on, what else would you expect at the fair, but on a stick.

"It's like a vacation for me," said Burton, who has been operating Ole and Lena's for the past 17 years. "It's the 12 days of fun," she said of the State Fair. But, she admits, it is a lot of hard work.

During the State Fair, Burton puts in at least a 12-hour day starting at 7 a.m. And there are usually a few surprises along the way. One morning last week at 6:30 she found herself in a real sticky situation, to say the least. A shelf broke in one of the refrigerators, and Burton had milk splashed all over her head and face. "It was part of the fair experience," she said.

She is surprised at how many customers come early in the morning to eat

hot dish. "We hear that it's the most Minnesotan thing at the fair, and that people like to start out their day with hot dish," Burton said.

Burton doesn't venture very far during her stay at the State Fair. She stays at the fair's campgrounds on the north end. There are seven of them living together in the camper for two weeks. "You get to spend real close quarters with them," she said with a smile. "We've all become family," she added.

"I'm like the mom of the camper," Burton says. Before she heads off to make tater tots on a stick, Burton cooks up a crock pot meal every morning for them to enjoy so they don't have to rely solely on fair food.

Operating at the State Fair isn't the only celebration for Ole and Lena's. They also venture to the county fairs in Steele and Freeborn, Owatonna Crazy Days, Straight River Days in Medford, Ellendale Days, Fourth of July in Blooming Prairie and even a fair in Iowa.

The festivals start at the end of May and by the time the State Fair finishes on Labor Day, well, Burton is more than honest about how she feels. "We're just wiped out," she says.

Burton has three children at home ages 11, 9 and

5. She said it's hard to be away from them for so long, but cell phones have eased the pain allowing them to see each other. "We have to video conference every night, especially for the 5-year-old," she said. Her husband takes care of the kids when she is away.

Because of its location to home, Burton enjoys the Steele County Free Fair the most. She gets to go home every night. "It's like going to the fair without really going to the fair," she said. The Steele fair also allows her to see many people that she knows. Burton was born and raised in Owatonna.

Her favorite part of operating the stand is the people. "You're meeting new people every 10 seconds. You get a wide variety of people," Burton said. She also likes organizing in the stand to make everything function smoothly. "I love organizing. It's what most people hate."

When she's not running the stand and taking care of kids, Burton is active in the Owatonna community. She is a part-time bartender at the VFW Club. She has served as president for the VFW Auxiliary, involved with the Crisis Resource Center and Rachel's Light. She is also a member of Associated Church in Owatonna.

It's no horsing around



STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER
There is no horsing around for the Pittman family of rural Steele County as they get their Percheron horses ready for show at the Minnesota State Fair. Top: Marc Pittman sprays down his horses to get them clean prior to saddling them up with all the saddle gear. Right: Marc's father, Roger Pittman, helps wipe down the horses. The Pittman Percherons have been in existence since 1991, and they compete in various shows around the state.



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THINK

CANCER

Blooming
Prairie

Pink flags

flying

again for a cause in BP

"Oh good grief,
it's that time again!"

Those are the words of Cheri Krejci of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group as she helped co-ordinate the posting of 280 pink flags in the heart of Blooming Prairie last week at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 218.

They are happy words as she greeted a large gathering of volunteers late Sunday afternoon, Aug. 25, to assemble the flags and post them on 250 poles. "We sold 280 flags, meaning some had to be doubled up on poles," Krejci said.

"People really like to pay tribute to those who have fallen to cancer and to pay honor to those who are cancer survivors," Krejci said. She is one of those survivors who won over breast cancer.

"Do you know what you're doing?" someone asked volunteers Terry Hughes and Dorothy Trom as they assembled flags on skinny posts. "We

think we do," said Hughes.

Six Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom football players showed up on a Sunday afternoon to help place the flags in an open field bordering Highway 218. Helping drive the posts into the ground were: Karson Vigeland, Mitchell Fiebiger, Luke Lar-koski, Ryan Weinberger, Dylan Nirk and Charlie Heimerman.

Elaina Miner, two-year-old daughter of Dan and Becky Miner, gave her mom hugs as her mother was putting flags on posts. Raylee Miner, 9, was also helping.

"I can't believe the great turnout of volunteers," Krejci said.

Volunteer Connie Trom paused from helping post flags by posing for a photo with her grand-sons and her daughter Jessica's sons, Tyrus, Gage and Chris Hultgren. Cancer claimed Con-nie's husband Darrell and her son-in-law, Chris Hultgren, father of the boys.

The Hultgrens reside in Apple Valley.

With the large turnout of volunteers, it took no

time before a sea of pink took shape on the vacant lot. Each flag post had a loved one's name at-tached with a smaller flag.

More shades of pink began to roll out in down-town Blooming Prairie as businesses participated in the display of banners. Pink flamingoes also appeared mysteriously on the lawns of some BP Cancer Group volunteers.

Painting Blooming Prairie Pink has become a popular tradition and it is always a prelude to the back-to-back auctions on Sept. 6-7 under the BIG TENT near the Cue Company and Pizza Cellar.



A sea of pink flags appeared late Sunday afternoon, Aug. 24, as volunteers began painting Blooming Prairie pink. The flags are located in a vacant field near the intersection of Main Street and Highway 218. (Staff photos by Howard Lestrud)

Becky Miner, a Blooming Prairie Cancer Group volunteer, had help from daughters Elaina, 2, and Raylee, 9 as they assembled pink flags on 250 posts.



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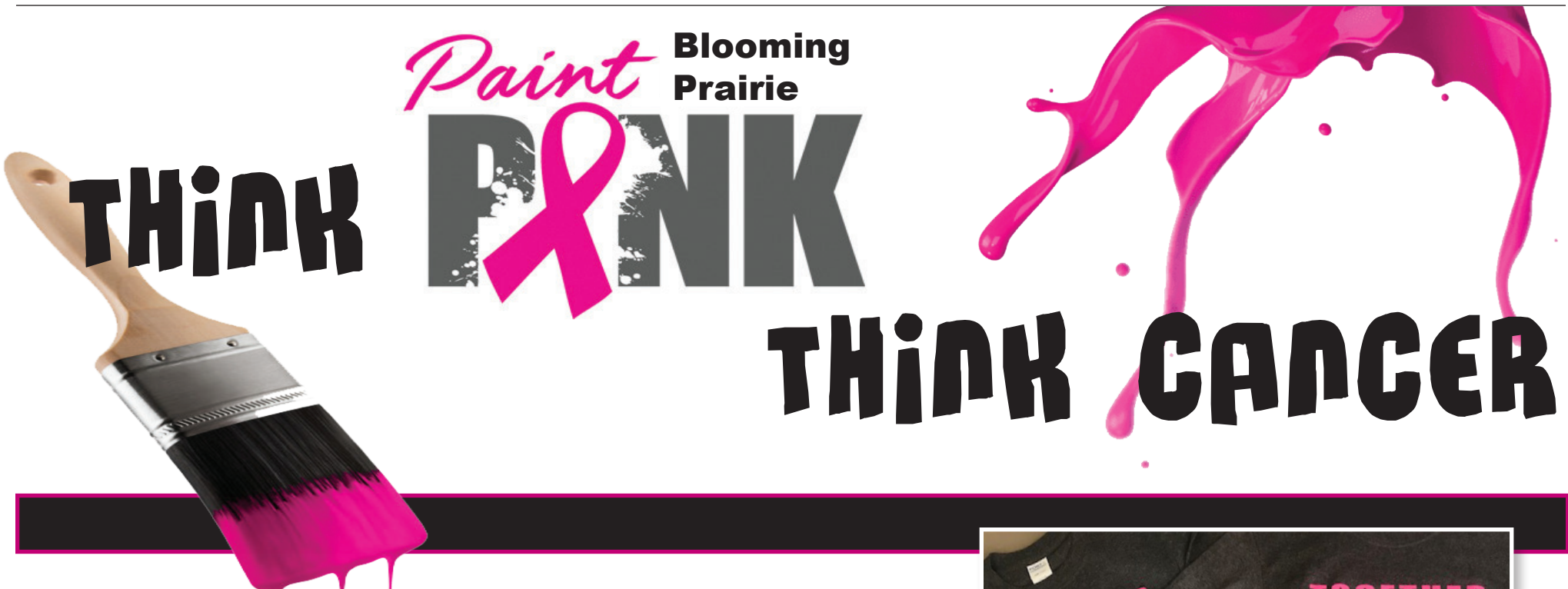
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This year's BP Cancer Group

