

OUR VIEW

Economic expansion fires up Steele County

News of economic expansion in Owatonna's industrial park has area business owners and city leaders fired up. New optimism is building across Steele County. In recent weeks, the city and its economic development team revealed several big employers that will bring hundreds of jobs to the area in the coming years. That is not only good news for Owatonna, but all of Steele County and even surrounding counties.

The headliner came last week when Costco announced plans to build its first ever distribution center in Minnesota. The facility will eventually employ around 200 employees with about 125 full-time jobs.

Prior to the Costco announcement, Minimizer of Blooming Prairie announced it is pulling out of the city after 35 years and moving to Owatonna where it will build a new facility. Also on the way is a big expansion at Daikin, a Japanese company that manufactures large heating and air conditioning systems. Rise Modular is also planning to purchase the former Chart building.

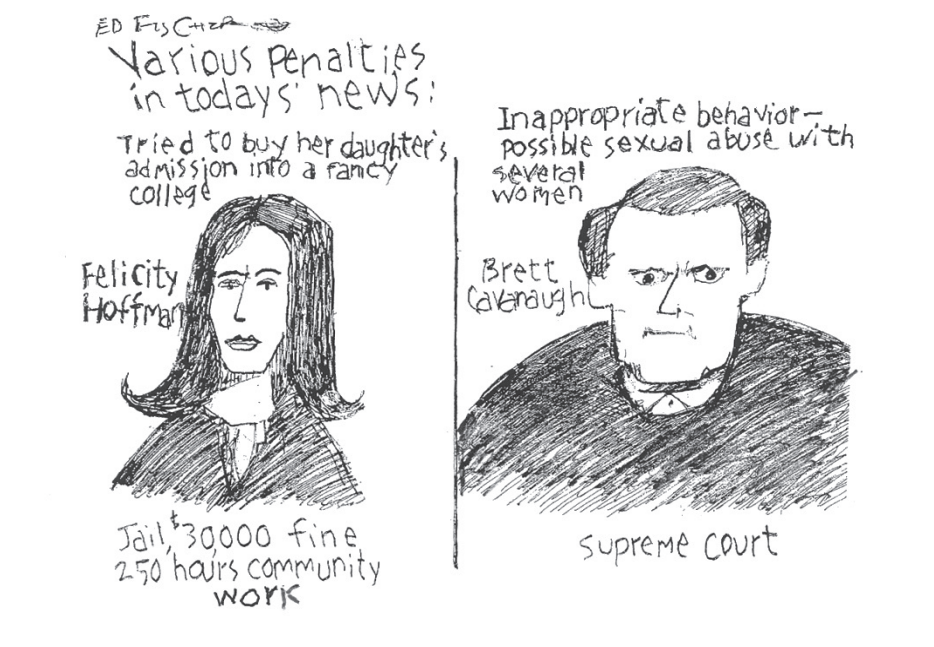
All of this adds up to big dividends for the area. Officials are estimating 400-500 jobs will be created in the next few years once the facilities are built and expansions completed.

Remarkable. That's the one word that city leaders are using to describe Owatonna's latest windfall. It's especially remarkable at a time when the global economy seems to be slowing and many businesses are a bit more cautious about spending.

These announcements come as welcome news to Troy Klecker, the city's economic coordinator. He says the city has been working for many years to assemble deals like these together.

After all the dust settles, Klecker said there will still be about 200 more acres of city-owned land in the industrial park and at least that much more privately-owned for other businesses. "We can continue growing to the west. We're not limited on how big and how far we can go," he says. "We're set up well that way."

Things are bustling in Owatonna. It's refreshing to see such growth in rural Minnesota. It will only add to the quality of life we have come to enjoy by living in southern Minnesota.



Writing their life story important in local newspapers

It's something nobody likes to think about. Writing an obituary for a loved one is probably the least desirable thing to do, especially in a time of grieving.

For years your local community newspaper has published obituaries detailing the lives of people who have passed on. They often accompany a photo of the family's choice to go with the written word. For the sake of full disclosure, our newspaper charges families to print obituaries, though it's a very small percentage of overall revenue for the paper.

People may question the importance of an obituary or may not feel up to the task of writing one in the midst of everything going on. However, my experience has been that many do not realize how important and actually beneficial an obituary can be to the family.

First of all, it helps to acknowledge the loss. Because the first stage of grief is denial, acknowledging the death in writing an obituary can be a first step towards acceptance and healing.

Obituaries also allow you to express the pain you are feeling. Psychologists often talk about the therapeutic benefits of writing. Expressing yourself in writing gives you the time to think through your feelings.

They also give you the opportunity to reminisce and celebrate their life. You look back on the life



Hot Pursuit RICK BUSSLER

of your loved one, from birth until their passing, at everything they accomplished, what they celebrated, your favorite memories together and the lives they touched. It also enlists the aid of the community. When dealing with death, your family will need support.

While you may know about all the things I've outlined to this point, here's one very important fact that people forget about: the obituary adds a page to your family's history. I've seen it happen recently in the deaths of some people around the area. We had a case in particular where a family decided to not run the obituary in our newspaper because the funeral service was going to take place before our publication would come out.

It may not seem important now, but an obituary is vital to maintaining your family's history. Genealogists and people looking to research their family history depend on obituaries to learn about family members that have passed, their children,

spouses, parents, dates and places of birth, as well as the type of people they were. By not writing an obituary and having it placed in the local newspaper, you may be depriving future generations from ever getting to know their ancestor.

I can't tell you how many times I have had family members come into our newspaper office over the years wanting to look through our old bound books of past newspapers. The reason? So they can look up obituaries for family history. I am always thrilled when they find the information they are looking for. It's just another reason why we publish a community newspaper.

However, our newspaper is only as good as the information we receive. You can help by publishing obituaries of your loved ones in the local newspaper. You may not care now, but think of it in this way. You will be doing a huge favor for a family member 50 or 100 years or even longer from now.

Before you decide to forgo writing an obituary for your loved one, carefully consider the benefits it can provide to the family. It is one way to remember your loved one and to ensure their memory is carried on to future generations.

While I don't wish anyone dies, I hope family members will go in hot pursuit of publishing obituaries in the local newspaper when the need arises.

GUEST COLUMN

Manufacturing success at foundation of state's economic vitality

BY DOUG LOON

Minnesota manufacturers are a resourceful, innovative and resilient group. Their collective value to our state's economic vitality cannot be overemphasized.

Consider these statistics compiled by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development:

- Manufacturing represents 322,000 jobs statewide – 13% of all private-sector jobs.
- The average manufacturing job supports another 3.24 jobs in other segments of the economy.
- Manufacturing added \$52.7 billion to the state's economy in 2018, representing the second largest contribution to the state's gross domestic product by an industry.
- Across the state, manufacturing accounts for between 8% and 21% of total employments, depending on the region.

Manufacturing is a critical backbone of our state's economy. As the state's manufacturing association, the Minnesota Chamber and our local partners encourage you to salute and celebrate the contributions of manufacturers in your communities during Minnesota Manufacturing Week, Oct. 1-7.

The Minnesota Chamber's annual "Manufacturers' Summit: Connecting our products and services to the world" is from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Delta Hotels – Minneapolis Northeast. Please join us.

It's never been more important to understand the interconnectedness of business in local communities and around the globe. This year's summit will examine the importance of trade agreements and the impact that trade uncertainty can have on the health of manufacturers and the overall state economy.

Consider data collected in the Grow Minnesota! Partnership, our robust private-sector program focused on business retention, assistance and expansion. It is conducted in coordination with 90-plus local chambers and economic development entities.

In 2015, 80% percent of businesses that exported had increased sales compared to 69% of those who did not export. In visits thus far this year, the difference is 79% to 65%. Manufacturers are six times more likely to export. In 2015, 61% of manufacturers exported compared to 13% of companies in other sectors. The respective numbers for 2019 are 60% and 9%.

The dynamics of the world economy provide a perfect backdrop for the Manufacturers' Summit.

Attendees will hear from Gov. Tim Walz on manufacturing's importance to Minnesota. Martha B'rcena Coqui, Mexican ambassador to the United States, will speak to the benefits of the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and a strong trade relationship between Mexico and the United States.

A panel of business leaders will share perspectives on the importance of global markets for Minnesota manufacturers. This event is always a great opportunity to connect manufacturers with vendors.

Plus, manufacturers will have the option to attend a bonus session: MN Supplier Match Roundtable where we'll connect Minnesota-based contract manufacturers with OEMs in Minnesota. This is your opportunity to meet face-to-face with sourcing leaders from OEMs to discuss general supply chain issues, best practices and opportunities to expand the supply chain in Minnesota.

Many local chambers of commerce across the state coordinate events with local manufacturers to showcase facilities and promote the quality jobs available right in their back yards. Minnesota Manufacturing Week is a perfect time to showcase the strength of manufacturing as well as to help policymakers understand the necessary steps to strengthen our position in the dynamics of the world economy.

Doug Loon is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

It's nostalgia at the ultimate

Homecoming 2019 at Blooming Prairie High School will be nostalgia at its ultimate.

This week has featured tons of Homecoming activities designed to bring students and community together. It's a time of excitement when students and community feel a bond together.

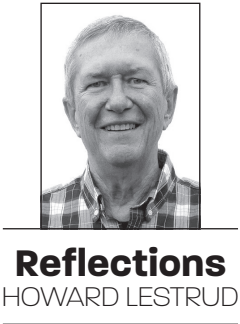
Alan Morton, Class of 1948, expects to be in the crowd Friday night when the Awesome Blossoms football team takes on Randolph. Morton, 90, was an outstanding athlete at Blooming Prairie High School and said he is looking forward to a rekindling of school spirit.

Homecoming 2019 began Sunday with a Powder Puff football team pitting the senior girls against the junior girls. A little rain didn't deter the teams from providing some umbrella carrying fans with lots of excitement.

It was a flag football game but just before halftime, the action got a little bit more violent as Quarterback Julia Worke hit the deck attempting to make a first down.

Monday was Pajama Day and also featured the crowning of this year's Homecoming King and Queen.

Congratulations go to the candidates, King: Zach Archer. Zach Weber, Gabe



Reflections HOWARD LESTRUD

Hagen, Jarrett Larson and Matthew Prior; Queen: Maya Lembke, Gemini Johnson, Virdiana Villarreal, Baylee Sorensen and Riauna Bishop.

Tuesday was Jersey Day. Wednesday was Color Day: seniors, purple; juniors, blue; sophomores, pink; ninth graders, grey; eighth graders, orange and seventh graders, yellow. Staff members wore black.

Thursday is Red, White and Blue Day.

Friday will feature the candidates and MC's visiting the elementary school and Prairie Manar Care Center and the afternoon will feature a pepfest.

A parade starts at 4:15 on Friday with decorative floats and some alumni featured on floats.

The game pitting the Blossoms against Randolph starts at 7 p.m. Following the game, a dance is planned in the high school gym.

My Homecoming was over a hundred years ago (it seems), but I will not forget my senior year. Homecoming was definitely a highlight of my senior year.

Blooming always has an outstanding turnout for its Homecoming. Let's make this Friday, Sept. 27 no exception. GO AWE-SOME BLOSSOMS!

YOUR VIEW

Ruby's exceeds expectations

To-the-Editor:

The numbers are in for our first Ruby's Pantry distribution! They include: 24 pallets of food and personal items, 397 shares distributed and 126 volunteers.

Our first Ruby's distribution met and exceeded our expectations on what turned out to be a warm and humid evening. The line began at the church door around 2 p.m. and continued around the corner for hours. It showed the need for such an option in our area to stretch income and the many volunteers showed the support in the community to give a helping hand to our neighbors and friends.

While the distribution went well, we know there are areas we can improve on and will

keep adjusting our process with each future pantry distribution. However, the basics remain the same. Registration starts at 4 p.m. and the distribution begins at 5 p.m. People interested in getting a share of the donated items should bring a \$20 cash donation & two baskets or totes. Volunteers are still needed and welcome. To volunteer or for more information on our next distribution, Thursday, Oct. 17, call Grace Lutheran at 507-433-3445.

If you have any questions or need more information about Ruby's Pantry and our future distributions please call me at 507-261-6040.

Bob Rosel
Ruby's Pantry-Austin

Early voting set for special election

Early voting/absentee ballots for the upcoming Nov. 5 school district special election in Owatonna are available at the Steele County Auditor's office until 5 p.m. on Nov. 4.

The auditor's office is located at 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna and is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The auditor's office will also be open on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for early voting.

Voters can vote early/absentee in person or by mail. They may also vote in person on Election Day at their polling place. Voters may look up their polling place information online by going to pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

More information about the school district special election can be found on the school district's referendum website: www.owatonnaproud.org.

If you have any questions in regards to early/absentee voting, you may contact the county auditor's office by calling 507-444-7410.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP ELEMENTARY

Sept. 30- Corn Dog, Italian turkey Panini, Calico bean bake

BP HIGH SCHOOL

Sept. 30- Italian turkey Panini, calico bean bake, crispy chicken sandwich, ham deli sandwich, pasta bar

Sip, Shop & Stroll in BP



Sip, Shop and Stroll, a special promotion came to Blooming Prairie's Main Street Sept. 18. Top left: BP Elementary School kids were busy selling delicious candy bars by B to Z Hardware Store. Setting up shop were sisters Carly McIntosh, Emily Kasperek, Shelby Kasperek and Haley McIntosh. Top right: The B to Z Hardware guys and gals were selling pumpkins during the promotion. Shown from left are: Dan Peach, Andy Kasperek, Kathy Johnson, Greg Johnson and Katie Voss. Second row left: Jackie Vorlicek had a busy store at Prairie Home Floral, Decor and Gifts. Second row right: Emily's Beauty Bar was part of the Sip, Shop and Stroll with shop owner Emily Allison trimming Mike Tapp. Third row left: Harvey and Nancy Farr of J & H Liquors greeted customers for the sip part of the promotion. Third row right: Three-year-old Liam Ostrander shows off his new wrestling t-shirt his parents bought him at Sportstitch. Bottom right: Sara Wencil and Jennie Johnson display Scentsy products at the Cue Company on Main Street.



The play's the thing in BP

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

When the curtain goes up Nov. 7 on another musical at Blooming Prairie High School, it will be the 18th straight production directed by collaborators Tammy Johnson and Kari Bottin. It will also set another outstanding mark.

"This fourth production of 'The Sound of Music' marks the 50th year of BPHS musicals," remarked Johnson, "and it is something of which we are truly proud." The Sound of Music has proven to be the most loved of all the productions that the local high school has presented, and this year offers more outstanding singing and acting by BPHS students.

Jacob McHenry and Courtney Espe have been tapped as the leads in this presentation, and they are already receiving plaudits for their singing ability. "McHenry has been involved in the musicals since eighth grade," commented Johnson, "and Courtney just has a beautiful voice." Melanie Winzenburg and Riauna Bishop play the roles of the Mother Superior and Elsa, and they are backed by a cast of energetic and capable actors, Johnson added.

Tryouts were held in August and already rehearsals are ongoing. "For example, last night we spent a long time on 'So Long, Farewell,'" continued Johnson, "and students are catching on fast. We also have started practicing the laendier Austrian dance for the ball scene."

Because it is 50th year production, an alumni committee has been formed, and an alumni reception is in the works. Blooming Prairie has long had a tradition of high quality musical productions, and this year should certainly be no exception.

Anderson picked as honored educator

Editor's Note: Alumni of Blooming Prairie High School will gather together this Saturday at the BP Servicemen's Club to pay tribute to graduates of the past. More than 50 alumni have been recognized over the years for their contributions to their community and beyond. Diane Anderson, longtime sixth grade teacher in Blooming Prairie, will be recognized as an Honored Educator. In past weeks, we have profiled the distinguished service and athletic award winners.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie sixth grade teacher Diane Anderson, now retired, always expected the best from her students, and she gave her best in return, claim her superiors.

"Diane cared about the students in her classroom and about every student in our school," remarks former Blooming Prairie Elementary School Principal Chris Staloch, now the BP superintendent.

Anderson will receive the 2019 Honored Educator award on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Annual Banquet at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

She is one of seven Blossom alumni to be honored on this special evening. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., dinner follows at 6 p.m. and the program is set for 7 p.m.

Anderson, who retired recently after logging 22 years as a BP school sixth

grade teacher, was nominated by Staloch and by Julie Naatz, elementary school secretary.

Anderson, Blooming Prairie Class of 1972, graduated from Winona State University in 1976 with a degree in physical education and health.

She began her teaching career in LeRoy, teaching physical education and health subjects and coaching volleyball and girls track.

After taking some time away to spend with her young family and to help manage a family-owned business, Diane continued her education by returning to Winona State University pursuing an elementary education teaching degree.

Anderson started her elementary teaching career at the Medford Elementary School in 1988, teaching sixth grade and coaching volleyball.

She joined the Blooming Prairie Elementary staff in 1998, teaching sixth grade. Anderson coached B squad volleyball and headed up the Science Fair for 14 years.

She earned a master's degree from Southwest State University in Marshall. She has gained many recognitions and awards including Steele County Teacher of the Year in 2005 from Wal-Mart and the Distinguished Young Educator from the Jaycees in 2005.

"Wow!" That's the reaction of Diane receiving the award. "I'm humbled and grateful; it wouldn't have happened without the support of my colleagues, administration, students and parents who supported me.

"Teaching is not one of those careers where you



DIANE ANDERSON

can't do it by yourself; it takes a lot of working together."

Prior to her retirement in May, Anderson said she worked with a great community of people who work together for the benefit of students. "It goes beyond the school and it shows that we care for each other," Anderson added.

Anderson's nominators say her enthusiasm for teaching and dedication to her career was evident each and every day. She shared her expertise and years of experience with fellow teachers. She never shied away from a challenge and never tired of striving to provide the education she knew our students needed to succeed in life, said Staloch and Naatz.

Anderson had a way of drawing out the best in her students. She was also passionate that all should succeed, her peers said.

Staloch shared some thoughts for this nomination: "Diane was highly professional in everything that she did. She challenged us to continually improve and never accepted just good enough. She had a way of challenging adults and students and made them want to live up to her expectations. Her expectations for our school and her students were very high.

"Diane, through her tough love, was able to bring out the best in others. Even though she came across tough, underneath was a truly caring person who would do anything for her students, co-workers and school as a whole."

Staloch said he learned many things from Diane.

