



STEELE
COUNTY

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

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NEW HOME B1



Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Ethanol waivers create another hit to farmers

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

As if bad weather and trade uncertainties were not enough, local corn farmers took another hit this year as a result of the administration's approval of waivers to small refineries reducing the amount of renewable fuels they needed to add to their gasoline.

The Renewable Fuel Standard dictates the amount of renewable fuels that must be blended into the U.S. fuel supply each year, said Randall Doyle, CEO of Al-Corn Clean Fuel in Claremont. Small refineries, he said, can ask for a waiver of those requirements if they cause a severe hardship to the refiner.

The Obama administration approved 23 waivers over three

years. Since the beginning of the Trump administration, the number of waivers has increased with 31 exemptions granted in August alone.

The increase in waivers meant a decrease in the amount of renewable fuel, including ethanol, that was blended into gasoline.

The situation came to a head this summer and fall as a num-

ber of smaller ethanol plants, including one in Winnebago, closed. Ethanol plants in other states also closed. In addition, POET, one of the largest ethanol producers, announced it would slow down processing at several of its facilities.

Much of the corn grown in Minnesota goes to ethanol

SEE STEELE JAIL, A6

Land picked for new school

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A location has been identified in the southern part of Owatonna for a new high school.

The land of about 88-acres is located at 1945 SE 18th St., near the intersection of Highways 14 and 218, school officials announced last week. The land is just south of Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church located by 18th Street SE and Bixby Road.

Dorothy and Jerome Rypka owned the land for years. From the 1950s into the 70s, Dorothy hosted farm tours of the dairy for thousands of elementary age kids from the Owatonna school system. She helped with the cattle show at the Steele County Fair for nearly 50 years. She was elected to the Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame in 2012. She died last December at the age of 93.

The land is currently owned by Jerome Rypka trustees. The Rypka's son, Dixon, lives in the area.

Federated Insurance has signed a letter of intent with the Rypkas to purchase the land and donate it to the school district, if voters approve the Nov. 5 ballot question requesting funding for a new high school.

SEE LAND PICKED, A5

Rainfall hampers crop harvest

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Menacing rainfall has put a damper on crop production for many Minnesota farmers, including those in southern Minnesota.

"It's a mess out there," remarked local farmer James O'Connor. He said the soybeans are still green in many areas. A couple of rainfalls over the past couple weeks that each totaled over 2 inches have forced farmers to stay out of the fields.

"When is it going to quit raining?" Blooming Prairie farmer Bruce Wolf was asked. "When it starts snowing," he quipped.

Jerry Ingvalson of Ingvalson Farms said his crew has harvested about 200 acres of soybeans and the yield has been quite good at the low 50-bushel mark.

Wet field conditions have also put a crimp in harvesting for Ingvalson farms.

Many area farmers said it is "way too early" to start harvesting corn because many of the corn crops were planted late spring.

SEE RAINFALL, A3



BP couple produces solar energy on farm

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Sunshine often plays a key role in the overall well-being of most people, but for a Blooming Prairie area couple it brings green in the form of extra cash.

Karl and Nancy (Kaplan) Luiken wouldn't mind if it were always sunny on their 160-acre farm in Blooming Prairie Township north of BP. Nearly a year ago the couple ventured into the solar energy, which is the fastest growing energy source. They are reaping the benefits of seeing less expensive electric bills through Steele-Waseca Cooperative.

SEE SOLAR WISE, A6

She is the quiet one

Grubish latest to graduate from Drug Court

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The drive to recover from an addiction has to come from within, says the latest graduate of the Steele-Waseca Drug Court, No. 48, Mary Jean Grubish.

"She has been the quiet one here," remarked Nicole Grams, Steele-Waseca Drug Court coordinator when talking about Grubish's road to recovery after facing a DWI gross misdemeanor charge.

"Mary Jean wanted to be someone who could be a woman leader in recov-

"It turned my life around and gave me a new perspective."

Mary Jean Grubish
Drug Court Graduate

ery," Grams observed. "Recovery came first and her relationships changed. Mary Jean was ready to get back on track."

Grams said Grubish has logged 691 sobriety days.

By completing nearly two years with the DWI track program, Grubish demonstrated leadership,

engagement and commitment, Grams said. Grubish continues to do outreach and is still engaged.

Grams said Grubish has been "very self motivated" in her recovery. She took on a leadership role within the recovery community.

SEE SHE IS THE QUIET ONE, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Mary Jean Grubish of Owatonna accepted congratulations and symbols of Steele Waseca

Drug Court from Third District Judge Joseph A. Bueltel.

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AREA DEATHS

Jeanne Lee, 83, Blooming Prairie
Elaine Joy Hanson, 92, Owatonna

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and Steele County
since 1893

No excuse not to be informed

In less than a month, voters across the Owatonna School District will be asked whether or not they are in favor of building a new high school with the price tag of roughly \$104 million.

That means if you're not sure how to vote, you have around 20 days to figure it out. There are plenty of opportunities for you to become informed on this issue.

This is not the first time Owatonna school officials have sought a building referendum from voters. In May, residents narrowly defeated the referendum by a mere 120 votes.

The school district has gone out of its way to provide valuable information to voters in order to let them decide on the importance of having a new high school. Back in spring, tours were provided of the current facility to give residents a taste of what an old, outdated and inefficient building looks like.

Since the referendum failed, school officials took to the community to find out what needs to happen in order to get the referendum to pass. Officials listened and listened even more. Through the listening sessions, they came up with the right plan for Owatonna. That plan includes lower monthly tax impact, land donation, repurpose current high school, reduce impact to farmers, retain corporate gifts and conceptual site plan.

They devised a plan to scale back the original referendum to \$104 million and added a second question regarding the repurposing of the existing building for \$8 million. Both questions will now be on the ballot next month.

Superintendent Jeff Elstad has also been hitting the coffee shops around the community to pitch the upcoming referendum. There are still some of these opportunities left to meet with Elstad. They include Oct. 21 at Central Park Coffe, Oct. 25 at Owatonna Schools Board Room, Oct. 28 at Olivia's Family Restaurant and the last one on Oct. 30 in the board room.

Residents also have a chance to learn about the referendum by visiting the school's website at www.owatonnaaproud.org.

There is also a referendum rally planned for next Wednesday, Oct. 23 at the Owatonna Eagles Club for the community to come together not only for fellowship, but also to learn more and ask questions if needed.

The Times has also been running weekly news stories about the referendum and will continue to in the coming weeks in hopes of better educating the public about what Owatonna needs and why.

Perhaps Owatonna's most winning coach Jeff Williams sums it up best, "Would a new football stadium be nice? Sure it would. But this is about a lot more than sports. This is about providing a safe, quality learning environment for all our kids. We are on a clear path toward making changes that will allow our students to be more competitive and successful in a 21st century work environment."

Election Day for Owatonna voters is Tuesday, Nov. 5. If you can't make it on Election Day, there is absentee ballot voting available through the Steele County Auditor's Office.

Plenty of opportunities to obtain information about the Nov. 5 vote will be available between now and then. Take advantage of them. The future of our youth is at stake.

There is no excuse to not be informed.

YOUR VIEW

Time is now to replace old high school

To-the-editor:

On Nov. 5, we will be going to the polls again to vote on a new high school. This vote will be a defining moment in our community.

A yes vote will demonstrate the commitment our community has to its future. Why is this important you ask? I am one of the business leaders in our community that is contributing to and backing this effort. The reason is that Owatonna is in a competition for talent with other communities across the county. In the last three to five years, we have experienced an increasingly difficult time in recruiting new employees.

The business that I lead is important to all of us at some point in our lives. That business is your health care. I worry where will the new doctors, nurses, technologists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants come from? Will we be able to meet the future health

care needs of our community? As our recruits evaluate our job opportunities, they are looking closely at the communities that they will live in and raise their families in. I don't want to imply that a new high school will solve all of the recruiting issues that our local businesses have. What I can say is that the absence of a 20th century high school and learning environment makes that recruiting task significantly more difficult.

I commend our school district administrative team. They took the feedback from the failed vote last May and really listened to the feedback. They have addressed nearly every concern without compromising the integrity of the project. The time is now to replace the old high school. The stakes are high for our community. Join me in voting YES on Nov. 5. I am Owatonna Proud!

Dr. Brian Bunkers
Owatonna

Yes vote is essential to future

To-the-Editor:

The significance of the Nov. 5th vote on the bond for a new Owatonna High School is far more critical, in my opinion, than just the need to rectify the many deficiencies in our 100-year-old facility.

The shortcomings of our current high school have been well defined, analyzed, and communicated. We are NOT voting on wants... we are voting on SIGNIFICANT NEEDS! And many of those needs have been addressed by the school facilities in the surrounding communities within easy commuting distance of Owatonna. We need to look better than we are to those families considering a relocation into or out of our community.

But, the bigger story to the vote is really defining who Owatonna wants to be and will be in the many years ahead. With the perspective of 70+ year resident of Owatonna, I believe we have lost some of the luster and attractiveness that has

been Owatonna's hallmark since my younger days. Owatonna was the envy and epitome of a well-respected and vibrant outstate community that effectively attracted and retained solid businesses and industries that brought citizens, employees, and community leaders of all skill sets to make this a great town... and provided nicely for the financial and well-being of their families.

As much as some folks will challenge the need of a modern and progressive high school to restore Owatonna's image and attractiveness to the vibrant, competitive, community we need to be; ... A YES VOTE IS ESSENTIAL to the future of our STUDENTS CAREER PREPARATION and COMMUNITY vitality. Status quo is NOT who we want for an image, nor is it what current and potential businesses expect.

Larry R. Haberman
Owatonna

Times offers helpful support

To-the-Editor:

Cindi just ordered a subscription for my mother for the Times. She said that Paula that works for you is fabulous.

Please compliment her from Cindi and I on how nice she was and helpful.

Darrell Hansen
Blooming Prairie

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Elsewhere
in Minnesota \$49
Out of state \$52

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

Sweep 16 is getting old

and 1991 when they won the World Series? I hate to think this, but I'm beginning to wonder if I'll ever see another World Series championship by the Twins in my lifetime.

Call it a hex, a jinx or a curse. Whatever it is, the Twins need to find a way to rid themselves of it. This is getting to be too much for fans to handle.

I can't figure out how the New York Yankees can always come in and take control of everything. The Yankees completed a sweep Monday night, ending the Twins' magical season of what everyone had such high hopes for in possibly doing a repeat of 1987 or 1991, what now seems like a lifetime ago.

The Twins are now tied for the longest postseason losing streak in major American professional sports leagues. They join the Chicago Blackhawks of the NHL with 16 straight losses in postseason.

Chicago's record was set from 1975-79. The Twins are in some bad company.

What has happened to those magical years of 1987

behind the team leader Nelson Cruz with 41 homers. Others to crack the 30 mark were Max Kepler (36), Miguel Sano (34), Eddie Rosario (32) and Mitch Garver (31). They all gave something extra to cheer about throughout the season.

I think most will agree the Twins came a lot farther than anyone expected this season. After losing star first baseman Joe Mauer last year, everyone had visions of the team totally crumbling. But that it didn't happen. New manager Rocco Baldelli came in and put together a team that was fun and entertaining to watch... and they won, 101 games to be exact.

The Twins have a good core of young players that one can only hope will be able to build off in the off-season for next year. Bring in a solid pitcher or two and things may just be a different story about this time next year.

I'm still holding out for repeats of those World Series championship years. It just has to come back one of these years, right?

Like most Twins fans, I'm in hot pursuit of waiting to see what next season produces. Maybe, just maybe, at least one playoff victory?

There is a ton of info on the internet concerning these pastries. It's best to use poppy seed filling and the plural form of the words for your search, for example:

Makove Bucht, Makove Kolace, or just Sateckove Kolacky. Czech sites will end in .cz and Slovak sites will end in .SK.

Have fun!
Steve Wenc
Blooming Prairie

YOUR VIEW

How about some fun with Czech pastries?

To-the-Editor:

During the recent Harvester's Evening at the B.P. Servicemen's Club, a little fun was had with the names of popular Czech pastries. For those interested in learning a little more and still having fun, I've put together some basic information to help out.

In Czech, a filled biscuit is called a buchta (booktah). A traditional buchta can be square or more rectangular in shape. It is enclosed, the

filling is not visible, there are no eyes or openings.

The koláč is normally round in shape and is open faced, the filling is very visible. The word koláč comes from the word kolo, which means wheel. It can be compared to a tart or small pie. The smaller version is called a koláček (kolachek) or tartlet. The smaller version that is folded like a handkerchief, with the four corners open from bottom to top is called a šátečkový

GUEST COLUMN

Funding to improve school safety

BY PEGGY BENNETT

In 2018, the Legislature approved \$25 million in funding that could be used by schools across the state to improve safety within their buildings.

In 2019, lawmakers chose to build upon this program by funding an additional one-time \$30 million funding infusion into the Safe Schools Supplemental Aid program. The funding is provided to each school district and charter school on a per pupil basis, and the supplemental aid must be used for expenditures as authorized under the Safe Schools Levy.

For local schools, this amounts to more than \$120,000 for Albert Lea, nearly \$11,000 for Glenville-Emmons, more than \$25,000 for Blooming Prairie, and roughly \$24,000 each for Hayfield and United South Central.

I know local schools can put this funding to good use, and am pleased we've continued the program.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The 2020 individual health insurance market rates have been released, and for the third consecutive year, Republican-led reforms have helped reduce or hold flat individual market health insurance rates after years of double-digit increases following the implementation of Obamacare in Minnesota.

All five of the carriers on the individual market are lowering premiums or effectively holding premiums flat for 2020, with average rates ranging between a 1.18% increase and a 20% decrease.

There will also be 39 more health plan options in 2020, and every county will have at least two offerings in the individual market.

This is welcome news for those who purchase their health insurance on the individual market. From 2014-2017, average rates increased by double digits every year, including up to 67% for 2017. It appears to me the reforms we approved three years ago are working. There is a lot more work to do in the area of healthcare affordability and access, but this is a good start!

DISASTER RELIEF

On Thursday, Governor Tim Walz authorized the use of Minnesota's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account to help pay for damage caused by severe winds, rainfall, and flooding in mid-July, including those damages in Albert Lea.

These powerful storms really caused a significant amount of damage in Albert Lea. I know the city will find the disaster relief funding very helpful, and I'm pleased the governor took action.

More than \$207,000 will be allocated. Nearly \$122,000 is dedicated to the City of Albert Lea, while nearly \$86,000 is designated for the Freeborn Mower Coop.

The legislature created the Disaster Assistance Contingency Account in order to avoid calling special sessions to allocate any disaster funding.

LOCAL EVENTS

I was honored to be a part of the groundbreaking ceremony for Riverland

Community College's new construction project.

This project will enhance the college's trade programs and bring the truck driving program from the Austin to the Albert Lea campus. This will be a great boost for trades instruction for our area. Acquiring state bonding dollars for this project has been one of my goals since I started office in 2015, as I could see the huge benefit this could be for both students and businesses in our area. I am happy to say that goal was achieved in the 2018 bonding bill.

Congratulations, Riverland Community College!

Keep up the great work!

Recently, I also had an interesting tour of the KSMQ Public Television transmitter, which is located in Grand Meadow. KSMQ is the local public TV station in our area. I wanted to learn more about these transmitters and their importance because KSMQ and the other public television stations in Minnesota are requesting bonding dollars to update their regional transmitters.

It's always good for me to learn about projects like these first hand. Thank you to KSMQ president, Eric Olson, and station engineer, Paul Fisher, for the very informative tour!

Peggy Bennett is a state representative for District 27A, which includes the City of Blooming Prairie, southern Dodge County and most of Freeborn County. She lives in Albert Lea.

A state and national award winning weekly newspaper
MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
2019—7 state awards
2018—6 state and 4 national awards
2017—2 state and 3 national awards
2016—8 state and 6 national awards
2015—7 state and 4 national awards
2014—3 state and 3 national awards
2013—7 state and 2 national awards
2012—2 state awards
2011—4 national awards

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

Times offers helpful support

To-the-Editor:

Cindi just ordered a subscription for my mother for the Times. She said that Paula that works for you is fabulous.

Please compliment her from Cindi and I on how nice she was and helpful.

Darrell Hansen
Blooming Prairie

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They belong to the ages

The years go by quickly and as friends and family members pass on, we realize that our mortality is ahead of us.