- Colette Lea	- Ashley Valek
- Cheri Krejci	- Connie Trom
- Jennifer Milton	- Liz Hieber
- Pam Folkens	- Joann Nielson
- Sara Gillette	- Amy Trotman
- Rhonda Toquam	- Rhonda McCabe
- Dan Miner	- Sue Nelson
- Becky Miner	- Lexi LaMontagne
- Mandy Doocy	- Lloyd Prihoba

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From left to right: Front Row - Adam Thoen, Anita Deters, Tiffany Decker, Michelle Sunde, Kathy Kartes, Judy Engelken and Julie Lembke. Back Row -- Kent Lea, Sandy Christianson, Gayle Miller, Amanda Schumacher, Emily Holevoet, Michelle Vigeland, Bruce Rumpza, James Fiebiger and Nola Dybvik. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

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Medford sets preliminary budget

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During its regular session last week, the Medford City Council moved forward with the preliminary budget and tax levy for 2020. Any changes to the budget or levy will need to be made before the end of December.

As it stands now, the 2020 levy is set at \$657,893. That number is a 2.1% increase over the 2019 final levy of \$644,264. According to City Administrator Andy Welti, “the levy increase will fund inflation in the cost of supplies and services, and allow the city to continue putting funds

into the General capital Projects Fund that will be used for financing future street and/or municipal building projects.”

The general fund levy saw the highest increase from last year jumping from \$574,605 to \$587,015. The Fire Relief, 2014 Central Avenue, 2015 Scenic Heights, and EDA levies all remain the same as the 2019 year. The 2018 Street Project levy increased from \$15,924 to \$17,143.

“The main reason for the increase in the budget levy is to continue building reserves which has been a recommendation of our state auditor and our city auditor,” Welti explained to

the council. “Probably the major adjustment this year was the transfers and the funding for the preliminary work and engineering work that’s going to be done on the Main Street Project.”

Medford’s total budget expenditure for 2020 is \$2,434,288 while its total budget revenue stands at \$2,421,579. The largest increase for the 2020 budget is the Main Street Project fund, which increased \$139,000 to cover costs of engineering expenditures in 2020. The Main Street Project fund is set at \$159,000 for both revenue and expenditure.

“We will certify it with the county now and we

will look at these numbers throughout the rest of the year and final certification will come then with our December meeting,” Mayor Lois Nelson said. Prior to the December session, the city will hold its annual Truth in Taxation meeting for the final budget and levy. The meeting will be open to the public and is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Dec. 23 in Medford’s City Hall.

The annexation agreement between the City of Medford and Medford Township was also discussed during last week’s meeting. The annexation agreement is reviewed every ten years. Council members Chad Langeslag

and Marie Sexton and Administrator Welti met with representatives from the township to hammer out an agreement.

While the Township Board did not agree with expanding the “designated area” of the orderly annexation agreement, they did state that they would be willing to discuss annexation of the identified area of possible development if or when development is proposed within those parcels.

“The township guys were a little nervous about putting that land in the agreement,” Sexton explained of the “designated area” the council had previous decided upon. The reason

for the city’s desire to annex those parcels is due to any possible development that could occur there.

Although the agreement does not include annexation of this area, the city was optimistic about the Township Board’s willingness to work together on any future development. “We’ve had at least two inquiries over the years,” Mayor Nelson said. “It would speed the process along, but as long as their immutable to talking about it, next time it comes up we can do that then.”

The next regular Medford City Council meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m.

1,172 days of sobriety

A pair of Drug Court grads paves the way to recovery

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you add 571 to 601? You end up with 1,172 days of sobriety.

Those numbers were tallied by the Steele Waseca Drug Court’s latest graduates Marcia Willcox, 601 days and by Dennis Wimer, 571 days.

Those sobriety days are part of the 12,302 days of sobriety logged by Steele Waseca Drug Court participants as of today, an estimated average of 33 combined years. Average sobriety per participant is 247 days.

The two graduates were the stars of the day on Wednesday, Aug. 28, in Courtroom B of the Steele County Courthouse. Willcox and Wimer were introduced to their fellow Drug Court participants as having completed the necessary five stages of the program.

Third District Judge Joseph Bueltel presided over the graduation, congratulating the two graduates for their dedication in completing the program.

Willcox, 49, started the program on Dec. 15, 2017. She has participated for about 32 months. Willcox entered the program on a felony Fifth Degree Controlled Substances conviction that carried a stayed imposition of 12 months and one day. She was also subjected to a probation violation on a gross misdemeanor drug case.

During her time in Drug Court, Willcox exceeded 256 tests taken. She was referred to Drug Court because of her drug use (meth).



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Steele Waseca Drug Court always emphasizes family and it was true on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at the Steele County Courthouse when Marcia Willcox graduated with 601 days of sobriety. She is shown in the courtroom with daughter Lilly, 16.

“I recommend this program highly. Because it’s easy, it does not have to be hard,” Willcox said.

Once she committed to the program, she attended as many recovery events, self-improvement counseling programs available and was actively engaged in the recovery community.

Willcox maintained a strong work ethic and continued to improve in other areas such as parenting. She continues to give back and is employed at Beauteer Recovery Institute in Owatonna.

Willcox has a daughter Lilly, 16.

work. She said he went out of his way to attend Veterans Court functions in Mankato and was a recognized leader among other participants.

Wimer is a Vietnam War veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the 25th Army and earned a Purple Heart, three Bronze Stars and a Silver Star. His challenge for the future is to continue to be connected and to utilize the support gained through the recovery community and to consider mentoring others.

Wimer has three children and 11 grandchildren.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Dennis Wimer and Marcia Willcox became the 45th and 46th graduates of the Steele Waseca Drug Court on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at the Steele County Courthouse, Courtroom B.

“Marcia and Denny are testaments to the fact that Drug Courts work.”

Nicole Grams
Drug Court Coordinator

Steele Waseca Drug Court Coordinator Nicole Grams said the remaining challenge for Willcox is to continue to be connected and to utilize the supports she has gained through the recovery community and to consider mentoring others.

