STEELE COUNTY Times

DRUG COURT VOLLEYBALL B1 | **GARDEN DEDICATION** A6

www.steeledodgenews.com | **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019** | Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

A cookie celebration

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Members of the 761 Foundation hand out celebration cookies honoring 25 years of providing grants and scholarships to the community Friday night at the Owatonna football game. Handing out cookies were, from left: Sara McKay, Mary Larson and Paul Knutson. Larson has served on the foundation board since its inception in 1992.

761 Foundation strives to invest in young minds

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

As a former educator, Mary Larson knows the value of a quality education. That's why it probably comes as little surprise that she has been pushing people to invest in young minds through the 761 Foundation over the past quarter of a century.

On Friday night, Larson and others representing the foundation recognized 25 years of benefiting Owatonna Schools through a Celebration Cookie Giveaway at the home football game against New Prague. They handed out cookies to all the visitors at the game.

"This is a visibility opportunity for us," said Larson, who is one of the original board members of the foundation. "It's a worthy organization."

The foundation actually started 27 years ago, but it wasn't until 1994 that it awarded its first mini-grant of $16,000 to the agriculture department at Owatonna High School. Since then, the foundation has given out more than $2 million in mini-grants and an additional $1.5 million in scholarships.

Even though its focus is Owatonna, the foundation's ag scholarships benefit students in any high school in Steele County. For example, Anthony Manderfeld of Medford High School and Lexie Ignaszewski of NRHEG High School split the $5,000 scholarship this year. In 2018, Ethan Arett of Blooming Prairie High School received the entire scholarship.

The foundation, Larson said, gives out $100,000 in mini-grants each year, though it receives requests usually totaling $200,000. Mini grants fund field trips, literacy programs, labs, books, microscopes, band instruments, workshops and about 30 other programs.

"We feel we are meeting the needs in the schools with

SEE **EMERALD ASH, A8**

Open House set for 218 project

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A community open house will take place next week to unveil plans for the U.S. Highway 218 reconstruction project planned for 2023 in Blooming Prairie.

The open house is set for Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 4-7 p.m. at City Hall in Blooming Prairie. The Minnesota Department of Transportation as well as Stantec, the Twin Cities engineering company hired to assist with the project, will put on the open house.

Due to deteriorating pavement conditions along 218 from south of Third Street SE to Highway 30, MnDOT is planning to reconstruct the one-mile stretch of roadway that cuts through the heart of Blooming Prairie.

Earlier this summer, MnDOT sought feedback from the public about the proposed project. The comment period ended in late July.

The open house will allow officials to share what they have heard from vari-

SEE **OPEN HOUSE SET, A5**

First-ever Gun Bingo raises $17K for cancer

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

How can you have a successful fundraiser five days after two auctions fighting cancer raised $47,000?

Well, it happened Sept. 12 on the heels of a weekend of cancer activities sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group and the Dodge County Corn Growers.

The first-ever Gun Bingo was staged at the BP Servicemen's Club and raised over $17,000, again aimed at fighting that dreaded disease, cancer.

"I never dreamed this event would be that successful," said Connie Trom, BP Cancer Group member and chair of this fundraiser. She said the event was a sellout with 200 tickets sold. "There's just no doubt that we will have the Gun Bingo event once again," Trom said.

Trom said she thought the community "might be burned out" after the weekend of cancer auctions but she was proven otherwise. "This is such a hunting and trap shooting community" and that made for the popularity of this Bingo party, Trom explained.

Just two years ago, Elliott Herdina and Craig Anderson came up with the idea of sponsoring a Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer fundraiser. This event last year raised over $25,000, with all proceeds going to the BP Cancer Group.

Blooming Prairie has been big on Bingo as a fundraiser and this one proved to be a popular, fun time for everyone, said Trom.

The BP Cancer Group always sponsors a Ham Bingo at Easter time and a

SEE **GUN BINGO , A5**

Owatonna church hosts installation for new synod bishop

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna hosted last Saturday's installation service for the Rev. Regina Hassanally as bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Hassanally was elected as the fourth bishop of the synod, and the first woman to hold the position, at the synod's assembly in May in Rochester.

Presiding minister and preacher for the service was the ELCA's Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Rostered leaders and bishops joined others attending in the Festival Eucharist. A special choir of members from throughout the synod also took part in the service.

Prior to her election as bishop, Hassanally had served as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Goodhue since 2012 and as director of shared ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield from 2008 to 2012. She and her husband, Terrence, have four sons.

Following her installation, the new bishop thanked the synod for "this call to serve with you."

Bishops, pastors, deacons and laity all stand side-by-side in the work of the church, Eaton said. "The bishop needs your prayers," she said.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is one of 65 synods of the ELCA and includes 171 congregations in southern Minnesota.

STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, left, looks on as Rev. Steven Delzer, right, presents Bishop Regina Hassanally with a crozier as a symbol of her new office. Delzer retired as bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod at the end of August. The installation service took place Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna.

2019 BLOOMING PRAIRIE EDUCATION FOUNDATION BANQUET

Saturday, Sept. 28
Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

The Honorees:

Distinguished Service
Capt. Theodore Schreier- Class of 1933 *(posthumously)*
Tom Burke- Class of 1961
Shannon Pfeifer Kruckeberg- Class of 1989

Honored Educator **Diane Anderson**

Athletic Hall of Fame
Alan Morton - Class of 1948
John Worke - Class of 1984
Lisa Meshke - Class of 2000

Tickets available at New York Life in BP, Julie Noble or BPEF board members.

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INSIDE

Opinions....A2
Public Safety....A4
History....A6
Faith....A9
Hometown Living....B1
NRHEG Homecoming....B3
Sports....B5-6
Public Notices....B8
Classifieds....B9
BP Homecoming....B10

AREA DEATHS

Donald Dray, 82, Austin

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

OUR VIEW

Special court unveiled for veterans

This week is an important week in Minnesota's Third Judicial District, which encompasses Steele and Dodge counties among others throughout southeastern Minnesota.

On Friday, state court officials and other dignitaries will be at the Steele County Courthouse in Owatonna for a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the start of a veterans court in this area. The celebration comes most appropriately on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

A veterans court has been established for U.S. military veterans charged with crimes. The vets who end up in court are often struggling with addictions, mental illnesses or co-occurring disorders.

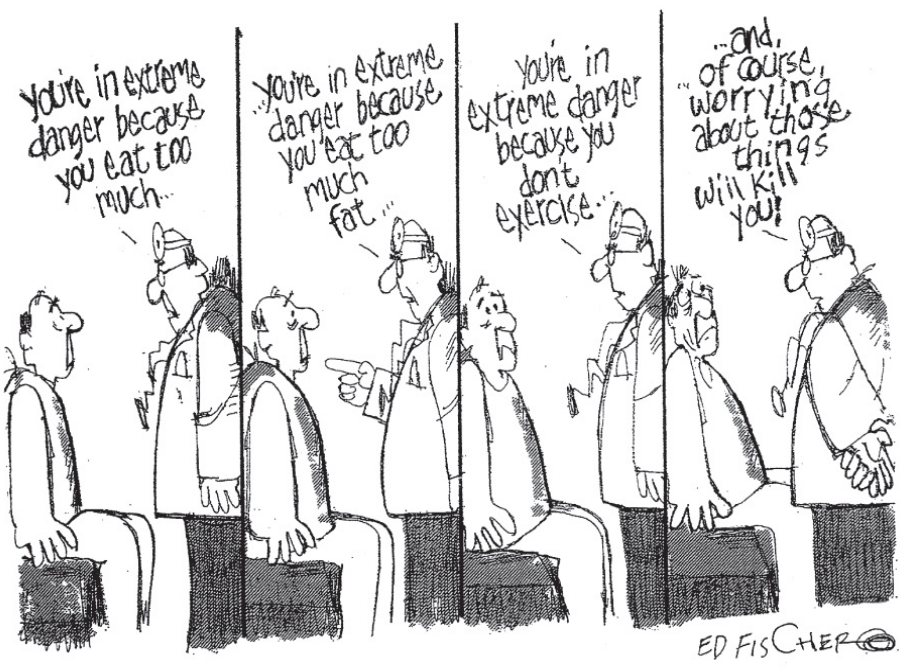
This new court will deviate from the normal court process exclusively for veterans. The court will promote sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated response involving cooperation and collaboration with the traditional partners found in treatment courts and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care networks, the Veterans Benefits Administration, volunteer veteran mentors and veterans family support organizations.

Much of the credit for this new court goes to Judge Ross Leuning of Owatonna, who serves on the bench in Freeborn County. He has an extensive military background prior to his appointment on the judicial bench eight years ago. He understands the battles facing veterans who have diligently served our country to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

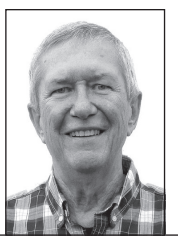
One in five veterans reportedly have symptoms of a mental health disorder or cognitive impairment. The combat experience has unfortunately left a growing number of veterans with PTSD, other mental health issues or brain injury. And that at times can lead to veterans committing crimes.

While criminal activity can't be condoned on any level or by any group of people, the veterans court is an important step in serving the needs of our veterans today and into the future. The goal is to divert those with issues from the traditional justice system and to give them treatment and tools for rehabilitation and readjustment.

We want to thank Judge Leuning and others involved for providing hope to veterans who may be down and out. This may be the boost many veterans need to get back to as normal of a life as possible.



Really... it's just stuff



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Some say it's antique. Others say it's just stuff.

My wife Judy has a couple other words for stuff... like junk and crap. I keep reminding her that this stuff she calls stuff... oh pardon me, the stuff she calls crap, is actually my treasures.

When we moved from the Twin Cities to Blooming Prairie five years ago, we had a challenge of how to handle the stuff. The answer was downsizing. Wow, did we ever downsize! It was painful.

Everybody deals with their stuff in a different way. Some easy ways to dispose of stuff is to give it away to friends or to enemies. You make a determination of whether they are a friend or enemy.

Other ways to dispose of stuff are to haul the item to the street corner and write FREE on it. This actually works.

Garage sales also work for disposing of stuff.

Blooming Prairie was the scene of some garage sales and auction sales last weekend. You might say with accuracy that there was some stuff put on the auction block. It's often been said "What is someone's junk is someone else's treasure."

Judy has been threatening me, not in a bad way, to dispose of my stuff herself if I chose not to do it.

Yes, we have had some garage sales, and I managed to painfully part with some of my stuff.

It's been five years now and Judy and I are still organizing the stuff in our house. Most of it is located in the garage.

Categorizing the stuff can sometimes be fun, however. Just last weekend, I began rummaging through my stuff and found some collectibles that I knew I had but I didn't know where it was.

An autographed Harmon Killebrew baseball wishing me a Happy Birthday on my 65th birthday was found. Son Troy got that treasure for me almost 10 years ago.

I also reluctantly sent some of my books to the Blooming Prairie Library. Hopefully library users will find something they will enjoy.

While going through some boxes of stuff, I uncovered some dead insects: spiders, crickets, etc. "Oh boy, there's that power drill I have been looking for," I smiled in alerting Judy to my find.

The toughest part of dealing with stuff is that it can become very heavy. "Where's that dolly?" I asked Judy. "Oh, that was with some of the other stuff you sold," she told me. Oh shucks!

Before you throw out any of your stuff, make sure you want to part with it.

Let's look at some definitions of stuff:

NOUNS:

- The material out of which something is made or formed; substance.
- The essential substance or elements; essence.
- Unspecified material: Put that stuff over there.
- Household or personal articles considered as a group.
- Worthless objects (Judy would agree with this definition)
- Stuff can be used in sports, referring to a baseball pitcher's spin on the ball; refers to a basketball dunk shot; the team showed its stuff in winning the championship.

VERB:

- Stuff can also be used as a verb: to pack or fill completely; cram

The nice part of having stuff is that you don't really have to remember that you have it. Enjoy your stuff before someone else gets it. We live in a "stuff" world.

Area photographers show how they believe in community

Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Over the years you've likely heard the phrase, "It takes village to raise a child." For obvious reasons, it often falls onto the entire community to bring up a child, especially in the world we live in today.

I have a slight variation of the common phrase as it applies to putting out a community newspaper. "It takes a village to put out a community paper."

Through my education efforts in the newspaper over the past year, I have shared some of the struggles our industry and specifically your local newspaper has faced recently. With limited resources and time, it's impossible for us to be everywhere at once, though we certainly would like to be.

We have faced some challenges with sports coverage this fall. Our full-time sports editor left to go back home to Indiana in May while our veteran sports writer LeMar Nelson continues to face medical challenges limiting his ability to keep doing what he has done so faithfully for the past 28 years. If someone, by the way, is interested in freelancing as a sports writer, please be sure to reach out to me.

One of the things I have stressed on more than one occasion is how we rely on community members to help us publish the community newspaper. My staff is only here to facilitate the newspaper on behalf of the community within certain perimeters, of course. Community members are the eyes and ears of what's going on, and we love nothing more than to create a partnership with them in putting out a quality product.

That partnership has truly shone through this fall as I am pleased to say three area photographers stepped up to the plate to help us with the fall sports team photos for Owatonna, Medford and NRHEG high schools. Mike Oldenburg of Oldenburg Photography provided photos for Owatonna while Skye Devoe of Skye's the Limit Photography gave us photos for Medford and Brant Hemingway of Brant Hemingway Photography came through with NRHEG.

I hope you enjoy their photos in this week's special sports section showcasing the fall teams and their schedules.

To have cooperation like this from three quality photographers is nothing short of amazing and a huge blessing to our newspaper. In addition, our readers are afforded the opportunity to see their kids and grandchildren in the newspaper, which is exactly what a community newspaper is all about. The photographers truly understand that it takes an entire community to put out a newspaper. Their cooperation is unbelievable in showing how we can all work together in supporting our youth and beyond. They are champions in celebrating our youth and their accomplishments.

The photographers have stepped up to show that when times get tough, people and communities pull together to help each other out. In this case, they've helped out the local newspaper, which in turn impacts nearly everyone in the community.

I encourage you to reach out to thank them for their generosity in going above and beyond to help your community newspaper. I'd also encourage you to contact them if you ever need some family photos taken or anything else.

I have also received cooperation from some of these photographers with providing us game photos throughout the season. You can't imagine how excited these athletes, along with their parents and grandparents, will be when they see their photos in the newspaper.

I remember back to my childhood and how I was so thrilled to open up my local newspaper only to find my photo and name in it. It helped build my confidence as a youngster more than anyone will ever know. And for that, I'm so ever grateful to my local newspaper, even though it's no longer in existence.

We believe in community, and we also believe that communities remain strong and vibrant because of a quality newspaper at their disposal. We hope you will understand that about us in these challenging times.

It's time to go in hot pursuit of enjoying the fall sports tab thanks to some great area photographers.

GUEST COLUMN

Let's make Minnesota the education state

BY TIM WALZ

As a former public school teacher and a dad, the back-to-school season is a meaningful time of year for me. This year, it's also full of change. My daughter, Hope, starts her first year of college at the University of Minnesota and my son, Gus, heads back to middle school. This will also be the first year in nearly 30 years that neither my wife, Gwen, nor I will be starting September in a school.

While I am not in front of a classroom this year, I approach every day in my job as a "teacher-governor." That's because the education of our children determines the future of our state. Every student in Minnesota deserves the opportunity to learn in the best schools in the country with caring, qualified teachers.

But as I travel around the state, I see how the quality of a student's education is too often dependent on their race or zip code. I recently met a grandmother who lives with a deep anxiety. Her fear is that her grandchild in Le Crescent won't receive the same opportunities or have as bright of a future as her grandchild in Woodbury. Disparities in our educational system based on geography, race, or economic status hold back not only our students, but our entire state from reaching its full potential.