"I would not be the leader I am today without her. She challenged me to remember, to never forget where I came from (the classroom/teacher), to remember that we were here for our students, and that we (staff) always had each other's backs.

"Diane was great at building quality relationships with her students, co-workers and members of the community. She understood how important those relationships were to our school as a whole."

Anderson's work and love for the students of Blooming Prairie did not end with her day of teaching, said Staloch. She served on the BP Ed Foundation and the education Foundation Auction committee, helping to raise extraordinary amounts of money to further the education of our students.

She and husband Butch, a skilled woodworker, helped to produce many sixth grade projects, as well as many others for the auctions. She also does quilting for the Quilts of Valor. She even has done some substitute teaching in her early retirement.

Anderson says retirement has its benefits and it can be relaxing. Time is different in a teaching mode where it goes moment to moment. "In retirement, I forget what day it is," she laughs.

She has four children: Jason, Janelle Stenzel, Phil Iacovino and JoAuna. She has four step children: Jeff Anderson, Craig Anderson, Becky Peterson and Todd Anderson.

Retirement has also given her time to spend with her 12 grandchildren.

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

Domestic suspect allegedly found with gun

A domestic assault suspect is facing a felony charge after allegedly possessing a firearm.

Owatonna Police arrested Guillermo Padron, 33, of Owatonna on Sept. 13 for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend. When officers searched Padron, they found a .22 caliber round in his pocket, police said. In the same room, officers uncovered a loaded and chambered Ruger MKII.22 pistol and a container holding 87.22 caliber rounds, according to police.

Padron has been charged with illegally possessing a firearm



after being convicted or adjudicated delinquent of a crime of violence. He also faces a gross misdemeanor charge of domestic assault.

The investigation initially began on Sept. 10 when Padron's girlfriend reported an argument ensued over an impending break-up and Padron began hitting the victim in the face and head with a closed fist. Police saw injuries to the victim consistent with the alleged assault.

Police were unable to locate Padron until a few days after the assault was reported.

Dangerous offender to move into Owatonna

Police to hold community meeting Oct. 3

Another high-risk sexual offender will be moving into Owatonna next month, prompting police to hold a community notification meeting as required by state law.

William Marcus Daniel Edwards, 28, will be taking up residency in the 600 block of South Cedar

Avenue, according to detective Christian Berg with Owatonna Police. He said a community meeting will take place on Oct. 3 at 5 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center in Owatonna. At that time, police and corrections officials will be able to answer any questions or address any community concerns. The meeting is the same day Edwards is expected to move into town.

Edwards was released from prison on July 23 after being locked up for engaging in sexual contact with an unknown teenage girl and unknown female child on separate occasions. Police say the contact included penetration, and that Edwards gained access to the teen by meeting her online and then arranging to meet in person.

Edwards gained access

to the younger child by approaching her in public and inviting her to his residence. He uses intoxicants and force to gain compliance, according to police. The cases originated out of the Mankato and Lake Crystal areas.

Police said Edwards has served his sentence and is transitioning into the community. The notification is not intended to increase

fear but rather raise awareness. Law enforcement believes that an informed public is a safer public.

Officials have deemed Edwards a Level 3 offender, which is the most dangerous label given to sexual offenders and considered to be the most likely to reoffend.

Edwards will become the eighth Level 3 offender to take up residency in



Marcus Daniel Edwards

Steele County. There are currently six living in Owatonna and one in Blooming Prairie.

Anyone with additional questions can contact Owatonna Police at 507-444-3800.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 9 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Tyler M. Lutz, 29, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI. He was sentenced to \$406, 1 day in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, complete Steele-Waseca Drug Court and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 9 – 15:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jessie L. Bellikka, 36, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Tai'ricca C. Einfeldt, 28, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Riley J. Forcelle, 21, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Scott M. Hofius, 49, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$281.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Justin J. Ray, 42, Owatonna, take fish without angling license, \$181.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Elizabeth A. Abkes-Moore, 49, Farmington, speeding, \$121; Amanda N. Arens, 27, Morristown, speeding, \$121; Travis J. Baumgartner, 49, West Concord, no license, \$181; Denise L. Buenger, 34, Waldorf, seat belt, \$106; Felicia D. Fox, 34, Mankato, speeding, \$141; Cory J. Guenther, 47, Maplewood, speeding, \$121; Kayla A. Hamilton, 22, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$121; Bryce B. Hinds, 27, Irvine, CA, speeding, \$131; Abdullahi M. Jeylani, 33, Minneapolis, window tint violation, \$131; John T. Kemp, 17, Byron, speeding, \$141; Patrick C. Lammers, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Kendall D.

Olson, 24, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Ryan S. Owen, 21, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Alayna R. Patten, 18, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$75 and unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Hsar H. Paw, 30, Austin, child passenger restraint system violation, \$131; Alejandro E. Rangel, 24, Dallas, TX, no license, \$181; Travis M. Sabby, 49, Centerville, speeding, \$121; Hel C. Say, 25, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$141; Jordon A. Swenson, 19, Lakeville, speeding, \$141; Alexis R. Torres Rosado, 27, Albert Lea, no license, \$181; Javier L. Trejo, 21, St. Paul, speeding and no license, \$231; Nicole E. Volk, 36, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Mark D. Wallman Jr., 32, Nicollet, speeding, \$121; Karl C. Wasson, 60, Duluth, speeding, \$131; David A. Zylstra, 37, Blooming Prairie, child passenger restraint system violation, \$131.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ethan J. Carpenter, 20, Waseca, minor consumption, \$181; Miguel A. Carreon Balderas, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Samuel J. Cook, 26, Kasson, revoked license, \$281; Abdisamad H. Dahir, 31, Bloomington, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Jason A. Dalbec, 42, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Nicole E. Erickson, 21, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Anthony L. Esquivel, 21, Claremont, invalid license and no insurance, \$381; Michael A. Fatland, 50, Faribault, brakes violation and no insurance, \$341; Vincent R. Garr, 36, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Arielle L. Gillis, 21, Northfield, speeding, \$131; Rene Gilromini, 29, Owatonna, revoked license and expired tabs, \$311; Jacob D. Goerd, 19, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$131; Skylar A. Guggisberg, 26, Owatonna, muffler violation, no insurance and suspended license, \$531; Tyler K. Hall, 23, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Suzann L. Halla,

26, Preston, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Brittanie K. Helton, 22, Ellendale, speeding and no insurance, \$321; Lucas R. Hoerst, 39, Burnsville, no insurance, \$281; Jason L. Horner, 34, Owatonna, controlled substance crime, \$131 and 188 days in county jail; Mohamed I. Hussein, 25, Owatonna, child passenger restraint system violations, \$181; Bertha M. Jackson, 33, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Casey A. Kramer, 22, Robinsdale, speeding, \$121; Jamie M. Miles, 43, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$131; Christina B. Morales, 45, Owatonna, no insurance, \$131 and 10 days in county jail; Alemnesh R. Pelrine, 19, Owatonna, suspended license and open bottle, \$381; Kenneth J. Perry, 35, Faribault, no insurance, \$281; Levi B. Rutzen, 38, Wells, cancelled license, \$281; Nicole A. Schaub, 39, Owatonna, theft, \$432.52 and 1 day in county jail; Olivia P. Schute, 23, Owatonna, revoked license, registration violation and no insurance, \$511; Brady D. Seitz, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jace D. Shaske, 24, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Prince K. Smith, 37, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Randy L. Starkson, 58, Dodge Center, texting while driving and revoked license, \$331; Ricky S. Steele, 44, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$131, 38 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Matthew R. Steinberg, 31, Owatonna, restraining order violation, \$131 and 90 days in county jail; Kimberly J. Stiles, 52, Claremont, expired tabs, \$111; Victor A. Van, 33, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Amanda E. Wade, 45, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Shane V. Walk, 32, Albert Lea, failure to yield, \$181.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jose Y. Aguillon Huinil, 29, St. Paul, speeding and invalid license, \$241; Traequan S. Bamlounghong, 24,

Rochester, speeding and suspended license, \$331; Alan L. Barney, 54, Claremont, expired tabs, \$111; John A. Burkhartzmeyer, 50, Fitchburg, WI, speeding, \$121; Brooke M. Carr, 21, Stewartville, speeding, suspended license and no insurance, \$531; Matthew S. Davis, 21, Dundas, speeding, \$121; Sean R. Gerlach, 18, Medford, failure to signal for turn, \$131; Victor A. Gonzalez Mejia, 20, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Kenneth E. Gossman, 80, Clarks Grove, registration violation, stay of adjudication, 1 year of unsupervised probation; Dana M. Hachfeld, 29, Medford, stop sign and no license in possession, \$151; Vincent T. Harmon, 56, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Tyler C. Hermel, 18, Waterville, minor consumption, \$181; Kenyatta D. Holden, 38, Minneapolis, improper information on license, \$101; Heather G. Kane, 30, Austin, failure to yield, \$131 and 30 days of unsupervised probation; Jonathon J. Larson, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Jeremy D. Morrison, 33, Stewartville, speeding, \$131; Rudy S. Perez, 52, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$281; Madison W. Rysavy, 16, Austin, speeding, \$121; Bethany L. Sullivan-Gaunt, 30, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Christina E. Taglia, 34, Lisle, IL, speeding, \$121; Deborah A. Tupy, 57, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Tyler J. Worke, 32, Eagle Lake, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

Sept. 19

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of 2nd St. NE at 6:47 a.m.

Threats: At 5:01 p.m., a subject made threats in the 200 block of 4th Ave. NW.

OWATONNA POLICE

Sept. 13

Assault: Police arrested a juvenile following an assault in the 100 block of Vine St. E. at 2:57 p.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 400 block of Mound St. SW at 6:14 p.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of Kelly St. NW at 6:28 p.m.

Sept. 14

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle crash with injuries at 26th St. NW and State Ave. NW at 11:19 a.m.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 2:11 p.m.

Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Austin Road SE at 6:20 p.m.

Mental Health: At 7:48 p.m., police responded to a mental health incident in the 700 block of Linn Ave. SW.

Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of 18th St. SE at 9:20 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Fight: Police arrested a subject following a fight in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:25 p.m.

Sept. 15

Theft: At 4:57 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of Highland Ave. NW.

Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 6:17 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of 24th St. NE at 11:36 p.m.

Sept. 16

Fraud: Police took a report of a fraud incident in the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 10:51 a.m.

Shoplifting: Officers arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 10:51 a.m.

Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 300 block of School St. E. at 1:58 p.m.

Arrest: At 5:17 p.m., police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 900 block of Vine St. E.

Theft: At 5:17 p.m., a theft occurred in the 200 block of Rice St. E.

“I just know we all want justice for our family, Brandon and Jaxon included. They have had to endure the worst possible thing losing a mother and a wife while losing a sister and a daughter. Rachel and Emerson deserved to be starting this school year with everyone else, Rachel getting her class ready for kids and Emerson getting ready to start fourth grade but they got that taken away from them because of someone being distracted on their cell phone... We hope people learn from this horrible tragedy that no one should have to live through.”

On the first anniversary of the crash, Blooming Prairie Schools encouraged students to wear purple and orange in honor of Rachel and Emerson.

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

1. Jose Saucedo – theft - \$3,000 bail

2. Teresa Saucedo – DWI - \$12,000 bail

3. Benjamin Savedra – DWI – no bail

4. Todd Senholtz – order for protection violation - \$6,000 bail

5. Yennifer Serban – drugs – no bail

6. Cassandra Shakal – theft - \$1,000 bail

7. Benjamin Shannon – theft - \$3,000 bail
8. Aman Sheikh-Yusuf – theft by check – no bail

9. George Shelton – possession of pistol – no bail

10. Ricky Shelton – assault – no bail

11. Thomas Siagiannis – seat belt - \$1,000 bail

12. Oscar Sias – terroristic threats - \$25,000 bail

13. Pedro Sifuentes – DWI – no bail

14. Angela Silvas – assault - \$1,000 bail
15. Miles Singleton – domestic assault – no bail

16. Michael Sinn – revoked license, no insurance - \$1,000 bail

17. David Kenneth Smith – theft - \$20,000 bail

18. Phillip Smith – warrant – no bail

19. Wesley Smith – revoked license – no bail

20. Paul Randall Smock – possession of stolen property - \$20,000 bail

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

HELPING VETS FROM A1

Ross Leuning of the Third Judicial District said at the outset of the event. A veteran himself, Leuning was instrumental in getting the program off the ground and will serve as the Presiding District Court Judge for the program in Steele County.

Leuning remarked on the appropriate date chosen to hold the event. “Today is a day we have set aside to remember our missing comrades and pray that they will someday soon be back in our ranks,” he said. During the ceremony there was a moment of remembrance and reflection.

Freeborn County Veterans Service Officer Brandon Servantez was also a key player in the program’s inception. “Today really is an exciting day for Southern Minnesota and the Third Judicial District,” Servantez said. “I’ve always had a passion for working with veterans and I’ve wanted to see more resources available.”

Servantez has been involved in the planning stages since the beginning and has traveled to other veterans treatment courts to learn from them. “Now I have the privilege of working with the program assisting our veterans to obtain additional benefits that might be available to them.”

“This program is setup as a collaborative effort with all team members in attempting to help veterans succeed in the community with the resources provided,” Servantez explained. “Often times, veterans don’t know the benefits that they are entitled to or eligible for.”

During the ceremony, Judge Leuning noted that 20 veterans commit suicide every day in America. “It used to be 23, so it’s down. Of those who commit suicide, 7 out of 10 of them had no contact with veterans services,” Leuning added.

By helping those who are within the justice system, the Veterans Treatment

Court will be able to reach those that most at risk. “We want to help our struggling veterans with the issues that may at the root of their criminal offenses,” Leuning said. This direct contact will help struggling veterans better reintegrate into the community.

Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Gildea also shared her thoughts on the program. “I am so proud to be able to be here as this community affirms its commitment to our returning veterans,” Justice Gildea said. “It means a lot to me personally to see so many Minnesotans gathered here to honor our veterans,” she added.

“Our commitment to veterans and to military members must extend far beyond honor, gratitude, and remembrance,” Gildea remarked. “It must be reflected in how we support, empower, and care for our returning soldiers.”

Justice Gildea explained

that war can affect people in different ways. “While most veterans return home strengthened by their military experience, we know that many others carry with them the wounds of war,” she said. “For some those are physical wounds while others face invisible wounds.”

“Tragically, as we have seen too often, some of these veterans become defendants in our criminal justice system,” Gildea added. “Veterans courts are an important part of the treatment court model. These programs support the sobriety, recovery, and stability of veterans by bringing together our justice system, local social service organizations, and state and federal veterans services.”

Members from across the district were there to celebrate the event, including Judge Jodi Williamson of Dodge County. “This has been an ongoing collaboration between the court system, our justice partners, law enforcement, and the

“We want to help our struggling veterans with the issues that may at the root of their criminal offenses.”

Judge Ross Leuning
Veterans Court Organizer

veterans,” Judge Williamson said. “This is part of an overall, overreaching process by the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Gildea to bring treatment court eligibility to every county.”

“Having 11 counties in the Third Judicial District in Southeast Minnesota covered by this Veterans Treatment Court is a huge, huge plus for all the communities, for the veterans, for the justice system, and to provide for public safety for our veterans.” The Fifth Judicial District also participates in a veterans treatment court.

Like many involved in the justice system, Williamson has seen the positives that such treatment courts can bring. “We owe the veterans,” she said. “You’ve got to have the court systems

dedicated to it, because they’re the movers and shakers. They’re the ones who say I’m willing to make the time to do this.”

“I do drug court in Dodge County, and it’s remarkable, it’s a passion, and it’s a great thing,” Judge Williamson said, and explained that she has seen firsthand the value that such programs can bring to the community and to the people who it serves.

Due to the diligence and passion of so many people, veterans involved in the justice system in the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, and Winona will be able to get the treatment they need and return to society better and more stable.

EXPRESS PRESSURE WASHERS : finds new home FROM A1

meeting with Jim and Gary Scott of Alkota.

“The Scotts visited me and agreed to take a chance on me,” O’Connor relates. Thus, the business outlet was born in Blooming Prairie.

Express has since expanded into floor cleaning equipment and portable radiant heaters, said Ingvalson. “Anything that gets dirty,” interjected O’Connor. Ingvalson said Express

has two trucks on the road for sales and two for service. All trucks are very colorful and help carry the message of Express Pressure Washers by displaying a photo of a unit and the telephone number 507-583-2703.

EXP has eight employees. “We sometimes will pull in some of our farm people to help with the pressure washers,” says O’Connor. “We have good

people who believe in our product,” he added.

“Pressure washers have become a key part of a farming operation,” says Ingvalson and O’Connor.

“We are part of agriculture whether it be serving hog farms, general farms or truckers,” says Ingvalson. People need the farmer, believes O’Connor. “We are here to support them,” he continued.

O’Connor says there are three reasons why people need the farmer. Holding up three fingers, he recites “breakfast, lunch and dinner.”

“We don’t deal with throw away equipment,” says O’Connor. “Alkota is an easy product to represent. “You get what you pay for with them.”

“EXP also serves customers from residential

to industrial and a lot in between,” says Ingvalson.

Lachelle Wondra, who works with sales, marketing and advertising for EXP, coined their new jingle: “Express Pressure Washers: Driven by Service, Supported by Sales.” Lachelle was also the one who started their Facebook campaign, “See a truck, see a machine, let us know we have been seen,” for people who see a Alkota machine or EXP Truck to snap a picture and share where they saw it.

O’Connor said the company is intent on treating the customer right. “If you take care of your customers, they will take care of you,” he said.

O’Connor and Ingvalson hint there may be other improvements in the wind. “We are always looking for ways to improve,” says O’Connor.

“Every small business is important to a small community,” O’Connor said in explaining that Blooming Prairie is that community that values its small businesses.

MN PRAIRIE: seeks 11% increase FROM A1

In the 2020 preliminary budget for Steele County, MN Prairie would receive \$6,557,631, which is a 10.5% increase over 2019. Public Safety, on the other hand, is seeking \$8.9 million, which amounts to a far less increase of only 2.3%. Public safety includes the detention center, sheriff’s office, corrections and county attorney’s office. The Highway department is asking for a 3.5% increase over this year.

County administrator Scott Golberg admits he was a little taken back by MN Prairie’s initial request of an additional \$2 million for next year. He said the steep increase, even though it’s been paired back to \$1.1 million, is largely reflective of a health and human services system that lacks proper funding.