Wimer, 72, started in the program on Oct. 16, 2017 and has participated for 34 months. He entered the program on a felony DWI conviction that carried a stayed mandatory commitment to prison for 42 months. He also was subjected to a probation violation on a gross misdemeanor DWI as well.

Grams said Wimer used humor to cope with the day-to-day situations. He continued to stay busy with

The Steele Waseca Drug Court has served about 177 participants with 84 who either withdrew, electing to serve jail/prison time, or were transferred to another drug court, or were terminated based on new criminal behavior or rejection of services.

The SWDC had its first graduation in April of 2016, first DWI track graduation in December of 2018. The SWDC was implemented in 2014.

Willcox and Wimer are the 45th and 46th graduates of the program. Today, the program counts 49 participants.

Grams explained that the program is rigorous and has five phases representing a minimum of 18 months. Drug court requires court attendance raging from weekly to monthly, contingent on each phase.

Drug Court participants work hard on a program that changes their lives and the culture of our community, remarked Grams.

Recovery related programming includes treatment, support meetings, mental health meetings, completion of cognitive skills programs that help to change thinking, which changes behaviors and recovery events.

At least three hours of self-help recovery meetings are required weekly. Participants submit to minimum of twice weekly random testing. All participants must complete treatment, must make meaningful connections in the recovery community, must obtain a valid driver license, GED/diploma, employment, compliance with child support and payment of fines, fees and restitution prior to graduation.

“Marcia and Denny are testaments to the fact that Drug Courts work by reducing crime, restoring citizenship and by saving lives,” said Grams.

Added Judge Bueltel, “It’s been a good journey and a good ride for both of our graduates today.”

Area teacher named finalist for national honor

Scott Noet, a middle school social studies teacher at Owatonna Public Schools, has been named one of 10 finalists for the 2019 National History Teacher of the Year Award, which is considered among the most prestigious honors for history educators.

The award is presented annually by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the nation’s leading organization dedicated to K-12 American history education.

A seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher at Owatonna since 1996, Noet has been recognized with a 2019 NEA Award for Teaching Excellence, has been a 2017 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Finalist and the President and Vice President of the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies from 2008 to 2016. Among other publications, he has written chapters and lesson plans for Biodiversity and Green Architecture for a STEM book published by Deutsche Bank.



“The very best history teachers transform textbooks and primary sources into gateways to our country’s past, engaging students and prompting critical thinking about the events and facts that define our nation,” said James G. Basker, President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. “We are thrilled to recognize these dedicated educators who have exceeded these standards and inspired classrooms across the country.”

Inaugurated in 2004, the History Teacher of the Year Award highlights the crucial importance of history education by honoring exceptional American history teachers

from elementary school through high school. The award honors one K-12 teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and US Territories. The National History Teacher of the Year will be selected on Sept. 10.

The winner of the National History Teacher of the Year award receives a \$10,000 prize at a ceremony in New York City on Oct. 2. This year’s award will be presented by John Avlon, Senior Political Analyst and anchor at CNN. Past presenters at the ceremony include the Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor, Good Morning America’s Robin Roberts, First Lady Laura Bush, former US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Nominations for the 2020 History Teacher of the Year awards are now open. Students, parents, colleagues, and supervisors may nominate K-12 teachers for the award here. The deadline for 2020 nominations is March 31.

Pastor Streed leaves Dodge Center church to join ELCA Bishop's office

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

Pastor Barb Streed was in the sixth year of her first church call when she received a phone call she never expected. Rev. Regina Hassanally, newly elected bishop of the Southeast Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, was asking her to join her staff as an assistant to the bishop.

“She (Hassanally) called and asked if I would consider a call to the Office of the Bishop and if I’d be willing to talk,” Streed said.

The decision did not come easily.

SEE PASTOR STREED, B7



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
Barb Streed, pastor at Faith Lutheran is Dodge Center, is leaving for a new position as assistant to the bishop of the Southeast Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. Last Sunday was her last one at the church. Prior to the ministry, Streed was an English teacher for Owatonna Schools. Her husband, Paul, works at Federated Insurance.

The power of validation

People like to feel understood. They like to be heard. It helps them feel supported. It helps them make sense of their world and gain confidence in their ability to cope with a variety of situations. It helps them to trust themselves and their own judgment.

One way to boost this self-efficacy is through validation. Validation is giving the message that you understand where another person is coming from; that what they think and feel makes sense given their experience. Invalidation, by contrast, is giving the message that the way a person thinks or feels is wrong.

Validation can help to improve relationships. It can increase self-esteem



Steele Talkin’
BOBBI MATHERIN

in yourself and others. It can diffuse conflict. It can increase motivation and perseverance.

Some people are afraid to validate another because they think it will increase an undesired behavior in the other person (e.g. crying). While this can sometimes occur, more often it

provides reassurance to the other person that they are not “going crazy” and can provide encouragement to continue efforts toward overcoming an obstacle.

Another reason people are afraid to validate others is that they don’t want to agree with an opposing viewpoint. The truth is, even if you do not agree with someone, you can validate them. Simply saying “I can understand why you feel that way” can defuse an argument instantly. While you are not saying “I agree with you,” you are letting the other person know how they feel is valid, which decreases the person’s

SEE THE POWER, B7

2019 Minnesota State Fair 4-H Results



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Jack Bruns, 12, of Blooming Prairie earned champion with his crossbred heifer at the State Fair. He is a member of the Merry Lane 4-H Club.

GRAND CHAMPION:

Grace Arthur, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Lamb.

CHAMPION:

Carson Ahrens, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Overall Meat Goat Breeding Doe and Junior Yearling Breeding Doe; Grace Arthur, Meriden Meadowlarks – Middleweight Market Lamb; Lauren Arthur, Meriden Meadowlarks – Lightweight Market Lamb; Jack Bruns, Merry Lane – Dairy Crossbred Heifer; Kelton Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Registered Holstein Production; Ben Finholdt, Medford Go Getters – Meat Goat Senior Yearling Breeding Doe; Zach Finholdt, Medford Go Getters – Advanced Meat Goat Breeding Doe Showmanship and Senior Breeding Doe Kid; Lexie Ignaszewski, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Rabbit Mini Rex; Joshua Katzung, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Steer Showperson Senior

Division; Finley Loveless, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Lamb Showperson Intermediate Division and White Face Market Lamb; McKenna Melby, Ellendale Hustlers – Breeding Geese.

RESERVE CHAMPION:

Grace Arthur, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Lamb Showperson Senior Division; Lauren Arthur, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Lamb Showperson Advanced Division; Kelton Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Total Merit Registered Holstein Cow; Zach Finholdt, Medford Go Getters – Overall Meat Goat Breeding Doe; Joshua Katzung, Meriden Meadowlarks – Division I Dairy Steer; Carter Oltmans, Pratt Commandoes – Rabbit Flemish Giant.