It is with sadness that we say farewell to those

who have been a key part of our lives. It is also with thankfulness and happiness that we recognize that we should be grateful for having these people as part of our lifeline.

Earlier this year, I said goodbye to one of my best friends, Dan Gerenz. He suffered with Alzheimer's disease the past five years.

Dan was a fighter, however, and with his wife Linda's wonderful care, he was able to be a part of all of our lives. Dan and I roomed together when I worked for the Albert Lea Tribune in the late 1960s.

Judy and I always kept in close contact with Dan and Linda, our friends forever.

Also, earlier this year, my friend "Big Al," otherwise known as El Ewert was taken from us. The Forest Lake Lions Club brought me in contact with El and our relationship grew as we shared our love for serving our community.

El had a wonderful voice and sang the National Anthem twice at the Metrodome prior to a Minnesota Twins game.

For 14 months, Judy and I took her father into our household and made him comfortable as he fought a serious health problem. We are grateful that we were given the strength to meet his needs in his later years. He passed on June 6, D-Day.

Judy's dad and I shared our devotion to the Minnesota Twins. He would have been so proud of his favorite team winning a division championship.

Mortality continued to click away as I recently learned that a volunteer friend of mine, Barbara Swanson died at the young age of 80. She and I shared lots of hard work in co-chairing the 100th birthday celebration of Forest Lake in 1993.

I was employed at the Forest Lake Times at the time and Barb was director of the Forest Lake Youth Service Bureau. Our affection for our community brought us together in seeking to bring



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

a community celebration many would never forget.

The experiences gained through working with Barb on this landmark event are ever lasting.

Barb strengthened my character while being a devoted presence who was capable of both solving problems and finding the humor in difficult situations – sometimes both at once, as when we were responsible for getting a city water tower repainted before the celebration after vandals defaced its recent paint job.

She had a twinkle in her eye, always positive and upbeat. Not afraid to make a decision, but at the same time she always valued other people's opinions.

The centennial was a success. The Fourth of July parade that year had more than 300 entrants, the organizers scheduled plenty of fun family activities.

She expected a lot out of people, but in return she gave a lot, too.

Another friend's passing just recently again reminded me of my own mortality. This person was loved by her family, friends and community because of the spark she added to love and friendship.

Family members, friends and her pastor paid tribute in remembrances and in song. Her funeral lasted 90 minutes. That's a short time to scan the life of someone who meant so much to others.

This year also saw another friend of mine leave us. He was Dallas police detective James R. Leavelle who is remembered for being part of the investigative team at the time of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Leavelle is the man in the white suit and hat who was escorting alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to a different jail facility when he was shot and killed by Jack Ruby.

These people are just a few of those who have given me memories that I will long remember.

Live one day at a time and face the reality that our time will come, too, but before it does, enjoy the many people who have shaped our own lives. Memories will last forever. Cherish them.

It's a common refrain but it's true.

This year's Village Affair featuring many unique craft exhibitors will be bigger than ever, says its organizers, Pam Folkens of the Blooming Prairie AAUW and Mandie Doocy of the Women of Today.

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STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Jesse Christianson was a happy shopper at the 46th Annual Village Affair in 2018 held at the Blooming Prairie High School. She purchased the hat from Jude Leigh, also known as The Hat Lady.

Village Affair to be bigger than ever

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's a common refrain but it's true.

This year's Village Affair featuring many unique craft exhibitors will be bigger than ever, says its organizers, Pam Folkens of the Blooming Prairie AAUW and Mandie Doocy of the Women of Today.

The 2019 version of the Village Affair, which represents the 47th annual event, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Blooming Prairie High School. Admission is free.

The Village Affair, in actuality, is a holiday bazaar that brings items that coincide with the

SEE VILLAGE AFFAIR, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Ellendale area resident Larry Otto and Tiffany Krueger, city clerk of Ellendale, are two of eight board members of the Community Foundation of Ellendale who are helping spearhead a project to build a new commercial kitchen in the Ellendale Community Center.

Ellendale group embarks on kitchen remodeling project

BY HOWARD LESTRUD

STAFF WRITER

Board members of the Community Foundation of Ellendale could be called protectors of their community.

These eight volunteers represent the organization that was founded four years ago with the support of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

The Ellendale Foundation has the best interests of its community at heart. A main mission of the foundation is to make improvements to the Ellendale Community Center.

With startup funds and fundraising monies, the foundation expended \$20,000 to install handicapped accessible doors on the west side of the community center and to renovate the bathrooms.

Now, the foundation is embarking on a new project and that is to remodel an outdated kitchen. The new kitchen will be a commercial kitchen featuring stainless steel equipment.

Steering the controls for the Ellendale foundation are Arlen Brekke, Colleen Brekke (chairperson), Larry Otto, Emily Otto, Stephanie Kibler, Pete Paulson, Sherrie Schot and Tiffany Krueger.

Approximately 8-12 community groups and organizations use the community center during a given month. Some of the groups include 4-H clubs, Alanon, Berlin Township, Ellendale bank, Ellendale American Legion and Ellendale Days activities.

A mailing campaign is under way with letters asking for financial support of the kitchen project. Letters from the foundation are being sent to area residents later this month. The goal is to raise \$15,000 or more for the project.

Larry Otto is also appealing to local farmers to donate a gift of grain. This gift is not income but can be written off as a donation, Otto said. If interested in this plan, contact Otto at 507-475-1013.

"Every dollar counts," remarked Otto. The Community Foundation of Ellendale is also participating in Give to the Max Day on Thursday, Nov. 14.

Standing in the existing kitchen, Larry Otto remarked, "This kitchen has served a lot of people over the years, but it is outdated and needs to be updated."

"We want a kitchen that our community members can use and be proud of," said board member and city clerk Tiffany Krueger.

The Community Foundation of Ellendale is partnering with the City of Ellendale to engineer the project. The city is looking at an equipment plan from TriMark Strategic Equipment & Supply Co.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Because of its age, countertops in the Ellendale Community Center building are in need of replacement. The Community Center of Ellendale is leading a drive to replace the existing kitchen with a new commercial kitchen.

The initial startup monies came from SMIF on a matching grant, \$10,000

from SMIF and from monies generated by the local foundation.

The kitchen project will cost in the neighborhood of \$38,000, says Larry Otto.

"We have some money in our general fund and are hoping to raise another significant amount," Otto explained.

The Community Foundation of Ellendale is looking past the kitchen project, having identified its next project as finishing the rest of the building.

This will include lowering the ceilings and arranging for better acoustics in the building.

If interested in helping financially, or by doing in-kind labor, contact any of the board members, or check out the Community Foundation of Ellendale Facebook page.

BP classmates honor one of their own



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tom Burke of Smithville, Mo., Blooming Prairie Class of 1961 was recently honored at the 12th Annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Alumni Awards Banquet for the Distinctive Service Award. Joining Burke in the celebration were some of his classmates who nominated him, from left: Burke, David Underwood, Shirley Marsh Anderson, Jim Rowe, Dennis Sauke, Lyle Noble, Betty Yentsch Jacobson, Jim Hansen, Carol Knutson Kruckeberg, Roger Syverud, Judy Hansen Livingston, Videl Beattie Blakeborough, Judy Harms Burns.

RAINFALL: hampers crop harvest

FROM A1

While the rain has halted harvest plans for many farmers, the warmer weather conditions did help beans and corn reach

their maturity.

The University of Minnesota Crop Report says a few hand harvested corn samples are in and yield

levels are in the 200 to 210 bushel per acre range.

The longest rain free period all season was seven days from July 30 to Aug.

6, says the University. "We would like to put together a longer stretch of dry weather here in October," officials said.

BLOTTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTTER 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

Drive by shooting leads to charges

A man faces felony charges in connection with a shooting in Owatonna.

Juan Carrasco, 42, of Owatonna has been charged with dangerous weapons-drive by shooting and illegally possessing ammunition/firearm.

On Sept. 13, police responded to a shooting in the 500 block of S. Cedar Avenue. At the time, officers recovered several .380 rounds in the driveway of a residence. A person reported being scared for their safety and provided information about a wanted man who was seen with a gun.

Police spotted a man believed to be the subject of the information near the home of the person's home, but lost sight



Juan Carrasco

of him. The concerned individual provided officers with consent to search the home. The wanted man was found and arrested during the search.

Besides arresting Carrasco, police found a Jennings .380 handgun and two brands of .380 ammunition inside the garage. A review of the .380 casings recovered at the home of the drive by shooting showed there were two different brands fired at or toward the house. The .380 rounds found during the search matched the two brands found at the shooting scene, according to police.

Carrasco remains in custody in the Steele County Detention Center.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 30 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: James C. Schmidt, 24, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana and gross misdemeanor receiving stolen property. He was sentenced to \$181, 36 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no contact with victim and 5 years of supervised probation. Eloy Tarango, 40, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault. Tarango was sentenced to \$395.99 and 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 30 – Oct. 6:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brenda N. Romero, 27, Faribault, no insurance, \$281; Paul V. Sween, 71, Austin, passing on right, \$131.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Todd J. Erickson, 22, Ellendale, fail to submit required bear tooth/rib sample, \$106; Aaron M. Johnson, 29, Rochester, violation migratory birds federal regulations, \$131.

MN STATE PATROL GOLDEN VALLEY

Angel J. Brockman, 37, Faribault, hands free violation, \$131.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Jered R. Anderson, 36, Medford, seat belt, \$106; Carter A. Broton, 20, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Gary M. Collins, 60, Hastings, seat belt, \$106; Vanessa R. Crawford, 21, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Jessica L. Cuevas, 34, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Joel P. Donaldson, 46, Otsego, no insurance

SHE IS THE QUIET ONE: Grubish latest to graduate

FROM A1

"She was always seeking out recovery meetings while away for work or on vacation and continues to serve as a role model," Grams said.

Grubish, 40, sat quietly in Courtroom B of the Steele County Courthouse in Owatonna on Wednesday, Oct. 9. She was seated next to two key members of her recovery community, Barb and Donna. Both characterized Grubish as a hard worker and one ready to meet any challenge.

Third District Judge Joseph A. Bueltel congratulated Grubish on her "significant career jump" that was made possible by the confidence and abilities she has shown. Grubish is a district manager for a local insurance company.

Bueltel presented the 48th Steele Waseca graduate with a recognition plaque and with a souvenir coin.

Grubish is married and has three children, ages 2, 4 and 16.

Speaking to a packed courtroom, which included current participants of Drug Court, Grubish said Drug Court allowed her to be part of a community. "It turned my life around and gave me a new perspective," she said.

Following the graduation ceremony, Grubish told this writer that Drug Court is helpful to those who need it but the change has to come from within one's self. Grubish said her family has been a "wonderful support" during her time in Drug Court.

Grubish said there is a stigma about the addiction community. "My wonderful friends in recovery have been my life line," she said.

She has been very dedicated to attending recovery meetings because her women friends have allowed her to grow and to share, she said.

Grubish started the Steele Waseca Drug Court program on Nov. 17, 2017 and has participated for about 23 months. She entered the program on a gross misdemeanor DWI charge and faced a risk of serving 365 days in jail.

A challenge that remains for Grubish, Grams says, is to continue to be connected and to utilize the supports she has gained through the recovery community.

Steele County Commissioner Rick Gnemi congratulated Grubish on her accomplishment. "Take a look at your friends, they

are a reflection of who you are," Gnemi said.

Rep. Terry Daniels, R-Faribault, also offered congratulatory remarks about Grubish "turning her life around."

The Steele Waseca Drug Court program was implemented on July 1, 2014. Since that time, the court has served 180 participants with 89 who either withdrew, electing to serve their jail/prison time, or transferred to another drug court, or were terminated based on new criminal behavior or rejection of services.

The first SWDC graduation was held in April of 2016. The first DWI track graduation was recorded in December of 2018.

SWDC currently has 43 participants. The program is rigorous and has five phases over 18 months. Drug court requires court attendance, ranging from weekly to monthly, contingent on the phase.

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

At least three hours of self-help recovery meet-

ings are required weekly. Participants submit to a minimum of twice weekly random testing.

All participants must complete treatment, make meaningful connections in the recovery community, obtain a valid driver's license, GED/Diploma, employment, compliance with child support and payment of fines, fees and restitution prior to graduation.

Prior to honoring Grubish, Judge Bueltel met publicly in court with 13 SWDC participants. He praised those who are making progress in the program and cautioned others to "hang with the right people."

Speaking to a participant in the fifth phase of the program, Bueltel said, "We want you out of here, like a bird, we want to see you fly."

Bueltel recited sobriety days for each of the participants, one having 674 sobriety days.

The judge acknowledged challenges participants face. "We all have difficulties in life," Bueltel said.

Bueltel urged participants to rely on staff for help. "Probation officers are not here to get you in trouble, they have your best interests at heart."

and revoked license,

\$481; Jennifer L. Elver,

35, Owatonna, hands free

violation, \$131; Frank D.

Galindo, 58, Highlands

Ranch, CO, speeding,

\$121; John B. Gardiner, 66,

Albany, OH, inspection

violation, \$181; Alana M.

Guzman, 28, St. Paul, owner

allow illegal operation,

\$181; Jeremiah A. Hansen,

41, Owatonna, seat belt,

\$106; Jeffrey C. Haugen,

35, Owatonna, speeding,

\$141; Robert D. Herman, 59,

Cobden, seat belt, \$106;

Chris A. Heyer, 56, Austin,

DWI, \$406, no alcohol

or controlled substance

use, do not enter liquor

establishments, chemical

dependency evaluation,

psychological evaluation,

cognitive skill training,

obtain permission to leave

the state, no contact with

victim and 5 years of

supervised probation.

Eloy Tarango, 40,

Owatonna, previously

appeared and was

convicted of felony assault.

Tarango was sentenced to

\$395.99 and 21 months in

St. Cloud State Prison.

The following

misdemeanors and petty

misdemeanors were heard

in Steele County District

Court the week of Sept. 30

– Oct. 6:

April L. Adams, 39,

Owatonna, revoked license,

\$281; Yana M. Allen, 24,

Kasson, theft, \$200.99

and 1 year of supervised

probation; Joshua J. Bluhm,

44, Ellendale, theft by

check, \$35.11; Lorenzo

M. Cook, 28, Owatonna,

revoked license, \$281;

Bruce D. Degroot, 41,

Faribault, revoked license,

\$281; Tai'ricca C. Einfeldt,

28, Owatonna, cancelled

license, \$281; Nicole E.

Erickson, 21, Owatonna,

permit violation and expired

tabs, \$161; Carrie L. Friesie,

37, Pine Island, theft, \$131,

1 day in county jail and

1 year of unsupervised

probation; Javier Guevara,

30, Owatonna, child

passenger restraint system

violation and invalid license,

\$231; David B. Kilwine, 70,

Owatonna, failure to stop

for traffic control signal,

\$131; Caballero T. Lizette,

55, Claremont, invalid

license and child passenger

restraint system violation,

and invalid license, \$231;

Paul Wechtur, stalking,

\$3,000 bail

and invalid license, \$231;

Marah S. Ryks, 29,

Owatonna, speeding, \$141;

Kevin O. Serapio Garcia,

24, Faribault, speeding

and invalid license, \$231;

Eric Weiser – theft by check - \$3,000 bail

and invalid license, \$231;

Jeremy Werchowski – DWI – no bail

and invalid license, \$231;

Jonathan Werstein – traffic - \$500 bail

and invalid license, \$231;

Charles West – theft - \$20,000 bail

and invalid license, \$231;

Cabbott Weyker – warrant – no bail

and invalid license, \$231;

Darnell Whitner – drugs - \$200 bail

and invalid license, \$231;

SEE BLOTTTER, A8

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

1. Jose Villaandrade – DWI - \$6,000 bail
2. James Voracek – drugs – no bail
3. Adam Wacek – warrant – no bail
4. Rickson Waguk – DWI - \$12,000 bail
5. Alonso Walker –

Getting Around When You No Longer Drive

**THE SAVVY SENIOR**
Brought to you by:
Prairie Manor Care Center
& Heather Haus
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
Where can I find out about alternative transportation services for my 80-year-old mother? It's time that she gives up driving, but before she does, we need to figure out how she'll get around.

Inquiring Son

Dear Inquiring,
Alternative transportation options for seniors who no longer drive vary widely by community, so what's available to your mom will depend on where she lives. Here's what you should know.

While most urban areas offer seniors a variety of alternative transportation services, the options may be few to none for those living in the suburbs, small towns and rural areas. Depending on where your mom lives, here's a rundown of possible solutions that can help her get around, along with some resources to help you locate them.

Family and friends: This is the most often used and favorite option among seniors. So, make a list of all possible candidates your mom can call on, along with their availability and contact information.

Volunteer transportation programs: These are usually run by local nonprofits or religious organizations and provide elderly seniors transportation to doctor's appointments, shopping, and more. These services may charge a small fee or accept donations and often operate with a network of volunteer drivers.

Some examples of local transportation programs include Envoy America (EnvoyAmerica.com) that provides senior transportation in 78 cities in Arizona, Texas, Washington, Illinois, New Mexico, Georgia and Pennsylvania. The Independent Transportation Network (ITNAmerica.org) that serves 14 communities across 12 states. And SilverRide (SilverRide.com), which serves the San Francisco bay area and Kansas City. To search for volunteer driving programs in your area visit NationalVolunteerTransportationCenter.org – click on "Map of Volunteer Driver Programs."

Demand response services: Often referred to as "dial-a-ride" or "elderly and disabled transportation service," these are usually government-funded programs that provide door-to-door transportation services by appointment and usually charge a small fee or donation on a per ride basis. Many use vans and offer accessible services for riders with special needs.

Taxis and rideshare services: While taxis are a viable transportation option in many communities, rideshare services like Uber (Uber.com) and Lyft (Lyft.com), which are widely available, have become more popular among seniors who don't drive.

To get a ride, your mom could simply use the Uber or Lyft smartphone app, a computer, or she can call a ride-hailing service like Go Go Grandparent (GoGoGrandparent.com). Or, you can make arrangements for her on your smartphone.

Cost will vary depending on your mom's location, distance traveled and peak travel time, but rideshare services are usually cheaper than taxis. Uber and Lyft also offer carpooling services that would allow your mom to save money by splitting the tab with other consumers riding the same route. And for seniors with mobility problems, both Uber and Lyft have accessible vehicles that you can request in certain locations.

Hire someone: Consider hiring someone to drive your mom like a neighbor, retiree, high school or college student that has a flexible schedule and wouldn't mind making a few extra bucks. You can also hire a senior driving companion through nonmedical home-care agencies, or you can find someone on your own at websites like Care.com or CareLinx.com.

Private business transportation services: Some hospitals, health clinics, senior centers, adult day centers, malls or other businesses may offer transportation for program participants or customers.

Mass transit: Public transportation (buses, trains, subways, etc.) where available, can also be an affordable option and may offer senior reduced rates.

Where to Look

To find out what transportation services are available in your mom's area contact Rides in Sight (RidesInSight.org, 855-607-4337), and the Eldercare Locator (800-677-1116), which will direct you to her area agency on aging for assistance. You should also contact local senior centers, places of worship and retirement communities for other possible options.

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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STEELE COUNTY Times
507-583-4431

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago

Oct. 20, 2009

DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

With a 7-0 vote, the Blooming Prairie Teachers Association agreed on a 0% 2009-10 school year during a special meeting held last Wednesday. After meetings throughout the summer, the BPTA headed by lead negotiator David Pfiefer felt the need to complete the two-year contract as fast as they could. This was the earliest the BPTA has agreed on a contract in the last eight negotiations.

Becky Noble, director of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce, was chosen as the 2009 Citizen of the Year for BP. It was a shock for Noble, who has always been such a huge contributor and volunteer for the community.

Budget Mart has been sold and Casey's General Store has opened in the same location on Highway 218 in Blooming Prairie. Budget Mart was owned by Wayde Bishop, Eric Bishop, Kevin Christianson, Benji Bishop and Matt Potter since February 2006. Kay Helkenn will be the store manager of the new Casey's.

Blooming Prairie residents Daryl and Jane Prihoda recently returned from making a trek they're getting quite familiar with. The couple made a trip to rural Tanzania in Central East Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean. It was the third such trip for Daryl and the second one for Jane.

For 40 years, Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie has been known for its quality care and superb facility. Construction on the center began in 1969.

20 Years Ago

Oct. 19, 1999

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

The annual musical at Blooming Prairie will be "Anne of Green Gables." It has been a real challenge in that the musical consists of many scenes interspersed with short dialog

passages and songs, according to director Frank Vorlicek. The play will be performed three times in mid-November at the high school.

Blooming Prairie residents will be looking at a 9% tax levy increase for 2000, the city council decided. The levy increase would mean an average of 4.5% increase on the city portion of your tax statement next year due to increase in tax base. BP had a levy of \$377,145 for 1999.

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church will be having another 140th anniversary service of praise and thanksgiving on Oct. 24 when former Bishop Lowell O. Erdahl will be preaching at the 9 a.m. service. Pastor Erdahl is the bishop of the St. Paul Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

50 Years Ago

Oct. 15, 1969

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

A proposed budget of \$1,256,199 for the 1969-70 school year, an increase of \$169,753 over the 1968-69 budget, was presented by the Blooming Prairie School Board at a public hearing on Sept. 22. The school budget hearing was required by the 1969 Legislature if the tax levy increased by more than 5%. Only two persons attended the hearing and both were teachers in the BP school system.

Eleven contestants have been selected for the 1970 Steele County "Junior Miss Pageant," to be staged in Blooming Prairie on Nov. 22. The contest is being sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Jaycee Chapter. Candidates in the pageant are Janey Randall, Polly Jensen, Cheryl Fischer and Leann Alte, Marion High School in Owatonna; Ann Cashman, Owatonna High School; Janis Holst, Medford High School; Sharon Kubat and Pat Dixon, Ellendale High School; Julie Grandprey, Kristi Hoel and Ruth Holmes, Blooming Prairie High School.

Everett J. Eaker, well-known Aurora township farmer, died last Saturday, Oct. 11, from injuries sustained

in a farm accident. Mr. Eaker was alone at the time of the accident and was operating a tractor-pulled corn chopper in a field. He was 52 years old at the time of his tragic death.

Brad Carey, a star player on Blooming Prairie High School's football team, was named to WCCO-Radio's "All-State Team of the Week" Oct. 9. Doug Betlach was picked for the All-Star Team the previous week. "Prep Parade" is headed by sports director Paul Giel and Sid Hartman.

75 Years Ago

Oct. 19, 1944

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Twelve Steele County men and two men who have been transferred to Steele County. They have joined the U.S. Armed Forces. The men left Monday afternoon from the armory in Owatonna: Raymond Paul Peterson, George Porter Tonelli (Blooming Prairie), Thomas Andrist Anderson, Glen Everett Woodfill, Joseph Adrian Deml, Glenn Raymond Anderson, Christopher Andrew Johnson, Warren James Sawyer, Richard William Klemmer, Stanley Frank Treda, Charles Harvey Jones, Orville Harold Utpadel, George Richard Stevens, transferred from Iowa, Robert Eddy Magiadry, transferred from International Falls.

In a report given to the Times, Ray Herton, chairman of Blooming Prairie's war chest drive, announces that funds collected to date fall nearly \$300 below the village's quota of \$1,200. Blooming Prairie has never failed to do its duty to our boys in service and suffering victims of the Nazis bloody butcherers.

Blooming Prairie's fire equipment got off to a tardy start Monday morning when the siren was sounded. A balky gasoline stove on the third floor apartment of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank occupied by the Grove Rysavy family caused a smoke smudge damage estimated at \$75 to the interior. The rooms had just been re-decorated. The blaze was extinguished before the fire equipment arrived.

And the winner of the Blossoms royalty contest is...



A few weeks ago the Times ran this old Homecoming photo asking readers to identify the royalty featured in the photo. We had many entries for the contest and all of them had the royalty correctly identified. This week we are pleased to announce Lori Arndt of Blooming Prairie was the grand prize winner of a pair of tickets to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre selected by a drawing. Arndt was in good company with help in naming everyone as her father, Dan Busho, is pictured on the far right side. Warren Peterson was the king while Kathy Thorson was the queen at Blooming Prairie High School in 1969. The royalty behind the king and queen were, from left: Gregg Johnson, Denise Olson, Brad Carey, Mary Walsh, Mavis Grunklee, Ken Kruckeberg, Carol Pelinka and Dan Busho. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest.

LAND PICKED

FROM A1

Jeff Fettters, CEO of Federated, said, "Federated believes that a strong educational system with supportive facilities is at the heart of what drives a successful community. The quality of life in Owatonna is more important than ever, not just for Federated Insurance, but for the future of this community."

Fettters said that Federated chose to purchase and donate the land to the school district. "If we can pass this referendum together, we believe the payoff for our citizens and the business community will be significant," he added.

The parcel, which is currently zoned interim agriculture, rose to the top of other options that were explored based on criteria that city, county and school district planners used to assess available land including traffic flow, proximity to utilities and soil conditions.

After a narrow referendum defeat by 120 votes in May, school officials spent the summer gathering community input to identify the reasons for the loss. Among other feedback, one question that came up frequently:

Where would a new high school be built?

Superintendent Jeff Elstad said the district worked hard to listen to the community and identifying this land is one of its many responses. "We are incredibly grateful to Federated for offering to donate the land to us, if the November vote is successful," Elstad said. "Their gift reduces the tax impact for our residents, which was another concern we heard," he added.

"This is a good site for a high school in terms of soil conditions, existing infrastructure and the long term development plan for the city," said Troy Klecker, Owatonna's community development director. Klecker worked with school staff, city engineer, county engineer and an independent engineer to review and assess various properties before settling on this parcel as the recommended location.

Residents can learn more about the upcoming referendum requests by visiting www.owatonna.proud.org. Questions may also be directed to 507-444-8650 or referendum@isd761.org.

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SOLAR WISE: solar energy on farm FROM A1

"We're going green and it's not tractors," said Karl. "We're green for the environment and the money."

For years, Nancy grew up on the farm being surrounded by pigs, cows, chickens and beef. The livestock is long gone, and now her childhood place features a solar farm. The Luikens have a single array of a 65-foot wide by 16-foot solar system with 40 panels.

Jay Peterson of American Energy installed the solar system for the Luikens. Peterson, who has been working with solar for the past five years, sells, designs and installs the entire system for solar customers. He said there are about 10 systems around the Blooming Prairie area.

Peterson estimated that the average home spends between \$30,000-\$50,000 to install the system. "It's not a cost, it's a definite investment," he said. He added there are many different financing options available.

He said there is a definite boom right now with solar systems. Peterson said as a society, we are becoming less dependent on fossil fuels. He believes there will always be a need for solar.

Solar energy is radiant light and heat from the sun that is harnessed using a range of ever-evolving technologies such as solar heating, photovoltaics, solar thermal energy and solar architecture. It is an important source of renewable energy.

In exchange for producing solar energy, the Luikens get a credit applied to their monthly invoice



Karl Luiken displays the snow rake he devised to keep the solar panels clear of snow and debris in the winter time. The solar system produces energy year round, and the Luikens pray for lots of sunshine in order to produce high amounts of energy.

from Steele-Waseca. "Some months the credit exceeds our usage so we get a check," Nancy says.

"As a consumer of energy, it reduces our dependency on buying electricity," said Nancy.

In addition to the savings on their energy bill, the Luikens also realized a 30% reduction on their personal income taxes last year. "We have no regrets, it really helped with taxes," she said.

The daily production of solar energy varies with the amount of sunshine produced by Mother Nature. The highest reading the Luikens have seen so far is 98.2-kilowatt hours in a single day. The average is usually in the 60s. In August, they reached 2.23 megawatt hours with a year-to-date total of 14 megawatt hours.

A print out of their usage shows that they have offset the equivalent of 40 trees from January through the end of August. Their carbon offset for just August was 1.54 tons.

The Luikens entered into a 10-year agreement with Steele-Waseca to produce solar energy at the urging of their neighbor, Rodney Krell, who is a board member of the local cooperative. Nancy expects to hit their return investment within five years. "The last five years would be profit," she said, adding after 10 years they would have the option to continue producing energy for their own gain. They can also add more solar panels in the future if they choose.

Besides the savings on electric bills, solar provides

many other benefits. Some of them include protection against rising energy costs, increase in property value, boost of U.S. energy independence and protecting the environment.

Karl and Nancy initially went to an informational meeting about solar energy offered through Steele-Waseca. "We found it's a good investment and we're protecting our environment," she said.

Community solar participation is open to all Steele-Waseca members.

Producing solar energy, the Luikens say, is relatively maintenance-free. "We really have to do nothing other than an exercise when they have snow on them," Nancy said. Karl devised a snow rake with a piece of Styrofoam on the end of it to use when snow piles up, which happened frequently last winter. "We have to go out there to scrape the snow off so they keep producing," he said.

Just off to the west horizon near the Luiken farm, there are many wind mills through Oak Glen Wind Farm, which are also producing energy. The Luikens are aware of reports indicating how wind mills are harmful to the environment, especially with birds. They are more pleased to be producing energy through solar.

The only problem with solar is that there needs to be lots of sun. Asked if they pray for sunshine, Karl responded, "Oh yeah."

Added Nancy, "We get real crabby when it gets cloudy."

"We're going green and it's not tractors. We're green for the environment and the money."

Karl Luiken
Solar Energy Producer

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VILLAGE AFFAIR: to be bigger than ever FROM A3

upcoming holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Craft exhibitors will bring these creations: hand sewn items, holiday items, hand woven rugs, scrap booking materials, baked goods, jewelry, ceramics, candles, handbags, pottery, wood pieces, painted wood, fabric items, jams and jellies, home decor items and much, much more.

Village Affair promoters urge attendees to come early and stay late within the 9 to 3 time frame.

Lunch will be served from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Food is prepared by Conger Inn Victory Catering. Meals to go are available.

The menu will include sloppy joes, chicken noodle hot dish, cole slaw and macaroni salad. Beverages and goodies are served all day.

"With over 75 craft exhibitors, we will see over 140 tables reserved," related Folkens.

Special treats will also be available at the concession stand and will include pies, bars, cheesecake, rolls and strudel. "We sold out totally last year," said Doocy.

Village Affair co-chairs Folkens and Doocy, believe this event brings many communities together. "It's a day for all ages and genders to shop and have fun," says Folkens.

Christmas is not that far away and this is a time to

begin Christmas shopping. Folkens and Doocy encourage.

Booths will be set up in the commons area, in one section of the gymnasium and in the east and west hallways.

Vendors come from all over. Look for exhibitors from these geographic areas: Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Mankato, Rochester, Faribault, Rose Creek, New Richland, Winona, Blue Earth, Geneva, Grand Meadow, Austin, Albert Lea, Madison Lake, Dodge Center, Waseca, Kasson and Ellendale. "There's something for everybody," Folkens said.

Hand knit, crochet, sewn and embroidered items will include: rugs, hats, scarves, mittens, children's sweaters, scrubbies, dish towels, dish cloths, pot holders, cross-stitch bread cloths, pillow cases, placemats, dolls and doll clothes, mittens, baby and kids quilts, bears, bibs, hooded towels, sheets, bibs and burpies, pillows, table runners, micro bowls, Christmas stockings, doll sleeping bags, quilted items and tote bags.

Other items include: jewelry of all kinds; night lights and lamps; soaps, candles, wax melts, goat milk soaps, lip balm, deodorant; home decor, florals, centerpieces; purses, sweatshirts, caps and wind chimes; holiday decor for

Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas; Rosemaling, Norwegian theme pottery; unique clothing and accessories for women and youth.

Look for these wood items: large assortment of hand-made wooden toys, barns, rocking horses, trucks; cutting boards, coat racks, stools, serving trays; small wood crafts, snowmen, signs; repurposed barn wood, decorated windows; bird houses and feeders, doll beds; seasonal wood decor, wreaths, swags; wood fire hand-painted signs and planters, signs and small furniture.

Check out these brand items: Norwex, Tastefully Simple, Essential Oils, Pink Zebra, Thirty One gifts, Lula Roe, Scentsy, Tupperware, Mary Kay, Stamping Up, Watkins, us borne books and do terra.

Shoppers at the Village Affair can pick up fall arrangements, holiday decor and of course, many items for Christmas. Many of the items are hand crafted.

Raffle tickets at \$2 each will be on sale, the prize being a goodie basket of items coming from Minnesota. Some of the items include honey, syrups, Minnesota made beer, wild rice and other items representative of Minnesota creations.

Folkens and Doocy both praise the 20-25 volunteer

workers from both the AAUW and Women of Today who help with this popular community event.

Funds from the event are directed to scholarships next spring. Students are encouraged to apply in April.



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7 PM - 10 PM

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ETHANOL WAIVERS: create another hit to farmers FROM A1

plants such as Al-Corn, and if they close or reduce production, it affects the corn farmer's bottom line.

"When a plant stops running, they stop buying corn from farmers," Doyle said.

Doyle serves on the board of directors of the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association, and they have been talking to government officials and legislators about the situation.

"We have talked to our politicians," Doyle said. "It doesn't matter which side of the aisle they are on."

Despite the downturn in ethanol production, Doyle said, that Al-Corn, which earlier this year completed a large expansion project, is not in any danger.

"We're okay," Doyle said, while adding they are also not making any money.

"We're very happy we expanded when we did,"

"We're okay... (but) not making any money."

Randall Doyle
Al-Corn Clean Fuel

he said. "It makes us much more efficient."

The trade war between the U.S. and China and the tariffs put in place have also had an effect on the ethanol industry.

One of the byproducts of ethanol is distillers grain, which is used in animal feed. China has been a big buyer of distillers grain, he said.

It was a good market, Doyle said, until the Chinese put a tariff on ethanol and distillers grain.

"China has not been a good player in the world market," Doyle added.

The lobbying efforts of groups such as the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association and

the increasing dissatisfaction of the farming community apparently was noticed by the administration.

In early October, the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA), which approves the waivers, announced a change to the biofuels mandates. Agency officials said that while the EPA would continue to issue the "hardship" waivers to small oil refineries it would make up the difference by requiring larger refineries to purchase more ethanol.

While the action was praised by agriculture groups, it was no surprise that it raised the ire of the oil industry.

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OWATONNA

STEELE-DODGE PIGSKIN MANIA 2019

WINNER: Colin Lepp of Dodge Center

FOOTBALL CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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

*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *

1. Maryland at Minnesota*

Football Contest Rules

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

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Bar and Grill

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Please come support your local youth hockey association pull tabs

1. Maryland at Minnesota*

2. Wisconsin at Ohio State

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Located in NAPA Auto Parts Building

3. Notre Dame at Michigan

4. Penn State at Michigan State



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5. Iowa at Northwestern

6. Illinois at Purdue

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www.toreys.net

7. Indiana at Nebraska

8. Oklahoma State at Iowa State



Kasson American Legion Post 333

DODGE COUNTY VETERANS
Informational meeting

October 23, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Todd Nelson, Veterans Services Officer will have information about new benefits and updates for veterans. Meeting held upstairs with a free meal at 6 pm and the meeting at 6:30 pm. All Dodge County area veterans are welcome.

9. Washington (NFL) at Minnesota (Oct. 24)

10. Green Bay at Kansas City (SNF)

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11. Los Angeles Chargers at Chicago

12. New York Giants at Detroit

Good Luck Teams!!

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100 Rev. Dr. M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-3903

Sen. David Senjem
District 29

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

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13. Philadelphia at Buffalo

14. Seattle at Atlanta

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15. Denver at Indianapolis

16. Carolina at San Francisco

OBITUARIES

*Elaine Joy Hanson, 92,
Owatonna*Elaine Joy
Hanson

Elaine Joy Hanson, 92, a long-time resident of Owatonna, died Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 at Columbine West Health and Rehab Facility in Colorado.

Elaine was born May 20, 1927 in Chamberlain, S.D., the daughter of Clarence and Anna Havlik. She graduated from Ellendale High School in 1945. She married Kenneth Hanson on May 20, 1945 at Zion Lutheran Church. The couple farmed near Ellendale for 22 years before moving to Owatonna in 1964.

Elaine worked at Josten's and later retired from Wenger Corporation. She was the epitome of what an executive secretary exemplified to Wenger Corporation executives.

Elaine and Ken built four different houses in Owatonna. Elaine loved decorating as was apparent by the beautiful interior finishes in each of her homes. She felt that Owatonna was the greatest place to live.

She loved all her friends in Owatonna and the surrounding towns and enjoyed all the fun activities involved in those friendships. Elaine and Ken thoroughly enjoyed their social relationships with other couples in the community and at their church. She is most remembered for her beautiful smile, sparkling blue eyes and great personality.

As her health deteriorated, she moved from Country-side Senior Living to Colorado in February of 2018 to be close to her daughter and son-in-law. She dearly missed Minnesota and all of her dear friends there.

Elaine is survived by her daughter, Lynn and son-in-law, John Suess in Colorado; grandchildren, Dion Hanson, Desiree Gether, Ryan Hanson and Dustin Hanson; great-grandchildren, Cress, Ridge and Drake Hanson and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth who passed in 2015; son, Dean and parents Clarence and Anna Havlik.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, at 11:30 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1909 St. Paul Road, Owatonna with Rev. John Weisenburger officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church.

Memorials preferred to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP Elementary

Oct. 16-18- NO SCHOOL
Oct. 21- Crispy chicken nuggets, whole grain dinner roll, hamburger on whole grain bun, golden French fries
Oct. 22- Chicken bites with sweet and sour sauce, brown rice, BBQ pulled pork sandwich, California blend vegetable. Apple crisp
Oct. 23- The "Mac" flatbread, BBQ rib sandwich, cucumber ranch salad

BP High School

Oct. 16-18- NO SCHOOL
Oct. 21- Sweet and sour meatballs, brown rice, California blend vegetable, apple crisp, cheeseburger on bun, chicken Caesar salad, ham deli sub, cereal bar
Oct. 22- Stromboli, garden salad, crispy chicken sandwich, chicken Caesar salad, ham deli sub, mashed potato bar
Oct. 23- The "Mac" flatbread, cucumber ranch salad, BBQ rib sandwich, chicken Caesar salad, chef salad, walking taco

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THE BOLD LOOK
OF KOHLER

Birthdays &
Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

OCT. 15

ROGER SORENSEN

BURNELL HANSEN

SCOTT MUSEL

OCT. 16

DARYL SMITH

HARPER MARIE ANDREWS

NANCY ILK

OCT. 17

SAMI NELSON, MELISSA KOHN

DEAN MESHKE

KATHY JOHNSON

BRAYTON CLAYTON

ERIC JOHNSON

OCT. 18

SHELBY MEIER, ADRIAN VANDAL

OCT. 19

KATHY ANDERSON

PAUL IVERSEN

LEAH THORSON

OCT. 20

ALLISON HENSRUD

BERGEN KLEMENSEN

JOAN HAGEN

TOM JOHNSON

OCT. 21

RENA ANDERSON

RYAN HANSEN, LISA MESHKE

HERMAN LEMBEK

OCT. 22

MAX SORENSEN

JAYDON BROWN

MICHAEL IVERSEN

CALEB BUSSLER

ANNIVERSARIES

OCT. 15

ROD & TESS JOSTER

TOM & MARTHA WALTERS

CURT & CINDY ESPLAN

JEREMY & LISA COOCHIN

OCT. 16

DON & PAM HAMEISTER

OCT. 17

DOUG & TAMMY JOHNSON

OCT. 19

ERIC AND JACKIE WAGNER

OCT. 20

JEREMY & AMY SIMON

BOB & JUDY REMKER

OCT. 22

KEVIN & AMANDA TOOKO

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COMMUNITY

Jeanne D. Lee, 83, Blooming Prairie

Jeanne D. Lee

Jeanne D. Lee, 83, lifelong resident of Blooming Prairie, died Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

Jean Diane Christianson was born March 8, 1936 at home on the family farm near Blooming Prairie. The daughter of Almer and Stella (Johnson) Christianson. She was baptized and confirmed at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, attended school in Blooming Prairie.

On June 13, 1957, Jean married Kenneth A. Lee, and they made their home in Blooming Prairie, raising their six daughters. Jean was a stay at home mom until her daughters were in high school, and she then went to work at Prairie Manor as a CNA. She loved caring for residents. Jean also loved baking, reading, puzzles and playing with her grandchildren. Jean taught all of her daughters to make lefse.

Survivors include her daughters, Lana (Jerry) Beckman, Nancy (David) Kahnke, Jacqueline (Paul) Smith, Kim (Terry) Trotman, Nicole Bigbee; son-in-law, Rodney Brown; 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren (and another one due soon); two brothers, Alan (Lois) Christianson, Brian (Donna) Christianson; two sisters, Ann Bardouche, Sharon (Dave) Fogal; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Norma and Marvin Amundson; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Almer and Stella Christianson; husband, Kenneth in 2008; son, Alan; daughter, Marsha Brown; son-in-law, Damian Bigbee; brother, Lynn Christianson; sisters, Ramona Mace and Phyllis Helle; brothers-in-law, Mason Mace, Hans Helle, Dave Bardouche, Robert E. Lee; sister-in-law, Charlene Christianson.

Memorial services were held on Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019 at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie. Interment was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019 in First Lutheran Cemetery, Blooming Prairie. Services are prearranged and performed with Worlein Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

BLOTTER: FROM A4

Oct. 9

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity at 36th St. NW and 21st Ave. NW in Clinton Falls Township at 5:54 p.m.

Oct. 10

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 12:15 p.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE in Medford at 4:26 p.m.

ARRESTS

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Jose Manuel Acosta-Martinez, 35, arrested at 1 a.m. Oct. 6, DWI, held for court.

Tyler Steven Britt, 24, arrested at 8:20 p.m. Oct. 6, domestic assault, held for court.

Charles Anthony Luckett, 27, arrested at 10:53 p.m. Oct. 6, DANCO violation, held for court.

Mohamed Aweis Mohamed, 31, arrested at 7 a.m. Oct. 7, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Melanie Jean Maki, 49, arrested at 5:18 p.m. Oct. 7, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Michael Lee Volkman, 38, arrested at 11:16 p.m. Oct. 4, DWI, \$12,000 bail.

David Joseph Steiner, 52, arrested at 12:10 a.m. Oct. 5, DWI, \$12,000 bail.

Abdullahi Abdiqadir Noor, 32, arrested at 2:03 p.m. Oct. 7, warrant arrest, held for court.

Alyssa Sabrina Smith, 21, arrested at 1:33 p.m. Oct. 10, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Sept. 29 - Oct. 6.

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Paul J. Kraklow, 34, Clear Lake, SD, possession of marijuana and revoked license, \$330; Sam M. Shar, 23, Austin, texting while driving and invalid license, \$230.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Craig E. Billings, 44, West Concord, seat belt, \$105; Ryan K. Brandvold, 35, Mazeppa, DWI, \$980, 2 days in county jail, Ignition Interlock program and 2 years of supervised probation; Michael W. Clark, 59, Byron, seat belt, \$105; Evan B. Cogswell, 20, Byron, failure to stop for school bus, \$580; Larry J. Fennert Jr., 35, Waldorf, texting while driving and speeding, \$160; Amanda J. Johnson, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Gregory O. Moen Englund, 37, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Joseph T. Peters, 30, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Shanden D. Ristau, 28, Rochester, give peace officer false name, \$180, 27 days in county jail, 10 hours of community service and 2 years of probation; Lloyd J. Robb Jr., 25, Mazeppa, seat belt, \$105; Travis Welchert, 29, Omaha, NE, seat belt, \$105.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

David S. Baum, 64, Glenview, IL, speeding, \$120; John S. Brundige, 43, Kasson, failure to obey traffic control device, \$130; James R. Dahl, 75, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130;

BOOK NOOK

Connect with your family at the library

Where did your family come from? Since the United States is a country of immigrants, most of us can identify with one or more foreign backgrounds. If you have been wondering about your family and about their stories and experiences, we invite you to attend a free program at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Thanks to coordination from SELCO (South East Libraries Cooperating) and funding from the Minnesota Library Legacy and the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment, professional genealogist Rick Crume will be speaking on How to Trace Your Family Tree on FamilySearch.org.

FamilySearch is a nonprofit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations and is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. You do not need to be a member of the church to use the website FamilySearch.org. The database that is available for free contains over two billion digital images, including books, microfilm, and other records. Users are also able to put their family tree online at no cost.

In the class you will learn how to search the databases on FamilySearch and how to share and preserve your own family's photographs and historic records on the website. And did I mention that this is all free? Come and find out how to connect with your family!

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Sudoku Corner



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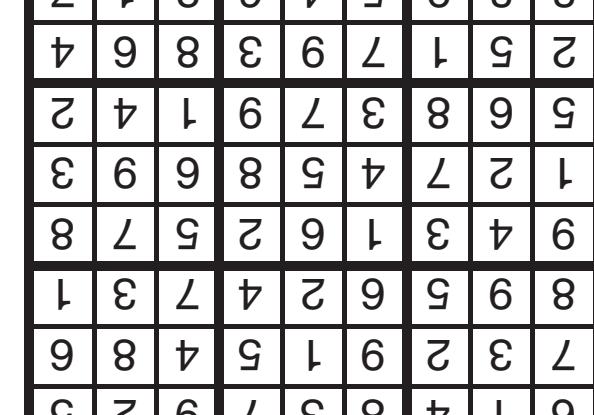
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County Assistance Accepted

Pet Friendly



Answers



Recipe Corner

Minnesota Wild Rice Soup

Makes 8 servings

1/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 quarts Chicken Broth
3/4 cup wild rice
1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
2 carrots, finely diced
2 leeks, white and light green parts, finely diced
3/4 cup heavy cream, hot
3 tablespoons dry sherry
2 celery stalks, finely diced
1/4 cup minced chives
3 tablespoons chopped parsley

Heat the butter in a soup pot over medium heat. Add the carrots, leeks and celery. Cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to low, add the flour; and stir well. Cook gently, about 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the broth gradually, whisking well with each addition to eliminate flour lumps. Bring to a simmer. Add the wild rice and salt. Continue to simmer until the rice is tender but still somewhat chewy, about 45 minutes. Stir in the heated cream and sherry. Season with salt. Serve in heated bowls, garnished with chives and parsley.

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

**Rev. Stephanie Wood**AURORA LUTHERAN,
OWATONNA

Love God and love others

The Greatest Commandments are a summary of the commandments of old, "You shall love God with all your heart, mind and soul. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Taken at face value it may seem fairly simple. Love God, love others. Yet, if it were as simple as it appears, why can I turn on the news and see the exact opposite? Is it because at the end of the day we place God in a box reserved for Sundays and only opened in cases of emergency? Is it because we only allow God to help us but not guide us? Or is it that it is just that hard to love God and others?

Loving God with all our heart, mind and soul can have so many

expressions. It may include worship, prayer, devotions and study of scripture. People earnestly tell me they don't have enough time for these activities and trust me, I know you are busy. I think of spiritual practices like going to the gym or for a walk. It can be a challenge to make the time or get out the door but once we go, we often feel better for having exercised. By being open to God folks have felt their world shift. They have found more joy, gratitude, patience and compassion. They've discovered a new purpose to their life. By opening ourselves to God, we open ourselves to be transformed.

To love God does not only include the ways we seek to connect with God, but it also means loving that which God loves. We hear of God's care for creation and especially that of humans. In the Gospels, we are asked to love our neighbor as ourselves. In response we collectively wonder, "who is our neighbor?" We like to narrow that term as much as possible. We want to love those who think like us, look like us and live like us. Yet God does not put limits on who is the neighbor, if anything Jesus broadens and challenges us to act with love beyond those with whom we are comfortable and familiar.

Bishop Desmond Tutu said "When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we hate. When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves. All of our humanity is dependent upon recognizing the humanity in others." Perhaps, just maybe, God commands us to love our neighbor not only for the sake of the other but also out of care for our own spirit. I challenge us all to deeply ponder the meaning of the greatest commandment and the words of Desmond Tutu. Wrestle with them in prayer and conversation. Invite God to continue to transform our hearts so that we may we continue to love God and love others.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE**LUTHERAN**

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN – ELCA

1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jamie
Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday &
Saturday: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight Dobell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS

202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA

2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floy

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS

108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA

7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

CATHOLIC**CHRIST THE KING**

205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6353

Father James Starasinch
Deacon Patrick Fagan

Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.

Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

307 SW First St., New Richland

Father Raul Silva
Fr. Adam McMillan,

Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL

9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna

Father Peter Schuster,
Parochial Administrator

507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com

Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
with Children's Church

8 a.m. Sunday
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Faith Formation classes for
K thru Confirmation

Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation

Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday

Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

150 NE Second St., Hayfield

507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.

& 8:30 a.m. Thursday

Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

SACRED HEART PARISH

810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna

Father John Sauer

Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588

www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.

Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.

Adoration:

8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

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507-684-2471

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna

Father James Starasinch

Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.

Reconciliation: 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

CHRISTIAN**CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT**

540 SE 18th St., Owatonna

Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor

507-451-1032

Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL**FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL**

230 Locust Ave., Owatonna

Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240

Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST**BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST**

43089 180th St., Medford

(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR 23)

Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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Group to hold rally for upcoming referendum

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It's time to rally the troops. Or perhaps more accurately in the case of an Owatonna group committed to getting people to vote yes to a new high school,

it's time to rally the voters. The Vote Yes Committee, which is a grassroots effort to promote an educated voter in support of the new Owatonna High School, is holding a referendum rally on Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 5-7 p.m. at the Eagles Club in

IF YOU GO:

What: Referendum Rally
When: Wednesday, Oct. 23, 5-7 p.m.
Where: Owatonna Eagles Club
Tickets: \$5 advance; \$6 at the door
Advance tickets available at Kottke's, Court Sports and CarTime

Owatonna. Advanced tickets are \$5 or \$6 at the door.

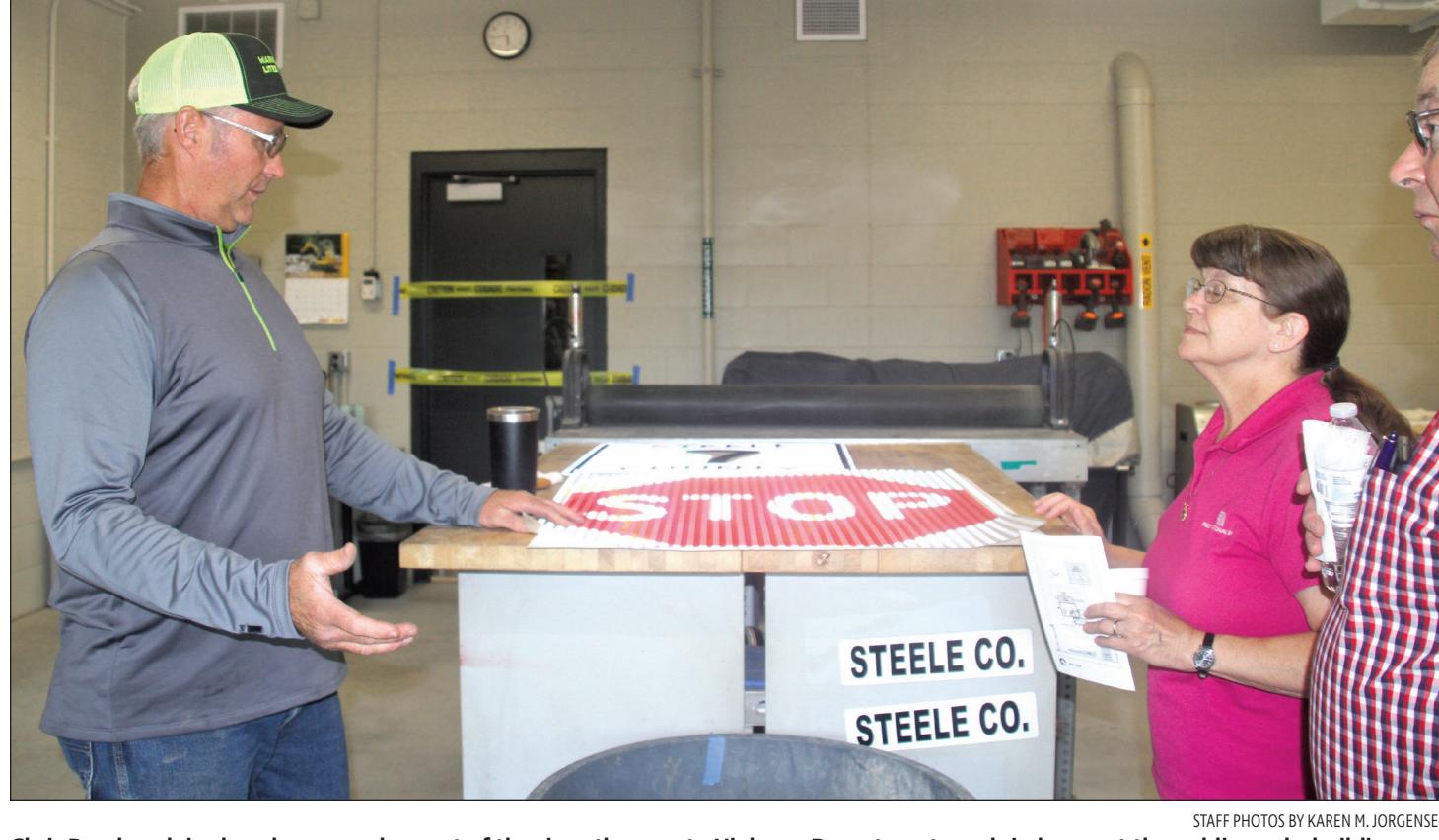
"It's a fundraising event, but even more than that, it's a time to get together," said Ryan Gillespie, a member of the Vote Yes Committee. "They may know the facts, but they can come

and celebrate with us. It's an affordable family supper night out."

Gillespie said there is no formal program planned, but information will be available about the upcom-

SEE GROUP TO HOLD RALLY, B7

UNDER ONE ROOF



Chris Deml explains how he can make most of the signs the county Highway Department needs in-house at the public works building meaning replacements can be in place quicker than if they were ordered and at less cost.

Residents get a look at new public works building

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

It has been a long time in coming, but last week Steele County residents finally got a look at the new Steele County Public Works building in Owatonna.

It was in 2010 that flooding severely damaged the county's highway maintenance building on Hoffman Drive. Since that time, the public works department has been operating out of the Steele County Annex.

Finally, after nearly a decade of planning and construction, all operations of the Public Works Department are together in one building, and the public was invited to tour the facilities.

The open house was held Oct. 7 and a steady stream of visitors stopped by to take a look at the building and also the trucks and plows and other equipment housed there. Tours were given to groups of visitors by county officials.

The new building, which has a footprint of about 37,000 square foot, puts all the administrative, engineering and maintenance operations under one roof, said Alan Forsberg, an engineer and the former interim director of the Steele County Highway Department. Forsberg was one of those leading the guided tours through the building.

The facility is as much a machine as a building, Forsberg said, and the building is very energy efficient. For example, he said, the lights will automatically adjust for the amount of light shining through



Visitors discuss the maintenance area where county trucks are repaired and also outfitted with snowplowing equipment for winter. A large crane makes moving heavy objects, such as plows, an easier job.

the windows. That natural light is prominent, he said, as even the overhead doors to the equipment bays have windows.

The building meets stringent state energy and recycling standards, county officials said.

Visitors got a look at the office areas but also the equipment bays where the county trucks are housed, the area where vehicles are maintained and repaired and a lab where technicians can test materials like gravel and concrete and calculate the correct "recipe" for the bituminous.

There is even an area where an employee can make the road and street signs that are needed by the county.

In the maintenance bay, an overhead crane allows heavy equipment like snowplows to be easily attached to the truck. Two mechanics are employed to keep the equipment in top shape, Forsberg said.

Perhaps because visitors were anticipating winter weather the snow plows and graders seemed to be attracting considerable attention.

The county has about a dozen trucks, he said, and two motor graders.

During the winter months, there are actually three plows attached to each truck along with a sander on the back. Tanks are also attached to the trucks for the brine that is applied to the road. The brine, he said, means less salt is needed.

The skill level to operate a snowplow is high, he said, as the operator must not only be able to drive the vehicle, but also operate three plows, the sander and the computer that determines how much sand and brine is needed.

Since salt is not good for steel trucks, he said, they must often be washed.

SEE UNDER ONE ROOF, B7

Board learns about school referendum

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During last week's regular county board session, Steele County Commissioners heard from Superintendent Jeff Elstad about the upcoming referendum on Nov. 5.

This new vote comes after a special referendum last May failed to pass. That ballot included the option for a \$116 million bond in order to build a new high school facility in Owatonna. The age and limitations of the current facility has seen the Owatonna School Board look to seek an alternative to the current facility.

"This process actually started back in the 2014-2015 school year and at that time a

task force was pulled together to examine all of the facilities in the school district," Elstad explained to the board. "In the fall of 2018, we reconvened the task force."

The task force studied the facilities and some of the work that had been done in the elementary schools, as well the greatest needs within the high school. "The five things and themes that really came forward were: parts of the building are nearly 100 years old, we have ongoing maintenance needs that are unfunded, we have large-ticket items that we simply don't have budgets to cover, safety and security concerns remain, and site size limitations."

The election in May of 2019

was a narrow failure for the district with a 120-vote difference. After the results, the district went back to the public to get their opinions. "We held community listening sessions and in addition we also collected anecdotal evidence," the superintendent said.

From that public input the district collected five key issues. "The first one was the cost of the last project proposal was too high, and within that then the tax impact was obviously a factor of the cost being too high," Elstad said. "There was also a notion around the current campus that we have and the thought was that in the last election most of the campus, if not all of it, would have been demolished."

Elstad explained that there was a strong sentiment, particularly in the neighboring households, of folks who wanted the district to look at a possible reutilization. The district was also asked by the public for a second opinion, which resulted in the suggestion of a similar solution.

Having heard from the public, the district will now seek to build a new school for a total cost of \$104 million. If the measure should pass, the school will be located on an 88-acre parcel of land. Federated Insurance has signed a letter of intent with the landowner to purchase the land and donate it to the district.

SEE BOARD LEARNS, B7

Representing your city

Prior to joining the City Council, it seemed so obvious what our city needed and what its elected officials needed to be doing. The past six years has taught me that often it is not as simple as it appears.

As a city official, there are many things that need to be taken into consideration before moving forward, such as State statutes, city budget, available funding from outside resources, code of ethics, to name just a few. Each project, whether it be one that is visible to residents such as street repair, or one that produces a final product like a Codification Manual, take a significant amount of time and resources, not only from your elected officials, but from city staff as well as you.

Each council meeting has time allocated on the agenda for residents to bring a concern or an idea to forward. While the council does not take action on items that are brought up in this time slot, there are a number of ideas and concerns that have been addressed as a result of these conversations.

As we move forward in 2020, there are a variety of things the council is working on, including 2020 budget, approval of a Codification Manual, and finalizing the sale of the Municipal Liquor Store. Each of these has an impact on every resident in the city, and the council welcomes your input. In addition to those items, the council has discussion on purchasing new equipment, nuisance properties, issues impacting the fire department, economic development and more.

I encourage you to reach out to all of us or one of us and let us know what you think. Our contact information is on the city website, www.cityofellendale.com. If you have concerns, ideas or want to provide input on what is happening in our community, I invite you to attend a council meeting. The council meets the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the City Office Building.

Your voice matters!

Stephanie Kibler lives in Ellendale and serves on the city council. **Steele Talkin'** is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER



Chubb's Brew-BQ draws crowd

STAFF PHOTOS BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN

The Beer Garden at the Steele County Fairgrounds was packed Saturday night as more than 450 family and friends of Juan Villarreal Jr. and fans of beer and BBQ came together for the fourth annual Chubb's Brew-BQ. The annual event is a tasting and competition that is also a fundraiser for the Juan Villarreal Jr. Memorial Fund. Juan "Chubb" Villarreal was passionate about making the world a better place and gave his time and talents to many local organizations, including The Crisis Resource Center of Steele County, Big Brothers Big Sisters and From the Heart. He died in 2015 from pancreatic cancer and the Brew-BQ was started to honor Villarreal and continue what he started. Proceeds from the Saturday event will go to The Crisis Resource Center. Top: The Leopards performed for the crowd in the afternoon while The Morning Kings took the stage in the evening. In addition to the tastings and the music, there was also a silent auction. Bottom: Patrons lined up at locations throughout the Beer Garden to sample the various barbecues in the competition. Right: There was beer from 10 brewers available for sampling. After trying the beverages, patrons were invited to vote for the Brewers People's Choice Award.



Rough now, smooth to come along Rose Street

Motorists have been wondering why the construction on Rose Street has seemingly left the westbound lanes with a rougher ride than before construction began. The Steele County Highway Department wants to assure motorists that the project isn't finished and that those bumps will be removed.

Those bumps are from concrete used to fill holes cut into the pavement to install dowel bars, a heavy-duty steel reinforcing bar that ties the concrete panels together, said Paul Sponholz of the highway department. He noted when the road was first built in the 1960s and 1970s, it was not common to install dowel bars. The contractor is now putting them in as a retrofit to help hold the panels together and spread the traffic loads from panel to panel, he said.

"Once the repairs are completed on the eastbound lanes, then the contractor will mill off a thin layer of the concrete pavement to smooth out all those bumps and make the pavement ride almost like new again," Sponholz said.

The current work on Rose Street is expected to last a few more weeks. The work is part of a two-year construction project expected to be completed by the end of summer in 2020.



The Steele County Highway Department says bumps along Rose Street in Owatonna, as shown above, will be removed in the coming weeks.

Signs to warn of bump at Owatonna railroad crossing

Recent construction at a railroad crossing in Owatonna will not change the bump motorists are experiencing.

County Highway 34, or 26th Street, from State Avenue to Cedar Avenue was closed on Tuesday as the Union Pacific Railroad replaced a rail at the crossing. The work was expected to take only a day.

Paul Sponholz of the county highway department said this work will not improve the bump over the

rail crossing. Several weeks ago, the Union Pacific Railroad changed the height of the rails, with one rail higher than the other, creating a significant bump that adjustments to the approach pavement cannot improve, according to Sponholz.

The county, Sponholz said, will be installing permanent bump signs with an advisory speed limit to warn motorists of the bump. Temporary bump signs are currently posted.

Keep eyes peeled for Palmer Amaranth this harvest



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

season because it can look quite similar to other amaranth (pigweed) species such as tall waterhemp, redroot pigweed, and smooth pigweed. However, the fall is a good time to be on the lookout, because it's when Palmer amaranth can stand out – literally – from the other pigweeds.

By the end of the growing season, Palmer amaranth can reach 5 to 6 feet tall with a 2 to 3 foot long seed head. This extreme height makes the fall harvest season a good time to look for it. In a field that was cut or mowed earlier in the season, look for anything that's had rapid regrowth. Another trait to look for is sharp bracts. The bracts that surround the many seeds on the female seed head are pointy and sharp when touched.

You're likely aware of the presence of Palmer amaranth in Minnesota. At this point, occurrences of this prohibited noxious weed have been intermittent, as plants have popped up in fields in Minnesota as relatively isolated cases. The most recent discovery was just a few weeks ago in a hay field in Houston County.

It can be challenging to identify Palmer amaranth throughout the growing

SEE **KEEP EYES PEELED**, B7

Cattlemen's convention set for Willmar

The 2019 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention is an event that brings together Minnesota farmers and ranchers, as well as many other beef industry stakeholders for educational opportunities, policy discussion and development, and a cattle focused trade show.

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association will host the 2019 annual convention and trade show Dec. 13-14 at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar. The 2019 convention will feature MSCA's annual Cattlemen's College series featuring timely topics and speakers that will help you defend your livelihood! Additionally, attendees will take in membership meetings and networking opportunities with fellow cattlemen and local, state and national leaders and beef industry partners.

• Keeping it Real: a panel of industry experts who have combated a lab-grown, synthetic or other substitutes posing as equals.

• Soil Health Sit Down: SWCD led conversations and demonstrations displaying the soil health impacts of overgrazing. This session will feature a rain simulator on representative pasture samples from various parts of the state

• Legislative updates from both the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Government Relations team and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association D.C. Team.

• MSCA Best of Beef Banquet and Annual Meeting

• Cattle focused Trade Show!

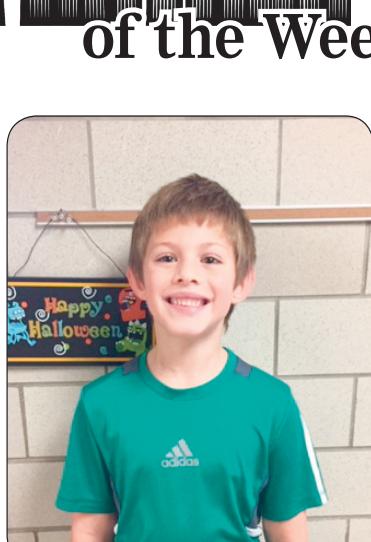
Registration is now open, sign up by visiting www.mnsca.org or by mailing in the registration from the October issues of the Minnesota Cattleman Newspaper. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western: (320-235-6060) and Holiday Inn: (320-231-2601). Both Hotels are connected to the convention center. MSCA special block rates are available until Nov. 12 or when the block is sold-out. When making reservations over the phone, please mention that you will be attending the Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show. Deadline to register for an exhibit booth and sponsorship opportunities is Nov. 23. Sponsorship opportunity details available at www.mnsca.org/news-events/convention

Special guests at this year's convention include Minnesota Millennial farmer; Zach Johnson, MSCA Legislative Advisor; Bruce Kleven, National Cattlemen's Beef Association Senior Director of International Trade and Market Access; Kent Bacus, along with many other agriculture industry leaders and elected officials from across the state. Other convention highlights include MSCA and MN Cattlemen annual meetings, live & silent auctions, setting 2020 legislative priorities and excellent networking opportunities with legislators, government agencies, beef industry partners and fellow cattle producers.

Key Agenda Items Include:

• Ask an Attorney: Updates on BMP's for protecting yourself from

NRHEG Panther of the Week



Jacob Lewer



NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Jacob Lewer. Jacob is the son of Amber and Dan Lewer and they reside in New Richland. He is in Ms. Nesbit's first grade class.

Jacob is a very hard worker and always willing to help others. He comes to school with a positive attitude and a smile on his face. Jacob loves school and wants to be a teacher when he grows up.

Keep up the great work Jacob!

47th Annual AAUW & BP Women of Today

Village Affair

Sat., Oct 26
9a.m.-3p.m.
LUNCH SERVED

10:45 a.m. -1 p.m.

Food prepared by

Conger Inn Victory Catering

BEVERAGES & TREATS

SERVED ALL DAY

OVER 75 VENDORS

FREE ADMISSION ~ Blooming Prairie High School

All Proceeds to Scholarships for Local Students

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

OCT. 17
1 p.m. – Kids Movie Time, BP Library

OCT. 21
7 p.m. – 7/8 Choir Concert, First Lutheran Church
7 p.m. – School Board Meeting, BPHS Media Center

OCT. 22
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
6 p.m. – Book Club, BP Library

OCT. 23
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
2 p.m. – Genealogy Program, BP Library

OCT. 25
7 p.m. – Speakeasy, Servicemen's Club

OCT. 26
Village Affair

OCT. 28
6:30 p.m. – Fire Relief Association Meeting

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

OCT. 18
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OCT. 22
6:30 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Elementary Gym

OCT. 23
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OCT. 21
10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
6:30 p.m. – NRHEG School Board Meeting, NR HS Media Center

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

OCT. 17
9 a.m. – Santa's Wonderland National Hiring Day, Cabela's
6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – History Uncorked, History Center

OCT. 21
6:30 p.m. – Ancestry.com: A Guide Presentation, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Medford Board of Education Meeting, Medford High School

OCT. 22
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime, Owatonna Library

3:30 p.m. – 4 Seasonz Market, North Cedar Avenue
4 p.m. – North Market, Grace Baptist
4 p.m. – Public Utilities Meeting, OPU
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building

OCT. 23
5 p.m. – Vote Yes Referendum Rally, Owatonna eGlaes

Owatonna church plans lutefisk dinner

Make plans to attend a popular fall tradition in Owatonna.

Trinity Lutheran Church will be having its annual lutefisk and Swedish meatball dinner on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 4-7 p.m.

The menu consists of lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, lefse, rutabagas, coleslaw and dessert.

There are two tiers of pricing for tickets: \$18 for both lutefisk and meatballs and \$14 for meatballs without lutefisk. Children 12 and under are \$6.

Tickets may be purchased in the church office at 609 Lincoln Ave. or online at tlcowatonna.org/lutefisk.

Parkinson's Support to meet Tuesday in Owatonna

The Owatonna Parkinson's Support Group will meet Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Owatonna Public Library in the Gainey Room, which is accessible by elevator.

Topic for discussion this month will be equipment and other aids to assist the Parkinson patient with mobility issues in the home. Michelle Olsen, physical therapist at Courage Kennedy Rehabilitation Center in Owatonna, will lead the presentation. Also present

will be suppliers of medical equipment to explain applications.

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

Halloween Bash to benefit Alzheimer's

Don't let this fundraiser scare you off.

The Owatonna Elks Club will be hosting a Halloween Bash on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 5 p.m.

Admission to the bash is \$10 per person with profits from the fundraiser

going to the Alzheimer's Association.

The third annual bash will feature sloppy joes and sides from 5-7 p.m., Tri Eight Band beginning at 7:30 p.m. and a costume contest and raffle at 9 p.m. There will be an opportunity to win prizes.

Forum to feature Freedom Foundation CEO

The Steele County Republican Party is looking forward to bringing Annette Meeks to Owatonna on Monday, Oct. 21 for a free-to-the-public forum at the VFW at 135 Oakdale at 7 p.m.

Annette Meeks is the founder and CEO of The Freedom Foundation of Minnesota. The Freedom Foundation is an educational and research organization that advocates the principles of individual freedom, economic freedom, personal responsibility, and limited government. Meeks served as deputy chief of staff for



Annette Meeks

House Speaker Newt Gingrich during his time in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is often asked to give comment on the political landscape on the Minnesota Public Television Show "Almanac."

Co-Chair Pam Seaser says, "Annette has a very interesting list of jobs and positions in the political world starting with Newt Gingrich in Washington, D.C. and most recently as the CEO of Minnesota's Freedom Foundation. Please join us for this discussion and time for questions and answers from the audience."

Fundraiser planned for man injured in crash

A fundraiser is planned for Ross Baumgartner and family.

The fundraiser dinner will take place Saturday, Nov. 9 from 5-10 p.m. at the Owatonna Elks Club, 126 E. Vine St. There will be a social hour at 5 p.m. followed by a dinner at 6 p.m. and a silent auction throughout the event.

Tickets for the BBQ dinner are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at Tri M Graphics and Kottke's in Owatonna. If anyone

would like to donate to the silent auction, items can be dropped off at the Elks Club.

Baumgartner was involved in a serious car crash in August and thankfully he survived. However, he is still at home healing and dealing with the pain with no idea of when he will be able to go back to work. The events surrounding what happened have left him in great financial need.

Family and friends are hosting the fundraiser.

Halloween fun for kids at the Arts Center

In celebration of Oktoberfest, a month long membership drive, the Owatonna Arts Center will be having a Halloween party.

The party will be on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 1-4 p.m. at the Arts Center, 435 Garden View Lane, Owatonna.

The activities will be geared towards pre-school-5th grade and all families are welcomed to attend. The Arts Center encourages everyone to dress in costume.

There will be Halloween art activities, simple games, spooky story time, monster dance and mystery Halloween boxes. People are also encour-

aged to take a selfie with a Halloween character cut out or take home a Polaroid memento, which has a recommended \$2 donation.

The Arts Center will be serving chilled organic with no sugar added fruit juice and organic fruit snacks. There will also be organic apple sauce for trick or treaters to eat at the center or take home.

"Make us one of your many Halloween stops this year," said Karly Ohnstad, education coordinator with the Arts Center.

The Arts Center encourages and celebrates the creative and performing arts that enrich the human spirit.

Dinner to honor military vets

A free dinner will be offered for all military veterans.

The 10th annual Veterans Day Dinner will take place on Monday, Nov. 11 at 5 p.m. at the Owatonna Elks Club. A roasted turkey buffet will be served from 5-6 p.m. with musical entertainment from 6-9 p.m. Music will

be performed by Ryan Herman.

The Blooming Prairie Police Department Explorer Post members will be assisting with the event.

All military veterans will be honored at the dinner.

Reservations are requested by Nov. 8 at 507-451-1395.

Chance to go down and under

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.

Donate blood to help those fighting cancer

enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a thank-you, those who come to give blood or platelets during the month of October will automatically be entered for a chance to win one of five \$500 gift cards redeemable at hundreds of merchants, courtesy of Tango Card. Terms apply; see rcblood.org/game.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Oct. 16-31:

DODGE

Dodge Center
Oct. 24: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., American Legion, 401 Highway St. W.

Kasson
Oct. 25: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Anytime Fitness, 110 W. Main St.

FREEBORN

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

Oct. 29: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Riverland Community College, 2200 Riverland Drive

ALDEN

Oct. 28: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Alden Conger High School, 215 N. Broadway

MOWER

Austin
Oct. 18: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Cedars of Austin, 700 1st Drive NW

Oct. 21: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., Our Saviors Lutheran, 1600 W. Oakland Ave.

Oct. 22: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Our Saviors Lutheran, 1600 W. Oakland Ave.

Oct. 23: 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Our Saviors Lutheran, 1600 W. Oakland Ave.

Oct. 31: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1600 W. Oakland Ave.

STEELE

Owatonna
Oct. 16: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Buffalo Wild Wings, 1100 Frontage Road

Oct. 18: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Famous Dave's, 4355 W. Frontage Road

Oct. 21: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Driessen Culligan, 110 W. Fremont St.

Oct. 28: 1 p.m.-6 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 S. Lincoln Ave.

Waffle queen to speak in Owatonna

The Nortonna Lodge

1-638 of the Sons of Norway will meet Monday, Oct. 21, at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 East Vine St. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$10, and the meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Stine Aasland, the Waffle Queen of Norway, will be the guest speaker. Aasland purchased a gas station franchise in Oslo and started what became Norway's largest waffle company. She sold the company in 2014 to come to the United States and

share her love of Norwegian waffles. She started Nordic Waffles here in Minnesota. They just completed their second year of selling waffles at the Minnesota State Fair and will soon open their first location at Rosedale Mall.

Come and learn about Nordic waffles and the important role they play in Norwegian culture.

If you would like more information on the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Cindy or Paul Hokanson at 507-451-9301.



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INSIDE THIS EDITION

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UNSTOPPABLE

Blossoms keep perfect season alive by pounding BA

Another team that is proving to be unstoppable this season is the Blossoms football team. Blooming Prairie crushed Faribault Bethlehem Academy 48-6 Friday night in Faribault.

The victory kept Blooming Prairie's unbeaten season alive at seven games.

Blooming Prairie didn't waste time Friday night as it got on the scoreboard quickly with a 28-yard pass from Kaden Thomas to Gabe Hagen for a touchdown. Carson Brennecke's extra point kick was good to put the Blossoms up 7-0, a lead that would prove to be all the Blossoms needed for the night.

A few minutes later, Thomas connected with Alex Baldwin on a 16-yard pass for a touchdown. Brennecke kicked the extra point again.

In the second quarter, BP's Cole Christianson intercepted a BA pass, setting up yet another scoring opportunity for the Blossoms. Bradley Simon rushed for 25 yards to score BP's third touchdown of the game. Brennecke connected on his third extra point kick.

The Blossoms added another touchdown with

about three minutes left in the half. Thomas scored a touchdown on a 1-yard rush. Brennecke once again put up the extra point kick, giving BP a 28-0 lead at half time.

The third quarter proved to be the most explosive offensively for the Blossoms as they piled on three touchdowns. The first was Simon with a 59-yard rushing effort and Brennecke with the extra point kick.

Faribault finally got on the scoreboard with about six minutes left in the third quarter.

Blooming Prairie came roaring back with yet another touchdown a few minutes later when Thomas connected on an 11-yard pass. The extra point kick was good again from Brennecke.

The final touchdown of the game came when Thomas hauled a 23-yard pass to Baldwin for a touchdown, putting the Blossoms up 48-6.

The Blossoms (7-0) host Medford tonight (Wednesday) for the final regular game of the season. The Tigers go into the outing with a record of 3-4. Medford lost to Kenyon-Wanamingo 14-0.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Blooming Prairie's Matthew Pryor (28) uses his strength to pull through a group of Faribault BA defenders Friday night. The Blossoms kept their unbeaten season alive by killing BA 48-6.

GAME SUMMARY

Blossoms 48, Faribault BA 6

Blooming Prairie	14	14	20	0-48
Faribault BA	0	0	6	0-6



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Carson Brennecke (23) punts the ball late in the game against Faribault with Bradley Simon (7) holding the ball for him. Brennecke connected on six extra point kick attempts in the game.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

BP's Gabe Hagen (8) and Mitchell Fiebiger (81) charge after a Faribault player during Friday's game, which not only featured a lot of Blossom scoring, but also wind, cold and snow showers.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

The Blossoms' Alex Baldwin attempts to catch a pass with a Faribault BA defender getting in his way. Baldwin missed on this particular catch, but connected on a couple others in the game to score touchdowns for BP.

Huskies crush yet another opponent



The Huskies' Tanner Hall (27) leaps through the air with the ball in hand as an East player tried to take him down from behind.

Unstoppable is probably the best way to describe the Owatonna Huskies football team. On Friday night, the team was back to the usual devouring of opponents that fans are used to by pummeling Mankato East 44-0.

The victory pushed Owatonna's winning streak to 26 games over the past three seasons. It also lifted head coach Jeff Williams to his 180th win at Owatonna, surpassing Jerry Peterson's total during 30 years of coaching.

Williams has put together a record of 180-71 in 24 seasons at Owatonna.

Friday's victory was impressive on several accounts. First, the Huskies racked up 44 points. And second, Owatonna's defense shutout Mankato East. Owatonna has outscored its opponents 318-61 this season. This was the second shutout of the year for the Huskies. The other one came against Northfield 63-0.

In Friday's game, the Huskies dominated the entire contest. Five players scored touchdowns during the game, including Tanner Hall, Matt Williams, Solomon Havelka, Brayden Truelson and

Jerez Autridge. Hall had two touchdowns in the game. Talis Alwes successfully connected on six extra point attempts.

Hall led the Huskies' offensive attack with 190 yards of rushing. With 11 receiving yards, Hall finished the game with 201 total yards. Autridge rushed for 70 yards while Havelka chipped in with 35 yards.

The passing game belonged to Truelson who connected on 5 of 9 attempts for 55 yards. Havelka successfully threw the ball for 13 yards.

Defensively, Isaac Gefre led Owatonna with four solo tackles. Hunter Menden and Hudson Aase had one sack each in the game.

The Huskies (7-0) will take on John Marshall in Rochester tonight (Wednesday). The Rockets come into the final game of the regular season with a 3-4 record. In their last game, the Rockets killed Faribault 35-0.

Owatonna will get a first-round bye in the playoffs. The Huskies will open their quest for yet another state championship Saturday, Oct. 26 in Owatonna.

SEE HUSKIES CRUSH, B6



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Blooming Prairie



PHOTO COURTESY RONDA STALOCH

Fumbles were abundant thanks to the cold and flurries Friday night. NRHEG's Maverick Knutson (76) causes one of the fumbles early in the game, though it wouldn't be nearly until the end of the game before the Panthers got on the scoreboard. NRHEG came out on top in a low scoring game 7-0.

Low scoring affair puts NRHEG on top

There was little offensive punch to be found Friday night between NRHEG and Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial. But in the end NRHEG came out on top 7-0 in what resembled more of a baseball score than football. It proved to be the lowest scoring game of the season for the Panthers.

The only offensive highlight of the game came in the fourth quarter with 6:45 left in the game when NRHEG's Lonnie Wilson sprinted for an 86-yard run across the field for a touchdown. Ben Schoenrock added the point after kick to give the Panthers a 7-0 lead.

Wilson finished the game with 93 yards on eight rushing attempts. Kordell Schlaak added 42 yards on 15 runs. The Panthers topped Lake Crystal in rushing with 153 total yards to LC's 77 yards.

NRHEG didn't have much of a passing game as quarterback Blake Ihrke only had one completion in the game for nine yards. He threw one

interception on the night.

Lake Crystal overpowered NRHEG in passing with 81 yards compared to Ihrke's nine yards.

Ihrke also led the Panthers defensively with one tackle and one sack.

Lake Crystal committed five turnovers in the game compared to

NRHEG's two. LC had three penalties for 15 yards while the Panthers had four for 30 yards.

With the victory, the Panthers improved their season record to 3-4. NRHEG closes out its regular season tonight (Wednesday) at Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop in Winthrop.

GAME SUMMARY

Panthers 7, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 0				
PASSING	Comp.-Att Yds.	TD	Int.	
Blake Ihrke	1-6 9	0	1	
RUSHING	No. Yds. Avg.		TD	
Lonnie Wilson	8 93 11.6	1		
Kordell Schlaak	15 42 2.8	0		
Nick Staloch	7 18 2.6	0		
RECEIVING	No. Yds. Avg.		TD	
Lonnie Wilson	1 9 9	0		
DEFENSE	Tackles Sacks	Int.		
Blake Ihrke	1 1 0			
Kordell Schlaak	0 0 1			
Teddy Gushwa	0 0 1			



The Panthers' Kordell Schlaak (1) intercepts the ball from Lake Crystal and takes off with it during the low scoring game Friday night. His interception proved to be one of the defensive highlights of the game.



NRHEG's Nick Staloch (22) tipped away a Lake Crystal pass during Friday's football contest that featured none other than snow flurries and cold temperatures. The weather appeared to keep the teams from producing points as NRHEG topped LC only by a score of 7-0. It was also Tackle Cancer Night as Panther players wore pink to show their support for people battling cancer.

FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Mid Southeast- White Conference

	Conference	Overall
Blooming Prairie	4-0	7-0
Goodhue	3-1	5-2
Randolph	2-2	5-2
Faribault BA	1-3	2-5
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-3	3-4
Medford	1-3	3-4

Big Southeast- Red Conference

	Conference	Overall
Owatonna	5-0	7-0
Mankato West	4-2	5-2
Century	3-2	5-2
Mayo	3-2	4-3
John Marshall	2-3	3-4
New Prague	1-4	3-4
Northfield/Arcadia	0-5	1-6

South Central- Blue

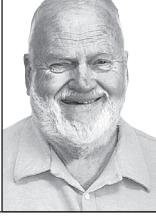
	Conference	Overall
Maple River	4-0	5-2
Martin County West	4-0	5-2
Gibbon-Fairfax	2-2	5-2
NRHEG	2-2	3-4
Lake Crystal	0-4	1-6
Le Sueur-Henderson	0-4	1-6

Football State Rankings

Class A
 1- BOLD- Olivia
 2- Blooming Prairie
 3- Springfield-Comfrey
 4- Ada-Borup
 5- United South Central- Wells
 6- Minnesota
 7- Mayer Lutheran

Class 2A
 1- Caledonia
 2- Paynesville
 3- Barnesville
 4- Chatfield
 5- North Community- Mpls.
 6- St. Charles
 9- Triton- Dodge Center
 24- Medford

Class 5A
 1- Owatonna
 2- Wayzata
 3- Robbinsdale Armstrong
 4- Caledonia
 5- Hutchinson
 6- Lakeville South
 7- Eden Prairie
 8- Lakeville North



Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

It is becoming difficult to come up with new ways to describe the 2019 football season for the Awesome Blossom football team and their march through the regular schedule. Victory number seven last Friday night proved another easy win, and they are within one win of another undefeated regular season.

The team also rose in the state rankings to number two, a well-deserved ranking in my opinion. The win illustrated once again the balance between offense and defense that this team has displayed, and both entities have man-

ufactured an equal infinity for excellence. BP closes out the regular season tonight (Wednesday) when they entertain Medford. This is a Wednesday game because MEA convention takes over on Thursday and Friday.

With a win over Medford, the team will be

assured of the No. 1 seed

in the district playoffs, and

they should get two home

games barring an upset.

Hopefully, the weather will

cooperate with something

less than freezing temps

and snow. Another tip of

the hat this week to the

Awesome Blossom football

team.

The volleyball team

notched a couple of wins

early last week, but the

team was no match for

the powerhouse Medford

squad. The Tigers domi-

nated the Blossoms and

are on the way to a possi-

bility conference title. The locals

continue to play hard, and

I like their attitude on the

court. Thanks, girls.

MOVING DAY

It is now official. I am permanently in residence in Richfield. We closed on the sale of my house on Thursday, and I have left a host of friends back here in this community. I just hope that the separation is not permanent, and occasional meetings with friends will occur.

One of the highlights concerning the sale we held at the house was the assistance provided me in moving furniture out. My friend Per Kvalsten offered to do that difficult task, which he did. But it was the help he recruited that was so impressive. He made a Facebook plea for help, and in minutes the Blossom football team volunteered. Twenty-seven football players reported to the house, and it took them exactly 11

minutes to empty the house of furniture. For that act of kindness, I am deeply indebted, and I sincerely thank the team for the assistance.

LAST THOUGHTS

Although I have officially cut ties with the community, I have called this my home for over 60 years, and the town and community will always be an art of me. To teach in the school system for 35 years, raise three daughters, participate in community event and sing for 60 years in my church choir have left lasting impressions and will guarantee my never forgetting all those years. I sincerely thank all the friends and acquaintances I have made.

WHAT'S UP?

The big Lutefisk Day is now history for another year, and I missed it again.

I have often mentioned that my grandmother and other relatives always made me try some at our Christmas feasts, but it remained a delicacy that I have always been able to avoid. Some-

how, it has never made a tasty impression on me.

A rather unique event that the local chamber of commerce has created and carried through is the annual Manufacturers' Luncheon, which this year is coming up on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

We often daydream about having more manufacturing settle in our community, but for a town our size, we actually do quite well. I won't name all of them here, but it is a generous project to honor all the companies we do have. Many would probably be surprised at the local number. Congratulations to them all.

The biggest event of the month each year is the

Village Affair on Saturday, Oct. 26. I will have one more week to publicize this occasion, but the date is just a little over a week away, and it isn't too late to mark the date down on calendars. Over 70 vendors from all over the area will

convene at the local high school to display their wares and give buyers a good chance to get some pre-Christmas presents safely in one's possession.

Homemade crafts of all manner will be for sale, and customers from near and far will be in hand to take advantage of these products, and the all-day event will offer bargains for everyone. We will see you there.

If members of families haven't already been involved, jack-o-lantern carving is also on the agenda for October. After all, Halloween is not far off. Get busy with that, and we'll talk again.

Marching forward with ease



Members of the Owatonna boys cross country team complete the final leg of their 48-mile homecoming run Oct. 4. They are pushing Adam Beer, a teenager who is blind and has various disabilities. Beer has been adopted by the team as an honorary cross country player.

Team adopts teen with special needs as honorary member

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

This year's homecoming run for the Owatonna cross country team was a little extra special as members completed their final leg around the track.

They pushed Adam Beer around the track in his three-wheel cart, a gesture of their commitment to a teenager with special needs. Prior to arriving at the track, the team pushed Beer from Morehouse Park to the high school. Beer is blind and disabled, according to Dave Chatelaine, veteran cross country coach for Owatonna.

Though Beer doesn't attend Owatonna High School, it hasn't stopped the cross country team from claiming him as one of its own. Beer, who lives

in Owatonna, attends the State School in Faribault.

"He has a lot of disabilities. He doesn't have a chance to socialize with kids his age," said Chatelaine, who has served as Owatonna's cross country coach for 29 years. "Our kids get an understanding and appreciation of disabilities."

This is actually the third year Beer has been connected with the cross country team. Beer's grandfather lives on Brooktree Golf Course where the team often practices. Some took notice of Beer hanging out in the area and immediately began bonding with him.

"I don't want to say he is a mascot, but he's a big supporter of our team," Chatelaine said. "We have grown to appreciate him," he added.

The homecoming run has been an annual ritual for the cross country team since 2006. Chatelaine said a couple team captains at the time approached him about doing a run for the football team. Cross country members carry a football from the opposing team's community back to Owatonna.

This year the team completed a 48-mile journey from Mankato West to the high school. It took the team about 5 1/2 hours to complete the run. Two kids usually run together for 2-mile stretches. At the end of the journey, about 6-8 kids join in with running with the football.

For safety reasons, they utilize back roads for the journey, and they are transported in certified vans.

"While the kids are

running, we are always keeping track of the kids," Chatelaine said. He added they have never experienced any problems associated with the homecoming runs.

The longest jaunt the team has done is 92 miles from Winona to Owatonna. It takes the team nearly 12 hours to complete that route.

There are 44 team members in grades 7-12 participating in cross country this fall.

Regarding the homecoming run, Chatelaine said, "They love it. It's one of their favorite things of the season."

He added the team was disappointed last year when the run was cancelled because of the small tornado that swept through Owatonna the night before homecoming.

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The modest two-game win streak for the Blossom volleyball team ended abruptly on Oct. 8, at the hands of conference favorite Medford 25-12, 25-18, and 25-12. The Tigers dominated the match on the BP court.

Trihus and Worke stayed strong at the net with 14 and 13 kills respectively. The two combined for 10 blocks, and Megan Oswald contributed 6 kills. Pirl added 3 aces and had 12 assists, and Bruns had 15 assists and 6 digs. It was a good win for the Blossoms.

second straight match victory, when the Blossoms defeated Lyle-Pacelli in four games on Oct. 7. The contest at Pacelli featured a couple of dominant wins for the Blossoms and a stumble in game three. A regrouping gave BP the fourth game win. BP won 25-8 and 25-17, lost 17-25 and won 25-11.

Trihus and Worke stayed strong at the net with 14 and 13 kills respectively. The two combined for 10 blocks, and Megan Oswald contributed 6 kills. Pirl added 3 aces and had 12 assists, and Bruns had 15 assists and 6 digs. It was a good win for the Blossoms.

NRHEG volleyball posts wins

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

NRHEG 3, TCU 2

NRHEG won the first set against TCU, lost the second and third games, but rebounded to take game four and the decider for a five-game match win on Tuesday, Oct. 8. The fifth game had to go into overtime points for the Panther win.

The Panthers came out strong and won game one 25-16, but TCU dominated the next two games, 25-19 and 25-22. NRHEG retrenched and edged the Titans 25-21 in the fourth and then escaped with overtime 16-14 victory in game five. It was a hard-fought match from beginning to end.

Stork led the team at the net with 16 kills, and Johnson added 10, and scrambled for 16 digs in the match. Tufte had 35 assists, and Nissen contributed 15 digs and an ace serve.

"We came out strong," commented Coach Peterson, "but had a letdown in the middle games. I was proud of the girls the way they came back to win the match."

Sophie Stork and Kendall Johnson had 14 and 12 kills, and they both piled up 20 digs. Cambria Nissen added 14 digs and 7 ace serves, and Grace Tufte amassed 34 assists for the night. The Panthers improved their overall record to 15-14, and are 2-4 in conference play.

"We came out strong," commented Coach Peterson, "but had a letdown in the next two, but then regrouped for winning games. It was great to see the girls come out and fight back for the win."

JV wraps up season 5-1 on gridiron

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

zone for the two-point conversion.

K-W scored on their next possession after a long run moved the ball to the one, the Knights counted the touchdown, but the conversion attempt was stymied at the goal line. The Blossoms then scored what would be the winning touchdown in the second quarter.

BP took the opening kickoff and drove the length of the field. The drive culminated with a 5-yard run by Lane Lemke on a Drew Kittelson lateral. After stopping the Knights on their possession, the Blossoms marched again. Tyler Archer took a handoff from Kittelson and rumbled 15 yards for the touchdown. Cade Christianson found Kittelson in the corner of the end

As Coach Piller commented, "It was nice to get everyone into the game, and our defense played pretty well overall. To get five wins from six games marks a very good season, and this team deserved that record."

Medford sweeps BP netters



Owatonna's defense put on quite a show Friday night as it shutout Mankato East 44-0. Several Huskies gang tackle and take down a Mankato ball handler. Involved in the tackle are Ethan Rohman (71), Matt Seykora (21) and Isaac Gefre (33). Carter DeBus (70) looks on as his teammates devour the Mankato player.



Junior Brayden Truelson sets, looks and goes back to pass in Friday's contest against Mankato East. The Huskies continued their winning ways by shutting out East 44-0.



STAFF PHOTOS BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN

The front office area is the first area a visitor sees when they enter the public works building. In this case, Erin Edel, the department accountant, was on hand to talk to visitors at the open house.

UNDER: one roof FROM B1

The salt water from the washing process goes into a pit and goes through sediment traps before the water goes into the sewer system, he said.

The building meets all the current needs for the county, officials said, but

provisions were made for future expansion if needed.

In addition to the main building, the 45-acre site also includes a fuel system, sand and salt storage shed and a pole barn storage building.

Site work began in 2017 with the building construction started in the summer of 2018. The maintenance staff has been operating out of the building since spring with the administration and engineering staff moving in over the summer.

GROUP TO HOLD RALLY: for upcoming referendum FROM B1

ing Nov. 5 referendum to build a new high school. "We are an advocacy group to make sure people have access to the facts," she said.

Social media, Gillespie said, is not always a reliable source for information. She knows people get information in different ways, but hopes that people will reach out for the truth. She identified phone calls, personal conversations and local newspapers as the best ways to get accurate and reliable information. "Anyone can post anything on social media," she says. "People need to dig deeper for the facts. They need to put extra energy into learning the facts."

Vote Yes is particularly targeting the "30 something" age bracket, which includes younger families with children starting out in the school system. "It's

critical that they understand," Gillespie said. "We are trying to get parents to understand how critical their vote is and to get involved," she added.

The group recognizes that the referendum is an emotional topic in the community as many people have an emotional attachment to the current school. "Owatonna is a rural community, and it's tough to pass a referendum when it means a tax increase," Gillespie concedes. But, she quickly points out, a new high school is long overdue for the community.

"I have spent a fair amount of time in the high school," Gillespie said, "it's eye opening how well it has served its purpose, but it's not meeting the needs of our students now."

She has traveled to some "stunning efficient schools"

around the state. "It's hard to understand why we haven't cracked that milestone in our own community," she said.

Gillespie, who was born and raised in Owatonna, got involved with Vote Yes as one of the original committee members. She graduated from Owatonna in 2000 and has a son in the middle school. "I grew up with the mindset that education is incredibly important," she said. "Our whole family is in the community, and I won't go too far."

She finds it exciting to see people have access to the correct information regarding the referendum.

"We know people are tired and want to vote to be done," Gillespie said. "But we want good energy and bringing people together is the best way to do that."

PUBLIC RECORDS

STEELE COUNTY BIRTHS JANUARY 2019

Isaac Eduardo Saldivar, Parents: Iris and Jose, Jan. 2. Ashley Julianna Portillo Lemos, Parents: Hermila Lemos Saabeda and Ivan Portillo, Jan. 2. Monroe Presley Martha King, Parents: Terry and Gerald, Jan. 2. Jack Archer Lehman, Parents: Brittaney and Randy, Jan. 3. Ethan Miles Larsen, Parents: Kristina and Martin, Jan. 6. Richard Lee Bayardo Jr., Parents: Ginnette and Richard, Jan. 8. Raven Haze Bayardo, Parents: Ginnette and Richard, Jan. 8. Ellaria Grace Mireles, Parents: Chrystal and Fernando, Jan. 10. Cora Jo Zak, Parents: Ashley and Justin, Jan. 10. Theodore Warren Heintz, Parents: Amy and Benjamin, Jan. 11. Savannah Grace Herr, Parents: Melissa and Anthony, Jan. 11. Damien Gauge Cooklin, Parents: Stephanie and Jacob, Jan. 12. Aystyn Echo Anderson, Parents: Jacqueline Wilson and Darnell Anderson, Jan. 14. Maverick Matthew Clark, Parents: Macie and Matthew, Jan. 14. Xander Creed Rucker, Parents: Diamond Barajas and Christopher Rucker, Jan. 14. Addison Knoll Sveen, Parents: Kaley and Nicholas, Jan. 16. Harper Ann Glende, Parents: Ashley and Brent, Jan. 16. Vincent Lee Barker, Parents: Casey and Jordan, Jan. 17. Elsie Mae Woltmann, Parents: Corinne and Luke, Jan. 17. Will Daniel Woltmann, Parents: Corinne and Luke, Jan. 17. Zayed Ali Muhidin, Parents: Fadumo Ali and Ali Sheik, Jan. 17. Cade Bryan Lamont, Parents: Stephanie and Bryan, Jan. 17. Kayden Grant Kaplan, Parents: Dana and Jacob, Jan. 18. Elias Victor Lorenz Hansen, Parents: Chelsea and Joel, Jan. 18. Piper Nadine Schiltz, Parents: Jana and Bradley, Jan. 20. Arach Ojulu Lero, Parents: Warkey Buja and Ojulu Gweel, Jan. 22. Sagal Abdi Kadir Abdi Dubat, Parents: Zamzam Jimale and Abdi Kadir Dubat, Jan. 24. Jace Harry Finley, Parents: Kelly and Gregory, Jan. 25. Luka James Schweisthal, Parents: Nicole and Jeremiah, Jan. 28. Bennett Michael Schultz, Parents: Megan and Michael, Jan. 29. Julia Ilene Hendrickson, Parents: Jenny and Cody, Jan. 31.

STEELE COUNTY DEATHS JANUARY 2019

Antoinette Jacobson, 77, Faribault, Jan. 1. Lois A. Johnson, 91, Austin, Jan. 2.

STEELE COUNTY MARRIAGES JANUARY 2019

Jason Edward Guevara and Kelly Jean Kraay, Jan. 1. Jacob Irvin Crowson and Sky Leigh Headline, Jan. 4. Morgan Alexandra Berg and Jacob Dean Jablonski, Jan. 5. Amber Lynne Kries and Devin Allen Scholljegerdes Koch, Jan. 11. Otto Francis Wanous and Brandi Jean Hagen, Jan. 12. Lydia Suzanne Scollon and Peter Allan Drilling, Jan. 16. Scott Allen Choudek and Tara Joanne Volkmann, Jan. 18. Eric Wayne Hess and Nora Elizabeth De Leon, Jan. 18. Scott David Goligowski and Nichole Rae Kempe, Jan. 18. James Michael Kiefer and Laura Ann Shae, Jan. 19. David Allen Jensen and Charles Edward Christensen Jr., Jan. 19. Aaron Rudy Miller and Alyse Marie Hager, Jan. 19. Thomas Allen Weber and April Rose Weber, Jan. 19.

STEELE COUNTY DIVORCES JANUARY 2019

Karla Renee Arndt and David William Arndt, Jan. 7. JoAnne Falde Fisher and Chad Frank Fisher, Jan. 7. Joel Scott Butler and Christine Jo Butler, Jan. 7. Keisha Lashae' Banks and Anthony Traven Banks, Jan. 8. Paula Rae Nash and Bruce John Nash, Jan. 9. Corrisa Beth Freund and David Allen Freund, Jan. 23. Abdulkadir Gazali Said and Mulyun Kassim Amin, Jan. 23. Christopher John Olson and Mary Jo Olson, Jan. 28.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Owatonna Superintendent Jeff Elstad delivers remarks to the county board on the coming school board referendum this November. The referendum will be held on Nov. 5 and concerns the decision to construct a new high school facility.

BOARD LEARNS: about school referendum FROM B1

The ballot in November will also include a second question that would provide \$8 million to renovate and repurpose the existing high school for district and/or community use. This second question can only be approved if the first question passes.

In a statement released by the district, Troy Klecker, community development director for Owatonna said that, "this is a good site for a high school in terms of soil conditions, existing infrastructure, and the long-term development plan for the city."

Klecker worked with school district staff, city engineers, county engineers, and an independent engineer to review and assess various properties before settling on this parcel as the recommended location. The land is located at 1945 SE 18th St., near the intersection of Highways 14 and 218 in

the southern part of the community.

The parcel rose to the top of other options that were explored based on criteria that city, county and school district planners used to assess available land including traffic flow, proximity to utilities, and soil conditions.

If voters approve the referendum request for a new high school, Federated Insurance will finalize negotiations with the landowner and then gift the land to the school district. There will be no land deal if the referendum is not approved by voters.

Last May's referendum carried a tax rate of \$23 per month based on a \$175,000 medium home, while this new measure carries a cost of \$16.17 a month for the new building, and an additional \$1.42 a month should the community opt to repurpose the current facility.

Added together these total \$17.59 a month for a medium household.

The district also developed a conceptual site plan as well as examples of what learning spaces could look like with the caveat that final designs would be developed with community input if the referendum passes.

"We worked hard to listen to our community, and identifying this land is one of our many responses," said Elstad. "We are incredibly grateful to Federated for offering to donate the land to us, if the November vote is successful. Their gift reduces the tax impact for our residents, which was another concern we heard."

Residents can learn more about the Nov. 5 referendum requests by visiting www.owatonna.org. Questions can be directed to 507-444-8650 or referendum@isd761.org.

KEEP EYES PEELED: for Palmer Amaranth this harvest FROM B2

The pollen-producing male heads will be equally long but lacking the spiky bracts. Petioles, the little stems that attach the leaf to the main stem of the plant, are generally longer than the length of the leaf itself. These are just a few of the traits that distinguish Palmer amaranth from other pigweeds.

It is Minnesota's goal to eradicate Palmer amaranth before it becomes widely established. You may be wondering why Palmer amaranth is particularly feared. It is the most competitive and aggressive pigweed species. Like waterhemp, it emerges throughout the growing season, from May to August. However, Palmer amaranth is much more aggressive than waterhemp, growing 2 to 3 inches a day, and can produce hundreds of thousands of seeds, up to as many as 500,000, in a short time frame. Palmer amaranth can also quickly adapt to herbicide management tactics that don't include diverse sites of

action, ultimately resulting in resistance to some herbicides and limiting our control options. In the northern states, Palmer amaranth is expected to already be resistant to multiple herbicides.

So far, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has been able to eradicate Palmer amaranth in the fields reported to them. The MDA will continue to monitor those affected fields for three years.

Rapid reporting is key to managing this nasty weed and keeping it out of Minnesota. Reporting not only helps prevent the rapid spread of Palmer amaranth, but allows the MDA to identify the source of the contamination so that proper screening and educational programs can be established. Please report any suspected Palmer amaranth; there is no need to be embarrassed.

We are all still learning about how it spreads. Your speedy reporting could help prevent the spread of this aggressive weed. You

can report any plant you suspect might be Palmer amaranth to the MDA via the Arrest the Pest line at 1-888-545-6684 or arrest. the.pest@state.mn.us. You can also contact Claire LaCanne, your local Extension Educator, to assist with identification and reporting. You can reach Claire at 507-330-0447 or lacanne@umn.edu.

The reporting model of farmers, crop consultants, MDA and University of Minnesota working together has proven to be an effective eradication model. Thank you for your cooperation. Stay alert out there!

For photos of amaranth species, visit <https://z.umn.edu/amaranth-family-id> and to stay up-to-date on Palmer amaranth status please go to: <https://z.umn.edu/Palmer-amaranth-status-MN>.

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

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ASSUMED NAMED: Elemoose**PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 202 N Cedar Ave. Ste 1, Owatonna MN 55060 USA****NAMEHOLDER(S): Name: Garage Graphics & Visuals****Address: 2503 N Neergard Ave, Springfield MO 65803 USA**

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both

capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:
Milinda Teeter

Mailing Address
2503 N Neergard Ave,
Springfield MO 65803 USA

Email:
mteeter@elemoose.com

10/16, 10/23

NOTICE**STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE****DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

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

Summons and
Notice Child in Need of
Protection or Services
Matter

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

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

1. A Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court located at Steele County District Court 111 E Main St, Owatonna, Minnesota, alleging that the child(ren) of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) is/are in need of protection or services.

2. Notice is hereby given that the matter of said Child In Need of Protection or Services Petition will be called for hearing before the Juvenile Court located Steele County District Court 111 E Main St, Owatonna, Minnesota, on October 2, 2019 at 8:15 AM or as soon after as the Matter can be heard.

3. YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.

4. You have a right to be represented by counsel.

5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including taking permanent custody of the child/ren named in the Petition.

WITNESS, the Honorable Joseph A Bueltel Judge of District Court

BY: Robin Hoesley Court Administrator

10/16

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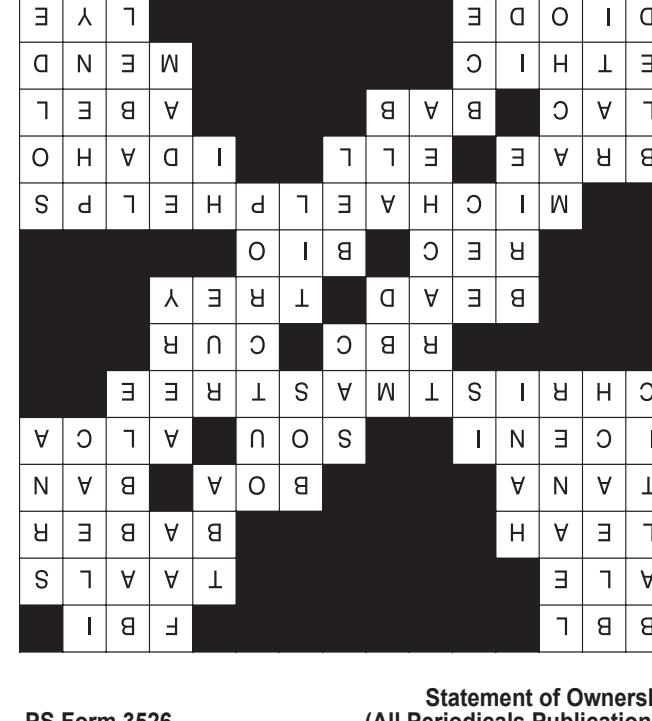
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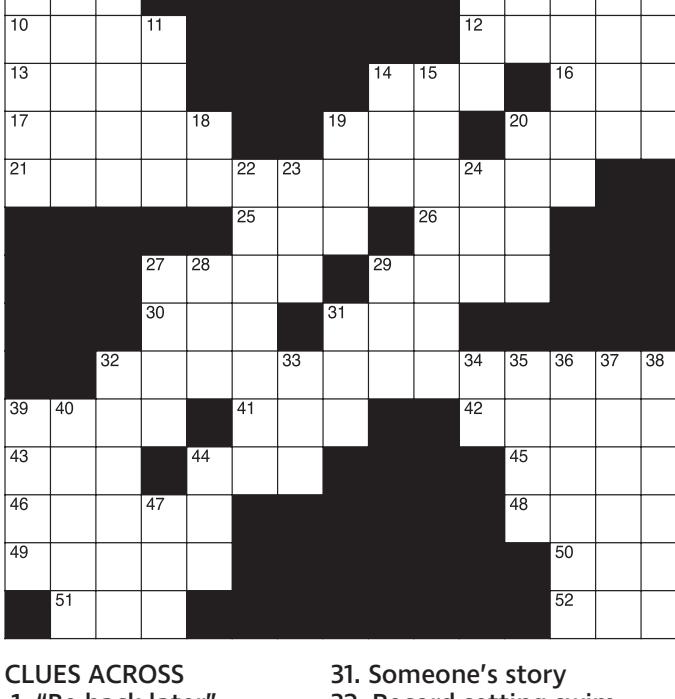
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CLUES ACROSS



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "Be back later"
- 4. Hoover's office
- 7. Brew
- 8. Philo and Reglis are two ("Star Wars")
- 10. Actress Remini
- 12. Moghul emperor
- 13. Alaskan glacier
- 14. Constrictor
- 16. Prohibit
- 17. Ancient Brittonic tribe
- 19. Chinese pastry
- 20. Razorbill is of this genus
- 21. Beloved holiday decoration
- 25. Dutch football club
- 26. Aggressive dog
- 27. Small piece of glass
- 29. "South Park" creator Parker
- 30. Leisure activity
- 31. Someone's story
- 32. Record-setting swimmer
- 33. Hillside
- 34. Unit of measurement
- 35. Famous for its potatoes
- 36. Insect secretion
- 37. Gate in Marrakesh
- 38. Cain and __
- 39. A set of moral principles
- 40. Repair
- 41. Two-terminal semiconductor device
- 42. Strongly alkaline solution
- 43. Former CIA
- 44. Satellite laser ranging
- 45. Sea
- 46. Cleans things
- 47. More skinny

- 4. Supervises flying
- 5. Talk rapidly and excitedly
- 6. Intestinal
- 8. Don't know when yet
- 9. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 11. Chinese and Vietnamese ethnic group
- 14. Wild cattle genus
- 15. Rock formation
- 18. Makes up
- 19. Resembles a pouch
- 20. Having an aerial quality
- 22. Windpipe
- 23. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- 24. Bitterly regret
- 27. Soft creamy white cheese
- 28. Renamed when EU was incorporated
- 29. __ death do us part
- 31. Sound unit
- 32. Men proud of their masculinity
- 33. Clergy member's vestment
- 34. Hello
- 35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 36. Marks
- 37. Derived from benzene
- 38. Low-melting alloy
- 39. Lost blood
- 40. Quantitative relation
- 44. Academic degree
- 47. Many subcon-

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Diane in Sandusky Ohio

Dear Diane,
Many of the vehicles made in the past 10 years have switched to a lighting system known as L.E.D. or light emitting diode. This type of light is not replaceable do to the way that they are installed. They are soldered to the boards of the components they are lighting up and when they fail the only way to get them to work again is to either solder new leds to the boards or to replace the entire component. Due to the availability of the leds and the difficulty of replacing them we find that to repair the failed lights the best way is to replace the component. Unfortunately this can get very pricy. While some items like window switches can be as little as \$15 items like the instrument cluster can run several hundred dollars. In the case of the later we recommend checking on the availability of a used part.
Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
I heard you guys on a recent show discussing vehicle warm-up times and heard you say it was not necessary to warm up a fuel injected vehicle. I thought that all vehicles should be warmed up to get the oil flowing at least a little bit. If this is so, how long is a good warm-up time?
Brandon in Dayton Ohio

Dear Brandon,
There was more to what we were talking about that you must have missed. While we said that the fuel injected vehicles manufactured in the past few years could be driven right away due to better parts and efficient injection systems we still recommend some warm up time. We have heard some people even say just start them up and drive them to warm them up faster although we don't agree with that. There has to be a proper medium between running a vehicle too long to warm it up which wastes fuel and taking off so soon that the defroster won't even keep a windshield clear posing a safety hazard. The owner's manual will provide a good reference for warm ups. For us personally we tend to err on the longer side of warm up times. We like to make sure everything is lubricated and working as it should.
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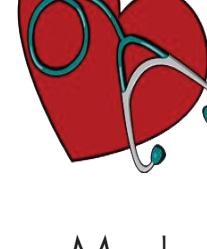
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Members of the Ellendale Fire Department: Back row (left to right): Nolan McGowan, Tyler McGowan, Logan Busho, Pat Kruger, Al Lee and Josh Otto; front row: Jack Skalicky, Dustin Burshem, Shawn Larson, Steve Louks and Frank Altrichter. **Not pictured:** Hayden Feist, Bud Olson, Josh Moen, Joel Meyer, Roger Larson, Rick Johnson, Mark Lee, Dan Rhoades, and Rich Mueller.

LOOK

Look for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

LISTEN

Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

LEARN

Learn two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter



Members of the Medford Fire Department include: front Row (left to right)— Nick Goodnature, Kelly Markham, Darren Hagen, Chris Ditlevson, Mark Ristau, Dakota Ellingson, Nick Donahue, Rick Lee and Troy Noble; back row— Dan Simon, Eric Finhodlt, Trevor Davis, Tim Amberg, Rich Kucera, Mike Smith, Rick Hager, Greg Sanborn, John Anhorn, Craig Helgeson, Matt Mullenbach and Ben Maas. Not pictured: Rick Ellingson and Brad Hager.



The Blooming Prairie Fire Department is 28-strong. Members include (from left) kneeling: Jay Ivenson, Lee Peterson, Mike Studer, Jeremy Wangen, Bryce Schlichter, Mike Trom, Dan Miner, Dean Naatz, Ryan Heimerman and Rick Hansen; standing: Mike Johnson, Jake Lembke, Lee Holtberg, Tim Wurst, Matt Madsen, Isreal Wacek, Mike Ingvalson, David Wradsilavsky, Joe Morgan, Justin Krell, Jim Wobischall and Josh Toquam. Not pictured: Del Peterson, Mike Hoffman, Jared Brown, Jake Peterson, Wade Johnson and Matt Kittelson.



Members of the Owatonna Fire Department include: front row (left to right)— Members of the Owatonna Fire Department include: front row, from left: Chris Bruns, Kevin Kreiner, Courtney Hartle, Dave Beaver, Brody Dalland, Willie Grubish, Darin Brown, Anthony Kozelka, Randy Schroader, Leila Kath, Dalton Wanous, Jason Karsten, Mike Gerhardt, Drew Joenks and Tony Ringhofer; back row: Chief Mike Johnson, Reid Grayson, Korey Kamholz, Marly Kath, Matt Halverson, Todd Ulrich, Bruce Thomas, Tyler Brase, Tore Osland, Ryan Seykora, Darien Hornes, Ben Hanson, Justin Brown, Manuel Sanchez, Matt Kath and Al Huff. Please note the names in red are longer with the department. Not Pictured: Dan Hed, Derek Strohschein, Mitch Terpstra, Garrett Jones, Trevor Spatenka, Arik Brase, Charlie Seykora, Jake Hines and Bob Hager

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