“Any increases are what can we do to control the increases,” Golberg said. “We’re always trying to keep the increases to a minimum.”

In addition to his role as a county commissioner, James Brady also serves on MN Prairie’s board. He, too, was taken back by MN Prairie’s request, which initially started out at 24%. “It’s tough. It’s mind boggling,” Brady said of the health and human services system. “It’s so complicated. For a lay person to understand, it’s really hard to get a grip around it,” he added.

Even with a proposed 11% increase in funding, Brady knows executive director Jane Hardwig has her work cut out for her with MN Prairie. “She has a tough job ahead of her,” Brady said. “I hope she can get the job done.”

MN Prairie, Brady said, has been seeking “double digit increases” for several years in a row. He attributes the sharp increases to additional mental health services, out of home placement for kids and more people needing funeral services to be covered.

Brady blames reduced

MN PRAIRIE ALLIANCE BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2020

Initial request: \$2 million, 24% increase
Scaled back proposal: \$1.1 million, 11% increase (split between 3 counties)
Overall increase for Steele County's 2020 overall tax levy: \$991,403, 4% increase

*Source Steele County Treasurer

state and federal funding for programs as the culprit for local counties to have to spend more money for human services. “They’re slowly shifting things to the counties,” he said. “It’s a big problem.”

He hopes the human services spending will level off in the future. Brady paused and said, “We’ll see.” He added with greater pause, “We’ll wait and see.”

Despite MN Prairie’s request for a double-digit increase, Brady noted that all other county departments are holding the line with roughly 4% increases. “All our other departments did a wonderful job of holding the line,” he said.

Golberg also applauded his department heads. “The expectation is to be as efficient as we can for what

we need to do our work,” he said. “We work hard to drive efficiencies and look for opportunities for revenue sources and partnerships.”

The Steele County Board was asked to adopt a resolution certifying the 2020 preliminary tax levy at \$25,776,488 at its regular board meeting Tuesday night. Of the proposed levy, \$20 million would be earmarked for general government, \$2.9 million for highway, \$1.8 million for debt service and just under \$1 million for capital projects.

Once the preliminary budget is set, the county cannot go above that amount, though things can be shifted around. The final budget will be approved at the Truth in Taxation public hearing Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.

OWATONNA OFFICER: fights firing in arbitration FROM A1

by Minnesota Public Employees Association, the union representing officers, sergeants and corporals at Owatonna Police. The law firm did not return calls for comment.

“I highly doubt we will have a comment at this point,” said David Deal, president of MPEA. He referred all correspondence to the union’s law firm.

It’s unknown how long Christiansen has been with Owatonna Police. He previously has worked for Olmsted County Sheriff’s Office.

In 2003, Christiansen was the center of an officer-involved shooting. The Winona County Attorney’s Office found that Christiansen used reasonable force in the shooting death of 43-year-old Calvin Barrett in Stewartville in May 2003. Barrett had

apparently fled when Christiansen tried to serve an arrest warrant at his home. During a foot chase, the deputy used a stun gun and a baton to try to subdue Barrett. At one point, Barrett pulled out a .32-caliber revolver and fired it several times at Christiansen. Two bullets struck him. After Barrett shot at the deputy, Christiansen returned fire, hitting Barrett twice and killing him.

The arbitration hearing in the Owatonna case involves attorneys for both the city and the union arguing their positions before an independent arbitrator. The hearings typically take one day for both sides to present the facts of the case. There are 41 arbitrators in Minnesota that have met rigorous standards of relevant labor relations experience,

knowledge of collective bargaining and arbitration.

Arbitrators typically take up to two months to issue a ruling in the case. A final disposition occurs at the conclusion of the arbitration proceedings.

Arbitrators reinstate nearly half of fired cops in Minnesota.

St. Paul Police has made headlines in recent months after the city’s chief fired five officers for failing to protect a citizen from abuse last year. The police union is fighting all the terminations.

Many police firings lead to arbitration because Minnesota law requires all local governments to allow disciplined employees to appeal binding arbitration, just as many private-sector union contracts do.

In rare cases, arbitration rulings can end up before the Minnesota Supreme Court. In February, the Supreme Court upheld an arbitrator’s reinstatement of a Richfield police officer, another discharged employee whose return to duty initially had been reversed by the state Court of Appeals as being contrary to public safety.

MPEA was established to provide public employees in Minnesota with an alternative to the standard national and international unions. MPEA, which is a non-partisan association, serves as representation for 57 union groups across the state, mostly law enforcement related. MPEA also represents employees with Steele County Corrections and sheriff’s offices in Waseca, Rice and Freeborn counties.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Edward Eugene Singletary, 56, arrested at 12:40 a.m. Sept. 17, felony controlled substance, held for court.
Noel Yanes Rodriguez,

57, arrested at 12:10 a.m. Sept. 17, felony controlled substance, held for court.
Marcy Kim Busho, 33, arrested at 8:24 p.m. Sept. 16, DUI and no insurance, held for court.
Levi Bruce Rutzen, 38, arrested at 8:38 p.m. Sept. 16, felony possession, held for court.

James Christopher Schmidt, 24, arrested at 8:38 p.m. Sept. 16, felony possession, held for court.
Jennifer Anne Working, 29, arrested at 1:08 a.m. Sept. 17, felony controlled substance – possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, held for court.
Sheroid Carnell Smith, 57, arrested at 2:01 a.m. Sept. 17, felony

controlled substance and paraphernalia, held for court.
Larry Scott Rasmussen, 42, arrested at 2 a.m. Sept. 19, felony possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Gilberto Balderas Luna, 22, arrested at 8:08 p.m. Sept. 17, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.
Raymond Kieth Scott, 40,

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to you and your staff for all you do for our community.

Thank you for being a part of Blooming Prairie for 35 years. Congrats on the grand opening of your new location!

Thank You!

Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

Sept. 29, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

The 2009 Homecoming Royalty at Blooming Prairie High School includes Aaron Krejci, Pat Trotman, Justen Ingvalson, Jeff Hagstrom, Aaron Niles, Jordan Noble, Kelcie Driessen, Erin Johnson, Jenna Paulson and Ashley Campbell. The emcees for the coronation will be Brad Wocelka and Christina Blair. This year's Homecoming Week is Oct. 5-9.

The Roger and Erin Pittman family hosted an old-fashioned plowing show at their home Sept. 26-27. The Plow Day previously took place on 12 acres of land owned by Leroy Thorsen near St. John's Lutheran Church of rural Claremont. This year the Pittmans organized it and moved it to their home. They have been participating in the event for about 10 years.

Hayfield's Deb Harvey won her 500th career match as Hayfield volleyball coach on Sept. 17 against Winona-Cotter. When asked about her 500th win, Harvey responded, "It was fun. It was like all of the others."

The 63rd class reunion took place for the Class of 1946 at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. Those classmates who attended were Dorothy Kittelson, Virginia Davis, Donns Shiecky, Joanne Sathre, Theresa Reese, Glenda Hanson, Harriet Mathon, Esther Buscho, Liz Fredrickson, Norma Grunklee, Narma Hartzell, Robert Harber, Norman Grunklee, Eugene Trom, Roger Ingvalson, Elmer Johnson, Albert Rysavy and Allan Madson.

Angela Noble of Blooming Prairie is working through AmeriCorps and the Southern Minnesota Initiative to help the kindergarten and pre-school students at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. She is the daughter of Mark and Becky Noble.

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Auction raised \$31,000, lower than last year's \$35,000. New this year is a Community Fund to help local people suffering from cancer or people assisting those with cancer with gas and food money.

20 Years Ago

Sept. 28, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

The mechanical part of the local cable system upgrade is now complete.

However, there have been numerous problems reported with the system in Blooming Prairie. Complaints have come in about interrupted or missing service in several parts of the city.

Central Co-op of Blooming Prairie received the 1999 Environmental Respect Awards on Sept. 15, awarded by DuPont Agricultural Enterprise and Dealer Progress magazine. Central is one of 21 state winners.

It was an upbeat meeting as the Blooming Prairie School Board gathered last week for its first meeting of the 1999-2000 school year. Leading the way was an announcement by elementary principal Sandra Grenell that approval for this year's Title I consolidation grant had been received, with accolades from the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

St. Columbanus Family Fall Dance and Raffle will be Oct. 2 at the Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie. The Jolly Ramblers band will be playing from 8 p.m. to midnight. Supper will be served from 6:30-8 p.m. Father Richard Dernek is coordinating the dance.

Cedar Travel of Owatonna has moved to a new location at 111 North Cedar Ave. Owner Laurie Johnson says it's Cedar Travel's 10th anniversary and they are still growing. Besides Johnson, the staff includes Sandy Fjalstad, Jan Utoft, Colleen Hollister, Sally Hursh and David Clausen.

50 Years Ago

Sept. 24, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Glenn S. Thorson, prominent Blooming Prairie attorney and community leader, has been selected as Steele County's "Outstanding Senior Citizen." Mr. Thorson's many contributions to Blooming Prairie throughout the years make him most deserving of the honor which has been bestowed upon him. He has been a respected attorney in BP for the past 42 years and his record of achievements is many.

Assets of the dissolved Blooming Prairie Cooperative Creamery Association have been liquidated and total deposits from sales amount to \$118,342. The building was appraised at a liquidation price of \$25,242 and the equipment at \$72,729. The \$118,342 received for the assets

total \$20,371 more than the appraisal prices placed on the building and equipment by three competent appraisers.

The Blooming Prairie Municipal Light Plant reported a net income for the 12 months' period ending Dec. 31, 1968, of \$25,922. Net income before depreciation expense of \$23,630 was listed at \$49,553.

Homecoming will take place at Blooming Prairie High School. The festivities will open on Thursday, Sept. 25 with the traditional coronation ceremonies. Colleen Tonoli, general chairman of this year's homecoming, reports that various committees have been in action for more than a week and the 1969 homecoming will be as memorable as those in the past. Douglas Belfach will serve as the master of ceremonies. Karla Ressler will give the alumni viewpoint.

75 Years Ago

Sept. 28, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

The first break-in and theft to be reported to officials from Blooming Prairie for several months took place here some time Thursday night. Prowlers broke into the high school building, gaining entrance through the girls locker room. After ransacking the superintendent's office, they made away with approximately \$10 in small change, money that belonged to the athletic fund. The same night Ward Morton's Buick sedan was taken while parked in front of his residence. Sheriff Ted Helgeson's department is investigating.

At a special meeting of members of Blooming Prairie's country club, it was voted by members not to dispose of their club building at this time. The local gun club was interested in purchasing the structure.

The Ivan Christianson 127-acre farm, six miles south of Blooming Prairie was sold at public auction Monday by Cols. Olsen & Reichs to Marion Peterson, who resides south of town. He bid \$46.50 for the unimproved tract of land.

Fred Frederickson will retire from farm activities in the near future and move his Blooming Prairie property now occupied by the Axel Hanson family. During the past week, he disposed of his 60-acre farm to Anton Wencil. He plans on holding a closing out sale in October.

Mayo donates to Owatonna Foundation

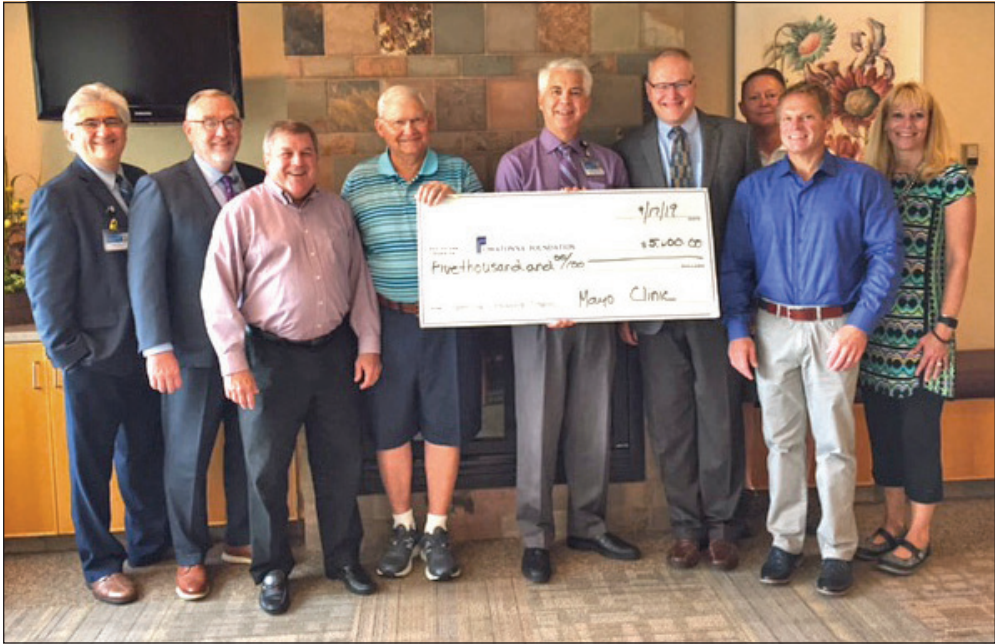
The Owatonna Foundation recently received a \$5000 donation from Mayo Clinic Health System of Owatonna.

"We're excited to present this donation to the Owatonna Foundation. Their support of local community projects helps to foster the well being of Owatonna and create a vibrant place for all of us to live, work, and enjoy," said Brian Bunkers, M.D., CEO of Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna.

"We're so appreciative of this donation from Mayo Clinic. It is this continued community support that keeps the Foundation's mission to improve the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education a reality for all of us that live in Owatonna." said Laura Resler, Foundation executive director.

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 61st year of serving the Owatonna community, provides "capital" grants in Owatonna and its environs in four areas: community, arts, recreation, and education. The Foundation also provides \$30,000 in both traditional and non-traditional scholarships for 2 year colleges and technical schools each year.

The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has committed more than \$12 million dollars in grants and scholarships to local organizations and students. For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, visit www.owatonnafoundation.org, or 507-455-2995.



Representatives from Mayo Clinic donate a check for \$5,000 to the Owatonna Foundation. Involved with the donation included, from left: Dr. Miguel Mulet, clinic administrator; David Berg, Foundation trustees Dave Einhaus and Ray Stawarz, Mayo Clinic President and CEO Dr. Brian Bunkers, Dr. Jason Wray Raabolle, trustees Bob Heers and Jay Johnson, and Dr. Diane Wallner.

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Dear Savvy Senior,
How much does cremation cost and how can I find a good deal in my area? I would like to get a simple, basic cremation that doesn't cost me, or my family, a lot of money.

Frugal Senior

Dear Frugal,

Cremation costs can vary widely. Depending on your location, the provider and the services you request, cremation can range anywhere from \$500 to \$7,500 or more. But that's a lot cheaper than a full-service funeral and cemetery burial that averages nearly \$11,000 today. Here are some tips to help you get a good deal.

Shop Around

Because prices can vary sharply by provider, the best way to get a good price on a simple "no frills" cremation is to call several funeral homes in your area (most funeral homes provide cremation services) and compare prices.

When you call, ask them specifically how much they charge for a "direct cremation," which is the basic option and the least expensive. With direct cremation, there's no embalming, formal viewing or funeral. It only includes the essentials: picking up the body, completing the required paperwork, the cremation itself and providing ashes to the family.

If your family wants to have a memorial service, they can have it at home or your place of worship after the cremation, in the presence of your remains.

If you want additional services beyond what a direct cremation offers, ask the funeral home for an itemized price list that covers the other service costs, so you know exactly what you're getting. All providers are required by law to provide this.

To locate nearby funeral homes, look in your local yellow pages, or Google "cremation" or "funeral" followed by your city and state. You can also get good information online at *Parting.com*, which lets you compare prices from funeral providers in your area based on what you want.

Or, if you need more help contact your nearby funeral consumer alliance program (see *Funerals.org/local-fca* or call 802-865-8300 for contact information). These are volunteer groups located in most regions around the country that offer a wide range of information and prices on local funeral and cremation providers.

Pricey Urns

The urn is an item you need to be aware of that can drive up cremation costs. Funeral home urns usually cost around \$100 to \$300, but you aren't required to get one.

Most funeral homes initially place ashes in a plastic bag that is inserted into a thick cardboard box. The box is all you need if you intend to have your ashes scattered. But if you want something to display, you can probably find a nice urn or comparable container online. *Walmart.com* and *Amazon.com* for example, sells urns for under \$50. Or, you may want to use an old cookie jar or container you have around the house instead of a traditional urn.

Free Cremation

Another option you may want to consider that provides free cremation is to donate your body to a university medical facility. After using your body for research, they will cremate your remains for free (some programs may charge a small fee to transport your body to their facility), and either bury or scatter your ashes in a local cemetery or return them to your family, usually within a year or two.

To find a medical school near you that accepts body donations, the University of Florida maintains a directory at *Anatbd.acb.med.ufl.edu/usprograms*.

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.

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OWATONNA HUSKIES Homecoming 2019



This year's Homecoming queen and king candidates at Owatonna High School include, back row, from left: Julia Dallenbach, Elise Sande, Grace Randall, Erin Holzerland and Kaia Elstad; front row: Jaden Dallenbach, Carson DeKam, Isaac Gefre, Isaiah Noeldner and Logan Steckelberg.

Owatonna Homecoming Schedule:

Homecoming Events Sept. 30-Oct. 4

Monday, Sept. 30:
8:10 a.m.- Coronation/Pepfest

Friday, Oct. 4 1:30 p.m.
Parade (Cedar and Broadway area)
7 p.m.- Football Contest against Mankato West

DRESS-UP DAYS:
Monday: Disco Day
Tuesday: Groupie Day
Wednesday: Heavy Metal
Thursday: Thrift Store Thursday
Friday: Our House (Huskie Day)

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name the Blossoms royalty Contest!

Since 1938, there have been 145 kings and queens crowned as Homecoming Royalty at Blooming Prairie High School.

Correctly identify the year and the king and queen in this photo plus the eight attendants in the back row and you could win a pair of tickets to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.

In case of more than one person getting them all correct, a drawing will take place.
Good luck!



BLOSSOMS HOMECOMING 82 Years and Counting!

Let's take a trip down memory lane this week to see who has been homecoming kings and queens in Blooming Prairie over the past 82 years.