PURPLE:

Ethan Arett, Merry Lane – Market Beef Steer Angus; William Behne, Happy Hustlers – Self Determined; Maggie Bruns, Merry Lane – Dairy Jersey Summer

or Spring Yearling; Ezra Buck, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Beef Breeding Heifer Composite Charolais; Casey Chambers, Medford Go Getters – Wether Dam Black Face Ewe Lamb; Hailey Chambers, Medford Go Getters – Market Lamb Black Face; Brenna Clarey, Owatonna Victory Boosters, Beef Breeding Heifer Commercial Junior Yearling; Parker Erickson, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Flower Gardening; Kiya Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Holstein Fall Calf; Trevor Hiatt, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Dairy Red & White Calf; Carter Jensen, Medford Go Getters – Market Barrow; Courtney Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Holstein Fall Yearling; Summer Kath, Straight River Stars – Beef Breeding Heifer All Other Breeds Yearling; Jace Katzung, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Steer; Jacob Klecker, Straight River Stars – Market Beef Steer Crossbred; Jarrett Larson, Merry Lane – Rabbit Polish; Lex Lewison, Straight River Stars – Beef Dairy Steer Pure Breed; Emma Loveless, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Lamb Black Face; Anna Mollenhauer, Pratt Commandoes – Breeding Gilt; Madi Murphy, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Holstein Winter Yearling; Kalli Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Market Lamb Black Face; Brianna O'Connor, Deerfield Get There – Needle Arts; Isabella Schultz, Pratt Commandoes – Exploring Animals; Ashlynn Schewing, Deerfield Get There, Photography; Brenna Sommer, Straight River Stars – Wether Dam White and Speckle Face Ewe Lamb; Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Dairy Red & White Calf; Journey Utpadel, Ellendale Hustlers – Crafts; Jessica Waldron, Independent – Science of Animals Poultry.

BLUE:

Austin Aase, Medford Go Getters, Rabbit Other Large Breed Purebreds; Nicole Behne, Happy Hustlers – Rabbit Mini Lop and Home Environment; William Behne, Happy Hustlers – Rabbit Mini Lop; Adrianna Bermea, Merry Lane – Meat Market Goat; Miriam Buck, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Dairy Jersey Calf; Tory Buck, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Meat Market Goat; Gabriel Dahle, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Market Lamb Black Face; Mikayla Dinse, Meriden Meadowlarks – Beef Breeding Heifer All Other Breeds; Sawyer Erickson, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Geology; Kelton Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks – Shop-Primarily Wood Based Exhibit; Kiya Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks – Food and Nutrition; Samantha Fredin, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Dairy Red & White; Emily Haas, Happy Hustlers – Elements of Photography; Ryan Haberman, Straight River Stars – Dairy Holstein Summer Yearling; Beth Ann Hanson, Deerfield Get There – Dairy Goat Toggenburg Doe and Showmanship; Kallen Hoffmann, Medford Go Getters – Market Barrow Crossbred; Kaden Homuth, Pratt Commandoes – Small Engines; Parris Hovden, Straight River Stars – Breeding Gilts Yorkshire; Callie Iverson, Merry Lane – Quilting; Sarah Johns, Straight River Stars – Beef Prospect Calf Steer; Elizabeth Karl, Straight River Stars – Food Revue; Arica Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Holstein Spring Yearling; Lydia Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dog; Kerryn Keller, Pratt Commandoes – Indoor Gardening; Derek Klecker, Pratt Commandoes – Computer; Jenna Klecker, Straight River Stars – Market Barrow Crossbred; Allison Krohnberg, Merry Lane – Dairy Ayrshire Yearling; Kylie Kruckeberg, Pratt Commandoes – Dairy Brown Swiss Calf; Alia Kubicek, Straight River Stars – Ducks Bantam Breeding Pen; Caden Kubicek, Happy Hustlers – Shop-Primarily Wood Based Exhibit; Luke Kubicek, Straight River Stars – Market Barrow; Noah Kubicek, Happy Hustlers – Shop-Primarily Wood Based Exhibit; Alivia Kubista, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Beef Prospect Calf; Ava Kylo, Straight River Stars – Beef Breeding Heifer All Other Breeds; Shad Lambert, Medford Go Getters – Meat Goat Doe; Sierra Larson, Merry Lane – Rabbit Netherland Dwarf; Evan Melby, Ellendale Hustlers – Turkey Market Pen; Isabel Miller, Happy Hustlers – Aerospace; Abigail Munns, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Safety; Afton



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Brenna Sommer, 13, of Ellendale won a trip to the State Fair with her ewe lamb. She is a member of the Straight River Stars 4-H Club.

Nelson – Dairy Brown Swiss Yearling; Kaden Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Market Lamb Black Face; Kellen Nelson, Pratt Commandoes – Dairy Brown Swiss Yearling; Logan Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Market Barrow Crossbred; Walker Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Market Barrow Crossbred; Erin O'Brien, Merry Lane – Rabbit Mini Rex and Veterinary Science; Makenzie Oltmans, Pratt Commandoes – Crafts; Hannah Parrish, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Dog; Lucy Paschke, Medford Go Getters – Health; Addison Poe, Deerfield Get There – Crafts; Alexander Rhodes, Happy Hustlers – Self Determined; Brandon Ripka, Merry Lane – Market Barrow Yorkshire; Elizabeth Roesner, Happy Hustlers – Rabbit Flemish Giant; Sophia Schiller, Straight River Stars – Crafts; Mariah Schroht, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Barrow Crossbred; McKenna Schroht, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Barrow Crossbred; Ethan Schubert, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Small Engines; Katlyn Schubert, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Shop-Primarily Wood Based Exhibit; Mitchell Seykora, Straight River Stars – Dairy Holstein Winter Calf; Cody Shaw, Meriden Meadowlarks – Cat; Braxton Skalicky, Medford Go Getters – Elements of Photography; Ali Slater – Dairy Holstein Calf; Brenna Sommer, Straight River Stars – Livestock Demonstration; Baylee Sorensen, Merry Lane – Photo Manipulation; Alexis Steckelberg, Merry Lane – Breeding Gilt Crossbred; Grady Steckel-

berg, Merry Lane – Market Barrow Crossbred; Riley Stoltz, Lemond Snappy Boosters – Market Beef Steer Crossbred; Darian Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Market Barrow Other Breeds; Ashlie Tesch, Meriden Meadowlarks – Dairy Holstein Yearling; Katherine Trenda, Pratt Commandoes – Food Revue; Journey Utpadel, Ellendale Hustlers – Market Barrow Crossbred; Jack Walburn, Happy Hustlers – Entomology; Jessica Waldron, Independent – Geese Breeding Pen and Science of Animals Poultry; Malaki Weber, Medford Go Getters – Food and Nutrition; Olivia Wencil, Ellendale Hustlers – Rabbit Mini Lop; Rachel Winzenburg, Merry Lane – Rabbit Mini Lop and Food Preservation; Gabriella Yciano, Happy Hustlers – Fine Arts; Juquin Yciano, Happy Hustlers – Fishing Sports; Lilly Zollner, Pratt Commandoes – Food and Nutrition.

RED:

Pratt Commandoes 4-H Club – Club Banner; Brody Jensen, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Gilt; Hunter Jensen, Meriden Meadowlarks – Market Gilt; Evin Ohnstad Willis, Owatonna Victory Boosters – Photo Manipulation; Katelyn Rysavy, Straight River Stars – Clothes You Buy; Blake Seykora, Straight River Stars – Market Gilt; Gavin Seykora, Straight River Stars – Chickens Egg Production; Neela Wencil, Ellendale Hustlers – Chickens Egg Production.

Congratulations to these 4-Hers on their accomplishments at this year's State Fair!