We must make Minnesota the "Education State" for all children–no matter who they are or where they live. This past legislative session, we achieved many victories for education. Together, we increased the general education formula for the next two years, giving schools more flexibility to meet the unique needs of their students. We invested in the mental health of our kids by allowing districts and charters to hire more school counselors. And we kept the preschool doors open for 4,000 of Minnesota's littlest learners to keep them on track to reach their full potential.

While I am incredibly encouraged by these steps forward, we still face many challenges in education. The achievement gap between white students and students of color persists–threatening to hold back our future workforce. Too many school districts, especially in Greater Minnesota, rely on levies and property tax increases to provide students with the support they need and deserve. We cannot continue to ask our teachers and administrators to do more with fewer resources.

If we are going to foster the best education system in the country, every politician, every community, and every Minnesotan must value our children receiving a high-quality education. This means valuing our teachers, our principals, our mentors, our paraprofessionals, our bus drivers and, of course, our students. In sum, it means valuing the great American institution of public education.

Back-to-school is a time filled with possibility and excitement. Education is the great equalizer of society. Education unleashes untapped potential. Education conjures the magic of promising beginnings and the grace of second chances. I will work every day to make Minnesota the Education State. Good luck to everyone as they head back at school, and I look forward to what we can achieve together this year.

Tim Walz took office as governor of Minnesota in January. He is a former teacher from Mankato.

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2018—6 state and 4 national awards
2017—2 state and 3 national awards
2016—8 state and 6 national awards
2015—7 state and 4 national awards
2014—3 state and 3 national awards
2013—7 state and 2 national awards
2012—2 state awards
2011—4 national awards

(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper) Association and the National Newspaper Associations)

Express Pressure celebrates new location in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Express Pressure Washers, Inc. of Blooming Prairie is celebrating 35 years of business and its new location at 526 3rd St. NE (along Highway 30 East) in Blooming Prairie.

A two-day grand opening is planned from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Express Pressure Washers previously operated out of facilities at O'Connor Farms just west of Blooming Prairie.

The business, which was started 35 years ago by James O'Connor, moved to its new location in early June. Its new location is the former location of Bioplastic Solutions, which moved to Ellendale.

The public is invited to a special Grand Opening, which will feature door prizes, product demonstrations and food and drinks both days. A Bounce House for the kids will be featured on Saturday.

Express Pressure is a full-service pressure washer distributor, maintains a sizable inventory of Alkota pressure washers, radiant heaters, floor sweepers & scrubbers, soap, used equipment, replacement parts, parts washers and accessories.

EXP also repairs all makes and models of pressure washers, heaters, and coolers.

Express has one goal in mind, to achieve 100% customer satisfaction from each one of its valued customers, says Brent Ingvalson, plant general manager. Express meets its goal by providing top-quality equipment, professional services, and long-term value, he added.

Extensive services are provided Express Pressure Washers' customers, including technical support, maintenance and repair and troubleshooting manuals and videos.

For more information on Express Pressure Washers, go to expresspressurewashers.com or Facebook.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It's grand opening time on Sept. 27-28 for Express Pressure Washers of Blooming Prairie in celebrating 35 years of business and its new location at 526 3rd St. NE. General Manager Brent Ingvalson, left, and owner James O'Connor are shown in the showroom of its new location.

3 BP sports greats to be honored

He was an anchor in the Blossoms line

Editor's Note: The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation will be honoring seven alumni at the BP Ed Foundation's Annual Banquet at the BP Servicemen's Club on Saturday, Sept. 28. Three categories will be saluted: distinctive service, sports and honored educator.
Three outstanding athletes will be honored: Lisa Meshke, Alan Morton and John Dale Worke. We share their stories with you this week. In last week's newspaper, we featured the honorees for distinctive service. The honored educator will be profiled in next week's edition.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Because of his 6 ft. 2 in. frame, Alan Morton was an intimidating and threatening force, whether it be on the football field, basketball court or baseball diamond.

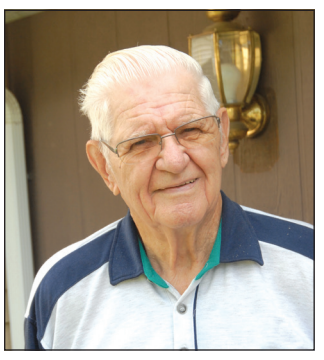
Morton, who recently turned 90, was the ultimate Blossom, leading his teams to some accomplishments that will be revered forever.

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation is in its 12th year of recognizing Blooming Prairie High School alumni.

Morton, a well-known businessman in town, will be one of seven alumni to be honored at the annual banquet of the BP Ed Foundation on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the BP Servicemen's Club. He is being recognized for his exploits in sports.

When Morton, a 1948 Blooming Prairie graduate, is not talking about his high school athletic career, he is singing praises for his late wife Theda, two children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He is also setting his sights on an upcoming fishing trip into Canada.

Morton's football career started when he was a freshman. "We lost every game that year," he recalls. After that year, Morton said he played on teams that did not lose a game.



Alan Morton

Fortunes changed in ensuing years. The Blossoms allowed only one touchdown in 1946.

Morton, who wore No. 51 in football, played left tackle, both offensively and defensively. He measured 6-2 and tipped the scales at 248 pounds as a ninth grader. He's slimmed down to 220 at this date.

The Blossoms were Gopher Conference champions in 1946 and 1947.

Morton was slowed by a knee injury in 1947. Two of his teammates, George Ressler and Harvey Cole, found a brace for Morton to wear. The brace allowed him to play and to continue his intimidating play.

Morton wore #37 on the basketball court. He was chosen the most valuable Blossom athlete after his senior year in basketball.

"I hold a basketball record that will never be broken," he says, not so proudly. The record is for having the most fouls during a season. "That was my job," said Morton in talking about his rebounding skills. "I fouled out in almost every game," he remembers.

His Blossoms basketball teams were Gopher champs the two years Morton played. In his senior year, the Blossoms outscored their opponents, 706-539.

Come spring, Morton put on his baseball spikes and took his place on the pitching mound. "I pitched every game and batted cleanup," Morton tells.

When Morton was pitching, he said Don Vaith caught him the first four innings and Don Hope was the catcher the next two innings. The catchers were changed because Morton threw the ball so hard, up to 85 miles per hour.

"High school kids couldn't hit 85 mile an hour pitches back then," Morton said.

Control was a problem, however, for the right-handed throwing Morton. "I was all over the place;; either I walked the hitter or they were out," he says.

Morton also played town ball following high school. Morton's class of 1948 numbered 56. Dick Klemmensen and Marilyn Fiebiger were two of his classmates. One week out of high school, he attended Dunwoody Institute and helped his grandfather with plumbing work in Hollandale.

On a particular job, Morton said he saw his future wife and almost dropped all of his tools.

Morton married in 1950 and was activated by the National Guard to serve in Japan and Korea. He and his wife were married 67 years. Morton was away from her for almost two years.

Morton was born in Austin to Ward & Lucille Morton. He had three sisters, Ann (deceased), Jane and Judy.

He carried a Master Plumber's license and a refrigeration engineering certificate. He also has a pump and well license.

His skills took him to Onamia to help building a high school and to Hastings for profile extrusions. He also built Hayfield Window and Oriole (now Tandem Products) in Blooming Prairie.

Morton specialized in heating and air conditioning and commercial refrigeration.

Morton totaled 38 1/2 years of service on the Blooming Prairie Fire Department. He also says he will be a Blossom forever.

He and his girlfriend, Wilma Pirkl, winter in Donna, Texas every year. Showing his lively wit, Morton says, "We won't start a family right away."

Morton says he is thankful for his health. "I can't hear very well but that's because I won't wear my hearing aids," he confesses. He says he takes baby aspirin and a tiny heart pill every day.

Hunting is another love of Morton's. He proudly says he has shot eight moose, four elk, two bear and over 50 whitetail deer.

Asked what the Blossom award means to him, he looks quizzically and says, "I don't really know." He then smiles and says the award allows him to talk about his days as an athlete.

Living a dream for this top athlete

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Just ask John Dale Worke and he will tell you that he is living a dream as principal of Blooming Prairie High School.

Worke, a three-sport star athlete at the Blooming Prairie High School, will be honored at the 12th Annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Annual Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the BP Servicemen's Club.

Worke will be saluted as a top male athlete. He was nominated by his wife Mary, a counselor at the BP High School.

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.

Worke played football, basketball and baseball for the Blooming Prairie Blossoms. He graduated in 1984.

He played varsity football. During his senior year in the fall of 1983, Blooming Prairie won the Gopher Conference football championship with an unblemished record of 7-0.

In Worke's senior year, he set a school record with eight interceptions in a season. That record lasted for 26 years until Matt Zellmer broke it with 14 interceptions.

A two-year starter on the BP boys basketball team, Worke was all-conference both years and was named the team's Most Valuable Player for 1983-84, his senior year.

Worke averaged 12.9 points per game during his junior year and held a 19.9 point per game average during his senior year. This was before the three-point line came into high school basketball.

Blooming Prairie's 1983-84 basketball record was 17-15 overall, with the season ending against Southland for the district championship.

Worke is 11th on the career points scored record book with 664 points scored in two seasons. He is also 14th on the points scored in a season with 419 points for the 1983-84 season.

He played varsity baseball for three years. He was the team's shortstop and twice earned all conference honors.

The Blossoms tied for the Gopher Conference baseball title with Waterville in Worke's senior year, 1984. The Blossoms etched a 10-2 record to earn its first ever conference baseball championship.

After college at Winona State University, Worke came back to Blooming Prairie to start his teaching and coaching career.

He also attended Mankato State University and the University of St. Mary's for advanced degrees.

Worke was head girls basketball coach for 22 years, beginning his run in the 1993-94 season.

Worke compiled an overall coaching record with 377 wins and 174 losses overall through his varsity coaching career. His Gopher Conference career coaching record was 248 wins and 67 losses.

The Blossom girls won 10 Gopher Conference

JOHN WORKE

championships with Worke as their coach.

Worke not only participated in athletics at BPHS. He also coached and directed athletics at BPHS. He became high school principal five years ago.

"Blooming Prairie athletics have been a big part of my life for many years," says Worke. He was the Blooming Prairie Recreation Association (BPRA) director for 25 years.

"I am honored to receive this award and thank the BP Education committee for choosing me," remarked Worke.

He and Mary have three children: Matthew, 23; Madison, 22 and Julia, 17.

Worke has been very active in his community, in various roles at First Lutheran Church and with the Blooming Prairie Lions Club.

Golfing was and is her game

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Golfing has been her game during most years of her life.

A love of golf was developed by Lisa Meshke at an early age. She is a former state individual champion and had the distinction of competing in the state 1A golf tournament six years in a row.

Meshke is one of seven Blooming Prairie alumni who will be honored at the 13th Annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. She will be saluted as a top female athlete.

Nominated by longtime educator and journalist LeMar Nelson, Meshke is regarded as one of the most talented athletes, girl or boy, to come out of Blooming Prairie High School, says Nelson.

What does it mean to be a Blossom?

Meshke reflects: "Looking back on my time as a Blossom, I am thankful for the numerous opportunities to try different things – whether it be the all school musical, sports, or speech. These opportunities allowed me to be well-rounded in my skills and interests."

A 2000 graduate of BPHS, Meshke won the state golfing championship in her senior year. She also finished second three times, in eighth grade, 10th grade and 11th grade.

Meshke was meet medalist 70 times in her high school career. She carded a nine-hole 34 score three times and had a blistering 70 over 18 holes.

Besides her golfing accomplishments, Meshke played basketball and was a member of the 1999 team that advanced to the state tournament.

She was a member of the National Honor Society. She earned the sub-section Triple A award and received a full ride scholarship to Iowa State University and competed on the Iowa State golf team four years.

At one time, Meshke held the record for the lowest score in a 54-hole tournament. She had the lowest average on the college golf team and was named the hardest worker on the squad in 2001.

Meshke graduated from Iowa State University in 2004. She earned degrees in finance and accounting in 2004. She graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Iowa State in 2006.

She worked as a financial advisor for six years from 2006 to 2013 at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa and served as assistant golf coach at Grand View College for three years.

Meshke switched ca-

LISA MESHKE

reers in 2012 and entered Luther Seminary. She graduated in August 2016 with a Master of Divinity degree.

"I felt a call to ministry when I started to get involved at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. I was active in a couple of different ministries there and was able to take on some leadership roles.

"I took a class in 2011 at Lutheran Church of Hope called the Ultimate Journey and it was through this class that I was praying about where God was calling me to serve.

"I also had one strong encourager as I was in discernment. I did some short-term mission work in Jamaica and it was there that I decided to start the process to enter seminary and the first steps to being an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)."

Meshke completed two internships, the first was at Mountain View Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Ariz. and the second was at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Austin.

She also did a chaplain internship/residency at Fairview Hospital – University of Minnesota and at Iowa Methodist in Des Moines.

Asked about her faith statement, Meshke replied: "A favorite quote of mine is by Frederick Buechner, which says, 'The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.' I feel God has called me to ministry, and I am honored to journey with others in their deepest joys and deepest sorrows."

She was ordained at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie in May 2017. She says she is deeply indebted to First Lutheran Church of BP, a "tremendous support to me throughout my time in seminary."

She was then called to serve as pastor at First English Lutheran Church in Tyler, Minn.

When not in the pulpit or on the golf course, Meshke loves to hike, walk, watch movies and work on jigsaw puzzles. She also says she enjoys animals, especially her two cats, Buddy and Grace.

Her amateur golf achievements are also

SEE **GOLFING, A5**

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

Skating along and ignoring the police

Chris Rivas

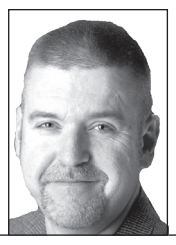
For a 23-year-old man, avoiding the police apparently involves making a get away with a skateboard.

Owatonna Police recently got into a pursuit with a man skating along with his skateboard. On Aug. 27, a sergeant saw Chris Rivas of Faribault skateboarding on the sidewalk along North Cedar Avenue. This violates a city ordinance.

The sergeant had just warned the man about this same activity the night before. When the officer pulled alongside Rivas, he asked him to stop and speak with him. But Rivas was not compliant and just kept skating along, police said.

At this point the sergeant got in behind the skateboarder, activated his lights and siren, but he still wouldn't stop. A short time later Rivas allegedly ditched the skateboard and began running away from police. Another sergeant arrived to assist and the fleeing skateboarder seemed to run out of gas and was taken into custody in a parking lot.

Police say they found.42 grams of methamphetamine in Rivas' pocket. He has been charged with fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance and fleeing police.



Dodge Sheriff
SCOTT ROSE

We were one

While I hope to God we don't ever suffer an attack like we did on Sept. 11, for several days and weeks following the attacks – we were ONE. I miss those days.

Stores ran out of flags and patriotic symbols, Old Glory was flying at every home, business, on vehicles, all over. For that short period of time we were all Americans – didn't matter our religion, our ethnicity, the color of our skin, what part of the country we lived in, how much money we made, our political party–none of that mattered!

What mattered was we were all Americans, and we were all banning together to help everyone get through this incredible tragedy that had taken place– the lives that were lost, the fear and uncertainty, and the anger we all felt. We comforted one another, young and old, and we were kind to each other. We showed the world how strong we can be together as one America. Everyone's life mattered.

We respected our flag and would have never taken a knee during the National Anthem. No one would have ever considered our flag to be a symbol of anything but how great this country is. We respected our firefighters, our law enforcement, and our EMS personnel. We respected our military. We respected the office of the President. We respected each other.

Everywhere you looked you saw symbols of America. A level of patriotism my kids barely remember, if at all – and a level they've not seen since. It's a very different country we live in today. Sad that it takes something so horrific and tragic to bring our country together – and even more sad to see how quickly we forget those days when we were ONE.

Scott Rose serves as the sheriff of Dodge County. He began his second term in January. He writes for this newspaper frequently.

Celebration to mark start of innovative vets court

The Third Judicial District will launch its new, District-wide Veterans Treatment Court on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Friday, Sept. 20, with two ribbon-cutting ceremonies. The first ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. at the Steele County Courthouse in Owatonna, which will also serve as the western location for the District-wide Veterans Treatment Court.

The second ceremony, on the same day, will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the eastern location for the Treatment Court, the Fillmore County Courthouse. These events are open the public.

"The Minnesota Judicial Branch is committed to expanding treatment court access throughout the state. As we work to expand treatment courts, we are asking communities to think innovatively and thoughtfully about how to best ensure treatment courts are sustainable," said MN Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea. "I congratulate the Third Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court Organizing Committee, and those dedicated community and justice partners who are responsible for the District-wide Court, on this milestone. Today is the result of careful planning, collaboration, and a tireless drive to serve our veterans today and into the future."

Speakers at the Steele County event will be Gildea, Judge Ross Leuning, who spearheaded the campaign to get the court activated, and Brandon Servantez, veterans service officer with Freeborn County.

Minnesota Court of Appeals Judge Renee L. Worke, Minnesota Third Judicial District Chief Judge Jodi L. Williamson, Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System Director Patrick Kelly, Congressman Jim Hagedorn, and many of the Third Judicial District judges, staff, and judicial partners will attend each event.

The 11-county Court is open to qualifying individuals from Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, and Winona counties. The Third Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court is the fourteenth multi-county treatment court and the third district-wide treatment court in Minnesota. There is one other district-wide veterans treatment court in the state, in the Fifth Judicial District. There are more than 460 veterans treatment courts nationwide. The two locations for this new Court will be overseen by Judge Ross Leuning in Steele County and Judge Joseph F. Chase in Fillmore County.

Judge Leuning, who is chambered in Freeborn County, has been the lead judge for the Third Judicial District Veterans Court Organizing Committee and Treatment Court since 2017. Leuning's military service began in 1979 in the Army National Guard. He then joined the U.S. Navy, and later the U.S. Navy Reserve. Judge Leuning worked as a Command Judge Advocate in the United States Navy based out of the Al Asad Air Base in Albaghdadi, Iraq, prior to his appointment to the Bench in 2011. He also worked in the Olmsted County Attorney's Office, was a partner at Walbran, Furness & Leuning, served as a General Court-Martial Military Trial Judge in the U.S. Navy, and was a Preliminary Hearing Officer and JAGC Officer in the U.S. Navy. Judge Leuning has taught extensively on military law, administrative law, and law of armed conflict at the U.S. Naval Academy, Minnesota State University Mankato, the Military Law Center, the Naval Justice School, and multiple continuing legal education courses.

A veterans treatment court is a court designed for U.S. military veterans charged with misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony offenses who are struggling with addiction, serious mental illness, or co-occurring disorders. The court promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response involving cooperation and collaboration with the traditional partners found in treatment courts and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care networks, the Veterans Benefits Administration, volunteer veteran mentors, and veterans family support organizations.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 2 – 8:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Domingo D. Deluna, 18, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, $281; Caleb J. Malek, 21, Farmington, revoked license and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, $381; Ariet O. Obach, 19, Montgomery, revoked license and possession of marijuana, $431; Nicholas D. Thouin, 35, St. Cloud, expired tabs, $111; Nyaniew T. Yat, 32, St. Cloud, speeding, $221.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tanya J. Johnson, 40, Spirit Lake, IA, minnow license violation, $1,081.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Simon B. Choat, 42, Austin, unsafe lane usage, $131; Jose M. Garcia Martinez, 24, Burnsville, no license, $181; Corbett B. Jones, 44, Las Vegas, NV, no license, $181; Janet E. Kramer, 60, New Richland, weaving over lanes, $131; Kitab E. Ladu, 50, Brooklyn Park, speeding, $141; Connor J. Lecy, 27, Stillwater, speeding, $141; Sarah M. Lewis, 42, Richfield, speeding, $131; Paul A. Lipham, 47, Stockbridge, GA, speeding, $121; Bradley C. Meek, 33, Des Moines, IA, speeding, $121; Kadar H. Mohamed, 20, Faribault, speeding, $281; Charlie D. Morris, 23, Albert Lea, suspended license, possession of marijuana and child passenger restraint system violation, $381; Khalif Y. Mursal, 39, Owatonna, unsafe lane usage, $131; Oliver J. Parker, 21, Stillwater, speeding, $141; Tonya H. Raleigh, 41, Spring Lake Park, DWI, $131 and 30 days in county jail; Jan Y. Rolloff, 44, St. Paul, speeding, $141; Cherie L. Seuser, 59, Albert Lea, speeding, $121; Glendon E. Sharpe, 67, seat belt, $106; Cassandra S. Simonson, 32, Faribault, no license and revoked license, $381; Alyssa S. Smith, 21, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Rodney L. Smith, 35, Columbus, OH, speeding, $121; Tatum D. Stelter, 17, North Mankato, speeding, $131; Brock A. Stephenson, 19, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Nhan T. Trinh, 34, Champlin, speeding, $131; Christopher M. Wheeler, 24, Baird, TX, seat belt, $106.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dacia J. Clark, 18, Albert Lea, theft, stay of adjudication, $100 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Eric A. Esquivel, 22, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Kris A. Evans, 47, Waterville, no insurance, $281; Jeffrey N. Frye, 19, Waseca, speeding and revoked license, $321; Rosendo F. Garcia, 30, Ellendale, speeding, $131; Samuel M. Godfrey, 19, Faribault, speeding, $221; Savanna J. Guerrero, 21, Medford, no insurance, $281; Aaron N. Jones, 29, Minneapolis, headlights violation, possession of marijuana and open bottle, $371; Kayla M. Jordan, 30, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Amanda L. Malmberg, 20, Dodge Center, no insurance, $281; Erick H. Palomo Morales, 36, Albert Lea, speeding, $121; Tina M. Peterson, 48, Faribault, suspended license and no insurance, $481; Joye A. Stallman, 36, Owatonna, expired tabs, $111; Justin T. Sweeney, 42, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Brandyn J. Wetzstein, 26, Owatonna, speeding, $131.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Abdulkadir A. Badru, 21, Le Mars, IA, speeding, $141; Daryl R. Bauer, 47, New Prague, speeding, $221; Kyle L. Bellecourt, 19, Minneapolis, speeding, invalid license and no insurance, $581; Thomas W. Binkley, 54, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Joseph M. Brein, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Isabella R. Claeys, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Justin R. Davis, 42, La Crosse, WI, speeding, $121; Heather A. Heimbuch, 49, New Richmond, WI, speeding, $131; Mark A. Hull, 41, Austin, TX, speeding, $100; Jevon T. Hunter, 26, Waseca, speeding, $121; Jeremy L. Johnson, 40, Austin, speeding, $141; Megan L. Martin, 25, Apple Valley, speeding, $121; Emilio D. Mendoza Alvarez, 23, Owatonna, cancelled license, $281; William F. O'Donnell, 43, St. Cloud, speeding, $121; Sean A. Packer, 26, Waseca, speeding, $221; Brody J. Schreiber, 22, Albert Lea, DWI, $381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Christopher S. Seeman, 24, Crete, NE, speeding, $121; Alyssa S. Smith, 21, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Myron W. Wunderlich, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, $281.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Sept. 9

Theft: At 6:53 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 200 block of Main St. E.

OWATONNA POLICE

Sept. 6

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 1:50 p.m.
Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 400 block of Broadway St. E. at 3:08 p.m.
Shoplifting: At 6:40 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 400 block of 18th St. SE.

Sept. 7

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Oak Ave. S. and Main St. W. at 12:12 a.m.
Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 2:45 a.m. They took a subject into a custody.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1900 block of Greenwood Dr. NE at 4:03 a.m.
Theft: At 4:57 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of Highland Ave. NW.
Fraud: Police received a report of a fraud incident in the 600 block of Mound St. SW at 9:21 a.m.
Drugs: Officers assisted with drug activity in the 300 block of Murray St. SE at 1:24 p.m.
Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:12 p.m.

Sept. 8

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Woodland Dr. SE at 3:15 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.
Restraining Order: Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 9:13 a.m.
Drugs: Police responded to drug activity in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:25 p.m. They took a subject into custody.
Disturbance: At 1:45 p.m., a disturbance occurred in the 200 block of Walnut Ave. S.
Trespassing: Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 3 p.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 6:18 p.m.

Sept. 9

Mental Health: Officers responded to a mental health incident in the 700 block of 22nd St. SE at 7:02 a.m.
Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 900 block of Clover Lane SE at 7:31 a.m.
Threats: Officers responded to a subject making threats in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:06 p.m.
Theft: Police received theft reports from the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:29 p.m. and the 200 block of Chambers Ave. SE at 8:05 p.m.
Hit and Run: At 5:25 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred at Cedar Ave. S. and School St. E.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 10:09 p.m.

Sept. 10

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Grove Ave. S. at 1:14 a.m.
Weapons: Officers responded to a weapons-related incident in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 2:32 a.m.
Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of Cedar Valley Dr. NW at 6:41 a.m.
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:19 a.m.
Domestic: At 1:24 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S.
Drugs: Officers responded to drug activity in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 9:18 p.m.

Sept. 11

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 500 block of South St. E. at 7:36 a.m.
Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at School St. W. and Oak Ave. S. at 12:58 p.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 2500 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 1:12 p.m.
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 4:10 p.m.

Sept. 12

Theft: At 9:25 a.m., a theft occurred in the 700 block of Elm Ave. N.
Identity Theft: Police received a report of identity theft from the 500 block of 32nd Ave. SW at 9:32 a.m.
Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 700 block of Minnesota Ave. SE at 9:42 a.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 12:07 p.m.
Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:21 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.
Shoplifting: Officers arrested a juvenile for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:03 p.m.
Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Meadow Lane SW at 9:18 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Sept. 7

DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 52nd Ave. SW and Thompson Dr. and Berlin Township at 1:03 a.m.

Sept. 11

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 2:28 p.m.
Criminal Sexual Conduct: At 4:09 p.m., deputies arrested a subject for criminal sexual conduct at the law enforcement center.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Joshua Steven Moreno Jr., 22, arrested at 3:23 a.m. Sept. 7, domestic assault/assault, held for court.
Richard William Grunwald, 32, arrested at 3:32 a.m. Sept. 8, domestic assault/assault, held for court.
David Wayne Hickman, 70, arrested at 10:13 a.m. Sept. 8, restraining order

SEE **BLOTTER, A5**

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

1. Angel Rizo – worthless check - $5,000 bail
2. Tommy Robertson Jr. – DWI - $300 bail
3. Raul Rodarte – DWI - $1,000 bail
4. Abraam Rodriguez – DWI - $12,000 bail
5. Antonio Rodriguez – DWI - $1,000 bail
6. Carlos Rodriguez – terroristic threats – no bail
7. Carlos Rodriguez – DWI - $12,000 bail
8. Joseph Rodriguez – theft by check - $1,000 bail
9. Pedro Roldan-Minjarez – false name - $3,000 bail
10. Jose Roman – DWI - $6,000 bail
11. Justo Roman – DWI - $12,000 bail
12. Jose Rosales – criminal sexual conduct – no bail
13. Anthony Russo – assault - $10,000 bail
14. Ramiro Salinas – DWI – no bail
15. Miguel Sambrano – DWI - $2,000 bail
16. Sonny San – DWI - $2,000 bail
17. Gilberto Sanchez – DWI - $12,000 bail
18. Jorge Sanchez – shoplifting - $100 bail
19. Roberto Sanchez – criminal sexual conduct – no bail
20. Russell Sanchez – theft - $200 bail

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

Superintendent hits the coffee shops to pitch upcoming referendum

Coffee and conversations will be flowing over the next few months as Owatonna Schools Superintendent Jeff Elstad makes his rounds throughout the community.

Beginning on Sept. 4, Elstad invited the community to join him for coffee and conversation. There are several others coming up between now and the Nov. 5 referendum.

Elstad is pitching the upcoming bond referendum to get a new high school in Owatonna. Informal gatherings have been scheduled around Owatonna. The public is welcomed to attend and go as they need. No formal presentations will be made during any of the stops.

"We hope to see you at one, or all, of the below coffee and conversation gatherings," Elstad said.

The schedule includes:
– Monday, Sept. 23: TBA
– Friday, Sept. 27: 8-9 a.m. TBA
– Monday, Sept. 30: 8-9 a.m. at Old Town Bagels, 211 N. Cedar Ave.
– Friday, Oct. 4: 8-9 a.m. at Owatonna Schools Board Room
– Wednesday, Oct. 9: 8-9 a.m. at Caribou Coffee, 2350 43rd St. NW
– Friday, Oct. 11: 8-9 a.m. at Starbucks, 641 W. Bridge St.
– Monday, Oct. 14: 2-3 p.m. at Sun Rise Grill, 205 N. Oak Ave.
– Wednesday, Oct. 16: 9-10 a.m. at Owatonna Schools Board Room
– Monday, Oct. 21: 8-9 a.m. at Central Park Coffee, 113 N. Cedar Ave.
– Friday, Oct. 25: 8-9 a.m. at Owatonna Schools Board Room
– Monday, Oct. 28: 8-9 a.m. at Olivia's Family Restaurant, 1160 Frontage Road W.
– Wednesday, Oct. 30: 8-9 a.m. at Owatonna Schools Board Room

The district is making its second attempt at passing a bond referendum this year. In May, voters narrowly defeated a referendum with the widest disparity of those against it coming in the rural areas of the district.

This time around the district has changed things up a bit and trimmed back what it is seeking. The district is asking for $104 million to build a new school instead of the previous $116 million. The proposal also allows for the district to keep the old high school, but $8 million would be needed to make that happen.

More information can be found by visiting Owatonna School's referendum page at www.owatonnaproud.org.

OPEN HOUSE SET: *for 218 project* FROM A1

ous stakeholders, alternative concepts considered and dismissed, alternatives chosen for further analysis and the results of analysis completed to date.

Richard Augstin, project manager with MnDOT, and Pat McGraw, project manager with the engineering firm, are leading the reconstruction project.

The contract for the project is expected to be awarded in November 2022 with construction planned to take place in the spring of 2023.

No estimate for the cost of the project has been revealed to this point.

GOLFING: *was and is her game* FROM A3

many. She qualified for nine USGA events, two U.S. amateur tournaments, two junior U.S. amateur tournaments and three Publink tournaments. She earned runner-up honors at the Iowa State Amateur tournament three times.

"I consider it an honor to receive this award," says Meshke. "I achieved a lot as a golfer at Blooming Prairie High School and at Iowa State and I am honored that others have recognized these achievements," she said in a sincere tone.

"Today my focus is less on achievements and more on serving others through my daily work as a pastor," she related. "Daily, I am reminded of our world's great need for love, grace, and community.

"It is my goal to be a vessel in which to share God's great love with the world around me."