Blooming Prairie Royalty since 1938:

2018- Seth Peterson and Rachael Oswald
2017 – Mitchell Oswald and Rachel PirkI
2016 – Ben Smith and Leah Schiefert
2015 – Mitchell Jones and Margaret Jones
2014 – Tristen Haberman and Morgan Johnson
2013 – Phillip Ramsey and Sara Noble
2012 – Michael Thomas and Arlyne Soto
2011 – Corey Butera and Emmeline Soto
2010 – Bryce Halla and Stacey Johnson
2009 – Pat Trotman and Jenna Paulson
2008 – Josh Toquam and Sara Sorensen
2007 – Allan Trotman and Meghan DeBoer
2006 – Zack Hoffman and Courtney Bailey
2005 – Travis Schultz and Jenna Nelson
2004 – Derek Ashton and Alicia Nelson
2003 – Steven Salinas and Angela Noble
2002 – Jim Bruggeman and Lisi Ingvalson
2001 – Aaron McDonald and Maggie Romeo
2000 – Lee Trotman and Kristen Thoen
1999 – Ryan Ashton and Janelle Iacovino
1998 – Rally Witzel and Tricia Keefe
1997 – Jason Johnson and Betsy Campbell
1996 – Jeff Carlson and Candace Olivo
1995 – Randy Rafdal and Andrea Bishop
1994 – Jeremy Cochlin and Lynnae Flor
1993 – Kent Lee and Nicole Hanson

1992 – Trent Vorlicek and Sandra Valentine
1991 – David Severson and Dawn Knutson
1990 – Todd Klemmensen and Kari Zwiener
1989 – Bill Goodnature and Nadine PirkI
1988 – David Moser and Auna Vorlicek
1987 – Rodney Pesch and Annette Starman
1986 – Dan Winzenburg and Mari Myre
1985 – Bruce Jensen and Heidi Vorlicek
1984 – Kevin Noble and Lori Ditlevson
1983 – John Worke and Angie Anderson
1982 – Paul Anderson and Lana Olson
1981 – Tom Winzenburg and Gina Reese
1980 – Bill Ressler and Sara Walch
1979 – Mike Kubicek and Barb Olson
1978 – Stuart Yentsch and Barb McDonald
1977 – Steve Pfeifer and Angie Ille
1976 – Brad Johnson and Jill Peterson
1975 – Louis Diaz and Ione Schrom
1974 – Rod Koster and Peggy McDonald
1973 – Mark Noble and Becky Trom
1972 – Bruce Hanson and Sue Vavra
1971 – Jerry Johnson and Debra Trom
1970 – Jeff Zwiener and Liz Smith
1969 – Warren Peterson and Kathy Thorson
1968 – Arlie Olson and Barbara Benson
1967 – Mike Walsh and Carol Fiebiger
1966 – George Ryks and Vicki Trom
1965 – Dale Tollefson and Karla Hansen

1964 – Dennis Kruckeberg and Terese Newgard
1963 – Tyron Thorson and Lana Ingvalson
1962 – Bruce Kruckeberg and Lonna Bergstrom
1961 – David Helleck and Jill Fritz
1960 – Lyle Noble and Patti Pedersen
1959 – Brian Christianson and Kathy Peterson
1958 – Tom Helleck and Virginia Thoen
1957 – Chris Thissen and Luella Anderson
1956 – Doug Christianson and Sonja Stensrud
1955 – Jim Lysne and Barbara Kubicek
1954 – Howard Heikes and Janice Yanke
1953 – Maynard Johnson and Marguerite Morrison
1952 – Connie PirkI
1951 – Marlene Borchert
1950 – Marian Amundson
1949 – Barbara Kading
1948 – Carol Rockne
1947 – Marion Fjerstad
1946 – Verna Trom
1945 – Virginia Peterson
1944 – Donna Anderson
1943 – Dorothy Rasmussen
1942 – Betty Oswald
1941 – Dorothy Hensel
1940 – Mary Renchin
1939 – Phyllis Habberstad
1938 – Stacia Dahl

Name the Blossoms Royalty Contest

King: _____
Queen: _____
Year: _____
Attendants: (left to right): _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Return to:
Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
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Hurry, return by Friday, Oct. 3, 2019

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BP Homecoming Schedule:

- 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

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OBITUARIES

Nina C. Ingvalson, 96, Austin

Nina C. Ingvalson, age 96 of Austin, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019 at her home in Austin.

Nina Charlotte Kittelson was born to Carl and Nilanna (Wigtli) Kittelson on July 21, 1923 in Austin. She attended country school near Corning, and graduated from Austin High School. On July 31, 1941, Nina was united in marriage to Neil Ingvalson at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. They made their home on the family farm near Blooming Prairie for 37 years where she became a homemaker and a mother to their six children.



Nina C. Ingvalson

Nina worked with Neil in the farming business. During retirement, Neil and Nina lived in Lake Havasu City, Ariz. for 24 years. In 2002, they moved to Austin to be closer to family.

Nina loved music and had a beautiful voice. She sang for weddings and funerals with her friend Ethel Christianson. Nina directed the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church Senior Choir for many years selecting sheet music the choir enjoyed performing. She belonged to the ALCW, U of M Home Extension Club, and the neighborhood 500 card club. Nina also enjoyed flower gardening creating many beautiful gardens on their homestead, including swapping flower bulbs and plants with friends and family. She was a huge Minnesota Twins fan and celebrated both her 89th and 90th birthday at Target Field and watched most of the games at her home. Go Twins! Nina also loved thunderstorms and eagerly watched the many storms rolling outside her window.

Survivors include her children, Linda (Ronald) Beckman of Sioux Falls, S.D., Cheryl Patterson of Sun City, Ariz., Lisa (Mark) Place of Owatonna, Cara (Frank) Clarke of Sarasota, Fla., Brent (Jennifer) Ingvalson of Blooming Prairie; daughters-in-law, Diane Klein and Pam Ingvalson; close friend and caregiver, Chris Whalen; 13 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; and 1 great-great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Nilanna Kittelson; husband, Neil Ingvalson in 2002; son, Naven Ingvalson; son-in-law, Mark Wiese; two brothers, Allen Kittelson and Harlan Kittelson; one sister, Avis Christianson; sister-in-law, Eileen Kittelson; and brother-in-law, Kenneth Christianson.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, rural Austin. Interment was in Red Oak Grove Lutheran Cemetery, rural Austin. Services are prearranged and performed with Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

The family extends their sincere thank you to Chris Whalen (for six years of personal caregiving) and Seasons Hospice for their great care of Nina. Also, thank you to the Red Oak Grove Church Family for their thoughts and prayers for Nina and our family.

Arnold Grisim, 89, Blooming Prairie



Arnold Grisim

Arnold “Buzz” Marland Grisim, age 89, passed away Sept.12, 2019 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

Buzz was born in Hampton Township on July 6, 1930 to Arnold & Florence (Klien) Grisim. He grew up in Randolph while attending Randolph High School. After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, Buzz started working for Continental Telephone Company in Cannon Falls and was transferred to Blooming Prairie, where he eventually met his wife, Margaret Maixner. They were united in marriage on Sept.11, 1954. Buzz worked at Blooming Prairie Public Utilities and returned to Continental Telephone Company. He retired from Contel in 1990. During retirement, Buzz drove a bus for Bluff Country School Bus Service of Lake City.

Buzz and Margaret spent many years living in Cannon Falls, Lake City, and most recently, Northfield. Buzz enjoyed fishing, coffee with friends, breakfast at The Quarterback Club, and most of all, helping people. He was a member of the Blooming Prairie Fire Department, Blooming Prairie Masonic Lodge, and American Legion Post #1982.

Buzz is survived by his loving wife, Margaret of Blooming Prairie; brother, Jon Grisim of Cannon Falls; brothers-in-law David (Donna) Maixner of Blooming Prairie, and Delbert Sommer of Owatonna; nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Buzz was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Charlotte (Bill) DeYoung, Doris (Raymond) Davisson, and Arlene (Marvin) Mills; and sisters-in-law Norma Jean(-Bob) Rendall and Donna Mae Sommer.

A private memorial service was held at Prairie Manor Chapel. Interment was in the Cannon Falls Cemetery. Lundberg Funeral Home of Cannon Falls is assisting the family.

Memorials may be directed to St. Ansgar’s Lutheran Church or the donor’s choice. Online condolences are welcome at www.LundbergFuneral.com.

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COSTCO: moves to Owatonna FROM A1

COSTCO WHOLESALE COMES TO OWATONNA

- Building begins this week in Owatonna Industrial Park
- 354,000-square foot distribution center
- 175 new jobs by fall 2020
- Steele County Fairgrounds- Owatonna

“It’s remarkable, it’s wild. To have all these hit at the same time is remarkable.”

Brad Meier

Owatonna Chamber President

The Owatonna City Council has approved up to \$13 million in tax increment financing for the project. As part of the deal, Costco will spend around \$2 million on road improvements in the area.

Klecker called the Costco deal unusual for a community like Owatonna. “Getting a large industrial business that has not been in the community before is rare,” he said. He noted the last time it happened was about 10 years ago when Raven came to town, though it’s a much smaller company than Costco.

Costco’s announcement comes just after two other companies have made plans to either build or expand. Last month, Blooming Prairie’s Minimizer purchased land to build a 100,000-square-foot facility. Daikin, a maker of industrial air conditioners, is expanding with a 150,000-square-foot warehouse next to its current site. Minimizer will bring about 100 new jobs to Owatonna while Daikin’s expansion will add 50 more jobs.

And yet a fourth company is in the process of taking up stake in the industrial park, according to Klecker. Rise Modular is working on purchasing the Chart building across from the Owatonna Country Club. The building will need to be retrofitted, and once that is complet-

ed, 80 new jobs will come with it.

“It’s remarkable, it’s wild” said Brad Meier, president of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce regarding the new additions and expansions. “To have all these hit at the same time is remarkable,” he said, adding he is unaware of this ever happening before in Owatonna’s history.

Klecker agrees. “All four of them happening at the same time is very rare,” he said.

Besides the proximity to two major highways, Meier said Owatonna’s closeness to metro areas like Rochester and the Twin Cities are also big draws. “We sit in the middle of everything, our work force has a great reputation and we have the land and infrastructure. We have it all ready for them,” he said.

Meier is thrilled that the Costco project will bring awareness outside of the immediate area to Owatonna. “We hope to make this a key spot in the upper Midwest,” he said.

Klecker is also excited about what the Costco deal could mean for Owatonna. He says other Twin Cities developers will now be paying closer attention to Owatonna because of Costco. “It opens up more possibilities for us,” he said. “There is a lot of momentum when you get announcements like this.”

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

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NICHOLAS NELSON
DAYSHA ZILM, HENRY SUNDINE

SEPT. 26
SOREN PETERSON
JOANNE SORENSON
SANDY JONES, KAYLA BROWN
GRACE OLIVIA NELSON
MIKE TROM, WAYNE NJOS

SEPT. 27
DIANE OLSON,
SAMUEL SKILLESTAD
JEFF MCCABE, MIA FARR
MANDY TROM,
ANTHONY J. OLSON

SEPT. 28
KATHRYN WEISS,
CRAIG INGVALSON
KURT UNDERWOOD,
NICOLE WEISS
LAYLA WOLLENBURG
KELLI JO WALLACE
RHONDA TOQUAM, KEVIN MANS
VALERIE BRAATEN,
AMY TROTMAN
JAYDEN WAGNER,
LORI BURKHART
KATIE (DEREK) INGVALSON

BRENNA RASK, BLAKE ARETT
BRADLEY NELSON
AMANDA STEINBERG

SEPT. 30
LES SHAWBACK, JULIE HALLA
PHYLLIS PETERSON

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPT. 25
TIM AND MELODY AMBERG
GLEN AND ASHELY VALEK
JOHN E. AND THRESIA HEIMERMAN

SEPT. 26
JOE AND ASHLEY HUELMAN
STEVE AND HOLLY ILLE
JOHN AND KAREN FOARGE
LARRY AND ANETTE LINDQUIST

SEPT. 27
ADAM AND KRISTIN BISHOP
LARRY AND SUE SCHMELING

SEPT. 28
NELS AND YVONNE LEE

SEPT. 29
DONNA AND DAVE MAIXNER
KIM AND MARK SYMES
TERRY AND ANA TROM

SEPT. 30
JUDY AND HOWARD LESTRUD
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Friday - Beef

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BOOK NOOK

Treasures awaiting at the library

The Friends of the Blooming Prairie Branch Library will be holding a semi-annual Used Book Sale this week. Tables filled with hundreds of books will be set up in the City Council Room. The sale will be held on Friday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There are no set prices; donations are requested and appreciated. All money raised is used for adult and children’s programming. Thanks to the Friends group we were able to enjoy six sessions of Pony Tales and Greg the Great’s Magic Show this summer.



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

On Monday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon, the price will be \$1 for all the books you can fit in a bag. Bring your own bag and see how creative you can be in packing it.

The books are ones that we no longer can use here at the library, ones that were in poor condition or had not been checked out for some time. We also receive donations of books throughout the year. What treasures might be hiding here? Come and find out at the library!

Number Search Corner

2	5	6	1	8	5	6	3	0	4	8	3	6	1	6
7	2	8	7	6	5	3	2	8	0	8	5	8	1	8
3	0	2	3	1	3	5	0	5	5	4	8	7	5	5
2	2	9	0	8	3	4	5	2	0	9	6	2	0	8
4	8	5	7	4	3	3	3	3	4	5	2	4	9	8
4	8	6	6	9	2	6	1	9	8	4	1	5	0	5
4	7	8	5	1	0	0	0	2	1	5	1	4	6	1
7	0	5	6	5	4	1	8	0	9	0	6	9	0	3
9	0	5	4	4	4	5	9	7	7	0	3	3	3	4
1	9	5	3	9	2	7	4	2	3	5	2	9	5	0
0	9	8	9	6	4	9	7	9	8	0	5	9	2	0
3	2	2	9	4	2	5	5	0	0	6	3	9	0	0
3	8	7	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	8	2	1	6	5
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130456	410974	561280
150526	433334	567037
253060	436234	572855
270159	444791	588586
280858	454908	592884
286554	470085	642950
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Recipe Corner

Yields 12 bites

3/4 cup best-available olive oil
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons minced

fresh Italian parsley
2 teaspoons minced fresh oregano or thyme or 1 teaspoon dried
12 colossal shrimp, shells on
1/2 cup kosher salt or coarse sea salt

Preheat grill to medium-high heat. In a small bowl, prepare dipping sauce by whipping together 1/2 cup of the olive oil, the lemon juice, garlic, parsley, and oregano. Save. Using a paring knife, make a 1/4-inch incision down the backs of the shrimp. Devein them, but do not remove the shells. In a medium bowl, add remaining 1/4 cup olive oil and the shrimp. Toss the shrimp in the oil, then sprinkle salt overtop, and toss thoroughly so that the shrimp are coated in salt. Grill shrimp directly over the heat or pan cook for approximately 3 minutes per side, or until shrimp are opaque throughout. Serve with dipping sauce.

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PASTOR’S COLUMN

Days of transition



Rev. Todd Buegler

SENIOR PASTOR TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OWATONNA

The school buses are back. This week, during my commute to work, I found myself yielding extra space to the large yellow carriers of our children as they make their way to school to learn and grow.

It is a sign that the season has changed. The long, warm days of summer are vanishing, to be replaced by cooler days of fall.

We are in days of transition. According to Dictionary.com, the word transition means “move-ment, passage, or change from one stage to another.”

Life is full of transitions. In our family, we just this week brought our oldest son to Tacoma, Wash-ington for his first year of college. Our family finds ourselves hip-

deep in transition, and there are huge implications:

- The money we’ll save on food.
- The (much more) money we’ll spend on tuition.
- The redistribution of family chores among three of us instead of four.
- The dog, wandering around the house confused, wondering where the human who liked to wrestle with him went.

And of course, just the fact that we’ll miss him. There is almost always emotion that accompanies transition.

I am reminded this week that transition is nothing to fear; in fact, it happens all the time. We experience job transitions, school transitions, climate transitions,

political transitions, friendship transitions, marriage transitions, transitions of life and death... the list goes on and on and on.

Transitions are not to be feared. In fact, they are to be embraced, because they transition almost always gives us an opportunity to grow into something new.

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, God’s people were poised to enter the promised land, the land that God would give to them; the land “flowing with milk and honey.” But after 40 years, God’s people had gotten used to wandering, and the prospect of set- tling in this land brought anxiety. It would be a huge transition. And Moses, who had led them these 40 years and who they trusted had

died, and Joshua was now leading them. God spoke to Joshua, and God said “I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherev- er you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

And Joshua led the people into this new land that God has prom- ised to them.

In this season of transition and in the seasons that you will experience, know that you are not alone. God goes with you. And God’s words to Joshua that day are also God’s Words to you today. God reminds us to not be afraid or discouraged, for the “Lord God is with you wherever you go.”