Keeping a clean barn



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Cow cleanliness is everything to 4-H exhibitors at the Minnesota State Fair. Arica Kath of Owatonna keeps the area by her cows clean while Maggie Bruns of Blooming Prairie holds a gate to bring some order to their madness.

Steele teen earns state 4-H scholarship

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It was kind of a trifecta for a Steele County 4-Her at this year's 4-H Livestock Auction during the Minnesota State Fair. Not only was Lauren Arthur of Owatonna chosen to present Minnesota's governor with a 4-H t-shirt, she also earned a \$1,000 scholarship at the auction on Aug. 24. She capped it all off by selling a purple ribbon animal in the auction. She was fifth overall with a market lamb. Arthur was one of 23 scholarships of \$1,000 given out prior to this year's auction. There were also several \$4,000 and \$2,000 scholarships presented to 4-Hers from around the state. The scholarship money, Arthur said, will be used for her college education. She is attending the University of Minnesota

in the Twin Cities where she is majoring in sustainable systems management. She hopes to go into engineering and business focused on agriculture. "I've known for a long time that I wanted to go into agriculture," Arthur said. "I realize the direction that agriculture needs to feed the world, and I want to be a part of that." Arthur said she filled out an application for the scholarship. In the application, she shared her 4-H experiences and what livestock has taught her throughout her 4-H career. While in 4-H, Arthur has shown both market lambs and steers. She said she is torn between which one is her favorite. She found the steers more enjoyable to work with prior to show, but the lambs more fun to show. Other area 4-Hers awarded scholarships were Colton Ivers of



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
Lauren Arthur of Owatonna earned a \$1,000 scholarship from the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association at the State Fair.

Blooming Prairie (Mower County), Carissa Kleinwort of Dodge County and Martha Moening, Brittany Erickson, Faith Syales, Brock Erickson and Maia Irvin, all of Mower County.

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7 p.m. – Cancer Auction, Cue Company

SEPT. 7
7 p.m. – Cancer Auction, Cue Company

SEPT. 8
Pancake Breakfast, First Lutheran Church

SEPT. 12
Gun Bingo
- SEPT. 19**
Legion SAL-VFW Membership Night, Servicemen's Club

SEPT. 22
Quarterback Club Pancake Breakfast, Servicemen's Club

SEPT. 29
Veterans Memorial Breakfast Buffet & Silent Auction, Servicemen's Club

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

- SEPT. 6**
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

SEPT. 9
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
- 7 p.m. – Berlin Township Meeting, Community Building

SEPT. 11
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- SEPT. 5**
8 a.m. – Workplace Campaign Kickoff Event, Country Club
6 p.m. – Scouts Merit Badge – Fishing & Wildlife Management, Cabela's

SEPT. 7
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
9 a.m. – Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration, History Center
10 a.m. – Browning Event, Cabela's

SEPT. 9
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Park Board Meeting
7 p.m. – Medford Park Board Meeting, City Admin Building

SEPT. 10
1 p.m. – So Many
- Books... So Little Time, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – North Market, Grace Baptist
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Human Rights Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
6 p.m. – Better Together-Owatonna Community Engagement Series, Owatonna Middle School
6 p.m. – Scouts Merit Badge – Rifle Shooting, Cabela's

SEPT. 11
6 p.m. – Scouts Merit Badge – Fishing & Wildlife Management, Cabela's

Mantorville to dedicate new bell tower

The Mantorville Restoration Association is proud to host a dedication ceremony, Thursday, Sept. 5 at 5:30 p.m., for the new bell tower that was constructed next to its Normal School on Clay Street near the entrance to the Dodge County Administration building north of 7th Street.

The tower houses the 1869 bell that was in the original limestone school next to this site. The 1869 Central School was used to educate local children until circa 1920 when a new larger more modern school was built on the same site. The 1921 building was used as a school continuously until the Kasson-Mantorville School District built a new middle school at its present campus. The site is now home to the Dodge County Administration. The original 1869 school's cornerstone is also incorporated into the base of the bell tower.

The bell tower was partially paid for through donations from Glenn and Carla Webster and Tom and Helen Ferry.

The MRA, as it is known locally, has been a non-profit organization since 1967 and is the parent organization of the ever-popular late summer Marigold Days. Its two-fold purposes are to restore, preserve, and maintain the properties it owns (the Opera House, the Restoration and Log Houses, the Carriage House, the Greek Revival House, the Normal School, and, now, the Bell Tower) and to act as the City of Mantorville's historic preservation agent by city statute. The MRA was



A new bell tower will be dedicated in Mantorville on Sept. 5.

instrumental in the ten-block area downtown being entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

John Olive, chair of the MRA building committee, was the project manager from the bell tower's inception. Ken Hill did all the carpentry work. Dynamic Masonry in Byron provided the foundation, stone, and masonry. Olive Bros and Brooks Excavating provided the site prep, footings, and final grading. Luverne Vangness custom built metal supports for the bell. All are from Mantorville or the surrounding communities.

For more information, please contact Jane Olive, president of the Mantorville Restoration Association, 507-269-2659 or ejolive@kmtel.com.

THE POWER: of validation FROM B5

need to argue with you to get their point across. In turn, it allows the other person to actually hear your point of view as well.

Self-validation is equally as important as validating another person. This is especially true when you don't get validation from others. To validate yourself, you could say "It makes sense that I feel this way, given what I have gone through," or "I feel upset, and that's okay." When you validate yourself, you are giving yourself permission to think and feel a certain way. It is the opposite of judging yourself for your thoughts and feelings. Sometimes people say to themselves, "I'm stupid for feeling this way" or "I shouldn't think this way." These are examples of invalidation.

Remember, there is always more than one way to see every situation. There are no right or

wrong ways to feel about anything. Validation can be a useful tool in defusing conflict, letting another person know you care, helping another person hear where you are coming from, and encouraging another person to keep trying. Self-validation can be helpful in reassuring yourself that it is okay to feel the way you do. Validation is a non-confrontational way of communicating. It shows respect to yourself and others.

Bobbi Mathern is the clinical director of the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist, specializing in dialectical behavior therapy. Steele Talkin is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations around Steele County.

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.

Woman's Club year opens with Jivin' Ivan



Jivin Ivan and the Kings of Swing will open the Woman's Club of Owatonna season at 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, at St. John Lutheran Church.

The 57th season of Woman's Club of Owatonna programming will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5 at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave.

Kicking off the year will be Jivin' Ivan and the Kings of Swing. Interested women are invited to attend. Jivin' Ivan and the Kings of Swing was formed about 16 years ago – on a golf course. While Mike Hildebrandt and Ivan Whillock, musical friends since the mid 1980s, were golfing one day, they started talking about how much fun it would be to play some of the old swing tunes that were popular in the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

And so started the band, first as a duet. "We added players to fill out the sound," said Ivan Whillock, "including my son Mark Whillock on drums. Dallas Musselman joined the band in 2005, adding her vocal talents to the mix."

Today the band consists of Dallas Musselman on vocals, Mike Hildebrandt on violin, guitar and banjo, Mark Whillock on

drums, Doug Madow on keys, Paul Ousley on bass and Ivan Whillock on guitar, trombone and vocals.

"The play list is a reflection of the band's original goal – to play musical standards from the swing era, songs that I grew up with," said Ivan Whillock. "The hot licks will make you feel like dancing."