BLOTTER: FROM A4

violation, held for court.
Robert Richard Ohden, 57, arrested at 1:54 p.m. Sept. 12, disorderly conduct, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Robert Dale Gosse, 60, arrested at 10:32 p.m. Sept. 8, domestic assault/assault, held for court.
Joseph Allen DeLeon, 31, arrested at 1 p.m. Sept. 9, warrant arrest, held for court.
Joshua Scott Almendinger, 32, arrested at 11:47 a.m. Sept. 9, felony order for protection violation, held for court.
Jamie Lee Carey, 33, arrested at 1:15 p.m. Sept. 11, warrant arrest, body only.
Brandin David Botten, 31, arrested at 2:35 p.m. Sept. 11, warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Sept. 1 – 8:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dennis L. Davey, 66, Rochester, speeding, $120; Arisela Garza, 19, Richmond, TX, revoked license, $280; Keith H. Paley, 53, Owatonna, speeding, $140; Eva Y. Rodriguez-Cardona, 34, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, $480; James P. Snee, 52, Austin, speeding, $140; Jonathan K. Soderlind, 28, Rochester, revoked license, $280.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sondra J. Enstad, 54, Kasson, failure to yield, $180; Timothy J. Farver, 30, St. Paul, restraining order violation, $130, 46 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; Michael A. Feiber, 21, New Ulm, speeding, $140; Talon J. Freerksen, 17, Byron, speeding, $140; Sherman J. Haugland, 38, Austin, seat belt, $105; Joshua S. Hinson, 34, Conway, NC, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, $180; Nestor G. Reyes, 22, Dodge Center, revoked license and no insurance, $480; Brayan O. Santos Zavala, 23, Kasson, invalid license, $180; Gannon C. Smith, 24, Rochester, registration violation and speeding, $170; Jesse C. Swedin, 21, Faribault, speeding, $140; Daniel E. Tompkins II, 50, Rochester, revoked license, $280; Tayon J. Truax, 17, Byron, speeding, $140; Adam W. Vanschaick, 38, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Maurice L. Walker, 41, Rochester, speeding, $220.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Carlos Gonzalez, 19, Faribault, revoked license, $280; Nicki M. Greenslade, 37, Dodge Center, speeding, $140; Saul V. Hernandez, 36, Rochester, no license, $180; Quinton M. Jones, 30, Rochester, invalid license and speeding, $320; David M. Kennedy, 72, West Concord, speeding, $130; Darin R. Klostermeier, 38, Bagley, speeding, $140; Monica L. Labarre, 21, Owatonna, speeding, $280; Kloey J. White, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $130.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ryan L. Edson, 31, Cannon Falls, speeding, $140.

OWATONNA POLICE

OWATONNA POLICE SEPT. 9

Smoke: Firefighters responded to steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 10:57 a.m.
Medical: Fire rescue assisted with a medical emergency in the 5600 block of 34th Ave. SE at 6:32 p.m.

Sept. 10

Gas Spill: Firefighters responded to a gas spill in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW at 6:46 a.m.
Gas Leak: At 3:38 p.m., a gas leak occurred in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Sept. 11

Crash: Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 500 block of South St. at 7:38 a.m.
Medical: At 12:27 p.m., a medical emergency occurred in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

FIRST-EVER: *Gun Bingo raises $17K for cancer* FROM A1

Turkey Bingo at Thanksgiving. Two years ago, the Cancer Group started a Purse Bingo event that has also proven to be popular.

The Servicemen's Club turned out to be a perfect venue for the Gun Bingo with food and beverages available for everyone.

Trom learned about the idea of Gun Bingo from her sister Michelle Faelaki's boy friend, who said gun bingo was a success in Pennsylvania. Proceeds went to a local fire department.

Ten games were played with each winner receiving a certificate to

pick up a gun. Five raffles for guns were also held, with each raffle consisting of 50 tickets.

Haley Tollefson was the Bingo caller for the evening. BP Cancer Group members took care of registration and also doubled as wait people.

Brady Kramer of Hayfield was the first winner of Gun Bingo. All gun winners were able to pick up their guns at the Weibke Fur Company, 218 Portland Ave., Eitzen, MN 55931.

One might expect this event to attract mainly men but there were many women who also played Gun Bingo on this particular evening.

Lots of door prizes were donated by Brian Johnson and Dennelle Johnson, in memory of their son Dylan (#44 in Demolition Derby circles). Dylan's aunt Denise Krell helped distribute the prizes to the lucky winners.

Eight of the 10 Bingo games were sponsored in honor of loved ones stricken by cancer.

The first game of the evening was sponsored in memory of Jim Prihoda. Other special honors were given to Gail Anderson, Elaine Klemensen, Claremont Chamber of Commerce in memory of local citizens hit by cancer, Darrell Trom, Steve Bernholtz and Marlene Symes.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Brady Kramer of Hayfield was the winner of the first Gun Bingo game on Thursday night, Sept. 12 at the BP Servicemen's Club. He was given a certificate to pick up his gun at the Weibke Fur Company in Eitzen.

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NRHEG PANTHER of the Week

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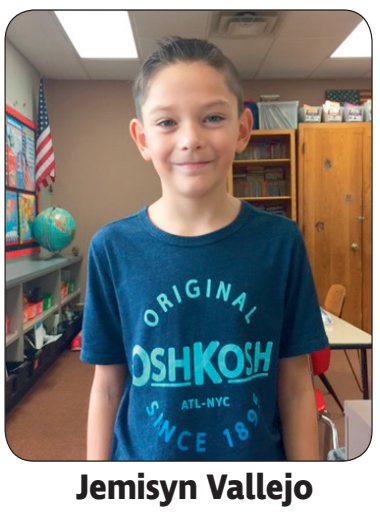

Jemisyn Vallejo

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Jemisyn Vallejo. Jem is the son of Sara, and they reside in Ellendale. Jem is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Jem has started this year off with a bang. He's an active participant in all our discussions, he shows respect to his teachers and classmates, and he's been a great leader in showing what it looks like to be responsible. He loves to make his friends and teachers laugh!

Some of Jem's hobbies include football and wrestling, and he enjoys math in school. His favorite movie is Avengers: Infinity War, his favorite book series is I Survived, and his favorite food is sausage or pepperoni pizza. Keep up the great work Jem!

WALK THROUGH MOVING SALE
LeMar Nelson residence
All items tagged to sell
Saturday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p. m.
437 West Main Street
Bloomlng Prairie

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

Sept. 22, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The Blooming Prairie FFA chapter held a farm safety workshop at Central Park in BP. About 30 FFA members and the local fire department were on hand manning different stations set up in the park. Students from the elementary school came to learn about farm safety.

Blooming Prairie's newest second grade teacher is Kathie Koelsch. She is originally from Pine Island.

After just one go-cart race last year, 9-year-old Samantha Wurst wanted to race more. This year she not only got that chance, but also became a proven winner. Samantha is the daughter of Tim and Tammy Wurst of rural Blooming Prairie. The family enjoys racing at Smith Speedway outside of Hayfield.

20 Years Ago

Sept. 21, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

The Guthrie House, kitty corner from the City Center in Blooming Prairie, was taken down last Tuesday and leaves an open commercial lot owned by Bud Hansen. The house sat empty for many years and was over 100 years old.

Four people have filed for three open school board positions in Blooming Prairie. For the first time in many years, if not ever, Blooming Prairie residents will be voting for new school board members in a fall election. This year they will vote on Nov. 2. Two incumbents have filed and two newcomers will be on the ballot. The seats up for election belong to Ron Janning, J. Michael Taylor and Jim Trotman. Trotman has decided not to file. Norman Wonderlich and Bill Fogarty have filed for the open seats.

The Claremont area migrant camp has the lone possibility of getting grant funds for renovation. If the money is granted, there will be extensive renovation and hopefully an area for migrant farm workers to live.

Blooming Prairie High School has several new staff on hand for the 1999-2000 school year: Art Gust, business; Manami Holmes, secretary; Jeremy Zacher, English; Cindy Utley, paraprofessional; Christine Jannings, paraprofessional; Jacquelyn Asleson, high school music; Clarence Janota, industrial education and Jeremy Struck, social studies and science.

50 Years Ago

Sept. 17, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

A 10-unit retirement housing building will be constructed in Blooming Prairie. Kenneth M. Lysne announced the plans this week. The complex will be built by Lynse Construction, Inc., in cooperation with Farmers & Merchants Bank of Blooming Prairie. The project will be known as Prairie Villa Condominium and will consist of four 2-bedroom apartments and six 1-bedroom apartments. Each will be designed for comfort and will have no steps.

An anonymous phone call to the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office in Albert Lea shortly before midnight Sept. 12 resulted in the bust of a beer party southwest of Blooming Prairie in Newry Township and the subsequent arrest of 35 young persons. Officers broke up the party at a rural farm home and involved more than 100 young persons from the three-county area. Many of the youth arrested at the party were from the Blooming Prairie area and included members of the high school football team.

Jensen's Furniture Store will celebrate its first anniversary in business in Blooming Prairie with a gigantic two-day sale on Friday and Saturday. Otto Jensen is the proprietor. Coffee and donuts will be served both days.

The National Barrow Show's FFA Livestock judging contest was held in Austin Sept. 8. Over 900 FFAers on more than 200 teams competed in the event. Blooming Prairie's FFA was represented by 15 teams. The number one team consisted of Roger Peterson, senior; Ed Butler, junior; Don Olson, sophomore and Gary Schulz, sophomore. They placed 17th in the competition.

75 Years Ago

Sept. 21, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Kermit Buck, 23, of Waltham was seriously burned in an accident at the Hormel plant in Austin when he slipped and fell into a condenser tank. He received first and second-degree burns.

The final chapter on what was at one time one of Blooming Prairie's most active organizations, will be written at a meeting of the members to be held at the Community Building. The matter of disposition of the country club property will be submitted to the members. Blooming Prairie's country club gained wide fame for the Fourth of July celebrations held in the past few years on the spacious golf course.

The public auction sale of the Martha J. Cole estate, well improved 120-acre farm two miles southwest of Blooming Prairie, will take place Sept. 25. This highly productive farm is being sold to settle the Cole estate and will no doubt attract a large crowd of interested bidders. Lawrence Cole is the administrator of the estate.

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 non-profit groups. In addition to eligible arts organizations, nonprofits that do not have arts as a primary focus, such as schools, senior centers, 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.

Who Needs to See a Geriatrician?

THE SAVVY SENIOR
Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center
Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,

What can you tell me about geriatrics doctors? My father, who's 82, takes eight different prescription drugs for different health issues but hasn't been feeling himself lately. I'm wondering if he would benefit by seeing a geriatrician in place of his regular primary care physician.

Concerned Daughter

Dear Concerned,

If your dad is dealing with a variety of health problems and is taking multiple medications, a visit to a geriatrician may be just the antidote to help get him back on track. Here's a rundown of the different types of health conditions geriatricians treat and some tips to help you locate one in his area.

GERIATRICS DOCTORS

For starters, it's important to know that geriatricians are family practice or internal medicine physicians that have had additional specialized training to manage the unique and, oftentimes multiple health concerns of older adults. Just as a pediatrician specializes in caring for children, a geriatrician is trained to provide care for seniors, usually over age 75.

While most doctors, and even general practitioners, are trained to focus on a person's particular illness or disease, geriatricians are trained to look at all aspects that can affect elderly patients – not just the physical symptoms. They also often work with a team of other health care professionals like geriatric-trained nurses, rehabilitation therapists, nutritionists, social workers and psychiatrists to provide care. And, they will coordinate treatments among a patient's specialists.

Patients who can benefit from seeing a geriatrician are elderly seniors with multiple health and age-related problems such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, confusion and memory problems, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, hypertension, depression, respiratory problems, osteoporosis, arthritis, chronic pain, mobility issues, incontinence, vision and hearing impairment, and trouble with balance and falls.

Geriatricians are also particularly adept at tackling medication problems. Because many seniors, like your dad, take multiple medications at the same time for various health conditions, and because aging bodies often absorb and metabolize drugs differently than younger adults, unique side effects and drug interactions are not uncommon. A geriatrician will evaluate and monitor you dad's medications to be sure they are not affecting him in a harmful way.

Geriatricians can also help their patients and families determine their long-term care needs, like how long they can remain in their own homes safely without assistance, and what type of services may be necessary when they do need some extra help.

But not all seniors need to see a geriatrician. Seniors who have fewer health problems are just fine seeing their primary care physician.

FIND A GERIATRICIAN

Unfortunately, there's a shortage of geriatricians in the U.S., so depending on where you live, finding one may be challenging.

To locate one in your area, use Medicare's online physician search tool. Just go to *Medicare.gov/physiciancompare* and type in your ZIP code, or city and state in the Enter your location box, and then type in geriatric medicine in the Search box. Or, you can also get this information by calling Medicare at 800-633-4227. The American Geriatrics Society also has a geriatrician-finder tool on their website at *HealthinAging.org*.

Keep in mind, though, that locating a geriatrician doesn't guarantee your dad will be accepted as a patient. Many doctors already have a full patient roster and don't accept any new patients. You'll need to call the individual doctor's office to find out.

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

One last look at BP's record breaking Paint the Town Pink

Blooming Prairie had an amazing weekend on Sept. 7 and 8 by raising a record amount for the cancer auctions and Paint the Town Pink fundraiser. Thanks to all who made this an incredible success!

Family Bingo was featured under the Big Tent outside of the Cue Company on Saturday, Sept. 7. One of the players who tried to win a prize was Claire Klocke.

Darrick LaMotte, ring man at the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group auctions, shows off a couple of hot items. More than $47,000 was earned in the two auctions.

Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group worker Jennifer Milton was also a buyer at the Friday night auction in the BIG TENT. She won the Amish quilt with a $775 bid.

Blooming Prairie Cancer worker Mike Trom promotes two cookie jars filled with Judy Lestrud's chocolate chip cookies. The cookies drew a healthy value.

Kim Barnett, right, of Waseca, accepts a medal after finishing a 5K run as part of the Blooming Prairie Paint the Town Pink celebration last week. She receives the medal from Mandy Doocy, event co-chair with Ashley Valek.

Cancer Corner

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

WHAT CAN WE SAY?

EXCEPT THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Jennifer Milton, left, of the Blooming Cancer Group, presented a special plaque to Cheri Krejci, BP Cancer Group treasurer at the Cancer Auction weekend. The plaque proclaims: "I'm still standing." (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

BLOOMING PRAIRIE CANCER GROUP

Jennifer, Cheri, Colette, Connie, Pam, Dan, Becky, Mandy, Ashley, Rhonda, Rhonda, Sue, Joanne, Amy, Liz, Lexi, Sara and Lloyd

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group is so thankful for all the support during our "Paint Blooming Prairie Pink" event.

The town was decorated so well. Thanks to all the businesses who sported Pink at their businesses. We had many people that came to town, or came thru town and said it was a beautiful site.

To all those who helped us put up the "Field of Flags," thank you! That is a big job, and we appreciate all help making that beautiful site.

Thank you to all the extra helpers that we had during this event. We could not do it without the help of a lot of extra volunteers.

Thank you to all the people who donated items to our two night live auction. We had over 100 items each night, and raised over $46,000 during the auction.

Thank you also, to all of the great bidders out there. We had some great bidding sparrings!!! It was great fun for everyone!!

Each night we had a special auction item. Friday night bidders could raise their bidding number to sponsor a gas card, that will be given to a patient in our area who is dealing with cancer. We had 42 gas cards purchased!!!!! What an AWESOME job by our crowd.

Then on Saturday night we asked the crowd who would like to raise your number to sponsor a parking pass for Mayo Clinic parking. We had 49 parking passes purchased!!!! Another AWESOME job.

What a GREAT community we live in!!! All total our rough estimate of funds raised during "Paint the town Pink" is about $70,000!!!! Incredible job community!!!!

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group could not raise these funds without all of our GREAT SUPPORTERS. This money will help in the search for a cure for this dreaded disease AND it will help those who are fighting the battle of their lives!!!!

Blooming Prairie and the surrounding communities are just plain AWESOME. **We all THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!!!!**

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OBITUARIES

Donald Dray, 82, Austin

Donald (Donnie) Duane Dray, age 82 of Austin, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019 at Good Samaritan Society – Comforcare in Austin.

Don was born on Sept. 28, 1936, in Blooming Prairie, to William and Jane (Long) Dray. He was baptized and confirmed at the Community Lutheran Church in Geneva. He attended school in Blooming Prairie and was on the high school wrestling team.

Donald Dray

In his younger years, he was involved in 4-H and showed at the Freeborn County Fair. Don was confined to a wheelchair for almost 60 years, but was never one to complain about it. He lived by himself for many years in Owatonna and worked at the Career Training Center (Cedar Valley Services) for several years. Don always enjoyed doing crafts and had given many items away to family and friends over the years. The last 13 years of his life were spent at Good Samaritan Society – Comforcare in Austin, where he enjoyed playing bingo and playing cards with his friend, Rose.

Survivors include his brother, Raymond Dray of Byron; sister, Judy (Glenn) Medgaarden of Austin; nieces and nephews, Susan Anderson of Hudson, Wis., Annette (Henry) Drewes of Bemidji, Douglas (Sandra) Dray of Beaver Dam, Wis., Scott (Jill) Medgaarden of Austin, Jodi (Joe) Wambeke of Sunburg, Minn., Spencer (Nicole) Medgaarden of Rose Creek, Taggert (Tanya) Medgaarden of Austin; many grand nieces and nephews and the special team of caregivers and friends at Comforcare.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Jane Dray, sister-in-law, Mary; nephew, David; and many aunts and uncles.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 20, 2019 at Worlein Funeral Home Chapel in Austin with Rev. Dr. Kristen V?nne officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Friday. Interment will be in Geneva Cemetery.

Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

A COOKIE CELEBRATION:
761 Foundation strives to invest in young minds FROM A1

"We feel we are meeting the needs in the schools with programs that can't be funded in any other way."

Mary Larson
761 Foundation Board Member

programs that can't be funded in any other way," Larson said.

She has a rich history in education. She served as a second grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School before she married a dairy farmer and "that kind of consumed my life," she said. She also served on the Owatonna School Board for 15 years from 1971-86.

Robert Chladek made a major donation to the school district in 1994. He is credited with being the catalyst for the foundation to become a major funder for students in the community. "Today with the help of Robert Chladek and many other generous individuals, the Foundation's assets have grown to about $3.7 million," said Bruce Paulson, chair of the foundation.

In addition to Larson, George Dow and Greg Stroik have served on the foundation board since its inception. Other current board members are Paulson, Mark Dietz, Samona Grubish, Paul Knutson, Mark Sebring, Charlie Herrmann, Barb Judd, Sara McKay and Janet Tippett.

The board recently approved five levels of donor recognition with the smallest level of less than $100. The foundation accepts direct donations at 761Foundation.com/contribute or by mail to 761 Foundation, P.O. Box 974, Owatonna, MN 55060. All contributions are tax deductible.

For Larson, she is thrilled to have a small role in the community's future through the foundation. "I just have a great sense of pride and satisfaction in helping with education any way I can," she said. "It's gratifying to do it, we're meeting needs that can't be met any other way."

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

SEPT. 18
CORD KOENING
RAEGAN NELSON

SEPT. 19
LEE MOREM
KAREN NJOS
LACHELLE WONDRA

SEPT. 20
TYLER BASS
HEATHER PIRKL
GARY LUETH
KRISTEN ROBBINS

SEPT. 21
DEAN NAATZ
PAYTON FRISTEDT
SAM BREWINGTON
MARK LARKOSKI
JACKIE SMITH
CATHY SHAWBACK
KRISTA YOUNG

SEPT. 22
KATIE INGVALSON
GRACE FREDRICKSON
SARA GRAVES

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPT. 18
NIK AND ANDREA MILLER
LONNIE AND MANDY LEMBKE
MIKE AND SANDY JONES
MIKE AND ANDREA FARR
STEVE AND PAT INGVALSON
CAMERON AND MEGAN RASK

SEPT. 19
MARK DITLEVSON AND RENAE WORKE
ELAINE AND KEN VERMILYEA
VERONICA AND MURIEL THOMPSON JR.
JON AND SARAH ESPLAN
REBECCA AND BRIAN BROTON-ANDERSON

SEPT. 20
DENNIS AND CAROL HEIMERMAN
MIKE AND JENNIFER SWENSON
BOB AND JOANNE NAHLOVSKY
JOHN AND ANGIE CARLSON

SEPT. 22
SAM AND BARB BREWINGTON

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SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP ELEMENTARY

Sept. 23- Cheesebread dunkers with marinara, hot ham and cheese flatbread, Italian pasta salad
Sept. 24- Crispy chicken nuggets, whole grain dinner roll, turkey deli sandwich, baked beans
Sept. 25- Roast turkey & gravy, chicken gyro, mashed potatoes, whole grain dinner roll
Sept. 26- Pancakes, easy egg bake, biscuits & gravy, hard boiled egg, breakfast potatoes
Sept. 27- Walking taco, chicken fajitas, roasted corn, churro half

BP HIGH SCHOOL

Sept. 23- Chicken gyro, tomato and cucumber salad, crispy chicken sandwich, ham deli sandwich, pasta bar
Sept. 24- New Orleans fish hoagie, Cajun chips, cheeseburger, pizza, ham deli sandwich, orange chicken
Sept. 25- Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, whole grain roll, crispy chicken tenders, ham deli sandwich, taco bar
Sept. 26- Pancakes, easy egg bake, breakfast potatoes, BBQ rib sandwich, pizza, ham deli sandwich, build your own baked potato
Sept. 27- Chicken fajitas, spicy pinto beans, churro half, corn dog, ham deli sandwich, build your own sub

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BOOK NOOK

Prepping for fall at the library

NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Leaves are changing, school is in session, and we are getting ready for fall (and winter) at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

Our wonderful Friends of the Library members have suggested that we offer travel talks. So look for our new series "Arm Chair Travels" to begin later this year. Many people in the area have taken extensive trips to exotic locations. Since not everyone has the means or ability to travel, we would love to hear from those who have been able to explore the world. Please call us at the library (507-583-7750) if you are willing to share your photos and stories with others. (Also, if you know people who could tell interesting travel stories, you could anonymously share their names with us.)

Please mark these dates on your calendar:
– Friday, Sept. 27 and Saturday, Sept. 28 – Semi- annual book sale
– Thursday, Oct. 17 – MEA movie getaway, 1 p.m.
– Thursday, Oct. 17 – Secrets of Steele County 6:30 p.m.
– Wednesday, Oct. 23 – How to Trace Your Family Tree with Family Search – 2 p.m.
See you at the library!

Sudoku Corner

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

Level: Easy

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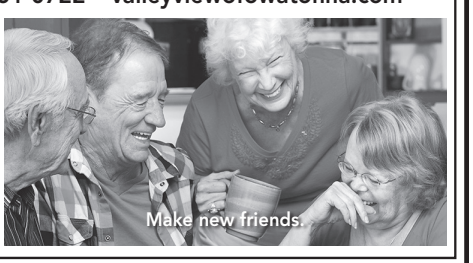

Answers

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

Recipe Corner

Grilled Chicken Skewers

Serves 6

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

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

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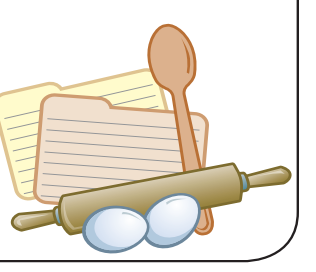
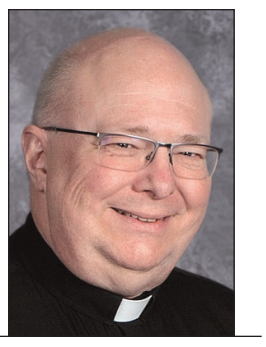
15th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie, 583-2046



HAVE A RECIPE TO SHARE?
Email to bptimes@frontiernet.net
OR Send to: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Is the path of discipleship worth it?



Father John Sauer

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH OWATONNA

On Sept. 8, Christians who use the Revised Common Lectionary heard some startling words from Jesus. "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." I don't think Jesus is talking about emotions here but about the right ordering of our life so that we might be his disciples. A few verses later he says, "In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

In counting the cost of discipleship, Jesus is inviting us to take stock of any relationship or possession that we put ahead of him. These relationships and possessions can become idols, which inhibit us from fully following Jesus. In short, we are reminded that discipleship is hard. It is not for the fainthearted. We may ask ourselves, "Is it worth it?"

I recently returned from sabbatical. The final experience was to walk a portion of the ancient pilgrimage way to the tomb of St. James, the Camino to Santiago de Campostela. It has been on my bucket list for years and I decided to take this opportunity to make it happen. For an out-of-shape, 60+ year old with a heart condition it was a daunting prospect. And still, I felt called to embark on this spiritual pilgrimage.

I am not sure I was prepared for just how hard it was. The long days of walking (at least the weather was pleasant), the rising and falling terrain, the solitude, the blisters made me question my commitment. It is traditional that in order to receive a certificate one must do a minimum of 100 kilometers, which is about 62 miles. I did it over five days and used a service to arrange hotels and transport of my bags.

There were lots of days I questioned whether I would make it. And, since I had started 115 kilometers from my destination, I was sorely tempted to grab a taxi to cut off some of the distance. By the time I reached my lodging for the night I would fall onto the bed before I even had the strength to take a much needed shower.

As I reflect on my experience, I find it rather like my spiritual journey to discipleship. It is difficult, it can be grueling, it sometimes doesn't seem worth it and I often feel like taking a short cut.

But, like the Camino, I discover graces along the way. I received the grace of never actually questioning starting out each morning. I met people along the way who encouraged me. I developed a rhythm, albeit a slow one, that allowed me to overcome the obstacles in my path. I found welcoming smiles at the end of the day.

As I walked I questioned, more than once, what I was doing. I have friends who have done the Camino more than once. I wondered why. But as I reflect on it since my return home I have grown in appreciation for the Camino as a metaphor for the spiritual life and path of discipleship. I have even wondered whether I might want to do it again.

Is the path of discipleship, as difficult as it can be, worth it? Definitely!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship;
10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation
Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches
Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy;
3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

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

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

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

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

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

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Brennan
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School
(Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 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
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 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 Peter Schuster,
Parochial Administrator
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
with Children's Church
8 a.m. Sunday
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Faith Formation classes for
K thru Confirmation
Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. &10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration:
8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Friday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOASTAL
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 Cirksena
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
(Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

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

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

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

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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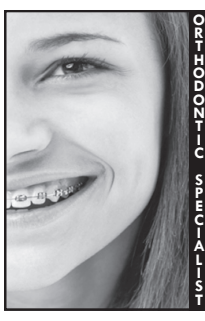
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BP school enrollment swells to nearly 800 students

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"It's a different world out there," commented new Blooming Prairie Schools Superintendent Chris Staloch as he walked the halls of the high school.

Staloch officially became the Blooming Prairie superintendent on July 1, succeeding Barry Olson.

Across town, Jacob Schwarz was starting his first day as principal of the Blooming Prairie Elementary School, a building Staloch had led previously for 11 years. "The staff here is phenomenal," remarked Schwarz.

"Go have a donut," BP High School Principal John Worke encouraged some high school students ready to start their day. Junior class members doled out lots of donuts before the opening bell ring.

Staloch said the first-day enrollment nearly reached 800 students. "At this moment we have 794 students in kindergarten through 12th grade," said Staloch.

The elementary school enrollment on the first day was 428 and the high school enrollment for grades 7-12 was 366. Julie Naatz, elementary secretary, reported preschool enrollment at 84.

The district counts 94 staff members, 62 teachers and 32 non-teachers.

A place in the garden

Orphanage Museum holds dedication

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

All her life Maxine Ronglien loved gardening and now her name will live on in the Maxine Ronglien Memorial Garden located on the former Minnesota State School grounds in Owatonna.

During the annual fall celebration and fundraiser on the grounds, the museum held a dedication ceremony for the garden and unveiled a plaque carrying Maxine's name.

Between 1886 and 1945, the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children was called home by children from all over the state. Although Maxine was not a state school child, her husband Harvey Ronglien was.

Ronglien wrote about his experiences in "A Boy From C-11: Case #9164," a work which his wife Maxine helped with. "He dictated while she typed," Ronglien's son Rob recalled. After Maxine passed away two years ago, those involved with the museum knew they wanted to do something in her honor.

"Harvey was concerned that the history would be lost, and she helped him preserve the stories of the children," Museum Director Anne Peterson explained. "What they did together was just phenomenal." Due to the Ronglien's commitment, the Orphanage Museum was officially founded in 1993.

SEE **A LIGHT OF HOPE, B2**

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Former state schooler Harvey Ronglien stands with his son, Rob, daughter-in-law Deb, and daughter Cheri beside the Maxine Ronglien Memorial Garden plaque. Maxine was instrumental in preserving the state school history. The plaque was unveiled during a dedication at the former state school Saturday.

A friendly competition

SUBMITTED PHOTO

First place in the volleyball showdown of Drug Court participants was garnered by a team consisting of Dinah Hodges, Shavon Hodges, Matthew Pages, Adam Lopez, Cedric Dow and Elijah.

Volleyball tourney links Drug Court grads, participants

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"You're going down."

That was the competitive chant of a Steele Waseca Drug Court participant as he issued a challenge to a volleyball team player at the first-ever Drug Court Volleyball Tournament.

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

Olson did the majority of the preparation needed to have a successful volleyball tournament. Aim of this event was to further link participants and graduates of the drug court programs.

Steele Waseca Drug Court participants and graduates, Dodge County Drug Court alumni and others in the recovery community were invited to participate in this event designed for fun, but also for a bit of rivalry competition.

An estimated 40 people showed up at the Waseca Clear Lake Park on a cool Saturday morning, Sept. 7.

Competition started in the morning. A lunch break allowed families to dine in a picnic atmosphere.

The Blooming Prairie Ministerium provided funds for the food of the day. "We are very appreciative of this gesture," said Olson.

First place in the volleyball showdown was garnered by a team consisting of Dinah Hodges, Shavon Hodges, Matthew Pages, Adam Lopez, Cedric Dow and Elijah.

Team 3 consisting of Heather Olson, Cody, Drew, Alivio,Braiden and Kaiya won second place.

Placing third was Team 4 consisting of Angie R., Jenniffer, Alex A., Christopher, Josh and Lona.

Homemade plaques were made by Michelle Aragon of Kloset Kreations for the first three team finishers. Olson works with Aragon in creating unique crafting items.

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

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

The volleyball tourna-

SEE **COMPETITION, B2**

County Board begins budget process for 2020

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During a work session prior to last week's regular county board meeting, Steele County's commissioners were able to take a look at the budget for 2020 while discussing some of its particulars.

The board will officially set its preliminary budget and levy on Sept. 24. "We are continuing to update them on the budget," County Administrator Scott Golberg explained. During the regular session, the board approved annual appropriations for the 2020 year.

In order to debut its new public works facility to the public, the board also set a time and date for an open house to be held there. The open house will be held on Oct. 7 from 4-7 p.m. located at 3000 Hoffman Dr NW.

There was also an update and discussion concerning South Country Health Alliance's impending mediation with the Department of Human Services after DHS announced in July that it would not be offering a 2020 contract to SCHA.

SCHA challenged this decision and a hearing was held on Aug. 28 in Ramsey County District Court. "It went exceptionally well for South Country Health Alliance," Board Chair Greg Krueger reported. "The judge sided with them on absolutely every issue and so they will be moving forward with that."

"DHS has backed off on some issues that they had, and they are realiz-

SEE **COUNTY BOARD, B2**

Cheers to transitions

Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

One of the great things about living in Minnesota are the four seasons we have the privilege of enjoying. I can't imagine living any place else. Autumn is one of my favorite seasons–the leaves beginning to turn, farmers preparing for the harvest, kids returning to school–the air feels different.

Many think of the Minnesota fall as final season as we prepare for our first snowfall. I don't see it that way. It feels like a transition into a new stage, full of opportunity, a time to prepare for what lies ahead–and no I do not mean winter, but rather a crisp, colorful season.

Just like the seasons, we transition in our lives. Too often we do not look at these as opportunities but rather as obstacles, causing us to stumble through the changes, creating fear of what we do not know.

Understanding where we are on our life journey can assist us in directing our energy into positive change in our personal seasons. We all have them, and too often we allow ourselves to view these changes as a negative, we become overly critical of our appearance or our station in life, whether it's personal or work-related. It seems to be human nature to feel overwhelmed or confused as we move through our seasons.

What would happen if we embraced the changes in our personal lives?

If we each made a decision to live our lives through nature's

SEE **CHEERS, B2**

Continued improvements keep Arkema strong

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Arkema of Blooming Prairie recently welcomed three new employees and a newly promoted employee. Attending a recent Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) meeting were Crystal Roach, Rohan Bhagchandani, Shivam Yadav, and Tim Van Ravenhorst.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Striking a strong, positive note, David Green, plant manager at Arkema of Blooming Prairie, says the production level at the plant is steadily improving.

Arkema is a global chemical company located at the south side of Blooming Prairie.

Green led a meeting of the Arkema Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at the Blooming Prairie City Center.

Arkema's chemical plant produces over two dozen finished products.

These products are manufactured by chemically bonding oxygen to unsaturated bonds found in natural vegetable oils, such as soybean, linseed or other olefinic oils. This bonding causes changes in the physical appearance and chemical properties of the oils, making them more suitable for industrial use. Arkema's highest volume product is epoxidized soybean oil.

Epoxidized soybean oil and epoxidized linseed oil are primarily used for imparting flexibility, strength and ultraviolet stability to polyvinyl chloride resin formulations.

Green said 87% of Arkema's production is reliant on soybeans. He said the soybean prices have gone down considerably the last 2 1/2 years. "We expect the prices to go up in the near future," Green predicted.

Soybeans are a major crop produced by Blooming Prairie area farmers. Green said crop growing conditions have fluctuated this growing season and it is hoped that warm weather will help the maturity of the crop.

Arkema also produces other specialty epoxides, which are used in lubricating oil formulations, plastic formulations, and in the cosmetic field, including shampoo, lipstick, and perfume manufacture.

Arkema's products allow its customers to produce

SEE **ARKEMA STRONG, B2**

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

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WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

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

FALL AND WINTER SCHEDULE

September 17: Adult Leisure Pursuits Padleford River Boat Cruise registration deadline
September 17: Adult Leisure Pursuits Day Trippers, Bermuda Avenue Triangle registration deadline
September 18: Men's/Women's Adult Softball schedules available
September 19: Youth basketball registration
September 23: Adult Tennis League registration deadline
September 24: Therapeutic Recreation Leisure Swim Fall Session begins
September 25: Adult Leisure Pursuits Mystery Trip registration deadline
September 27: Middle School Pool-family open swim begins
September 30: SeniorPlace Inc. Annual Meeting
September 30: Co-Rec Adult Softball schedules available
October 21: Strength Circuit Training Fall Session 2 begins
October 26: 6th Annual Trick or Treat Trail
October 29: 3-6th grade Basketball coaches meeting
October 31: Youth Basketball registration deadline
November 2: Owatonna City Deer Hunt Season 1 begins
November 5: Lifeguard Training session 1 begins
November 12: 3-6th Grade basketball 1st practice and meeting
November 24: Owatonna City Deer Hunt Season 2 begins
December 1: WSI Session 1 begins
December 2: K-2nd grade basketball coaches meeting
December 7: Kindergarten-2nd Grade basketball begins
December 14: 3-6th grade basketball begins
January 31: Family Swim OMS

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Park Passport
- Trick or Treat Trail
- City Archery Deer Hunt

City Archery Deer Hunt: November 2-23 and November 24-December 20, 2019. Application fee is $20-non-refundable. Registration deadline is September 13. All applicants must pass a proficiency test using the same equipment with which they will be hunting. 50 applicants are randomly drawn to test.

WAYS TO REGISTER:

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

Early Winter Programs
(registration begins September 19)
- Basketball

River Springs Water Park 2019-CLOSED for the season!

SPECIAL EVENTS

6th Annual Trick or Treat Trail

Saturday, October 26- 2PM-4PM
Steele County Fair Grounds

Visit local businesses along the trail for treats, games, a photo shoot, crafts, free hot chocolate, and food trucks!

Check out the cute animals in the large petting zoo, take a ride on the kiddie train ride and find spooky treasures in the scavenger hunt!

The Woof or Treat Trail will be back at this year's event so dress of your furry friends and enter them in to the costume contest and visit the separate trail, with treats and goodies, just for them

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A PLACE: *in the garden* FROM B1

"The family asked if we could put something up here in her name, and since she was such an avid gardener, the garden just fits," Peterson said of the memorial garden. "That was the key."

While Harvey was the one who lived through the state school history, his wife was the one who had the most drive to preserve it. "I needed Maxine more than I needed anything else in the world," Harvey said before seeing the unveiled plaque. "I can always remember Maxine Ronglien."

"It means a lot because, for me, this whole state school museum and project would never, ever be here if it wasn't for my mom," Ronglien's son Rob explained. "My dad, bless his heart, did not have the drive or the vision, or want to do the hard work that it took. She was the driving force for many years."

Both Ronglien's son and daughter were there as part of the dedication ceremony in their mother's honor. "It's just really important that she could be recognized for the work, my dad lived it and he wrote the book on it, but it would have probably all been forgotten if she didn't help memorialize it," son Rob said. "They were a good team."

Thanks to dedication of Maxine Ronglien, now people from all over are able to come and learn about the history that state schoolers like her husband lived through. Many other state schoolers were on hand to celebrate the dedication and take a stroll around the grounds during Saturday's event. "We're always glad when state schoolers visit," Peterson said.

The event also featured a raffle, as well as additional activities including horse-drawn wagon rides throughout the grounds with a tour guide, a movie featuring State Schoolers from the 1930s, children's games, and a scavenger hunt.

A FRIENDLY COMPETITION: *Volleyball tourney* FROM B1

sport where you build trust with others," remarked Olson. "In recovery, it's important to trust others," she pointed out.

The volleyball tournament represents the first time that the Steele Waseca Drug Court participants have hosted a special event.

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

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

Cedric Dow, a graduate of the Steele Waseca Drug Court on the Waseca side, helped Olson with organizing this unique event. He graduated last March and he is proud of his sobriety record, which totals 2 1/2 years. He works for Elegant Creations of Waseca.

"Drug Court works if you work it," remarked Dow.

Over lunch, volleyball players and their families, listened to two speakers. Scott Adkisson of Diversion Solutions talked about helping recovery persons get their drivers licenses back and having suspensions lifted. Adkisson has been sober for 7 1/2 years.

Collette Hanson accompanied Adkisson to the volleyball outing and told her story of recovery.

Hanson said she has been sober for 2 1/2 years. "Someone took a chance on me and helped with my recovery," she remarked. She said she faced 10 felonies and "had to find out who I am," she said.

"I surrendered and things began moving the right direction including 13 months of treatment," Hanson related.

At the conclusion of lunch, Brian Martin saluted Olson. "We are proud of your success," he said.

Volleyball event organizer Olson was very pleased with the turnout for the event and she hopes the event can be held again next year.

Rev. Mike Walerius of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie stopped by the volleyball event and said he was impressed with the fun that was shared by participants.

Nicole Grams, coordinator of the Steele Waseca Drug Court, also visited the volleyball event and congratulated Olson and Dow on their organizing the event.

Grams reflected on Heather Olson's efforts.

"She made it her mission to draw a large crowd, inspire attendees with a recovery speaker and simply demonstrate how to have fun in recovery.

"Her enthusiasm drew in support from other alumni and friends to help pull everything together from homemade plaques, homemade dishes to tie-dyed shirts. A team member's husband shared his hobby by smoking pulled pork.

"The drug court is very proud to have such great leadership and mentors among those in recovery. We are also proud to have such great support from the community," Grams said.

CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS: *keep Arkema strong* FROM B1

goods that are common in daily use, such as food wrap, furniture, automobile interiors, floor tile, and jar cap liners.

Green summarized various plant programs, emphasizing safety as being all important in addition to quality control. Green said the Arkema plant has totaled 10 years of not having any time lost because of accidents. Arkema recently received the Governor's Safety Award for the fifth straight year.

The plant has a program of recording accident near-misses.

Arkema emphasizes BBS (Behavior Based Safety) with an example being a new platform created to load rail cars.

An Arkema employee and a local firefighter recently attended a fire school in Texas.

The plant was shut down for 10 days in May to conduct audits, safety programs and quality projects.

Green said the Arkema plant in Blooming Prairie continues to be very community supportive.

Here's some of Arkema's community involvement: annual science teacher program; Adopt-A-Highway, Community Advisory Panel, elementary science fair, high school chemistry tours, Blooming Prairie Cancer Group support, United Way, youth softball/baseball, After Prom program, BP Youth Club, BP Ministerial Association, Friends of the Library, BP Education Foundation, annual high school scholarship awards and BP Lions Club.

Near the conclusion of the CAP meeting, Green introduced three new employees and a recently promoted shipping and receiving worker.

Attending the CAP meeting were: Crystal Roach (Quality Control supervisor), Rohan Bhagchandani (engineering co-op), Shivam Yadav (engineering co-op) and Tim Van Ravenhorst (shipping and receiving).

Jason White (QC Lab Tech) also recently joined the team, but wasn't able to make it to the meeting.

Van Ravenhorst is a 14-year employee of Arkema and a 2001 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School.

Roger Sorenson, CAP facilitator, introduced new student member of CAP, Megan Oswald. He also saluted CAP member Betty Behnken for being a long-time member. She is moving to Cannon Falls.

COUNTY BOARD: *begins budget process for 2020* FROM B1

ing that greater Minnesota is not to be taken lightly, which is a good thing," Krueger said. "It's good for the citizens of all the counties and especially the most vulnerable, the ones who need the help the most."

During the hearing, the Ramsey County District Court determined to order the following: preventing DHS from contracting with other plans until the mediation is resolved, permitting SCHA to participate in mediation process, and finally to order DHS to provide data regarding their decision and documentation provided by the counties regarding the procurement process.

Mediation between DHS and SCHA is currently scheduled for Sept. 26, but due to the positive result of the August hearing, it is unclear whether mediation will continue at that time.

The next regular county board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 24 at 5 p.m.

CHEERS: *to transitions* FROM B1

lens and recognize that life's journey is a natural process–whether it be one of healing, one of growth or one of celebration–we could more easily accept who we are and the path we are on. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to embrace those extra pounds or the grey hair? Imagine what it would feel like to smile at the little laugh line on your face instead of critiquing it.

It is difficult to look in the mirror and not see the changes on our faces. Being a country of consumers we make it easy for advertisers to tell us that these natural transformations need to be fixed, erased, or repaired. Well, I for one am tired of it! I like the grey in my hair. It confirms that I am in a season in my life where my children are productive, young adults; where I am known as grandma; where I am confident in my skills and abilities as a leader.

So I say CHEERS to transitions.

Stephanie Kibler serves on the Ellendale City Council and as executive director of the Freeborn County Historical Society in Albert Lea. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations around Steele County.

PANTHER PRIDE SHINES

Congratulations

2019 NRHEG Homecoming Court

The 2019 NRHEG Homecoming Court consists of back row, from left: Agro Gushwa, Mason Ferber, Blake Irhke, Jake Fasker and Lonnie Wilson; front row: Jayna Domeier, Annie Prigge, Maggie Maloney, Katie Cliff and Madie Kormann.

Congratulations to the seniors at Blooming Prairie High School on being selected as homecoming candidates. Best wishes during Homecoming Week!

Princess: Evelyn Schlaak and Prince Jadon Theuer

Panther Homecoming Schedule:

Monday, Sept. 23:
- 7:30 p.m.- Coronation at High School Gym

Tuesday, Sept. 24:
- 7:15 p.m.- Volleyball vs. Blooming Prairie

Friday, Sept. 27:
-8:45 a.m.- Pep Fest in Ellendale
-12:30 p.m.- Parade in Ellendale
-1:30 p.m.- Pep Fest in New Richland
-2:15 p.m.- Parade in New Richland
-7 p.m.- Football vs. Le Sueur-Henderson
-9 p.m.- Homecoming Dance

Dress-up Days:
Monday: Minnesota Monday (support your state clothing)
Tuesday: Twin Day (dress like another person and be twins)
Wednesday: PJ/Comfy Day
Thursday: Throw Back (dress from a past decade)
Friday: Panther Pride Day

PANTHERS

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

SEPT. 19
Legion SAL-VFW Membership Night, Servicemen's Club
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, BP Library

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

SEPT. 23
7:30 p.m. – BPHS Homecoming Coronation, BPHS

SEPT. 24
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

SEPT. 25
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

SEPT. 27
Express Pressure Washers, Inc. Grand Opening

SEPT. 28
Express Pressure Washers, Inc. Grand Opening
BP Education Foundation Annual Banquet, Servicemen's Club

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

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

SEPT. 20
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

SEPT. 23
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
7:30 p.m. – NRHEG Homecoming Coronation, NR HS Gym

SEPT. 24
6:30 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Elementary Gym

SEPT. 25
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

SEPT. 19
8 a.m. – Grand Opening, Mayo Clinic Store
Noon – Ypro Passholder Lunch & Learn
Noon – Business Boot Camp, Owatonna Library
5 p.m. – A Taste of Steele County, Eagles
6 p.m. – Scouts Merit Badge-Rifle Shooting, Cabela's
6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library

SEPT. 20
1:30 p.m. – Rip Roar'n Rummage Sale, Fairgrounds Game & Fish Building

SEPT. 21
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
9 a.m. – Rip Roar'n Rummage Sale, Fairgrounds Game & Fish Building

SEPT. 23
4 p.m. – Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Admin Building
4 p.m. – Owatonna Public Utilities Meeting, OPU
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna School Board Meeting, District Office
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

SEPT. 24
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – North Market, Grace Baptist
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
6 p.m. – Scout Merit Badge-Fishing, Cabela's

SEPT. 25
6 p.m. – Scout Merit Badge-Rifle Shooting, Cabela's

A Day Away bus tour planned for Winona

There are still tickets available for the Steele County Historical Society's bus tour on Oct. 11 to explore Winona. The escorted trip will include a sightseeing cruise on the Mississippi River and visiting area museums and historic sites.

The morning excursion will include a photo stop at Garvin Heights for a view of the city and river, a tour of Merchants National Bank designed by Purcell and Elmslie who also designed Owatonna's Louis Sullivan bank, a stop at the Basilica of St. Stanislav and conclude with lunch buffet at Whalen's at Westfield Golf Course. The afternoon will feature a guided tour of the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, and an hour sightseeing cruise on the Mississippi River.

Departure by Cavalier coach will be at 8 a.m. from the rear of the Steele County History Center with return approximately at 5 p.m. Cost is $65 for SCHS members and $75 for non-members. Reservations and payment by Sept. 27 can be made at the History Center, 1700 Austin Road or at 507-451-1420.

This A Day Away trip is limited to 55 people – so get your tickets today! SCHS membership is encouraged at any time: Annual individual seniors 65+ is $25, Regular individual at $35, Regular 3-year at $95, Household at $55; Household 3-year, $135, and business membership $75 per year.

A Day Away tours are part of the SCHS mission-based programming.

The Steele County Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1949. Its mission is to preserve and share Steele County history today for tomorrow. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Steele County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, educational programs and book publishing.

For further information, contact the Steele County Historical Society at 507-451-1420 or email to Rachael Newville, Events Manager, rnewville@steelehistorymuseum.org.

Mingling after hours

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Tamzen Johnson of Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner visits with Jackie Vorlicek of Prairie Home Floral & Gifts during a Business After Hours session on Wednesday, Sept. 11. The Business After Hours are sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce as a way for business leaders to connect.

Red Cross urges blood donations after Hurricane Dorian

As the American Red Cross works around the clock supporting those impacted by Hurricane Dorian, providing food, shelter and comfort, individuals outside the affected areas are urged to help by giving blood or platelets to ensure patients in the storm's path and around the country have access to lifesaving blood. People can also help by making a financial donation to support relief efforts.

Hurricane Dorian has forced the closure of blood donation centers and the cancellation of blood drives in its path, causing blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. When blood donations are disrupted in a region of the country, the Red Cross is able to move blood donations where they are needed most.

Donors of all blood types are urgently needed to ensure a sufficient supply for patients. Type O and B blood donors are especially needed. Make an appointment to donate blood now by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Financial donations are also needed and allow the Red Cross to make a difference in the lives of people impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Visit redcross.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or text the word DORIAN to 90999 to make a $10 donation. Financial donations enable the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from this disaster.

Up-to-date information about how the Red Cross is responding to Hurricane Dorian is available at redcross.org.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Sept. 18-30:

Freeborn
Albert Lea
Sept. 23: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 702 Highway 69 S.
Sept. 27: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mayo Clinic Health System, 404 Fountain St.
Sept. 30: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 S. Washington Ave.
Hollandale
Sept. 25: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Hollandale Christian Reform Church, 102 Amsterdam Ave. E.
Mower
Austin
Sept. 20: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mayo Clinic Health System, 1000 First Drive NW
Sept. 23: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Mower County Senior Citizens Center, 400 3rd Ave. NE
Sept. 23: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 2001 6th Ave. SE
Steele
Blooming Prairie
Sept. 23: 1 p.m.-6 p.m., City Center, 138 Highway S.
Owatonna
Sept. 30: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Cabela's, 3900 Cabelas Drive

Vets officer in area Sept. 26

The monthly veteran hours have been set for September.

Steele County veterans service officer Rene Gilormini will be at the Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie on Thursday, Sept. 26 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. followed by the Community Building in Ellendale from 11-11:30 a.m.

Anyone with veterans issues is encouraged to reach out to Gilormini.

BP Veterans Memorial Breakfast Sept. 29

Bring your appetite for a delicious breakfast at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Sunday, Sept. 29.

The breakfast will benefit the BP Veterans Memorial and will be served from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. It's a freewill offering.

The menu will include pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, sausages, orange juice, milk and coffee.

A silent auction is also planned with theme baskets and food items for sale.

Call Marilyn Meshke at 507-583-2439 or Sandy Jones at 507-583-2722 with questions, or to drop off silent auction items.

All proceeds go to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial.

Firefighter recognition banquet set in Owatonna

The Exchange Club of Owatonna will be holding the Firefighter Recognition Banquet, which is open to the public, on Thursday, Oct. 10 at the Owatonna Eagles Club starting with a 6 p.m. social followed by dinner.

Each year during Fire Prevention month, the Exchange Club of Owatonna hosts this recognition banquet honoring the Firefighter of the Year, along with recognizing all firefighters within the community.

This year's top firefighter selected by his peers and supervisors is Willie Grubish.

Tickets for the banquet at a cost of $20 are available at Kottke's, Owatonna Insty Prints and the Owatonna City Administration Building (West Hills). Deadline for ticket purchase will be Thursday, Oct. 3.

Come and celebrate the harvest on Oct. 5

A special Harvester's Evening is being planned by the Blooming Prairie Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52 from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct 5 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

This special evening to celebrate the harvest in the Czech community. Dinner will be served from 5-6 p.m.

It will be the second annual observance sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52.

The special event will replicate the Czech celebration of the harvest with good food, good music and friendly conversation.

Seating is limited, "so get your tickets early," said Tom Peterson of the SAL. Door prizes will be given to the lucky patrons.

Tickets at $20 each are now on sale at the Servicemen's Club, 507-583-7884. This is the only place selling tickets this year.

Proceeds from this special event featuring the Dan Stursa Band will support the BP Servicemen's Club and veterans activities.

The dinner menu will feature roast pork, potato dumplings, sauerkraut, corn, buchty (pastry), coffee and milk.

Rip roaring sale coming to Owatonna

A Rip Roar'n Rummage Sale is planned for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 20-21, at the Game and Fish Building on the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

The sale will take place from 1-7 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday. It is sponsored by the Owatonna Izaak Walton League.

All profits will be used to fund scholarships for youth and provide leadership training for chapter members.

Some of the items featured at the sale will be fishing poles, wildlife art, sports equipment, bird feeders, outdoor clothing, shop tools, hunting gear, landscape items, lawn and garden equipment, building supplies and pet items.

Parkinson's support to meet in Owatonna

The Owatonna Parkinson's Support Group will meet Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 2–3:30 p.m.

at the Owatonna Public Library in the Gainey Room, which is accessible by elevator.

Dr. Angala Borders-Robinson, DO, a neurologist at the Noran Neurological Clinic in Minneapolis, will provide information on "Recognizing OFF Periods in Parkinson's." She will talk about a new inhaled prescription of levodopa medicine, Inbrija, used to treat the return of symptoms (known as OFF episodes) in people with Parkinson's disease who are treated with carbidopa/levodopa medications. This medication doesn't replace the regular carbidopa/levodopa prescription. It is used as a rescue medication to treat the off periods.

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

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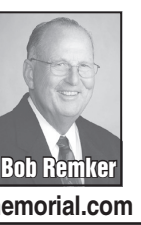
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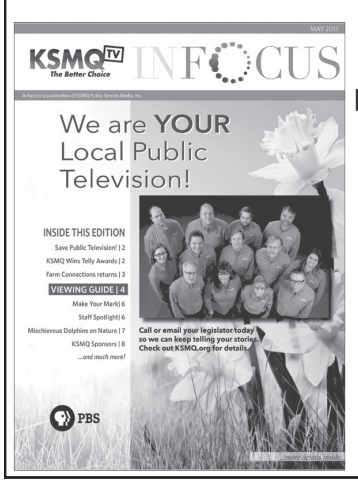

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Tues. 7-8:30 p.m.
Oct. 1
Nov. 7: Holiday Dazzle Wine Tasting
Nov. - April: Available Later
May 5: Wine Tasting "Gala"
Holiday Dazzle Wine Tasting
Thurs. Nov. 7 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Held at the BP Servicemens Club
Tickets: $15 Advance/ $20 Door
Purchase Ticket by Oct. 12, enter name into a prize basket drawing. Tickets available at the Chamber office $ J&H.
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Third ranked Blossoms crush Hayfield 50-12

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Quarterback Drew Kittelson (4) goes back for a pass as another Blossom player holds back a defender in Friday night's game in which the Blossoms crushed Hayfield 50-12. Kittelson connected on six of eight passes for 56 yards in the game.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Parker Vaith (19) does his best to avoid a Hayfield defender with Tim Loverink (61) blocking in Friday's contest. The Blossoms continued their unbeaten season by recording their third win in a row.

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

It seems the Awesome Blossom football is following a pattern it originated last season. Score early and often to take a commanding margin into the halftime break, and then coast through the second half for another victory. Last Friday, Sept. 13, the No. 3 ranked Blossoms notched win number three 50-12 over Hayfield, using that last season pattern.

BP scored less than two minutes into the game and piled up a 27-0 first quarter lead. Carson Brenneke sailed a point after attempt wide after one of the scores, but he booted seven over all together and added a17-yard field goal in the third quarter. The Blossoms rolled up 434 total yards, with Matthew Pryor rushing for 85 yards on the ground and Kaden Thomas (11 for 17 and 177yards) and Drew Kittelson (6 for 8 and 56 yards.)

The Blossoms led 13-0 early in the first quarter, and Thomas found Karson Vigeland twice for 5 and 11 yards. Vigeland had a banner game, as he snagged 6 passes for 112 yards and also intercepted a pass from his defensive safety position. Hayfield scored a touchdown on a 44-ysrd pass in the first quarter and then added a touchdown in the final minutes against Blossom reserves.

BP threw up another stifling defense in this game. Individually, Mitchell Fiebiger covered a lot of ground and had 10 solo and shared tackles. Luke Larkoski contributed 8 tackles, and Jarrett Larson added 5. Hayfield managed just 156 total yards in the game.

Blooming Prairie travels to Goodhue for a crucial district contest next Friday, with aspirations of remaining undefeated.

Panthers roll to first victory

The NRHEG Panthers recorded their first victory of the season Friday night when they crushed St. James-Butterfield-Odin 55-6 in a non-conference match-up in New Richland.

The Panthers piled on 320 rushing yards led by Blake Ihrke with 75 yards. Lonnie Wilson had 71 yards while Kordell Schlaak had 66 and Nick Staloch 59. Ihrke led the scoring for NRHEG with two touchdowns. Wilson, Schlaak, Staloch and Porter Peterson contributed one touchdown each.

Ihrke led NRHEG's passing attack by connecting on 10 of 18 attempts for 128 yards.

There were two interceptions in the game. Schlaak and Riley Schultz each had an interception.

In the first two contests of the season, the Panthers lost to Blue Earth 57-6 and Jackson County Central shut them out 46-0.

NRHEG (1-2) now travels to Martin County West Friday night. Both teams have the same record on the season. Jackson County Central ripped Martin County West last week 48-3.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RONDA STALOCH

With the ball in the air, Nick Staloch (22) and Mason Ferber (23) try to keep it away from a St. James defender. NRHEG cruised to its first victory of the season by killing St. James 55-6.

GAME SUMMARY

Panthers 55, St. James 6

St. James	0	0	0	6	–	6
NRHEG	7	20	14	14	–	55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Blake Ihrke	7	75	10.7	2
Lonnie Wilson	3	71	23.7	1
Kordell Schlaak	7	66	9.4	1
Nick Staloch	7	59	8.4	1
Porter Peterson	3	34	11.3	1

PASSING	Comp.-Att	Yds.	TD	Int.
Blake Ihrke	10-18	128	2	1
Porter Peterson	1-2	10	0	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Mason Ferber	4	46	11.5	0
Lonnie Wilson	3	32	10.7	0
Kordell Schlaak	1	19	19	1
Jack Olson	1	16	16	1

DEFENSE	Tackles	Sacks	Int
Kordell Schlaak	0	0	1
Riley Schultz	0	0	1

PHOTO COURTESY OF RONDA STALOCH

Quarterback Blake Ihrke (14) takes off with the ball during Friday's contest against St. James. Ihrke led NRHEG's rushing attack with 75 yards in seven carries and two touchdowns. The Panthers earned their first victory of the season 55-6.

WEM sweeps Panthers

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

After notching their first win earlier in the week, the NRHEG Panthers got swept by WEM Thursday, Sept 12. WEM won 25-18, 25-6 and 25-14. The loss left the Panthers 1-4 overall and 0-2 in conference matches.

As Coach Onika Peterson remarked, "WEM is ranked No. 5 in the state right now, and they are a very strong team. However, I give our girls credit for coming out fearless and fighting for every point. We set some goals against the Bucs tonight and actually met every one of them."

Kendall Johnson had 5 kills and 11 digs to lead the Panthers. Grace Tufte had 10 assists and 4 digs, and Anna Jacobson added 2 kills.

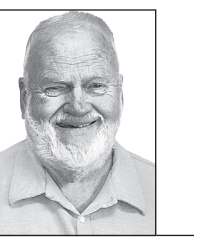
NRHEG WINS FIRST

The NRHEG volleyball captured its first match win if the season Monday, Sept. 9, by outlasting Fairmont in a five-game victory. The win left the panthers with a 1-3 overall record.

"I was proud of the girls tonight," commented Coach Onika Peterson. "The girls never gave up and fought for every point in all five games. It was great to get our first win under our belts."

Sophie Stork led the Panthers with 11 kills and 9 digs, and Johnson and Jacobson had 5 kills each. Jacobson prowled the net for 4 blocks as well. Tufte piled up 24 assists in the match.

Three and counting



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

It looks as if the Awesome Blossom football team is following a pattern they established last season by scoring early and often in ball games and then coasting to another victory. With the win at Hayfield, they upped their record to 3-0 and are currently ranked No. 3 in the state.

I think one of the strong points for this team is the balance they have displayed so far. The offense has been able to teach the end zone with regularity, but the defense has also done its part, holding the opposition to low total yards and holding the opposition offense well in check just about all the time. So far so good!

Now things get a lot tougher a lot quicker. The Blossoms have to travel to archrival Goodhue Friday night. Nobody ever takes the Wildcats lightly, and this year is no exception. Fans have always remarked that the football played in this part of the state is as tough as any area, and it looks as if the 2019 season will be no different.

The volleyball team got its second win last week, after running into some tough competition in tourney action and regular season matches. The girls continue to play hard, and wins will come, I am sure.

Cross-country has been hampered by the continual spates of rain that continues to plague our area. This whole year will go down in the books as one of the wettest on record, and cross country teams will compete accordingly. I guess that is spring in Minnesota.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

One of the favorite musicals of everyone will hit the BPHS stage in November, when the drama department presents "The Sound of Music." The story of the Von Trapp family is familiar to most fans of good musicals, and the local high school will be staging it for the fourth time. The most recent performances came back in 1997. Almost everyone can sing or at least hum some of the songs from the production, including "My Favorite Things, "Climb every Mountain," and "Do, Re, Mi."

As a doting parent, I fondly remember the 1980s production, as my youngest daughter had the good fortune to have the role of the Mother Abbess. That production played to capacity audiences, and I suspect that will be the case again this year. It is a musical that should not be missed.

This will be the 15th year that Tammy Johnson and Kari Bottin have collaborated, on the production, and Amelia Harthan is back to assemble an orchestra that will add a wonderful touch to the performances. Mark November 7, 8, or 9 on your calendar now.

SALES CAPITOL

I don't suppose it is really true, but last Saturday various sales could be found on several properties in the community. From auctions to moving sales, it was a busy time, and I hope that all had success no matter what form the sales took.

I was particularly interested in them, as I will be having a similar sale in less than two weeks. Yes, it is official now that I will be leaving this community that I have loved dearly for 60 plus years. As most readers are aware, my physical health is not ideal any more, and two years of gentle cajoling from my daughters have convinced me that a move closer to the three of them is in everyone's best interests. More of my move later.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

Here are some coming events that should help convince you that our community is anything but a sleepy one. Thursday, Sept. 19, is the Legion-VFW Membership night at the Servicemen's Club. Sept. 22 is the BP Quarterback Club's pancake breakfast at that same location, and Sept. 28 is the annual Education Foundation banquet and the Blossoms Forever Awards program.

The latter is one date that everyone should take advantage of. It is an entertaining evening in which several successful alumni and athletes are honored. It is a fun evening, with good food, good conversation, and excellent recognitions of outstanding individuals.

Finally, in a climax for September, the Veterans memorial breakfast and buffet and silent auction is scheduled for Sept. 29, at the Servicemen's Club, and the public is cordially invited. That should be enough for everyone. Hold back the rain, root for the Blossoms, and we'll talk again.

Huskies make Trojans next victim

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Huskies senior Keenan Young (14) brings down a New Prague ball handler during Friday night's contest in Owatonna. Young led Owatonna's defensive effort by making six tackles during the game, along with Isaac Gefre. The Huskies defense has held its opponents to just 20 points in three games so far this season.

Total offensive domination.

That pretty much shores up the description of the Owatonna Huskies football team.

Once again Friday night in Owatonna, the Huskies put together a dazzling offensive show as they rolled to their third straight victory of the season by squashing New Prague 56-13. The Trojans fall to 1-2 on the season.

No less than seven players scored touchdowns for the Huskies. Junior Tanner Hall scored two touchdowns on the night. Others racking up points for Owatonna were Matt Williams, Ethan Walter, Brayden Truelson, Carson Dekam, Jerez Autridge and Isaac Gefre. Senior Sam Henson was perfect on the evening kicking seven extra points.

Besides leading the team in scoring, Hall led Owatonna's offensive explosion with 15 carries totaling 164 rushing yards. The Huskies ended up with a total of 359 yards of rushing during the game.

Owatonna's passing game piled up 129 yards led by quarterback Truelson with 84 yards.

Williams led the Huskies' receiving attack with 54 yards followed by Walter with 40 yards. Owatonna had 129 receiving yards in the game.

Defensively, the Huskies had 55 sacks on the evening led by Gefre and Keenan Young with seven each.

Owatonna's defense has been effective in shutting down the opponents this season as it has held them to just 20 points. The Huskies have outscored their competitors 163-20.

It will be a battle of the unbeaten Friday night when Owatonna travels to Rochester Mayo. Both teams are 3-0 on the year. Mayo Spartans defeated Albert Lea 49-20 last Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Isaac Oppegard (2) carries the ball through a couple of New Prague defenders Friday night in Owatonna. Defensively, Oppegard had two solo tackles in the game. Owatonna has outscored its opponents 163-20 so far this season.

GAME SUMMARY

Huskies 56, New Prague Trojans 13

New Prague	6	0	7	0	–	13
Owatonna	21	28	7	0	–	56

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Tanner Hall	15	164	10.9	2
Jerez Autridge	12	78	6.5	1
Ethan Walter	1	49	49	0
Dylan Maas	3	25	8.3	0

PASSING	Comp.-Att	Yds.	TD	Int.
Brayden Truelson	5-10	84	3	1
Sol Havelka	3-3	45	0	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Matt Williams	3	54	18	1
Ethan Walter	2	40	20	1
Carson Dekam	1	20	20	1

DEFENSE	Tackles	Sacks	Int
Keenan Young	6	0	0
Isaac Gefre	6	1	0

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Quarterback Brayden Truelson (10) sets up for a pass to Matt Williams, who went in for a touchdown against New Prague Friday night. Truelson had five completions for 84 yards in the game. He also scored one touchdown in the game.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Matt Williams (1) catches a pass from quarterback Brayden Truelson for a touchdown early in the game.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Brayden Truelson (10) and Matt Williams (1) are flying high in celebration after Williams connected on Truelson's pass for a touchdown.

Five inducted into Owatonna Athletic Hall of Fame

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Four outstanding former athletes and a former coach have been inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Owatonna High School.

The inductees were honored during halftime of the Huskies football game Friday night. They include Tom Haigh, Nicki Miller, Derek Johnson, Amy Kubat and Jeanne Stursa.

Haigh starred in football, basketball and track at OHS and was awarded eight varsity letters, including a four-time letter winner in track. He was Big 9 honorable mention all conference running back in 1956 and 1957 as well as captain in 1957. He also earned the Jostens Outstanding Junior Athlete Award in 1957.

After graduating in 1958, Haigh went on to the University of Minnesota-Duluth where he participated in basketball. The team won three conference championships and competed in the 1959 NAIA National Tournament.

Miller competed in swimming and diving, gymnastics and cheerleading. She was awarded eight varsity letters, including being a four-time letter winner in gymnastics from 1987 to 1990. In 1989, she won the state championship in floor exercise-9.8.

She graduated from Owatonna in 1990 and went on to compete in gymnastics at Winona State University.

Johnson excelled in wrestling as he was Big 9 All Conference from 1998 to 2001, Academic All State in 2000-01 and All-State from 1998 to 2001. He was state champion at 103 pounds in 1999 and 2000. He had a career record of 168-12.

He graduated in 2001 with school records in career wins, single season wins, career pins, single season pins, fastest pin, career takedowns and most points in a season. Johnson went on to compete in wrestling at the University of Wisconsin.

Kubat achieved nine varsity letters in volleyball, basketball and track. She was a three-time letter winner in track and graduated with school records in outdoor shot put and indoor shot put. She was the state champion in 2008 with shot put.

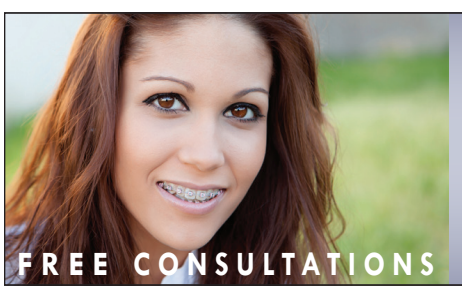
Following graduation in 2008, she competed in track and field at the University of Minnesota.

The only coach honored was Jeanne Stursa, who coached tennis, basketball and adapted floor hockey. During her tenure as head girls tennis coach from 1973-77, she coached the #1 doubles team to state where it earned third place in 1975.

Stursa initiated the adapted floor hockey program at Owatonna in 1996. She led Owatonna to a state championship with floor hockey in 2004.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

A former coach and four former athletes accept recognition as inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Owatonna High School Friday night during the halftime of the Huskies football game. Accepting honors were from left: Jeanne Stursa (coach), Derek Johnson, Amy Kubat, Nicki Miller and the son of Tom Haigh.



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STEELE-DODGE PIGSKIN MANIA 2019

FOOTBALL CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

1 _____	9 _____
2 _____	10 _____
3 _____	11 _____
4 _____	12 _____
5 _____	13 _____
6 _____	14 _____
7 _____	15 _____
8 _____	16 _____

*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *

Football Contest Rules

- **Contest period:** Sept. 11-Nov. 27
- **How to win:** Pick the team you think will win each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with corresponding number. Cut out and send or drop off at Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or Dodge County Independent, 121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944. You may enter in person, mail or e-mail to bptimes@frontiernet.net or dci@kmtel.com. Must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday prior to games. (Note: the selected games are for the following week, not the current week.)
- **Tie-Breaker:** You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.
- **Prizes:** We will award a gift card to local restaurant or grocery store to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. There will be a grand prize awarded to the person who picks the most correct games throughout the entire 12 weeks. All decisions by judges are final.
- **Eligibility:** Open to anyone age 14 or older, excluding staff of newspapers.

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2. Triton vs. St. Charles

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Sen. David Senjem
District 29
ROCHESTER:
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Rochester, MN 55901
507-282-7648
Prepared and paid for by Dave Senjem

3. Hayfield at Winona Cotter

4. Owatonna at Faribault

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6. Medford vs. Goodhue

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7. NRHEG vs. Le Sueur-Henderson

8. Minnesota at Purdue

9. Iowa vs. Middle Tennessee

10. Wisconsin vs. Northwestern

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12. Iowa State at Baylor

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13. Minnesota at Chicago

14. Green Bay vs. Philadelphia (TNF)

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15. Detroit vs. Kansas City

16. New England vs. Buffalo

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case No:74-CV-19-1124
Case Type: Juvenile

Summons and Notice Child in Need of Protection or Services Matter

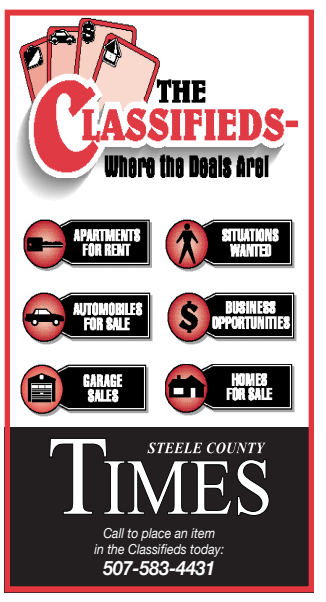
In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Jamie Duane Knutson (Father), Jasmine Nichole Knutson-Vaupel (Mother), Crystal Dawn Horner (Mother), Hilda Ruelas (Mother)

NOTICE TO: Hilda Ruelas, above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).

1. A Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court located at Steele County District Court 111 E Main St, Owatonna, Minnesota, alleging that the child(ren) of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) is/are in need of protection or services.
2. Notice is hereby given that the matter of said Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition will be called for hearing before the Juvenile Court located Steele County District Court 111 E Main St, Owatonna,, Minnesota, on October 2, 2019 at 8:15 AM or as soon after as the Matter can be heard.
3. YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.
4. You have a right to be represented by counsel.
5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including taking permanent custody of the child/ren named in the Petition.

WITNESS, the Honorable
Joseph A Bueltel
Judge of District Court
BY: Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

9/18



2018 ANNUAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
TIF Authority: City of Blooming Prairie

Pine View Acres TIF District 4-1
City of Blooming Prairie

The following information represents the Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts for the Year Ended December 31, 2018

TIF District Name	TIF District 4-1
Current net tax capacity	$ 11,848.00
Original net tax capacity	$ 742.00
Captured net tax capacity	$ 11,106.00
Current principal & interest due	$ -
Tax increment received	$ 16,688.00
Tax increment expended	$ 49,026.00
Month & year of first tax increment receipt	Jun-02
Date of required decertification	12/31/27
Increased property tax imposed on other properties as a result of fiscal disparities contribution	0

Additional information regarding the district may be obtained from:
TIF Representive- Andrew Langholz City Administrator
138 Hwy 218 South
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
(507)-583-7573

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US 218 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

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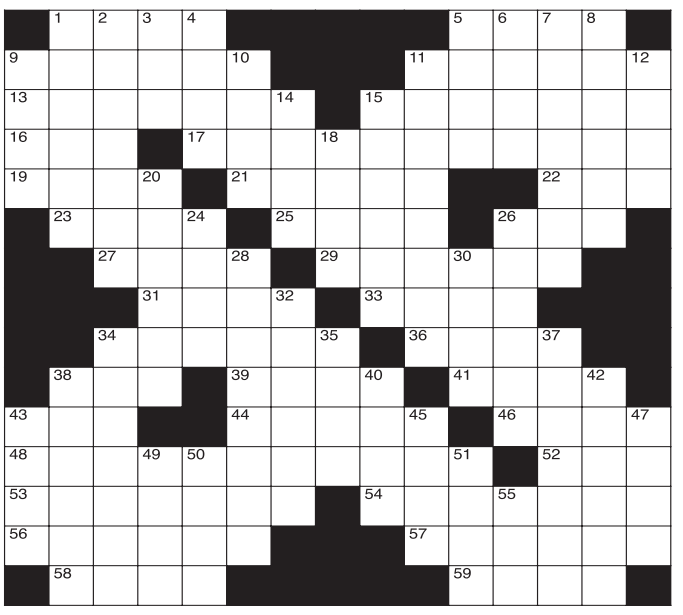
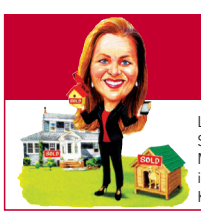
CLUES ACROSS
1. Newts
5. Taxis
9. Ski down these
11. Solace
13. Thieves of the sea
15. Diacritical mark
16. Frost
17. Enmities
19. Furnace for baking
21. Founder of female institute
22. Eight
23. Earl Grey and chamomile are two
25. Messenger ribonucleic acid
26. Dull, unproductive pattern of behavior
27. A large and hurried swallow
29. Large nests
31. A way to choose
33. Grocery store
34. Drains
36. Hawaiian wreath
38. Where fish live
39. Get rid of
41. Beyond, transcending
43. Uncastrated male sheep
44. Asserts
46. Snoopy and Rin Tin Tin



are two
48. Windy City footballer
52. Green veggie
53. Director
54. Conditioning
56. Spoke foolishly
57. Legislative body
58. Square measures
59. Cheek

CLUES DOWN
1. Call forth
2. Front legs
3. Third-party access
4. Hairlike structure
5. Ghanaian money
6. Settled down
7. Ill-natured
8. Choose
9. Mountain in the Slovenian Alps
10. Samsung laptops
11. Inquire into
12. Not slow
14. Thailand
15. Front of the eye
18. Kentucky town 41549
20. Extreme disgust
24. Not fast
26. Smelled bad
28. Portended
30. Leader
32. Comedian Noah
34. Course
35. Sloven
37. Perfect places
38. A vast desert in N. Africa
40. Monetary unit of Angola
42. Clerks
43. Canadian law enforcers
45. Without (French)
47. Having wisdom that comes with age
49. Delicacy (archaic)
50. Grows older
51. Bitterly regrets
55. It's present in all living cells (abbr.)

Let's get you movin'!



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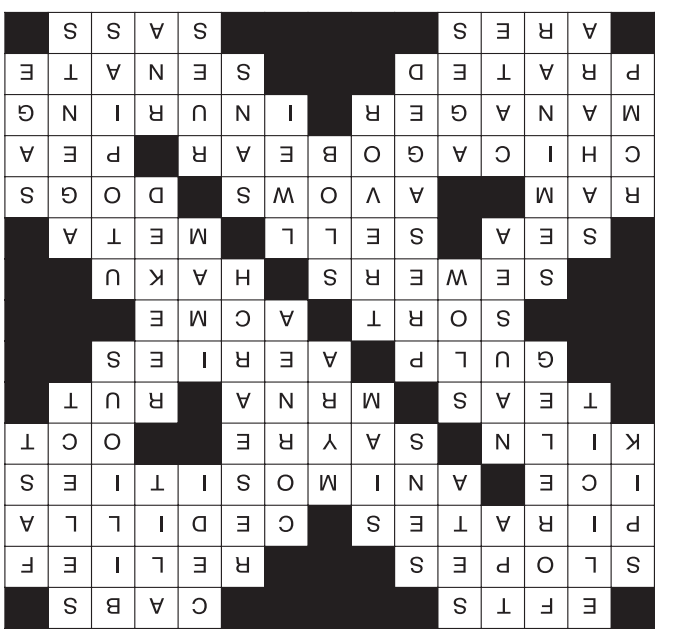

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CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507- 634 -7907. 33tfc

SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 27tfn

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- PT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.

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.**

Healthy Seniors of Steele County

Community Seniors Family Friends Staff

Providing needed support & services to keep seniors safely living well at home.

Part time Employment Opportunities:

Health & Wellness Coordinator

Healthy Seniors of Steele County has a part time Health & Wellness Coordinator position opening. Responsibilities will include conducting individual needs assessments, coordinating & providing direct services including respite, Healthy Partners – a combination of Fall prevention education, home safety assessment, light chore & strength & balance exercise, medical escort etc., friendly visiting, case management to seniors in need living independently in their home that do not have a support system to help them to safely live well at home. Email cover letter and resume to Healthy Seniors of Steele County P.O. Box 1089, Owatonna, MN 55060

Service & Support Coordinator

Healthy Seniors of Steele County has a part time Service & Support Coordinator position opening. Responsibilities will include: conducting needs assessment & working with seniors individual needs and supporting caregivers by providing direct services including respite, light chore, friendly visiting, case management, etc., to seniors that do not have a support system to help them to safely live well at home. Email cover letter and resume to Healthy Seniors of Steele County P.O. Box 1089, Owatonna, MN 55060

Career Oppurtunity

Opening for full-time Utility worker.

Experience preferred, mechanical abilities. Willingness to work after hours and on call.

If interested and for full job description contact **jerry@bppu.net** or call **583-6683**

Semcac

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Semcac's Rolling Hills Transit, is looking for a Full-Time bus driver (30-35 hours) for our Kasson area.

Must have CDL License with passenger endorsement, or we will help train for it. Looking for someone with the ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, procedure manuals, policies, and DOT regulations. Also who can represent Semcac to promote excellent public relations and customer service.

More information & application available at www.semcac.org or contact Barb Thompson at barb.thompson@semcac.org or 507-864-8202.

Applications must be postmarked by September 30, 2019.

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ADvantage DODGE COUNTY

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your student ads to the Dodge County Independent
121 W. Main Street, Kasson
dci@kmtel.com

BLOSSOMS RULE!

Homecoming 2019

The 2019 Homecoming candidates for Blooming Prairie High School are, from left: bottom row -- Zach Archer, Zach Weber, Gabe Hagen, Jarrett Larson and Matthew Prior; top row -- Maya Lembke, Gemini Johnson, Virdiana Villarreal, Baylee Sorensen and Riauna Bishop.

Congratulations to the seniors at Blooming Prairie High School on being selected as homecoming candidates. Best wishes during Homecoming Week!

Baylee Sorensen and Jarrett Larson

Riauna Bishop and Matt Prior

Maya Lembke and Zach Archer

BP Homecoming Schedule:

Sunday, Sept. 22:
- 6 p.m.: Powder Puff Football Game- High School football field
- 6-8 p.m.: Hallway Decorating for Grades 8-12

Monday, Sept. 23:
- 7:30 p.m.: Homecoming Coronation, $3 admission, free with button

Thursday, Sept. 26:
- 7 a.m.: FFA Breakfast for the candidates

Friday, Sept. 27:
- Pep Fests at high school and elementary school
- 4:15 p.m.: Homecoming Parade
- 7 p.m.: Football Game against Randolph
- Homecoming Dance, grades 7-12 only

Gemini Johnson and Zach Weber

Virdiana Villarreal and Gabe Hagen

Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

This message sponsored by these community boosters:

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