Walk boldly with God, wherever transition takes you.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN	RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA	TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS	ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC	NON-DENOMINATIONAL	
AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.	30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin Pastor Lindsay Brennan 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000 www.roglutheran.org Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.	108 Third Ave. SW., Medford Pastor Mark Biebighauser 507-451-0447 Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.	114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie 507-583-2784 www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday	BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY 130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday	(Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow) Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.	ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS 4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont Pastor Alan Broadwell 507-528-2404 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 57043 300th St., Waltham Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father James Starasinick Deacon Patrick Fagan 507-451-4845 Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday) Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Key fob required after hours or weekends	CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Sliper 507-684-2451 Men’s Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday (Kids church- 9 a.m. and Confirmation- 10:15 a.m.) Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m. followed by Youth Group- 7-9 p.m.	ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS 28959 630th Ave., Sergeant Pastor Collin Duling 507-251-5568 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m.	ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.	ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father James Starasinick Deacon Patrick Fagan 507-451-4845 Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday) Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Key fob required after hours or weekends	DESTINY CHRISTIAN 2515 Harvest Lane NW Owatonna Pastors Joe & Vicki Braucht www.destinycc.org Worship: 6 p.m. Sat.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN P.O. Box 66, Claremont 507-528-2320 Pastor Douglas Walters 10 a.m. Worship
FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walerius 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship Service- 9 a.m. Sunday School- 10 a.m.	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN- ELCA 1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jacie Richmond 507-451-7293 stjohnowatonna.org Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday	CATHOLIC CHRIST THE KING 205 Second Ave. NW, Medford 507-451-6353 Father James Starasinich Deacon Patrick Fagan Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat. Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.	CHRISTIAN CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT 540 SE 18th St., Owatonna Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor 507-451-1032 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.	ELEVATION NORTH 2002 Austin Road, Owatonna Pastor Doug Jones 507-363-3099 www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday	SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Brian Beavers 507-340-7143 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat. Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.
FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope Pastor Sandy Miller 507-451-3854 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun.	ST. MICHAEL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.	CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland Father Raul Silva Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar 507-465-8217 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday	PENTECOSTAL FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL 230 Locust Ave., Owatonna Pastor Eliazar Talamantes 507-363-2240 Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday	NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-413-0209 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.	UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S., Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
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.	ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – LCMC 202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.	HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL 9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna Father 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	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.	SIMPLE CHURCH 4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna (Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela’s) Pastor Todd Lundgren 507-451-5661 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday	ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 702 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Stitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA 7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon Pastor Nancy Edwardson 507-789-6661 Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.	ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN – ELCA 2781 SW 92 nd Ave., Meriden Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith 507-451-2165 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC 150 NE Second St., Hayfield 507-477-2256 Mass: 8 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Thursday Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.	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.	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.	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.
PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale 507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 104 First St. SE., Hayfield Pastor Paul Hauschild 507-477-2248 www.trinityhayfield.org Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.	SACRED HEART PARISH 810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar 507-451-1588 www.sacredheartowatonna.org Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun. Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun. Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m. Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat. Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.	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	PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATED CHURCH Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507-451-1546 www.associatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.	ASSEMBLY OF GOD VICTORY LIFE 105 2nd St NE Geneva Pastor Diane Butler 507-402-0960 Worship on Sundays Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m. Church Service: 9:30 a.m. Children’s Church: 9:45 a.m.
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.					



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2009 Allan Wold Jeanne Kruckeberg Ide	2012 Coach Jim Poole John Peterson		2015 Bill Underwood Ken Esplan Lisa Zweiner Bruns	2017 Robert Hansen Carl Peterson
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A taste of charity draws people from across county

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Folks from across the county were able to get a taste of some of the local restaurants and businesses during the 10th Annual Taste of Steele fundraiser held last Thursday evening at the Eagles Club in Owatonna.

The fundraiser is put on by the American Association of University Women's Owatonna branch and goes to help pay for scholarships given to local women and girls. "It's a good cause because it's for all the scholarships that we're giving out," AAUW member

and co-chair for this year's event Kay Oberle said.

"We like all of our vendors, they donate the food so that's really appreciated," Oberle added. "All these people came and so that's also really great, and it's nice to have money to give out scholarships. People are taking a taste and that's fun."

The event featured food from 11 businesses throughout the county. This year's lineup consisted of: Costa's, El Tequila Mexican Restaurant, Fareway Foods, Mizuki Fusion, Nick's Pizza, Old Town Bagels & Caf?, Owatonna Eagle's, Owatonna Elk's, Spare Time Entertainment,



Enrique Avalos and his son A.J. dish up some chili verde with pork and chicken quesadillas during last Thursday's Taste of Steele fundraiser held in Owatonna. Torey Statlander, owner of Torey's Restaurant in Owatonna dishes out some food while having a conversation during last Thursday's Taste of Steele fundraiser held in Owatonna.

The Bakery, and Torey's Restaurant & Bar.

"It's nice because people get a chance to try all this great food, like Mizuki Fusion, and the Bakery in Blooming Prairie," Oberle said. Mizuki Fusion was one of the unique draws at this year's event, offering authentic Japanese food.

It's a fun event which brings the community together. "The community is very giving, and the stores bring food for 275 people and that's a lot of food that they give," Oberle said. "We really appreciate."

Torey Statlander, who owns Torey's Restaurant in Owatonna was more than

happy to give back and provide some good food for the community. "I think it's great when you have a bunch of people coming together to support a cause, you see all different age groups," Statlander said. "It's just a good cause for the community and an opportunity for people to enjoy all the restaurants and see what we have to offer."

"It's always great to be out with the community and get to showcase some of the stuff that we've got at our store," Brian Speas of Fareway Foods said of the event. "We've got a little bit of

SEE A TASTE OF CHARITY, B9

Rescuing the rejected



Stacy Burton, her husband Mike and their three kids, Brady, Teagan, and Sophia along with their three adopted rescue dogs, Oscar, Slick, and Bobo. Burton cares for and fosters dogs as part of the non-profit program Rejection Collection Boxer Rescue.

Church tackles teen drug use

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Teens and drugs will be the message conveyed at a special interactive experience next Sunday, Sept. 29 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

The Rev. Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran, related that in 2017, more than 70,000 Americans died from drug overdoses. This represents a two-fold increase in a decade.

Heimgartner says the aim of local spiritual leaders is to be an advocate for healing and health, not blame and shame.

"We know firsthand the dangers of these substances --and want to broach the topics of underage drinking, vaping, marijuana, cocaine, heroin and prescription pill use," said Heimgartner.

The emphasis will be on vaping. "We wish to provide best-practices information with actual examples about what to look for, prevention conversation tips... essentially, what every parent and grandparent and mentor of teens needs to know," Heimgartner explained.

An interactive display [It looks like a teenager's bedroom!] is part of the positive strategy, "and we'd like to invite adults we work with to participate."

The display will be from 10-11:30 a.m. next Sunday, Sept. 29 at First Lutheran.

There will be 15-minute guided tours led by Steele County Safe & Drug Free Coalition members.

This will take place concurrently during First Lutheran's Education Hour (time for First Lutheran Sunday School teachers to visit after class, until 11:30 a.m.).

This display is intended for ADULTS ONLY, 21+.

Any interested adult from any sector of our community is welcome to stop by the church.

Owatonna woman starts dog rescue program

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Stacy Burton has been fostering dogs for six years.

"I was at home with my kids and I thought that I should do something," she said. "I love dogs, and I thought why don't I foster dogs."

She went on to say, "It was something I wanted to do with my time when I was at home." Burton and her family help foster dogs, rehabilitating them and preparing them to find a good home.

Burton and four other women founded Rejection Collection Boxer Rescue with the purpose of helping dogs, specifically boxers, find new homes. "We have all been in the rescue world for some

time and thought that there was a need for this niche," she said.

"We are a foster-based non-profit and all of our dogs are placed in homes," Burton explained. "We are solely volunteers." The program brings in boxers from around the country and helps them reintegrate into a new home with a new family.

Many of these dogs come from puppy mills in the south. "Some of these puppy mill breeder dogs have never set foot on grass," Burton said. "Sometimes it can take a couple of months before the dog will come to you, and when they come to you and lick you it's amazing."

Puppy mills are large breeder facilities aimed at selling puppies for a profit. The animals

within these facilities experience deplorable conditions and often lack necessary food, water, and veterinary care.

"I had no idea about just how bad this was until I got involved and learned more," Burton said while explaining that it can be difficult to see dogs emotionally and physically damaged from their experiences. "It's very hard to see, and you wonder just what this dog has been through."

The program's first dog, Diamond, was transferred to a foster family in River Falls, Wis. This family is one of five, including Burton's, which help to care for the animals before they find a permanent home.

SEE RESCUING THE REJECTED, B9

Your best protection

Why is it important to receive an Influenza (Flu) Vaccination?

Influenza vaccinations are not a perfect, but they are the best way to protect yourself and your community against influenza infection.

While it's especially important for people who have a chronic illness to get the flu shot, anyone – even healthy folks – can benefit from being vaccinated. Many people do not receive an annual flu shot because they believe that they are not likely to experience a severe course of influenza illness. However, every year healthy persons are hit hard by the flu and need to seek medical attention for a medical complication, such as pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus, and ear infections.

Many people in national surveys indicate that they do not believe that influenza vaccines are effective. While vaccine effectiveness can vary from year to year, recent studies have shown that flu vaccination reduces the risk of flu illness by between 40% and 60% when circulating flu viruses are well-matched to the flu vaccine. Even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, vaccines will still provide some protection and help to prevent medical visits, hospitalizations, and even death. This year's influenza vaccine was updated with two new strains.

There are some people who are vulnerable to serious complications from influenza. These include:

- children younger than 5 years-especially children under 2 years
- infants younger than 6 months
- adults 65 years and older
- pregnant women, including 2 weeks after the end of pregnancy
- persons with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, and asthma-42% if the US population have at least one chronic medical condition



Steele Talkin' KAREN FOUNTAINE



Owatonna welcomes new Mayo Clinic Store with a ribbon cutting and an open house. Store manager Aaron Johnson poses for photos just before cutting the ribbon.

Mayo store opens in Owatonna

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Sept. 16, Owatonna welcomed its newest business, the Mayo Clinic Store located at 1100 West Frontage Road.

The store offers high-quality medical products from mobility aids to wound care supplies and is the latest expansion of the Mayo Clinic system. "We are a part of Mayo," store manager Aaron Johnson explained. "So, our whole goal is to continue to

SEE MAYO STORE, B6

SEE PROTECTION, B9

WE CAN ALL HELP PREVENT SUICIDE!

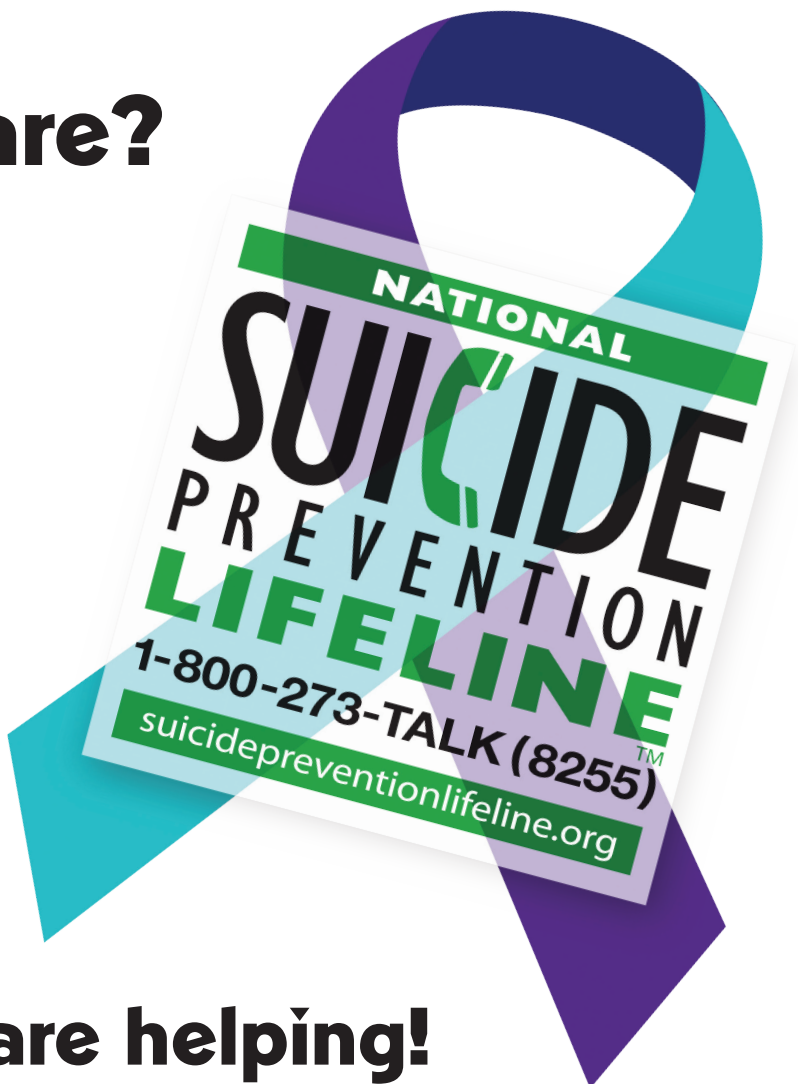
It's time to raise awareness of suicide prevention during September, National Suicide Prevention Month.

Why care?

1 in 5 adults will experience mental illness this year. Show how you care about mental health!

Here are a few warning signs of suicide:

- Increased alcohol and drug use
- Aggressive behavior
- Withdrawal from friends and family
- Dramatic mood swings
- Impulsive or reckless behavior



Communities are helping!

Jacob's Run recently attracted motorcyclists from all over the region to draw attention to suicide prevention. The goal of Open Arms Yellow Ribbon is to prevent suicide that typically takes place once every 16 minutes through public awareness.



If you or someone you know is in an emergency,
call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at
800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

Suicide is not the answer. There is hope!



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On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

Helping struggling farmers

I've touched on this topic in the past, but I'd like to reiterate that there are resources available for struggling farmers. Any farmer may face multiple stressors at any given time – fluctuating commodity crop prices, isolation, poor crop growing conditions, lower access to health services – and currently, many farmers are feeling the burden of several or all of these stressors at once.

University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture are working to address stress and mental health of rural Minnesota residents. There is a rise in mental health issues like depression and anxiety in farmers in Minnesota; these mental health issues can manifest as loss of interest in friends and family, substance abuse, as well as farmer suicides.

With that in mind I want to encourage you,

whoever you are, to talk to someone and ask for help if you need it. If you or someone you know needs help, please seek it. There are numerous local resources for anything you might be struggling with. There are resources that can offer anything from financial counseling, to suicide prevention, to spiritual guidance. Please talk to someone. I know farmers are often independent and extremely self-reliant. Please do not allow your pride and independence prevent you from getting the help you need.

Admitting to yourself that you need help and taking actions to get it is challenging. Approaching someone you care about who needs help is difficult, as well. They may not want help and you may not be sure how to tell if they truly need it. Common warning signs which may signal that a farmer needs support include: isolating

themselves, using sentiments of hopelessness or giving up, abruptly selling livestock/land, not paying regularly paid bills, or anything that might be out of character for that individual.

If you see these indicators, please say something. Here is a list of resources including phone numbers and websites compiled by the University of Minnesota Extension Rural Stress Task Force and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture specifically for farmers and rural community members. I am also always willing to lend a listening ear or point you in the direction of the right resource. You can reach me at 507-332-6165 or lacanne@umn.edu.

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

RURAL STRESS HELP

Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline
833-600-2670 x 1
Ted Matthews, Rural Mental Health Counselor
320-266-2390
www.centerofagriculture.org (search for "mental health")

Mental Health and Family Services Line
1-800-FARM-AID
Mental Health Minnesota
https://mentalhealthmn.org/
University of Minnesota Extension's "Coping with rural stress" website
https://extension.umn.edu/rural-stress

Financial counseling and legal help
Farmer-Lender Mediation
218-935-5785, preis002@umn.edu
https://extension.umn.edu/get-help/farmer-lender-mediation

Farmers Legal Action Group (FLAG)
1-877-860-4349
www.flaginc.org

Minnesota Farm Advocates
218-346-4866 or 1-800-967-2474
www.mda.state.mn.us/farmadvocates

Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
651-201-6556
www.mda.state.mn.us/agfinance

Minnesota State Farm Business Management Education
218-894-5163 or 507-389-7263
https://agcentric.org/farm-business-management

U of M Extension free, confidential financial counseling for farmers
1-800-232-9077
z.umn.edu/financehelp

Point them for a win



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Members of Home Federal Bank in Owatonna hand out Huskie fingers at a recent football game. Fans coming into the game against the New Prague Trojans on Sept. 13 were given fingers with #1 imprinted on them to cheer on the home team. The Huskies went on to win the game 56-13. Home Federal also provided fans with hotdogs, chips and refreshments prior to the game.

Owatonna Foundation to mark special week

The Owatonna Foundation will celebrate Owatonna Foundation Week Oct. 6-12. The public is invited to join in the festivities.

The week celebrates all that has been accomplished in the past 61 years through the generosity of the Owatonna community and their support of the Owatonna Foundation whose mission is: "to improve the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education."

"We are very excited for this year's Foundation Week. For 61 years, through the incredible generosity and vision of many civic minded citizens, businesses and organizations, the Foundation has made a positive impact on the quality of life for everyone who lives in Owatonna," said Laura Resler, executive director of the Foundation. "From the beginning, the Foundation Trustees, alongside our local citizens, have worked to create a community that we can all be proud of. A place that will serve both the Owatonna citizens of today and be a legacy for our children and their children in the future."

Established in 1957, the Owatonna Foundation has enhanced Owatonna with a focus on capital projects. Some of the projects financially supported by the Foundation have included: the Central Park Bandstand, the Parks and Trail System, Soccer Complex, Softball Diamonds, Steele County Fair, Hospitality House, Owatonna Public Library, ISD #761, Homestead Hospice House, River Springs Water Park, the Steele County History Center, Owatonna Arts Center, Steele County Food Shelf, and Steele County Clothesline, "We All Play" Miracle Field, and many others. Since its beginning, over 270 projects, and more than \$12 million dollars has been given back to the community.

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, the Foundation will host a "Breakfast for Professionals" at the Owatonna Arts Center. The short program will feature several speaker testimonials as to the im-

portance and impact that the Foundation has made to them both as donors and as grant recipients. The speakers will include: Legacy Society members, Walt and Joan Spindler and grant recipients from the "We all Play" project and the Owatonna Soccer Association. This event is by invitation only, but if you are a professional in the areas of insurance, banking, law, or financial planning and would like to attend, please call the Foundation office at 507-455-2995 to reserve your place.

On Wednesday, Oct. 9, the Foundation will host its Legacy Luncheon at the Owatonna Country Club to honor those donors who have included the Owatonna Foundation as part of their estate plan or made a contribution through the "Living Legacy" program. The keynote speaker will be Dom Korbel, COO of Fernbrook Family Center. Korbel has over 10 years of executive leadership experience. He has been an active volunteer for a variety of community organizations in Steele County over the years and is currently the Board Chair and a founding board member of the Steele County non-profit organization Let's Smile. He has been the keynote speaker/presenter for numerous engagements including the MN State Food Shelf conference, Owatonna Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran Church Baccalaureate and the 2019 MN Public Health Conference. Outside of work, he is busy with all of his children's activities and volunteering.

The lunch will also feature the annual presentation of the "Spirit of the Community Award," which will this year be presented to Jean and Edith (Dede) Zamboni for their service to the community. The Legacy Luncheon is open to the public, but space is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in attending please call our office at 507-455-2995 by Sept. 30 to make a reservation as walk-ins will be not be able to be accommodated.