Attendees of the 2016 charity event did plenty of dancing when the group played for the charity event that year. Jivin' Ivan was featured at the Steele County Free Fair beer garden in August. They play regularly at the Signature in Faribault.

Tea committee for September includes: Marlys Olson, chair; Audrey Parker, Molly Urness, Julie Darrow, Jody Moberg, Diane Drache and Ardie Bahe.

Greeters will be Jan Mittelstadt Tippet and Sue Olson.

Tickets for the Nov. 16 charity event will be on sale before the meeting. Ardie Bahe and Gloria Sabin will introduce the fall outing and sell tickets for it before and after the meeting.

PASTOR STREED: leaves Dodge Center church FROM B5

"It was one of those things," she said. "I'm changing my call. I'm taking on a new call I don't want to take. I love it here." All those thoughts went through her mind.

But finally, she said, she accepted it as "a calling, a divine thing." She said she had only been at Faith Lutheran in Dodge Center for six years and thought it would be more like 16, but still she was committed to God's path for her.

"Now," she said, "it's a place of joy and excitement."

In making her decision, she said, she also relied on the support of her family, particularly her husband, Paul. "He's my rock," she said.

It wasn't the first time this had happened, she said.

Streed was an English teacher in the Owatonna schools for 12 years, but she had also been thinking of the ministry. She talked to Paul and the kids, she said, during that time.

"Paul is really supportive," she said of both instances. "I hope I'm supportive of him."

Looking back on her six years at Faith, she said, "it was more than I ever thought it would be."

She said a pastor once told her that "you would love your people and let them love you.

"I love these people (at Faith) and being in ministry with them they allowed me to be me. I will miss them."

She is looking forward to the future with excitement now, she said, both for herself and for the Faith congregation.

"I know God has something amazing in place for them," she said, adding she is excited for what He has planned for the Dodge Center church, for herself and for the synod.

Although all of her duties at the synod are being worked out, she does know she will be working with the call process and also with seminarians in their first call. That means that, ironically, she will be assisting Faith in finding their next pastor.

It's still surreal, she said of the change, but It's a great staff and a great synod and a great church.

Arts Center hosts Mid-Century House tour

The Owatonna Arts Center is hosting a Mid-Century House tour.

The tour will be on Saturday, Sept. 14. There is limited number of tickets and must be purchased at the Arts Center by Sept. 10. The ticket cost is \$25. The tour will begin at the Arts Center, and car pools will be available to the homes.

Nancy Vaillancourt of Owatonna will lead the

tour, giving information about Mid-Century design and style. Mid-Century, that time period following World War II when architects were trying new materials, and a more casual lifestyle. The house presented them the opportunity to unite these two. The design element and history will be given and visits houses that exemplify those qualities.

Farming of Yesteryear coming to Kiester

The 36th annual Farming of Yesteryear Festival will take place Sept. 7-8 near Kiester.

All tractors and machinery are welcome to this event. This year's festival will be featuring Allis-Chalmers tractors and machinery.

Gates for the festival will

open Saturday at 7:30 a.m. and Sunday at 6:30 a.m.

Farming of Yesteryear is hosted by the Gopher-Hawkeye Power Association, which is a non-profit organization. It is located at 1736 600th St., which is two miles east and two miles south of Kiester.

Pancake breakfast offered Sunday

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.

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J & H LIQUOR

SUMMER EVENTS

Bar Bingo
Monday @ 6:30 p.m.

Bloomin' Grapevine Wine
Tues. 7-8:30 p.m.
Sept. 10, Oct. 1
Nov. 7: Holiday Dazzle Wine Tasting
Nov. - April: Available Later
May 5: Wine Tasting "Gala"

Thank You
Thank you to the riders, individuals, businesses and local organizations that donated to the Cancer Cruise and B.O.B Ride "Toys for Tots" Rides. Both rides were very successful.

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

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NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 14, 2011 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$173,487.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Vivian Mubarak and Jack Evanhoe, wife and husband MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 17, 2011 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 17998 as Document Number T000067769 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: East 5 feet of Lot 13; and Lot 14; Block 2, Heers Addition No. 3, Owatonna, Minnesota. STEEL 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 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.

by 11:59 p.m. on March 24, 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 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, an unmarried 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 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: 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.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2020.

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

IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RE-LEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: July 31, 2019

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

NOTICE

Proposed City of Blooming Prairie City Council Meeting Agenda September 9, 2019 7:00P.M.

Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda 1. Approval of Agenda 2. Approval of Minutes of August 12, 2019 – Regular City Council Meeting 3. Approval of Donation for Fire Department & Ambulance Equipment Fund 4. Approval of Donation from Arkema 5. Approval of Request for Temporary Liquor License – BP Servicemen's Club 9/22/19 6. Approval of Request for Temporary Liquor License – BP Servicemen's Club 9/29/19 7.

Financial Report

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

Business 1. 2019 Street Improvement – Pay Request No. 4 & Update 2. 2020 Proposed Budget 3. Certification of the Proposed 2020 Levy

4. Set Date for Public Comment – 2020 Budget – Monday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. City Administrator's Report 1. 2020 Employee Health Insurance Rates 2. Open House – 218 Hwy Project with MnDOT – Wednesday, September 25th 3-7 p.m.

City Attorney's Report Council Members' Reports Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

9/4

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!

APARTMENTS FOR RENT SITUATIONS WANTED

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GARAGE SALES HOMES FOR SALE

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

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

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, 9/4

US 218 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Come learn more September 25th about the reconstruction planned for US Highway 218 in Blooming Prairie. Due to deteriorating pavement conditions along US Highway 218 from south of Third Street SE to Highway 30, MnDOT is planning a reconstruction project in 2023.

A community open house is being held to share what we have heard from various stakeholders, alternative concepts considered and dismissed, alternatives chosen for further analysis, and the results of analysis completed to date.

Please join us:

Date: September 25, 2019
Time: 4pm - 7pm

Blooming Prairie City Hall
138 Highway Avenue S
Blooming Prairie, MN

Visit the project website to learn more.
mndot.gov/d6/projects/hwy218-bloomingprairie-reconstruct/

Contact:

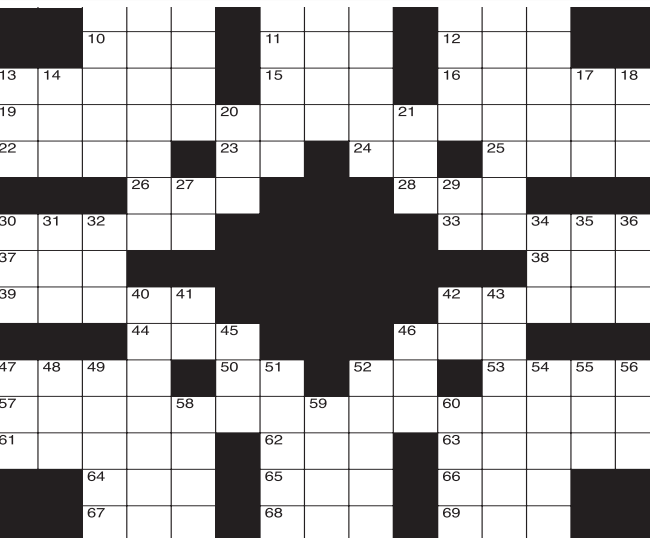
Richard Augustin, MnDOT Project Manager
507-286-7546 | richard.augustin@state.mn.us

Pat McGraw, Stantec Project Manager
612-712-2088 | pat.mcgraw@stantec.com

To request an ASL or foreign language interpreter, or other reasonable accommodation, call Janet Miller at 651-366-4720 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You also may send an email to ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us

9/4, 9/18

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Cronkite's network
 4. Fire insect
 7. Gas usage measurement
 10. Express pleasure
 11. Humbug
 12. Every
 13. Capital is Valletta
 15. Copycat
 16. Bound book sheets
 19. Steps to an upper floor
 22. Local school organizations
 23. Old English
 24. Atomic #73
 25. Cheerless
 26. The bill in a restaurant
 28. Singer ___ Lo Green
 30. Domesticated
 33. Mammary gland of a cow
 37. Honorable title (Turkish)
 38. Alias
 39. Emblem of a clan
 42. Edouard __, Fr. painter
 44. Short-term memory
 46. Used to speak to the Queen
 47. Vertical spar for sails
 50. Expresses surprise
 52. Morning
 53. A long narrative poem
 57. Minor punishment
 61. Ice or roller
 62. GE founder's initials



63. Moses' elder brother
 64. Beak
 65. A major division of geological time
 66. Fuss & bother
 67. Young women's association
 68. Feeling sorrow
 69. Struggle
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Bog arum lily
 2. Thin plain-weave cotton fabric
 3. Thick rough piled carpet
 4. A way to lessen
 5. Amazon river tributary
 6. Larceny
 7. Make ale
 8. Begged
 9. White of egg
 13. Road travel guide
 14. Aircraft tail
 17. Italian monk title

18. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
20. Goblin
21. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Date
29. I, Portuguese
30. Design on the skin
31. Time before
32. Free from gloss
34. V.P. Quayle
35. Supplement with difficulty
36. Tell on
40. Landed properties
41. Metric ton
42. One thousandth of an ampere
43. Former ___ Hess, oil company
45. Siemens conductance unit
46. Woman (French)
47. More (Spanish)
48. Request
49. Group jargon
51. Stakes
52. In advance
54. Yiddish meat pie
55. Equal, prefix
56. Box (abbr.)
58. Having nine hinged bands of bony plates
59. Scarlett's home
60. S. branch of the Lower Rhine

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Cronkite's network
4. Fire insect
7. Gas usage measurement
10. Express pleasure
11. Humbug
12. Every
13. Capital is Valletta
15. Copycat
16. Bound book sheets
19. Steps to an upper floor
22. Local school organizations
23. Old English
24. Atomic #73
25. Cheerless
26. The bill in a restaurant
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46. Used to speak to the Queen
47. Vertical spar for sails
50. Expresses surprise
52. Morning
53. A long narrative poem
57. Minor punishment
61. Ice or roller
62. GE founder's initials

CLUES DOWN

1. Bog arum lily
2. Thin plain-weave cotton fabric
3. Thick rough piled carpet
4. A way to lessen
5. Amazon river tributary
6. Larceny
7. Make ale
8. Begged
9. White of egg
13. Road travel guide
14. Aircraft tail
17. Italian monk title

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NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, September 12, 2019 *Regular School Board Work Session –High School Board Room
7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 16, 2019 *Open Public Forum–High School Media Center
7:15 p.m.
Monday, September 16, 2019 *Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

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

requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL – CLERK
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. AUDIT PRESENTATION
- VI. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

VII. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

- A. Consent Agenda
- Minutes
- Bills
- Treasurer's Report
- Resignations
- Donations
- B. Employment
- C. Volunteer Coaches
- D. BPTA Master Contract 2019-2021
- E. E-Learning Days
- F. Proposed Levy Limitation and Certification 2019 Payable 2020
- G. Property and Casualty/Workers' Compensation Insurance
- H. Homecoming DJ
- I. Steele County Area Mental Health Collaborative Contract
- J. Handbooks

VIII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

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

Career Opportunity

Applications are being accepted for a special education paraprofessional at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Each day that students are in attendance throughout the school year will be working days hours from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm (i.e. 6.5 hours per day).

Request an application by calling 507-583-4426, ext. 431 or complete the online application located at <https://blossoms-portal.rschooldtoday.com/page/2818>.

Deadline for applications is September 10, 2019 or open until filled.

9/4

- A. Committee Reports
- B. Enrollment Data
- C. Dates to Note

IX. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

X. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

9/4

FOR RENT

HAYFIELD-FOR-RENT GREAT WESTERN APARTMENTS. Large 1- & 2-bedroom apartments, includes all utilities, laundry on-site. Available NOW. Must have proof of employment, call (507)796-01582 or (701)330-9788 (chg. 35,36,37)

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1, 2 & 3 BD APTS ~ DODGE CENTER Open Oct! Smoke free apts with 1 1/2 baths, blinds, DW & patio/balconies. One year leases & no pets. \$645 & \$755 p/mo + elec. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO (37-38 CHG)

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PIANOS, DIGITAL PIANOS, Rodgers Church Organs - New, Used, Sales & Service - Call DEWEY KRUGER MUSIC, Northwood, Iowa, 800-933-5830, deweykrugermusic.com
JOHN DEERE 4430 TRACTOR WITH 5560 hours, 1 owner. John Deere 8285R Tractor with 135 hours and a John Deere 980 30' Field Cultivator. Excellent shape. Retired Farmer. Call 641-425-9300
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- PT 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
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Dining Assistant

- PT 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING**

Apply at: 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN • EOE

PART-TIME HELP WANTED

Taher, Inc. is looking for kitchen help in the Blooming Prairie School District. Two 8 a.m.-1 p.m. positions available and also looking for subs.

Please contact Melissa Taylor at 507-583-4426 Ext. 464.

STATE OF MINNESOTA – DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Direct Care Jobs Available in Austin, Kasson and Surrounding Communities

We are hiring additional members to join our team! The State of Minnesota Department of Human Services is seeking caring people to fill Direct Support Specialist positions with a salary range of \$14.55-\$23.08/hour. We are looking for individuals who are passionate in helping those who need the additional support in their daily lives. Please apply at <http://www.mn.gov/careers> using Job ID# 32369. Next interviews will be held in Kasson on September 12, 2019. To schedule an interview, call 651-431-6875.