On Thursday, Oct. 12,

the public is invited to attend a special Foundation Week tradition at our Wine and Beer Tasting Event, which this year will feature over 100 different beverages to sample. This fundraiser is graciously co-sponsored by Cash Wise Liquor and the Holiday Inn. The evening will feature wines, Minnesota breweries, and wonderful food. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door and may be purchased at the Foundation Office at 108 West Park Square, Cash Wise Liquor, from a Board Trustee, Kottke Jewelers, or by going to our website: www.owatonnafoundation.org. The event takes place at the Holiday Inn & Suites and begins at 6:30 p.m. A live auction featuring wine and food gift baskets from Cashwise Liquor and Foods, several themed dinners and two road trips will be auctioned off. Watch for more auction details on Facebook! All proceeds from the auction go to the Owatonna Foundation to support their grant and scholarship programs.

On Friday, Oct. 11, the Foundation will watch the Huskies "kick-off" at the OHS football game between Owatonna and Mankato East. The OHS cheerleaders will be tossing out t-shirts courtesy of Court Sports and More during the halftime activities. Show some hometown spirit and take your chance at catching a t-shirt!

"We invite everyone to join us for a great week of activities that celebrates the Owatonna Foundation-your Community Foundation," Resler said. "The Owatonna Foundation is more than granting funds to worthy projects, it's about investing in the ideas and visions of the people in our community to ensure a better Owatonna for all of us now, and in the future," she added.

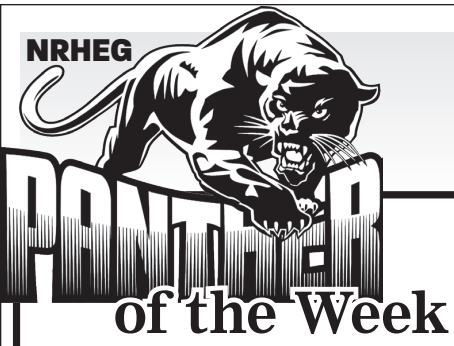
The Owatonna Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. For more information, visit the Owatonna Foundation web page at www.owatonnafoundation.org., follow us on Facebook or call 507-455-2995.



The Steele County Board of Commissioners
would like to invite you to the
Steele County Public Works Building Open House.

October 7 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

3000 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna



NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Lukas Denherder. Lukas is the son of Mike and Angie Denherder and they reside in Hollandale. He is in Ms. Clark's fourth grade class.

Lukas has shown such kindness to all students in the first few weeks of school. He has taken the initiative in the classroom to ensure all students feel welcome. Lukas makes it a priority to include all students at NRHEG. He has been a perfect model of PBIS and Panther Pride, especially shining in respect.

Keep up the great work!



Lukas Denherder



St. John Lutheran Church

1301 Lincoln Avenue Owatonna, MN 507-451-7293
www.stjohnowatonna.org

Sunday • September 29, 2019

Polka Worship Service
featuring Irv Anelt on the concertina
10:30 a.m.

Early Bird Sales
9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Booths Re-open,
Dinner, Games
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Proceeds to benefit the mission
and ministry of the church

Roasted Pork Loins and
Of Fashioned Hot Dog Dinners
served with fresh
homemade sauerkraut, German potato salad,
mashed potatoes, cooked red cabbage,
carrots,
lemonade, coffee,
and dessert (apple or chocolate)

\$10 adults **\$5** age 10 & under
FREE under age 5

Farmer's Market

- Garden produce
- Canned goods
- St. John Christmas Cards
- Fall decorations
- Baked goods
- Craft items



OPEN HOUSE
Sept. 28, Saturday
11 a.m. 12 noon



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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

SEPT. 27
Express Pressure Washers, Inc. Grand Opening
Homecoming Parade & Football Game
9 a.m. – Book Sale, BP Library

SEPT. 28
Express Pressure Washers, Inc. Grand Opening
BP Education Foundation Annual Banquet, Servicemen's Club
10 a.m. – Book Sale, BP Library

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

SEPT. 30
10 a.m. – Book Sale, BP Library

OCT. 1
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

OCT. 2
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

SEPT. 27
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
7 p.m. – NRHEG Homecoming Football Game, NR HS

SEPT. 30
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,

Community Building

OCT. 1
6:30 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Elementary Gym

OCT. 2
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

SEPT. 26
11 a.m. – Pigskin & Pork-Youth 1st BBQ, Cash Wise
2 p.m. – Scouts Merit Badge-Fishing & Wildlife Management, Cabela's
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
6 p.m. – Arrowheads in the Field, History Center
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library

SEPT. 27
11 a.m. – Pigskin & Pork-Youth 1st BBQ, Cash Wise
7 p.m. – One Last Night at the Kath's, 1250 SE 28th St Owatonna
2:21 p.m. – Medford Homecoming Pepfest, Highschool Gym
4 p.m. – Medford Tailgating, Highschool Parking Lot
7 p.m. – Medford Homecoming Football Game, Medford HS

SEPT. 28
7 a.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park

9 a.m. – Rustic Mamas' Market, Fairgrounds Foundation Barn
9 a.m. – SCHS Vintage Sale, Village of Yesteryear
5:30 p.m. – History Flip-A-Pickin Good Time, History Center
7:30 p.m. – Todd Utpadel Concert, Music Space of Owatonna

SEPT. 30
11 a.m. – Red Cross Blood Drive, Cabela's

OCT. 1
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, Owatonna Library
Noon – West Hills Commission Meeting, City Admin Building
3:30 p.m. – 4 Seasonz Market, North Cedar Avenue
4 p.m. – North Market, Grace Baptist
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

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. Stanislaw 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@steelehistory-museum.org.

Arrowheads in the Field coming to history center

The Steele County Historical Society is hosting a program offered by the Minnesota Archaeological Society (MAS). September is Minnesota Archaeology month. The Mission of Minnesota Archeology Month is to promote interest in archaeology and the role it plays in understanding the states' rich cultural heritage.

Bob Suchanek will present a program titles "Arrowheads in the Fields" on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. This will be an introduction to prehistoric stone tools that would have been used by people in Steele County and southern Minnesota. MAS president Dan Wendt will bring some interesting material for people to see. Wendt's knowledge of Minnesota stone tools is first rate and will make the evening worthwhile for experienced collectors

and archaeologists as well as a general audience.

This program is free of SCHS Members and included in the admission price for the History Center of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

"Arrowheads in the field" is a part of the SCHS mission-based programming. The History Center is located at 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna. Hours are 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday with extended hours on Thursdays to 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday. Sundays the History Center is closed. The tours of the Village of Yesteryear are offered at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday until Sept. 29.

For further information, contact the Steele County Historical Society, 1700 Austin Road, at 507-451-1420 or email to the director, *James.Lundgren@SteeleHistoryMuseum.org*.

Scuba classes coming in November

Have you ever wanted to learn how to go down and under to scuba dive? If so, the Owatonna Diving Club is offering free discover scuba classes this fall.

The class will be held on Nov. 6. There will also be regular classes on Nov. 13.

For more information, check out Owatonna-communityEd.org or call 507-444-7900.

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.

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.

WCO October meeting features author

Woman's Club of Owatonna will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3 at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave.

Before the program begins, members will hear about the charities being supported in this year's Nov. 16 special event. Sandy Boss will introduce representatives of the Free Clinic of Steele County, the Orphanage Museum and the Steele County Humane Society.

Speaking will be Allen Eskens, the bestselling author of "The Life We Bury," "The Guise of Another," "The Heavens May Fall," "The Deep Dark Descending" and "The Shadows We Hide."

His books will be available after his presentation. Interested women are invited to attend the meeting.

Eskens grew up in Missouri and moved to Minnesota for his education. He holds a BA in journalism from the University of Minnesota and a Juris Doctorate from Hamline University School of Law. He

further studied writing in the Master of Fine Arts program at Minnesota State University, the Iowa Summer Writing Workshop and the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis.

He is the recipient of the Barry Award, the Minnesota Book Award, Rosebud Award, and the Silver Falchion Award. Additionally he has been a finalist for the Edgar Award, Thriller Award, Anthony Award and Audie Award.

His books have been translated into 21 languages and his novel, "The Life We Bury" is in development for a feature film.

Eskens and his wife, Joley, live in greater Minnesota. He recently retired from practicing criminal law, in a career that spanned 25 years.

Tea committee for October includes: Joanne Peterson and Phyllis Urch, co-chairs, Deb Albrecht, Ruth Bullock, LeAnn Fynbo, Barb Nowak, and Barb Wiese.

Greeters will be Joyce Hansel and Sue Vedder.



Allen Eskens

The Friends Luncheon coming to Arts Center

Members of the Friends of the Arts Center invite you to their annual Fall Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 10. The ticket includes an autumn menu and speaker. Lunch will be served at Noon with the speaker to follow.

Seating is limited so tickets must be purchased by Oct. 3. The tickets can be purchased at Kottke's and the Arts Center. The ticket price is \$20.

Mr. Nguyen was born in Vietnam. He will speak on the culture of his country and the political situation during his early and teen years. When he was a teenager, he and his brother left their parents behind and got on a ship for America to escape the turmoil of his homeland. Come join us as Nguyen presents his very interesting life story.

Artober October 5th at the Owatonna Arts Center. Join us for an evening of art, music and food. The band is PK Mayo, which is Minnesota's Blues Hall of Fame performer of the year. The music will start at 6 p.m. The menu features German food, Sauerbraten, German potato salad, soft pretzels and Bavarian chocolate cake. The ticket price of \$15 includes one drink ticket. Arts Center members are free. Tickets sold at the door. Bonus free beer samples from Foremost Brewing Cooperative.

Historical Society searches for vintage items

The Steele County Historical Society is in search of vintage items to be donated for the annual vintage sale. Those with items to donate can call 507-451-1420 for more information on pick up and/or drop off. Most vintage items such as antiques, dinnerware, furniture, and more will be accepted. SCHS will not accept clothing, books, magazines or record albums. The donated items help raise funds for SCHS programs.

The sale will take place on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Village of Yesteryear.

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, 1700 Austin Road, at 507-451-1420 or email to the director, *rnewville@steelehistorymuseum.org*.



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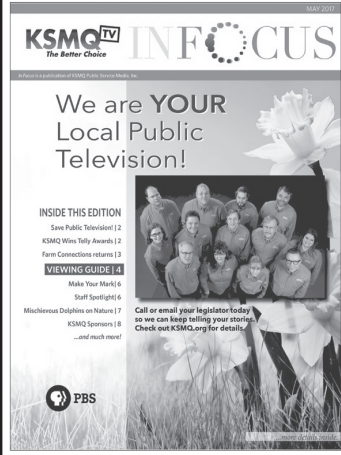
Bob Remker

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SUMMER EVENTS

Bar Bingo
Monday @ 6:30 p.m.

Bloomin' Grapevine Wine
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.

All event details available at J&H Liquor
340 E. Main St. • Blooming Prairie
583-7557

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The beat goes on

Nothing is certain, but in the space of four weeks, the Awesome Blossom football team has dispatched two rivals that traditionally have been the fiercest competition year in and year out. Last Friday's win at Goodhue and the opening game victory at Rushford have made the Blossoms feel pretty good about themselves.

The team is aware of the fact that tough competition in the district still remains. But they also approach those games with quiet confidence that they can hold their own against any other team in the district and the section. That has certainly been true so far, as last week's win, was, as Coach Chad Gimbel commented, "the first time this season the team has had to really play both halves."

Now it is homecoming, and the Blossoms will host Randolph, a school that just a few short yards ago, played nine-man football. The rockets have made great strides in their athletic program, and now are strong in most sports, like volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball. The same can probably be said about their football, and the Blossoms must work hard to avoid an ambush.

MEMORIES ARE MADE

The one event that all former students remember after a few or many years out school is homecoming. Homecoming and prom have a firm grasp on what students thought important, and even many years after graduation, many make an effort to return for the festivities and activities that surround the occasion. That is a great way to keep in touch with the alma mater and remind themselves that once a Blossom, always a Blossom, and nothing can or would want to change that.

Homecoming week has activities each day, culminating with the football game and the dance this Friday night. I have been impressed the last few years at how well the BPHS students have participated in those activities, and I congratulate them for the enthusiasm in joining in on the fun. Well done, all.

WELL DESERVED HONORS

Next Saturday night several outstanding former students or teachers will be honored by the BP Education Foundation and the Blossoms Forever at their annual banquet. Among them will be three former star athletes who hold enviable records from their high school careers.

The oldest of the honorees will be Alan Morton. Morton made a reputation in football especially, when he displayed his prowess on the teams that annually competed and were successful against several Austin.

John Dale Worke is one of several BPHS graduates who have returned to their alma mater to teach, but he is also celebrated as one of the best athletes to play for the Blossom basketball teams back in the day. Worke led the Blossoms in his senior year and wasn't too far from joining the 1,000 point career club. He now serves the community as the high school principal after notching an enviable record as the coach of the Blossom girls' basketball team.

Probably the one record in the BPHS history that will never be touched is that compiled by the Female Athlete of the Year, Lisa Meshke. Meshke, who now serves as a Lutheran pastor in western Minnesota, earned a spot in the Minnesota state golf tournament in six straight year culminating in a state title in her senior year.

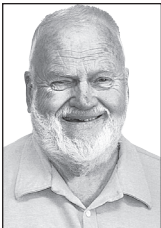
Meshke also led the girls' golf team to several school records and section accomplishments. Just as Jeanne Kruckeberg led the girls' track team in the early 80's, Meshke will always be looked upon as a one of a kind at the local high school, leading herself and her teammates to many golf honors.

All three of these former BPHS students made significant contributions to the local high school programs, and are well deserving of the awards bestowed upon them.

BANQUET AHEAD

This is my last chance to tout the Ed Foundation banquet coming up next Saturday night. Between the Cancer Group's two-night auction and this annual banquet, they are two of the most important and popular events in the community each year, and the awards given as part of the evening create interest to many residents in the area.

I don't know if many are aware of it, but despite the high temperatures of the past couple of weeks, there is a definite touch of fall in the air. Farmers are getting their harvesting machines ready for harvest, the trees are showing a myriad of colors, and the BPHS football team is piling up victories. Enjoy these last days of summer, and we'll talk again.



Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

Blossoms pound Goodhue 27-6

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The Awesome Blossom football team brushed off an early Goodhue touchdown and then safeguarded their unbeaten record. A 27-6 district contest victory over the Wildcats at Goodhue Friday, Sept. 20, upped the Blossoms record to four consecutive victories.

Goodhue took the opening kickoff and marched right down the field for a touchdown. A 40-yard pass brought the ball to the Blossom 10, but it was a Sam Opsedahl pass to Riley Christianson that scored the points. The extra point try sailed wide, and Goodhue led 6-0.

BP brushed that touchdown off like a bothersome fly to take the lead just two minutes later. The runs of Matthew Pryor and passes to Karson Vigeland, Mitch Fiebiger and Gabe Hagen moved the ball to the Wildcat 22, from where quarterback Kaden Thomas found Vigeland in the corner of the end zone for the last 22 yards. Carson Brenneke kicked the first of his three extra points for a 7-6 Blossom lead. That was just the start.

The Blossoms added a touchdown in each of the last three quarters for the convincing victory over a very tough foe.

"This is the first game in which we have had to play in the second half," remarked

Coach Chad Gimbel, "and they make you fight for every yard."

The second quarter touchdown came on a Thomas to Fiebiger pass good for 43 yards, and the third quarter score came when BP took the opening second half kickoff and marched quickly in for the score. Thomas found Alex Baldwin in the flat, and he galloped 30 yards for the touchdown. Despite two interceptions in the end zone, Thomas threw for 190 yards on 16 of 22 attempts.

Vigeland counted his second touchdown and the fourth score for Thomas in the final quarter on a 9-yard strike. Brenneke missed his only extra point of the game when his kick sailed wide of

the goal post. The win showed a real team effort from both the offense and defense.

Fiebiger led the defenders with 12 tackles, but Luke Lar-koski and Dylan Nirk both had 7 tackles, and several other players had multiple takedowns. Goodhue finished with just over 200 yards of total offense.

Pryor led the Blossom offense, as he piled up 158 yards. BP finished with 420 total yards.

The next hurdle for the Blossoms will be a Homecoming contest Friday night against Randolph.

GAME SUMMARY

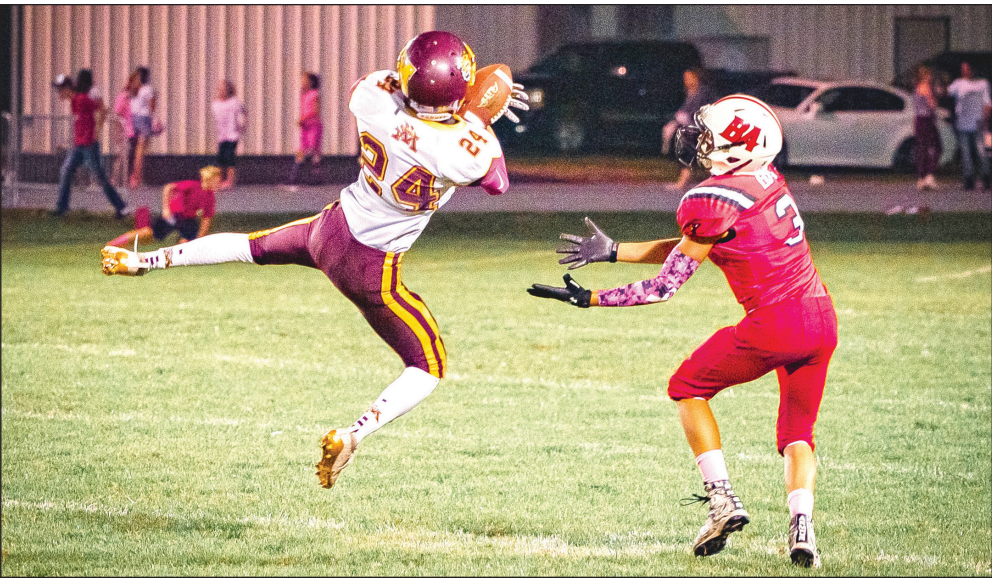
Blossoms 27, Goodhue 6	
BP	7 7 7 6- 27
Goodhue	6 0 0 0- 6

Tigers cruise to easy victory



PHOTOS COURTESY SKYES THE LIMIT

The Medford Tigers are sailing along with a 3-1 record midway through the season. On Friday, the Tigers easily defeated Faribault Bethlehem Academy 35-12. Top: Gavin Hermes (63) attempts to take down a BA ball handler just as he got the pass off. Brennon Hoffman (69) and Kael Hermanstorfer (2) anxiously await to grab the ball. Right: It was a little dancing on the field as a Medford ball handler tries to keep the ball away from the opponent in Friday's game. In the first three games of the season, Medford smoked St. Clair/Loyola 34-6 on Aug. 30, dropped a heart breaker to Lewiston-Altura 19-16 on Sept. 6 and crushed Cotter/Hope Lutheran/Riverway 69-7 on Sept. 13. The Tigers take on Goodhue (2-2) Friday night during Medford's homecoming contest.



Panthers fall to Martin County 28-18

Martin County West proved to be too powerful for NRHEG Friday night by defeating the Panthers 28-18 in Sherburn.

The Mavericks jumped off to a 14-0 lead in the second quarter and never looked back. The Panthers got onto the scoreboard late in the second quarter. Blake Ihrke tossed an 8-yard pass to Evan Reyna for NRHEG's touchdown. The Panthers went into halftime trailing 14-6.

One of the most exciting plays happened in the third quarter when NRHEG's Lonnie Wilson returned a 95-yard kick for a touchdown. The Panthers trailed MCW 21-12.

NRHEG scored its final touchdown late in the fourth quarter on a 35-yard pass from Ihrke to Wilson.

Ihrke led NRHEG's passing attack with by completing 13 of 20 attempts for 172 yards.

It is homecoming for the Panthers Friday night when they take on the Le Sueur-Henderson Giants. Both teams have 1-3 records this season.



PHOTO COURTESY RONDA STALOCH

NRHEG's Nick Staloch (22) snags a reception and runs with the ball in Friday's game against Martin County West. The Panthers dropped the game 28-18, dropping their record to 1-3 on the season.

SEE PANTHERS FALL, B6



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Owatonna survives scare over Mayo

For the first time this season the Owatonna Huskies had a scare on their hands as Rochester Mayo took an early lead. But in true form, the Huskies bounced back quickly and rolled to a 31-14 victory to continue their undefeated season.

With about seven minutes left in the first quarter, Mayo got on the scoreboard first. The Huskies came back near the end of the first quarter with a touchdown, but the extra point kicked was blocked and Mayo led 7-6.

In the second quarter, Owatonna got on the scoreboard three times with a touchdown by Carson DeKam, a safety in the end zone and a field goal from Sam Henson. The Huskies took a 17-7 lead into half time.

Mayo came back with another touchdown in the third quarter, closing Owatonna's lead to 17-14. The Huskies did not score in the quarter.

The Huskies erupted for two touchdowns in the final quarter, including a 1-yard run by Brayden Truelson and a 7-yard run by Solomon Havelka. Sam Henson kicked both

extra points, and Owatonna was on to a 31-14 victory.

Quarterback Truelson led Owatonna's passing attack with 14 completions in 20 attempts for 98 yards.

In rushing, Tanner Hall came away with 56 yards followed by Ethan Walter with 23 yards. The receiving game belonged to Matt Williams with 51 yards. Walter chipped in 21 yards while Payton Beyer had 15.

There were three interceptions in the game with two from Beyer and one from Keenan Young. Isaac Gefre led the Huskies with five tackles.

Owatonna is on the road again this week with a non-conference game at Faribault Friday night. The Falcons bring a 1-3 record into the match-up.

GAME SUMMARY

Huskies 31, Rochester Mayo 14

Owatonna	6	11	0	14-	31
Rochester Mayo	7	0	7	0-	14

PASSING	Comp.-Att	Yds.	TD	Int.
Brayden Truelson	14-20	98	1	0

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ethan Walter	11	23	2.1	0
Sol Havelka	1	8	8	1
Brayden Truelson	9	-2	-2.2	1
Tanner Hall	15	56	3.7	0
Isaac Gefre	5	18	3.6	1

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Matt Williams	7	51	7.3	0
Ethan Walter	2	21	10.5	0
Payton Beyer	3	15	5	0
Carson Dekam	1	10	10	1

DEFENSE	Tackles	Sacks	Int.
Isaac Gefre	5	0	0
Zach Stransky	3	0	0
Ethan Walter	3	0	0
Payton Beyer	3	0	2
Keenan Young	2	0	1

A triumph for senior girls



It's homecoming week at Blooming Prairie High School. The festivities started off with a Powder Puff football game. The senior girls won 8-6 over the juniors in the rain Sunday afternoon. Left: Luke Rennie proved to be an asset as a cheerleader to the senior girls. Right: Gemini Johnson and Gracie Rudlong flex their muscles during the fun-filled afternoon. Homecoming will climax Friday night when the Blossoms meet Randolph for a football game.

Giants too powerful for Panthers

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

The NRHEG volleyball team faced a tough test when they went on the road to take on the Le Sueur-Henderson Giants on Tuesday, Sept. 17.

But the Panthers couldn't pass the test as the Giants won the match three sets to one.

Le Sueur-Henderson took the first set 15-25.

The NRHEG Panthers bounced back by winning the second set 25-18.

The third set was the most closely contested set yet, but in the end the Giants won 25-22.

Unfortunately, the fourth set wasn't as competitive. Le Sueur-Henderson prevailed 25-9 to win the match 3-1.

The Panthers' record is now 5-7 overall and 0-2 in the Gopher Conference.

Head Coach Onika Peterson said the Panthers have to put this performance behind them and focus on getting better for their next opponent.

"Tonight wasn't our night. It will be nice to get in the gym tomorrow and have practice. Regroup, refocus, and prepare for our next match," she said.

This week, the Panthers have two road games. The first is Thursday, Sept. 26, at United South Central, and then on Saturday, Sept. 28, at Tri-City United. Both games start at 7:15 p.m.

NRHEG STATS:

Sidney Schultz – 6 digs and 1 ace serve, Anna Jacobson – 4 kills, Katie Cliff – 2 kills, Mia Farr – 1 dig, Grace Tufte – 14 assists and 3 digs, Kendall Johnson – 5 kills, 6 digs and 1 assist, Sophie Stork 7 kills, 8 digs and 1 ace serve, Bree Ihrke 1 kill and 1 dig, Cambria Nissen 11 digs, 1 assist and 2 ace serves.



Sometimes bringing down the ball handlers result in awkward positions for those involved. NRHEG's Porter Peterson, Bo Budach and Nick Staloch find that out in Friday's game against Martin County. The Panthers lost 28-18, dropping their record to 1-3 on the year.

PANTHERS FALL: to Martin County 28-18 FROM B6

GAME SUMMARY					
Panthers 18, Martin County West 28					
NRHEG	0	6	6	6-	18
Martin County	0	14	7	7-	28

PASSING	Comp.-Att	Yds.	TD	Int.
Blake Ihrke	13-20	172	2	0

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Kordell Schlaak	11	16	1.5	0
Caden Beauvais	1	11	11	0
Nick Staloch	3	10	3.3	0
Lonnie Wilson	2	7	3.5	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Lonnie Wilson	4	105	26.3	1
Evan Reyna	5	42	8.4	1
Nick Staloch	2	14	7	0



NRHEG's Lonnie Wilson and Kordell Schlaak make an effort to catch the Martin County West ball handler in Friday night's game in Sherburn.

MAYO STORE: opens in Owatonna FROM B1

care for the patient as they leave the hospital or they leave their doctor's office."

"We have the items that they need to continue their care at home whether they're dealing with an injury, or a new illness that they are dealing with, or if it's after a surgery," Johnson explained. "We have a lot of products here related to mobility, daily living, compression, wound care, and there's also a lot of items we can bring in special order for patients, so even if we do not have it here, we are able to get it for a patient."

As part of the Mayo Clinic, the store will look to provide optimal care for its patients. "We are part of the Mayo Clinic Store group across the enterprise, so if a patient is seen in Rochester, Owatonna, Mankato, or Austin, we have access to all their medical records and they can use any of the stores," he said. "It's whatever is convenient for them."

"I'm very excited, this is a service that the community and the clinic have said that they've

needed for some time, so we're really excited to be here and open up to the public to help them meet their needs so that they don't have to travel or find someplace else to get what they need to continue their care," Johnson said.

The store will be staffed with medical experts in order to treat patients' needs. "We have a full-time respiratory therapist on staff and three other staff members," Johnson explained. "Patients can call ahead and schedule a time to visit with one of our staff members."

During an open house held on Thursday, the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism welcomed the new store with a ribbon cutting ceremony. "Congratulations," Chamber CEO Brad Meier said as he and the Chamber team officially welcomed Johnson and the Mayor Clinic store to Owatonna.

"Our goal here is to keep patients at home with their family members," Johnson said. "We're here to help them out and take care of their needs." The store is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BP JV football edges NRHEG

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

A tipped pass in the end zone resulted in an Awesome Blossom touchdown, and BP edged NRHEG 14-8 Thursday, Sept. 19. It was one of only two scores in the game for the teams.

The Panthers took the opening kickoff and marched right down the field. But in a most unusual play, a NRHEG pass was tipped by Sam Skillstad and intercepted by Jacob Weinberger. Three yards deep in the end zone Weinberger took off down the sideline and 103 yards later entered the Panther end zone. Cole Christianson passed to Skillstad for the two-point conversion, and BP led 8-0.

In the second quarter, Xavier Rennie ran three yards for a second touchdown, but the conversion try failed. NRHEG went to the air and culminated a long drive with a 15-yard touchdown and then ran in a two-point conversion for a 14-8 core. That was all the scoring, as the second half turned into a stalemate.

FOOTBALL STANDINGS

A Section 1 Conference

Conference Overall		
Blooming Prairie	4-0	4-0
Randolph	2-0	3-0
Rushford-Peterson	1-1	2-1
Goodhue	2-2	2-2
Fillmore Central	0-1	0-4
Hayfield	0-2	2-2
Wabasha-Kellogg	0-3	0-3

Big 9 Conference

Conference Overall		
Owatonna	2-0	4-0
Century	2-1	3-1
Mayo	1-1	3-1
John Marshall	1-1	1-3
Austin	0-1	2-2
Northfield-Arcadia	0-2	0-4

AA Section 2 Conference

Conference Overall		
Blue Earth	2-0	4-0
Medford	1-0	3-1
LeSueur-Henderson	1-0	1-2
St. Clair-Loyola	1-1	2-1
Maple River	0-1	1-2
J-W-P	0-1	1-2
Norwood-YA	0-1	0-3
N-R-H-E-G	0-2	1-3

Football State Rankings

- Class A
- 1- BOLD
 - 2- Blooming Prairie
 - 3- Minneota
 - 4- Mahnomon
 - 5- Springfield-Comfrey
 - 6- Mayer Lutheran
 - 7- Ada-Borup
 - 8- United South Central
 - 9- Dawson-Boyd
 - 10- Breckenridge

- Class 2A
- 1- Caledonia
 - 2- Paynesville
 - 3- Barnsville
 - 4- Triton
 - 5- St. Charles
 - 15- Medford

- Class 5A
- 1- Owatonna
 - 2- Lakeville North
 - 3- Caledonia
 - 4- Eden Prairie
 - 5- Wayzata

STEELE-DODGE

PIGSKIN MANIA 2019

Week 1 Winner: Mike Grunklee of Blooming Prairie

FOOTBALL CONTEST

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

13 _____

14 _____

15 _____

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 dcic@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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Sen. David Senjem

District 29

ROCHESTER:

2423 12th Ave. NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-282-7648

Prepared and paid for by Dave Senjem

3. Triton at Pine Island
4. Hayfield vs. Fillmore Central



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5. Owatonna vs. Mankato West*
6. Blooming Prairie vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo

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7. Medford vs. Randolph
8. NRHEG at Maple River



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11. Northwestern at Nebraska

12. TCU at Iowa State

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13. Minnesota (NFL) at New York Giants

14. Green Bay at Dallas

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15. Chicago vs. Oakland (London)

16. Buffalo at Tennessee



TIGER PRIDE

MEDFORD

Homecoming 2019



Swenson Photography

Photo courtesy Skyes the Limit Photography

Front row (l to r) - Jack Meyer, Connor Jones, Justin Voegelé, Alex Hegelson, Dylan Heiderscheidt, Kael Neumann, Dillon Bartosch, Tate Hermes, Charley Elwood, Josh Bluhm, and Preston McCarty; second row - Jacob Andrews, Tyler Buck, Kael Hermanstorfer, Logan Pleschourt, Juan Gamez, Willie VonRuden, Jerone Chavis, Zach Wetmore, Devon Federly, Carson Sobrack, and Brenden Hoffman; third row - Parker Vogt, Jordan Capello, Bryce Grayson, Peyton Sieler, Reed Cumberland, Justin Ristau, Ban Tiapaing, Jack Paulson, Gunner White, Josiah Hednsten, and Brayden Beede; back row - Jesse Granados, Steven Boehning, Kevin Werk, Nick Trapp, Aaron Schrot, Jerome Johannes, Joe Melles, and Gavin Hermes.



King Candidates

Jerone Chavis
Zach Finholt
Juan Gamez
Willie VonRuden
Zach Wetmore

Queen Candidates

Emma Kniefel
Morgan Langeslag
Kiley Nihart
Isabel Reuvers
Jordan Stadler

Medford Homecoming Schedule:

Homecoming Events
Friday, Sept. 27
4 p.m. to Kickoff: Tailgating

Join SADD and the Student Council as we will celebrate Homecoming! Tailgating events include games, obstacle course, food for purchase provided by Famous Dave's!

6 p.m.: Cheer Tunnel
6:45 p.m.: Presentation of Homecoming Court
7 p.m.: vs. Goodhue

After Game: Bonfire

The Student Council will also be providing S'MORES. This bonfire is open to the community. Feel free to stop by! Students 6th grade and younger need to be accompanied by an adult.



Junior Attendants

Garret Fitzgerald
Lily Roehrick

First Grade Attendants

Gabriel Federly
Preston Myrick
Lauren Tegmeier
Anna Cole

Best of luck in the homecoming match-up against Goodhue. Go Tigers!

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Good Luck This Season Team!
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Moving kids forward

Hagedorn receives Biofuels Award



Minnesota's First District U.S. Representative Jim Hagedorn has been honored with the 2019 Fueling Growth Award from Growth Energy. Hagedorn brings policy experience to Capitol Hill from time spent as a congressional aide to former U.S. Congressman Arlan Stangeland and a congressional relations officer for two non-partisan U.S. Department of Treasury agencies.

U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn, who serves Minnesota's First District throughout southern Minnesota, received the 2019 Fueling Growth Award from Growth Energy, a leading proponent of biofuels. The award was presented to key Members of Congress who support biofuels initiatives and recognize the contributions of the industry to our local economy. Hagedorn, a member of the House Agriculture Committee and the Congressional Biofuels Caucus, has cosponsored legislation

to extend the biodiesel tax credit as well as a measure requiring greater oversight and transparency in the issuance of small refinery exemptions for ethanol. "With two biodiesel and 11 ethanol plants across southern Minnesota, biofuels play a major role in the economic well-being of our district," Hagedorn said. "I have a unique perspective on biofuels as my father, Tom, a grain and livestock farmer who represented southern Minnesota in Congress 40 years ago, worked with now-Senator Chuck

Grassley (IA) to develop the original ethanol program. "I will continue to support the extension of biodiesel tax credits and greater scrutiny over the issuance of small refinery exemptions. In fact, I again call upon the EPA and Trump administration to implement the ethanol program as intended by Congress. My thanks to all who advocate for biofuels and highlight how such initiatives stabilize commodity markets and benefit our farmers, agribusinesses and rural communities."

RESCUING THE REJECTED: dog rescue program

"It's a family affair, and it's amazing for our kids," Burton said of her experience fostering dogs. "It's awesome to watch these animals grow and learn to trust. A lot of these animals come from having no human interaction." Her new program, Rejection Collection, will specialize in senior dogs and those with special needs. "When a shelter gets full—especially down south—they euthanize dogs, and senior dogs and those with special needs are the first to go," Burton explained. While her program specifically focuses on boxers, Burton said that there are programs like this one for any breed. "There are so many dogs that need homes and there are so many breed specific rescues that you can find any breed," she said. "Our family lives and breathes rescue," Burton said of her family's commitment. "The life lessons we

"The life lessons we have learned from rescuing and fostering is invaluable." Stacy Burton Dog Rescuer have learned from rescuing and fostering is invaluable, and I'm so glad that my kids have had this hands-on experience. The amount of compassion and patience it has taught us is huge." Still, it is always hard to see the dogs go, even if it's to their new home. "It is extremely hard, it doesn't get any easier letting them go but it gets easier hiding it," Burton said. "But you know this is what is best for them." In her six years fostering dogs, Burton and her family foster failed only once. Failing to find a new home for the dog, Burton adopted it as their own pet after seeing the close bond it shared with her son. "The bond

YOUR BEST: protection

persons with a weakened immune system due to disease or medications
persons who live-in long-term care facilities
It is especially important for persons who work and live with these persons to receive their influenza vaccinations to provide another layer of protection.
To reduce the influenza virus from spreading from person to person, at least 70% of the population needs to have immunity to the circulating influenza virus. Influenza vaccinations provide a key step in helping to protect us all from contracting the influenza and spreading it to someone else.

It is natural for people to feel a little anxious about getting an influenza vaccination and the potential side effects. However, most reactions to the flu vaccine are mild, resolve on their own, and do not result in serious outcomes. These symptoms resolve in a day or two and should not be mistaken for flu disease. Flu vaccines have a good safety record. Hundreds of millions of Americans have safely received flu vaccines over the past 50 years. There has been and continues to be extensive research supporting the safety of flu vaccines. People frequently ask when the best time is to receive their influenza vaccination. Flu season in North America rarely begins before early October and usually lasts from December to March. Your body needs about two weeks after an influenza vaccination to develop a protective response to the influenza virus. Influenza vaccinations are available at a variety of settings in our community-pharmacies, medical clinics, school located clinics, and local public health. Steele County Public Health Nursing will be offering flu shots to persons 18 years and older in the following communities during the second week in October. We will have both

- High Dose and Quadrivalent influenza vaccine available at these clinics.
- MEDFORD**
Medford Manor
216 1st Street East
Tuesday, Oct. 8
9-10 a.m.
- ELLENDALE**
Ellendale Community Center
507 2nd Street
Wednesday, Oct. 9
12-1 p.m.
- OWATONNA**
Owatonna Senior Place
500 Dunnell Drive
Thursday, Oct. 10
9:30-11 a.m.
- BLOOMING PRAIRIE**
Blooming Prairie Senior Dining
134 3rd Street SE
Friday, Oct. 11
12-2 p.m.

Steele County Public Health will accept Medicare, South Country Health Alliance, Medical Assistance, Humana, BCBS, Unicare, Medica, and Health Partners. A person may also pay \$38.00 cash or check for the quadrivalent influenza vaccination. See our clinic flyer on the Steele County homepage or call 507-444-7650 for more information. If you are unable to attend one of the clinics, Steele County Public Health has influenza vaccinations available at our office located at 635 Florence Ave. in Owatonna. The vaccinations are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. No appointment is necessary. SCPH will have influenza vaccinations from the Minnesota Department of Health for both children and adults who do not have medical insurance or have an insurance plan that does not include influenza vaccinations. No one will be turned away because of inability to pay for an influenza vaccination. Influenza vaccinations will also be available to the public at the following Homeland Health Special-

ists school located clinics:
Oct. 2: 3:30-7:30 p.m.-Medford Public School
Oct. 21: 4:30-7:30 p.m.-Blooming Prairie Public Schools-High School
Oct. 22: 4-7 p.m.-NRHEG Schools - New Richland
Nov. 2: 9-12 p.m. Roosevelt School - Owatonna
Steele County Public Health and Homeland Health influenza vaccination clinic information is posted on the Steele County homepage. Influenza vaccinations are the principal means of preventing influenza and its complications. However, here are some additional steps that you can take to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like influenza:
1. Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
3. Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.
4. Antiviral drugs, such as Tamiflu are a treatment option for certain people who become ill with the influenza. Check with your doctor promptly if you become ill with influenza and you have a medical condition that makes you more vulnerable to serious flu complications.
5. If you get influenza, stay home from work or school for at least 24 hours after the fever has ended. Protect yourself and those you love. Get an influenza vaccination this year. If you have any questions, please call Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650.

Karen Fountaine is a registered nurse with Steele County Public Health in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

A TASTE: of charity

everything, some soups and fruit, it's good to be able to showcase it and be out here." Another vendor that's always a big draw at the event is El Tequila Mexican Restaurant in Owatonna. "We've been doing this every year and feel that it is

the best thing to do to give something back to the community," El Tequila owner Enrique Avalos said. "We've been here in Steele County for 20 years, so it's our way to give something back." For Avalos giving back is a family affair. His son A.J.

was there to help out and greet the community. "It's his fourth year, he comes, helps, and does a good job," Avalos said with a smile. With great weather on a beautiful Minnesota autumn evening the community was able to come together and give back while getting a taste of Steele County.

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NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
August 19, 2019

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, High School Principal, Elementary School Principal

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda with additions to items D. and F. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Principal reports given by Mr. Schwarz and Mr. Worke.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Donations
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the following items. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

* minutes from the July 11, 2019 regular school board work session and July 15, 2019 regular school board meeting

*July payroll in the amount of \$55,674.58; July accounts payable fiscal year 19 in the amount of \$38,434.27; July handwritten checks in the amount of \$37,188.56; August bills in the amount of \$180,148.12; and August payroll in the amount of \$99,452.99

* Treasurer's report as presented with no transfers between financial institutions since December 18, 2018

* budget year-to-date comparison for 2018-19 to 2019-20

* no donations requiring approval since the July 15, 2019 meeting

B. Employment
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the employment of David Lassahn as a high school physical education teacher (BA, step 2), eighth grade football coach, and junior high baseball coach with placement on step 0 for both extracurricular posi-

tions. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the employment of Cory Hendrickson as JV volleyball coach for the fall of 2019 with placement on step 0 of the prevailing Extracurricular Schedule. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the employment of Leah Haugland as a long-term substitute teacher replacing a staff member during her maternity leave from August 26, 2019 through October 11, 2019. Employment is contingent upon "Tier 1" licensure approval from MDE. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

C. Volunteer Coaches
No additional volunteer coaches at this time.

D. Meal Prices
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve increasing student meal prices by ten cents per meal from the prior school year. MDE PLE (paid lunch equity) compliance requires the district to increase lunch prices in order to meet an average price of at least \$2.65 per meal. Student meal prices for the 2019-20 school year are approved as follows: \$1.85 elementary student breakfast; \$2.60 elementary student lunch; and \$2.70 high school student lunch. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to approve adult meal prices as follows: \$1.85 adult breakfast and \$3.75 adult lunch. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the annual elementary snack cart fee remain at the current cost of \$50.00 Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Policy Renewals and Additions
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the annual review of the following policies with no changes: Bloodborne Pathogen (Exposure Control), School Medication, Student Transportation Safety, Harassment, Automated External Defibrillator Management Plan, Wellness Plan, Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members and iPad; along with updates to the Wellness Policy, and an addition to our Transportation Policy which is noted below. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Transportation Policy (addition – August 2019)
Blooming Prairie Public School understands the importance of providing quality transportation for all students to meet all needs. Communication with parents and students is vital to Blooming Prairie Public Schools providing quality transportation to those students who fit under our transportation requirements.

Blooming Prairie Public Schools will work to set up special transportation when needed and when required

under law. School officials will work to communicate transportation times, driver information, and ensure that proper transportation is provided for our students.

Parents and/or legal guardians are responsible for communicating any changes that may occur to the bus/van schedule for their child due to illness, vacations, etc. If no contact has been made with our transportation or the school for three consecutive days Blooming Prairie Public Schools will suspend transportation until the parent and/or legal guardian contacts our transportation and/or the school in which they attend.

Blooming Prairie Public Schools will make attempts to contact parents each day the child is absent to obtain the proper information.

Contact Information:
Van Transportation – Kevin Christianson (507) 456-4132
Bus Transportation – Dean Peterson (507) 438-3819
Elementary Principal – Jacob Schwarz (507) 583-6615, ext. 223
High School Principal – John Worke (507) 583-4426, ext. 434

F. Handbooks
Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the following handbooks: Elementary Parent-Student Handbook, Elementary Teacher Handbook, High School Student Handbook, High School Teacher Handbook and Coaches Handbook. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. ZED Building Project Report given.

B. Committee Reports
A report update was given on the following committees: Negotiations and ZED.

C. Enrollment Data
Tentative enrollment for the 2019-20 school year as of August 14, 2019, is 428 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 366 at the high school (grades 7-12) (355 attending BPHS and the equivalency of 11 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 4 seniors and 5 juniors with attendance being full-time plus 4 juniors with attendance being part-time.

D. Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

1. Goal Setting Session to be held on August 21st at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Board Room.
2. Gwen Walz was a speaker at the MDE/MASA Back-to-School Conference.
3. Superintendent Jeff Pesta from Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools is an assigned mentor for Superintendent Christopher Staloch.
4. CLA auditors were in the district for two days conducting the required annual audit.
5. MREA "Issue Report" re-

lating to statewide aid, levies and revenues.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, September 16, 2019, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted, Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

NOTICE
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
August 21, 2019

A special school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Board Room on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. ROLL CALL - CLERK
Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

IV. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

Goal setting discussion regarding strengths, challenges, expectations of the Superintendent, expectations of the School Board, as well as vision and goals.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Respectfully Submitted, Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
August 15, 2019

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2019, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the August 19, 2019, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case No:74-CV-19-1369
Case Type: Harassment

Notice of Issuance of Harassment Order for Relief by Publication

Ralph Guerrero, Jr. and On Behalf of Minor Children
Petitioner

vs

Karen Docksey
Respondent

To Respondent named above:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Harassment Order for Relief has been issued in this matter.

You may request a hearing on this matter if you file a Request for Hearing with the Court within twenty (20) days of issuance of the Harassment Order for Relief. You may obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief from the court administrator's office at the following address: Steele County Courthouse, 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing or to obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.

Date: September 17, 2019

Kim Wobschall
Court Administrator / Deputy

9/25

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case No:74-CV-19-1525
Case Type: Harassment

Notice of Issuance of Harassment Order for Relief by Publication

David James Loring
Petitioner

vs

Stephanie Kay Loring
Respondent

To Respondent named above:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Harassment Order for Relief has been issued in this matter.

You may request a hearing on this matter if you file a Request for Hearing with the Court within twenty (20) days of issuance of the Harassment Order for Relief. You may obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief from the court administrator's office at the following address: Steele County Courthouse, 111 E. Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing or to obtain a copy of the Harassment Order For Relief will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.

Date: September 17, 2019

Kim Wobschall
Court Administrator / Deputy

9/25

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Employee stock ownership plan
5. Teaspoon
8. Type of IRA
11. Restore courage
13. Pet Detective Ventura
14. Discount
15. Where rockers play
16. Light Armored Reconnaissance (abbr.)
17. Computer manufacturer
18. Nomadic people
20. Liquefied natural gas
21. Steps leading to a river
22. Benign tumors
25. In an early way
30. Type of wall
31. Pop folk singer Williams
32. Greek Titaness
33. Expresses purpose
38. Type of school
41. Least true
43. Delighted
45. Church building
47. Replacement worker
49. A sign of assent
50. Semitic gods
55. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
56. Partly digested food
57. Fevers
59. Genus of trees
60. Midway between east

and southeast

61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Gallivant
63. Hideaway
64. Source

CLUES DOWN

1. Major division of time
2. Withered
3. Portends good or evil
4. Single sheet of glass
5. More long-legged
6. Scrutinized
7. Archway in a park
8. Oliver __, author
9. Ancient Greek City
10. Type of shampoo
12. __ King Cole
14. Adventure story
19. Satisfy
23. Disappointment
24. Evergreen shrub
25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
26. Young snob (Brit.)
27. Midway between northeast and east
28. Chinese surname
29. Poplar trees (Spanish)
34. Electron scanning microscope
35. Actor DiCaprio
36. Equal (prefix)
37. Cartoon Network
39. Revealed
40. Remove lice
41. Supervises interstate commerce
42. Whale ship captain
44. Baited
45. Bleated
46. Swedish rock group
47. Air pollution
48. Carbonated drink
51. Swiss river
52. Ottoman military commanders
53. Type of job
54. One point east of southeast
58. Sex Pistols bassist
- Vicious

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E	T	V	S		E	O	V		N	V	W
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Applications must be postmarked by September 30, 2019.

E.O.E.

Saturday, September 28, 2019

9:00 a.m.

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Early Bird Sales 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Booths Re-open, Dinner, Games 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Proceeds to benefit the mission and ministry of the church

Roasted Pork Loins and Old Fashioned Hot Dog Dinners served with fresh homemade sauerkraut, German potato salad, mashed potatoes, cooked red cabbage, carrots, lemonade, coffee, and dessert (apple or chocolate)

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- Sold from the self-serve stand in one peck and one half peck sizes. Bagged fresh from the trees!
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Location: Going West take 2nd Dodge Center exit off Hwy. 14 North to 2nd St. NW. Orchard is 3/4 miles West

"After 61 years and (almost) 80 years old, the comb is getting heavy and it's time to lighten up a bit."

Gary Johnson
Retiring Barber

A Cut Above The Rest

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Barber hangs up the clippers after 61 years

Clipping hair has become as regular as waking up in the morning for Gary Johnson. After all, he's been snipping and cutting for 61 years with the last 57 in the same spot.

"That's almost nuts," confesses Johnson as he snips yet another head of hair on a recent Friday afternoon. He paused for a few seconds and said, "It's crazy, it's nuts."

After more than a half century, Johnson has sold his barber shop in downtown Owatonna to make room for a younger barber, Nick Cleveland, 29, of Oakdale. The sale took effect Sept. 3. "I put it up for sale on Craig's List, and he answered the call within a week," said Johnson. "It all happened fast."

Johnson's barber shop is about as Americana as one can find. A red, white and blue barber pole is affixed to the outside of the shop in the 300 block of North Cedar. "The pole is iconic of America and all the barbering that goes with it," he says. "To have a barber shop, you must have a barber pole. It goes back to Medieval times," he said, noting one has to carry a barber license to legally have a pole.

He still has two original barber chairs from when he purchased the shop in 1962, though they have been reupholstered a few times since then. Johnson added a third chair in 1967. A wall close to his chair has a large overcrowded frame containing 61 barber licenses, one marking each year from the State of Minnesota.

He said there have been times over the years when all three chairs have been cutting and buzzing away at the same time. Barbering had been a real family affair for the Johnsons. His father, brother and son all joined in to help at the shop. His brother, Ron, left to go to a shop in the Twin Cities where he later retired.

"I started the shop with my dad, and he kept on until the 1970s," Johnson said.

The three stalls have brought some humor over the years. Dr. Dewey, Johnson said, used to come in and point to all three chairs saying, "Father, son and Holy Ghost." Johnson added, "He was a clown."

Johnson actually has a fourth chair on display in the front window, though it has never been used in his shop. The 1926 chair came from Axel Hanson's shop in Blooming Prairie. "I bought it for a conversation piece," Johnson said.

He credits his father, Gerhard, for steering him in the direction of becoming a barber. "Dad suggested barber school and that was a good suggestion," said Johnson, a 1957 graduate of Owatonna High School. He added he always kind of had barbering on his mind when growing up.

Johnson got his start in 1959 at a shop located in the Owatonna Hotel after graduating from barber school in St. Paul. Prior to barber school, he did short stints in the U.S. Army and National Guard. When the hotel closed and was purchased by First National Bank, Johnson and his father sought a new location. His good friend, Ted Ringhofer, notified him that the building next door to Ringhofer's Meats was being vacated and was available. The building had previously housed Frank and Mary Wodarczek's liquor store.

From the early years, Johnson adopted a slogan, "If your hair isn't becoming to you, you should be coming to us."

He has cut all styles throughout his long career. He has seen it go from short to long to the Beatles style and back again—several times. Short styles, Johnson said, are the latest trend again. "It's like the women's hem line. It goes up and down and everything in between," he said with a chuckle.

With the shop being open Tuesday through Saturday, Johnson hasn't had a Saturday off in decades. "We were closed Sunday and Monday, it's always been that way," he said. He is actually looking forward to having Saturday off so he can attend some antique car shows.

With clippers in hand cutting an old-timer, Johnson shakes his head in disbelief as to how long he's been going. "I thought I would retire when normal people retire," he said. "After 61 years and (almost) 80 years old, the comb is getting heavy and it's time to lighten up a bit," he added.

Johnson admits he's been looking for a barber to take over for a few years. He said it can be difficult to find new barbers to take over because they are mostly drawn to the Twin Cities where "the money is and the action is." The last thing he wanted to do is leave his customers without a barber shop.

to go yet before the election.

As Janke sat up from his haircut, he looked in the mirror and told Johnson, "Another job well done." Johnson laughed, "It's been a sheer pleasure."

After Janke left the shop, Johnson said, "We have a good customer base with the working class. We never have to worry about going out of business. The working man is still the best."

Johnson credits "good haircuts and good fellowship" for his longevity at the job.

He has done a lot of first haircuts on newborns when other stylists refused to do. "Two weeks was the youngest to the old, old, old and everything in between," he said with a smile. "Just because they get old, they are still very important and nice people," he said.

The long-time barber said when he's begun cutting family members from three generations, it's maybe time to slow up a bit.



Veteran barber Gary Johnson has been a steady in Owatonna's downtown area for 61 years, 57 of the past at the same location in the 300 block of North Cedar Avenue.

After so many years of cutting hair, Johnson calls barbering "a good profession" to make a living at. "It's like getting together with your friends and get paid for it," he said. "I enjoy visiting with all the good people. It's all the great customers coming in, some from practically day one. They are like friends, they have been with me forever."

Customers have become more straight-laced in recent years as the jokes have slowed down considerably, according to Johnson. "Years ago there used to be a lot more joke telling," he said.

Even though the jokes have dried up, the conversation has not and still flows. Johnson says he will miss all the friendly conversation patrons engage in with him while they're getting haircuts. "I try to stay away from religion and politics, but it still pops up," he said, noting it's easier to talk about religion today than it was years ago. He added it has to be "tongue and cheek and ingest with politics, be careful."

Another big topic is often sports. "We have good sports in Minnesota and in town," he said. "Sports is a big thing." One of his drop-in guests years ago was Vikings legendary Bob Lurtsema, who played in two Super Bowls.

David Janke of Owatonna came in for his usual cut on a recent afternoon. "You're still young," Janke told Johnson. "Young at heart," Johnson quipped.

Janke then asked Johnson if he watched the presidential debate just days earlier. "No," Johnson said. "You didn't miss much," Janke quickly shot back noting his disgust with 1 ? years



Armed with his trusty scissor, Gary Johnson cuts yet another haircut for long-time customer Wayne Hermenson of Owatonna. "He has been a regular for years," said Johnson, who is retiring after 61 years behind the barber chair.

"I suppose there are days I get tired and the scissor gets heavy," Johnson said.

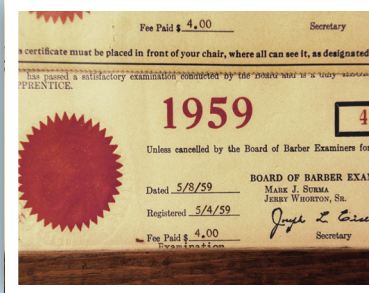
He has been fortunate to never experience any leg or back problems, which can be common for barbers standing in basically the same position for many hours at a time. "Some people have to quit because of leg problems," Johnson noted. "I've never had problems so it has worked out good."

Johnson plans to help out at the shop for a while until Cleveland can get another barber to join him. As Johnson phrases out, he's excited for Cleveland to take

over. "Hit fits right in. He's a good barber," Johnson said. "I wanted to keep it going. I found the man."

In retirement, Johnson plans to join his wife in the apple orchard they operate in Lemond Township between Owatonna and Ellendale. Johnson's Apple Orchard has been in existence for only 30 years offering 12 different varieties of apples.

After reflecting back on his long barbering career starting with his dad, and in comparison his much shorter apple career, Johnson said, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree in more ways than one."



Johnson's first barber license was issued by the State of Minnesota in 1959. He has every license, 61 of them, hanging next to his barber chair.

BY THE SHEAR NUMBERS

79	Johnson's age
61	Years of barbering, starting in 1959
57	years in one location beginning in 1962
3	Barber Chairs, two original
\$1.50	Starting price for haircut in 1959
\$15	Today's cost for a haircut