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jill@bigelowlennon.com

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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

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS®

Syndicated Newspaper Column

By Shannon Nordstrom And Russ Evans



Dear Motor Medics,
I am a loyal Hoody from Canada listening to your car-talk show every chance I get. My car is a 2004 Chrysler 300M with 80,000 miles, that I bought last year. Since I didn't know the car's service history I decided to have the transmission fluid and filter changed as you have talked about on your radio show. Listening to you talk I have learned that this only replaces some of the fluid therefore I would like to take my car in to have a complete transmission flush done where they will replace all the fluid. Would you say that this is advisable to do at the current mileage?
Thank you Lawrence in Canada

Dear Lawrence,
This is one of the most frequent questions we get about cars on our radio show. With this model if it hasn't been done it's a good idea to flush your transmission instead of just dropping the pan and changing the filter and whatever fluid comes out. Removing just the pan to drain the transmission will only result in about 5 quarts out of 15 or so being changed, or roughly 1/3rd of the capacity. That would be like changing only 2 quarts of engine oil each change instead of draining the entire engine. The contaminated fluid will eventually lead to a buildup of deposits on the valves and eventual slipping of the transmission. For a complete flush we recommend adding a cleaner to the transmission then operating through all of the gears and then flush it. Once flushed add a conditioner and you should be set. Most facilities with a flush service should have this option available.
Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
I enjoy your car-talk show and columns very much. I have a 1999 Chevrolet pickup with a V8 and 4wd. I feel I get lousy combined city highway mileage, at last check it was 14mpg. I have heard you advertise a cleaner that might improve gas mileage. I am wondering if it would clog the fuel filter since I have never used it and since I don't know what junk could be in the system now. Do the tank or lines need to be flushed first? Do I just pour it in the tank and go? How often should I use it? Thanks so very much.
Thank you, Jeanne in South Dakota

Dear Jeanne,
The cleaning we mention on the radio show is what's commonly referred to as fuel system or induction system cleaning. When a cleaning is properly performed it will clean the intake, injectors, and combustion chambers of the engine bringing back its ability to run efficiently. Carbon deposits in the engine rob its efficiency and this leads to lost mileage and power. You do not need to replace the filter to do this or clean the tank as this is not a pour in product. The pour in products are good in between cleanings but cannot clean as well as the professional system. Your mileage compares with many other vehicles like yours so at this time cleaning the system may not gain you much in the way of mileage if any.
Take care, the Motor Medics

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OUT OF CONTROL

COUPLE RESTORES BIG FOUR 30 TRACTOR

STORY
BY HOWARD LESTRUD
PHOTOS SUBMITTED
EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

“It’s a hobby out of control,” confesses well-known Steele County machinist Allan Severson. He and wife Harriet live near Blooming Prairie and have a large machine shop in the heart of Bixby. The building was constructed by Marion Mast of Blooming Prairie. The machine shop is where Al and Harriet spend lots of hours, too many to even count, on various projects, including the restoration of Big Four tractors. The Seversons own two Big Four tractors, one of which was recently picked up at Countryside Machining by Mecum Auction Co. of Walworth, Wis. The Severson tractor was featured at the Half Century of Progress Show Aug. 22-25. It is being used to promote a huge auction Nov. 6-9. The Seversons have restored two of the Big Four tractors, which date back to 1910 and 1911 and were used to farm the prairies of the Midwest. A Big Four tractor is no ordinary tractor. It is a huge, massive piece of farm equipment that replaced the steam engine. Go to the Internet and learn that the Big Four represented the trend of the times. The prairie tractor was king. When most farmers were using horses, the Big Four could pull a 10-bottom plow at 2 mph. The rear wheels measure 8 feet tall and 24 inches wide. The Big Four tractors tip the scales at 22,000 pounds. The Big Four 30 was created by the Gas Traction Co. Severson’s two Big Four tractors are fully restored, the 1911 vintage brought to the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July Antique Tractor Show in 2017. “It was exciting to see the interest it created,” Severson says. The restoration progress is a lengthy one, the Seversons attest. In many ways, “it is re-creating,” Severson admits. This process has involved many hours. “She quit counting,” Severson says. “It’s way too many,” Harriet agrees. Severson has been a machinist since 1972. He hails from the Oslo area, and Harriet is from Stewartville. A Hayfield High School graduate, Al then attended Rochester vocational school for two years and a shop class “got me going” in the machining business, he says. “I used my study halls to work on some type of machine project, Severson relates. Severson’s father, Arnold, owned Severson Auto Repair in the Oslo area. The Seversons in 2010 bought a Big Four tractor from the Morris Blomgren estate near Grantsburg, Wis. Severson says Blomgren had a huge collection and his family wanted the tractor restored and kept in the area. Enter the Seversons. The goal was to have the tractor finished by the Fourth of July in 2017. The tractor was the featured tractor at the Rollag Tractor Show, east of Fargo, N.D. The tractor was manufactured by Gas Traction Co., patented in 1905, 1907 and 1910. Severson’s interest in the Big Four tractors grew into a desire to own an original, once owned by Marcellious Bolinger of rural Cluny Alberta, Canada. He had



The Big Four 30 is finished and Al and Harriet Severson stand proudly in front of the huge tractor. The Seversons restored two Big Four tractors.

bought the tractor new but didn’t like it, Severson was told. The remains of that tractor were sold to the Stan Reynolds Museum in Alberta. “The engine and transmission and other parts were missing,” remarked Severson. Some of the parts went to a scrap drive during World War II. The wheels and frame had been kept. The tractor was purchased from the Reynolds Museum as a restoration project in 2010 and seven years later, Severson had it running. The Gas Traction tractor was marketed by John Deere during the 1915 era. It had a gas engine because kerosene had not yet been invented. In the teens of 1900, there was a scare that the world was going to run out of gas, and the switch was then made to kerosene, Severson tells.

Severson lists the serial number on his 1911 tractor as 1131, the 31st being built in 1911. The factory was located where the Minneapolis Post Office currently stands. The Big Four tractors were used to break prairie, especially from Kansas and into Canada. The tractors powered plows, threshing machines, disks/harrows and grain drills. Roger Byrne helped the Seversons with some of the Big Four restoration.

Tractor restoration has continued with Severson helping Brett Kemper of Lincoln, Neb. sort through parts of many tractors. Kemper lost his life on Memorial Day of 2013. Severson helped the family sort through parts of three tractors, a Minneapolis 3570, a 2040 Case and a John Deere. Severson says he is not selling the first Big Four 30 that he restored. He is hoping his other Big Four tractor will sell for “lots of dollars.” Severson said “it takes two people at an auction to get the price up there.”

What is Severson’s next project? He plans to restore a Flour City Junior tractor from 1918. It is from Meadow, S.D. and the only one remaining in the world. Asked why he restores old tractors, Severson quips coyly, “Because I can.” He said “it’s preserving history and showing the next generation what their elders engineered.” The Seversons admit that they have been discouraged many times during the restoration of the Big Four tractors. “You can get burned out and you must walk away, doing the restoration in stages,” Severson recommends. “We’ve flown by the seat of our pants during our restorations and we have learned by making mistakes,” Severson said. “Sometimes, I wonder why we make so many,” he added. The Seversons said they have met “some very nice people” while working with the Big Four restoration. They actually had the 1910 model sold to someone in Belgium who flew here to view the tractor. “We shook hands on the deal but when he returned to Belgium, his family said no,” Severson remarked. Al and Harriet work as a team during the restoration process. “I work on lots of parts, both painting and cleaning,” Harriet said. The Seversons have four children and seven grandchildren. Al also builds gas engine models. “Our work keeps us busy in the summer,” Harriet said. Owning two Big Four tractors has led Al to collecting various Big Four memorabilia including belt buckles, watch fobs, post cards and cups.

“It’s preserving history and showing the next generation what their elders engineered.”

Allan Severson
Restores Tractors



This is what the Big Four 30 built in 1911 looked like in 2010 before it was fully restored by Al and Harriet Severson of Countryside Machining in Bixby.



Allan Severson of Countryside Machining in Bixby, turns the crank on his Big Four 30 tractor that he and his wife Harriet restored. They have restored two Big Four 30 tractors.



Al and Harriet Severson of Bixby are busy during the summer months going to small engine shows. Here’s some of their craft.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD