



STEELE COUNTY Times



VILLAGE AFFAIR A3

FALL BACK:
CLOCKS BACK SUNDAY

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Vote Yes group rallies support for referendum

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Supporters of the upcoming Owatonna school bond referendum came to the Owatonna Eagles Club Oct. 23 to enjoy a spaghetti supper and find out more about the upcoming vote. Messages about the vote were low-key as display

boards throughout the room gave a visual idea of what the new high school might look like. Vote Yes volunteers were also on hand to sign up people to help out in the last days of the campaign. Among the most enthusiastic supporters were the four Gomez sisters: Delaney, Afton, Vivienne and Charlotte. The girls

are the daughters of Karley and Rudy Gomez. The girls decided to entertain with some twirling ribbons as people came to eat supper. They go to the Montessori program at Washington School, they said, and “we really want to go to the new high school.” There was a lot of good energy at the event, said

Owatonna resident Ryan Gillespie. The district, she said, has been “super fortunate the community has been supportive.” For those with additional questions, she said, OHS Principal Kory Kath was on hand to answer any questions. Voters in the Owatonna School District will go to the

SEE VOTE YES GROUP, A12



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN

The Gomez sisters, Delaney, Afton, Vivienne and Charlotte, provided impromptu entertainment for the diners at the Vote Yes Rally and Spaghetti Supper last week at the Eagles. The girls are the daughters of Karley and Rudy Gomez.



Spidey and the little monsters

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Halloween is a time to have fun and decorate in the scariest way possible. Laura and Paul Dale have decorated their home for the past 10 years. They are at it again. Now, their grandsons are decorating their home and helping their grandparents. Top: A colorful Spidey is a favorite of little monsters Alex, Colton and Wyatt Hemann of Blooming Prairie. They are the sons of Paul and Misti Hemann. Left: A sign declares the Hemann residence to be the home of the wicked witch. Children will be out in full force lurking around the neighborhoods looking for tricks or treats of all kinds Thursday night for Halloween.

BNI promotes business relationships

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For the past 15 years, Kathy Huisman has gotten an early jump on her work day once a week by promoting the business she works at to other businesses. As the production supervisor and director of Studio Getaway at Tri M Graphics in Owatonna, Huisman represents Tri M at Business Networking International every Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. BNI is a group dedicated to helping members increase their business through a structured, positive and professional referral marketing program that enables them to develop

long-term, meaningful relationships with quality business professionals. Huisman is one of more than 240,000 members in 8,500 chapters across the world. In 2017 alone, BNI member referrals have generated \$13.6 billion in revenue for member businesses. BNI started in Owatonna in 2002. There are currently two chapters in Owatonna. Huisman's particular group has nine members, but has seen as many as 25 in the past. The meetings are “exactly 90 minutes” because “everyone is busy,” Huisman said. Currently, there are a variety of businesses represented



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Kathy Huisman shows off a poster of a mascot for Tri M Graphics where she has worked for the past 25 years. She is involved with Business Networking International, a group that meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:15 a.m. Her group is trying to create an awareness about the benefits of BNI to local business leaders.

in Huisman's group. In addition to Huisman, some of the businesses involved with BNI are realty, mortgage, chiropractor, AFLAC representative, construction and home inspectors.

For Huisman, the benefits of BNI have been two-fold. It not only helps Tri M, but it also has benefited Huisman with her own professional growth. BNI

SEE BNI PROMOTES, A7

Kickoff set for Hwy. 14 expansion

A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 1 east of Owatonna to mark the kickoff of the Hwy. 14 expansion project between Dodge Center and Owatonna. The event will mark the start of the nearly \$108 million construction project. The site will be at the cul de sac at 2300 SE 54th Ave., Claremont, east of Owatonna. The public is invited to attend. State officials have been invited to attend and speak. The ceremonial first shovels of dirt for the project will kick off the project to expand 12.5-mile stretch of Hwy. 14 from two lanes to four lanes. This project will expand Hwy. 14 from two lanes to four lanes between Owatonna and Dodge Center, to complete a continuous four-lane roadway between Interstate 35 and Rochester. The project is intended to improve the capacity, safety, travel times and access to Rochester and Owatonna, as well as the I-35 corridor. Shafer Contracting of Shafer, Minn., was awarded the construction contract for the Hwy 14 expansion project. The bids were opened Aug. 21 and were then reviewed and certified.

SEE KICKOFF SET FOR HWY. 14, A3

Pedestrian hit crossing BP street

City exploring ways to make intersection safer

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A pedestrian survived a close call after being hit by a vehicle Oct. 22 in Blooming Prairie. Jayson Andrew Chavez, 28, of Blooming Prairie suffered non-life threatening injuries after he was hit while crossing Hwy. 218 at 2nd Street by Vandal's Family Market around 7:48 p.m. He was transported by ambulance to Austin Medical Center. The vehicle that hit Chavez was a 2008 Dodge Ram truck driven by Tyler John Hill, 40, also of Blooming Prairie. The State Patrol said Hill turned southbound on Hwy. 218 from 2nd Street when he collided with Chavez, who was crossing the street in an unmarked crosswalk. The State Patrol said Hill was wearing his seat belt and no alcohol was involved. Chief Greg Skillestad said that particular intersection has been a problem for pedestrians trying to cross the busy highway. “We’ve had some close calls there,” he said. “It

SEE PEDESTRIAN HIT CROSSING, A7

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AREA DEATHS

Lois Ann Taphorn, 77,
Blooming Prairie

Helen Ruth Fjone, 94, Faribault

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and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Thank the heavens for our clergy

Gratitude, thankfulness and appreciation. They are just three words that come to mind during this special time.

October is national Clergy Appreciation Month, a time set aside to pay tribute to and recognize the contributions and service of pastors, reverends, ministers, priests and all other clergy members.

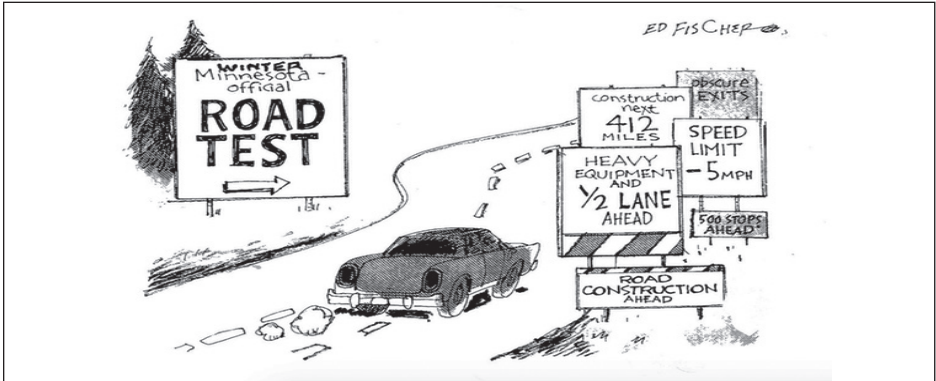
There are about 51,000 people in the United States who are officially employed as clergy. When we consider all that religious leaders do, it becomes clear how important it is to celebrate and uplift hardworking clergy. There is no shortage of clergy members in our area communities.

It's important for us to celebrate pastors and clergy members. They serve the church daily. On a regular basis, they manage the maintenance and financial obligations of their church, and most importantly, nurture the spiritual well-being of their congregants.

Another reason to honor clergy is because they serve the church and community during major life moments. Clergy members lead mourners during funerals, pray over the sick and minister to the imprisoned and abandoned. They also oversee our most joyous occasions, including marriages, baptisms, First Communion, confirmation and other special blessings. Express appreciation for the ones who have been there for you in your life's most important events.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to honor your pastor not only during this special month, but throughout the entire year. There are many ways you can show your gratitude for their service and sacrifice. Clergy members have a tough job so it's imperative that they know they are loved, cherished and appreciated for what they do.

We offer a salute to all area clergy members for their tireless efforts in shepherding the flock. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents to bless others.



GUEST COLUMN

Change comes in many forms

BY MATT KOTTKE

Definition of "Change" (v): to make the form, nature, content, future course, etc., of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone.

Change can be difficult for many. I know I've been known to be a "creature of habit," preferring that things stay the same as they always have been. It can be safe and comfortable knowing that, "what once was, always will be."

This past spring, voters came to the polls to voice their opinions on "change" in the form of whether or not to build a new high school. There were virtually an equal percentage of people on both sides of the fence on this. Some felt there was no need to change. They believed the existing building had served educators and students well for nearly 100 years and should be able to do the same for decades to come. Others felt that, safety/security issues combined with the overall "health" of this aging building, and its deficiencies relative to current teaching methods and career-preparedness tools – meant that it was time for a new school to be built.

And there was likely a third group that voted the way they did simply because, while they may not have disagreed that this old school building's time had 'come and gone,' they just couldn't accept that this "change" possibly meant never-again being able to drive by and seeing this historic building, despite its proposed shortcomings.

Which brings me to another type of "change," this one in the form of the new Bond Referendum's being brought forth by the School District. These changes are meant to address many of the concerns that people have voiced.

On Nov. 5, Owatonna has the opportunity to

vote again. You may ask, "What changed?". Well, for one, the overall size and scope of the new high school has been reduced which will help reduce the annual property tax impact to homeowners. The location for the new high school has now been identified, and this land is being donated to the School District (IF the Bond passes). The tax impact on our agricultural community has also been greatly reduced thanks to Minnesota's new Ag-2School Tax Credit, which will further decrease property taxes owed by farmers on all their acreage from 40 to 70% over the next few years.

And, let us not forget the change that impacts the future of our historic high school building. The District has added a second question to the November ballot, which provides our community to weigh-in on the future of this existing property. Passage of this second question would mean that the High School could be repurposed and potentially used by both the community-at large, and the School District. The School District would realize the opportunity to consolidate some of their properties to this central location. As for the community – just think of the possibilities (i.e., auditorium/performance hall, gymnasium, meeting rooms, indoor walking paths – just to name a few ideas)...then again, just think of the future of this building if these two questions don't BOTH pass. Remember, the option for Question 2 is dependent on Question 1 passing. *Your votes matter.*

I would be remiss if I didn't point out something that thankfully has NOT changed. The business community has NOT changed their commitment towards the School District. Their pledge of over \$20 million in donations is still on the table....SO FAR. The implications that could

follow if this referendum fails again could have a ripple-effect that spreads negatively throughout the entire community.

Change doesn't come easily – it takes thoughtful consideration and compromise by both sides to reach a point where positive change can happen. Through the valued input of many citizens who voted "No" this past spring, the School District has responded by addressing many of the concerns that may have been the deciding factor between a "no" and "yes" vote.

If you are confused, or just simply overwhelmed, by all the propaganda being shared by either the "Vote Yes" or "Vote No" parties, I strongly encourage you to set that aside and instead visit the website www.owatonnaproud.org. Here you will find the FACTS surrounding this bond referendum, which hopefully will help you form your own opinions. If your concerns are still not answered to your satisfaction, I recommend emailing Superintendent Elstad directly at jelstad@isd761.org. Questioning and debating this subject on social media only serves to divide our community further. ... *we're better than that.*

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that there is one thing that has not, and should NEVER change, and that is the commitment by our School District as well as EVERY MEMBER in this community, towards the education, safety, and well-being of our children. Truly, this is who we are all casting our votes for.

Matt Kottke is a lifelong resident of Owatonna. He graduated from Owatonna High School in 1977. He was employed at Truth Tool for 31 years and currently is working for his mom at the family's retail store in Owatonna.

Editor's mailbag is overflowing

As the editor of a local community newspaper, it's common to field lots of questions throughout the week from various people regarding different aspects of the newspaper.

First of all, I'd like to say that it is encouraging to see that our readers care enough to offer comments, suggestions and yes, even some complaints about what we do with the newspaper. It actually excites me when I find out that someone has called or written a letter about our practices, even if it something that can be perceived as a negative. It tells me people are reading the newspaper and take ownership in what we do on a weekly basis. They have certain expectations of what they want to see in the newspaper.

With that being said, I also want to stress that it's impossible for us to be everything to everybody. We have such a small staff that it's hard for us to cover every event going on in the large area that we cover, which includes all of Steele County and portions of three other counties: Dodge, Freeborn and Mower. I wish I could utilize a couple more reporters to cover all the great activities that happen in our communities, but at the end of the day, we are a small operation trying to do big things and sometimes we fall short.

I'd like to go back over the past few weeks and share some questions or concerns that arose with our operation and some answers as to why we did things a certain way. It may not exactly be the answer you were hoping for, but I hope you will respect our position as to why something was done a certain way.

Here's a sampling from the editor's mailbag:



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

• Why didn't I get my newspaper this week?

This is the dreaded question every publisher fears getting each week. While there are times when something has gone amiss on our end by our own doing, many times it ends up being out of our control. Our newspapers are delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Newspapers are considered Periodical Class Mail with no guarantee delivery within a specified time by the postal service. Once we deliver the papers to the post office (on Wednesday afternoon), it's really beyond our control as to when they end up in your hands. From my experience, there are some strange routing and sorting techniques used by the postal service that frequently cause papers to be delivered later than they should be.

• Why are stories jumped to other pages in the paper?

Good question. We try to minimize the number of stories that we jump from page to page. Generally, our front page and main news pages throughout the newspaper have stories with continuations to other pages. In the case of the front page, we jump stories so that we can provide a greater selection of stories from all areas of our coverage area. We usually run five stories on the front page and try to provide visuals with photos

and graphics to make them more appealing to look at and want to read. The worst thing that we sometimes set ourselves up for is getting the jump wrong, which makes readers go on a scavenger hunt through the paper to find the rest of the story. However, I'm happy to report that doesn't happen very often. It's hard balance for us to accomplish when everybody in every community is fighting for coverage in the paper.

• How do I get coverage in the paper?

We encourage people to reach out to us through in person contact at our office, email, regular mail, phone call or reach out to us through social media. We are a local newspaper that packs its pages with local news. We want to know what's going on in the communities we cover. We may not always be able to be there, but we can still get something in the paper with your help. Contact us, please!

• It seems the color production has improved lately. What has changed?

In June, the Times switched printing companies and is now printed at the House of Print in Madelia. We have also noticed a significant improvement in the overall quality of the pages. We are thrilled that we made this change and that readers are taking notice.

As you can see the editor's mailbag has been overflowing lately, and that's a good thing. It's gratifying to see so many people care about their local newspaper. It's one reason why I hope newspapers never go away.

Another call is coming in. Time to go in hot pursuit of helping yet another reader understand their community newspaper.

YOUR VIEW

Honoring our veterans

To-the-Editor:

As Veterans Day approaches, we pause to give thanks to those who have sacrificed their time and sometimes their lives to keep us all free.

While our country has certainly had its dark times, we still remain the world's beacon for freedom and opportunity. This is demonstrated by the fact that it is the one place most of today's oppressed people come. We must never forget those who have given their time and their life to protect what we have here in this country.

In an effort to honor and recognize the sacrifices given by serving in the United States of America's military, the Ellendale United Methodist Church invites all military to a free lunch at the church (200 6th St., Ellendale) on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Family and friends are also invited as service to God and Country is recognized.

Allie Larson
Ellendale

Voting yes provides for the future

To-the-Editor:

It's easier to resist change than it is to accept change. It's easier to talk about improvement than it is to improve.

It is easier to resist change because that means you don't have to do anything. You don't. You can just muddle along, doing the same old things the same old way, raving about tradition and the good old days when we all walked miles and miles to school, uphill both ways, in terrible conditions. You can be negative about the proposed change and just spread around how awful it might be.

Voters in Independent School District 761 are at a turning point. The bond referendum is Nov. 5, and voters are being asked to increase their own property taxes in order to build a high school that will be purpose built all at one time in the 21st Century.

I believe it is time, probably long past the time, to shake off the old and provide

an up-to-date building that will be there to provide the kind of classrooms and work space needed today. It is time to start over and not pour any more money into a building that is inefficient, outdated, and a money pit.

A tour is a visit to the past. The vocational wing is out of the dark ages. The staircases in the 1921 building are narrow and long. The additions have been joined together with long hallways that are pitched so that the different level floors meet up. Security with 43 doors is impossible. Looking at the building with your head, not your heart, tells the story.

Life is different than it was. So is education. Please join with me in voluntarily raising your property taxes to provide for the future. It's the right thing to do. Vote yes.

Jan Mittelstadt Tippet
Owatonna

Thanks for honoring our father

To-the-Editor:

I am Lowell Trom's youngest daughter. My brother Brad read your recent tribute about our dad over the phone to me (I live in Florida).

Your words about the time you spent with our father were quite poetic and reflective! What a beautiful tribute and remembrance of your time together! Thank you so much

for highlighting his life in the many articles that you wrote in recent years and for sharing your experiences with the local community.

On behalf of our family, thank you ever so much for all your efforts and for honoring our father in this beautiful manner!

Peggy Trom
Florida

BP Chamber plans new promotion

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Thirty Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce members had lunch together at The Bakery last Wednesday and discussed some upcoming promotions.

A new promotion, according to BP Chamber Vice President Miranda Camery, will be called Small Business Saturday and is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 30.

Chamber President Dan Peach and other chamber members announced more upcoming community events:

- Third Annual Speaker's event at the BP Servicemen's Club, Friday, Oct. 25
- The Village Affair, Saturday, Oct. 26
- Wine tasting, Friday, Nov. 7
- Holiday Dazzle, Friday, Dec. 6
- BP Lions Club President Chris Staloch said the Lions are bringing professional wrestling (American Wrestling Federation) to town on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020.

In routine business, the chamber members approved a gambling report presented by gambling manager Amanda Schumacher.

Applications are being accepted for a gambling manager successor to Schumacher.

In other gambling business, the membership directed the executive board to discuss parameters for donating funds from charitable gambling.

Mayor Curt Esplan reported on a visit by the Grow Minnesota organization. He said the Grow Minnesota group wishes to become more involved in the community.

Nicholas Ouellette of the Blooming Prairie Economic Development Authority (EDA) was a guest speaker. He represents the Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) as a community and business development specialist.

He talked about grant monies available in matching grants to renovate the fronts of local businesses. He said Koster's Car Korner and New York Life have applied.

Chamber member Kevin Mans won a drawing for Blooming Prairie Bucks.

KICKOFF SET: for Hwy. 14 expansion

FROM A3

The contract award for Shafer's \$107,997,119 bid allows the contractor's team to begin moving ahead on the project. MnDOT is using design-build, a contracting process that brings designers and contractors together early in the detail design portion of a project. MnDOT uses the flexibility design-build offers to maximize the value received per dollar, utilize innovative approaches and deliver projects quickly.

Three teams submitted sealed bids. A MnDOT team scored the technical proposals and those scores were applied to the bids. The bids were: Shafer Contracting Co., Inc., \$107,997,119.16; Mathiowetz Construction Co., \$117,587,970.79; and MZH Constructors LLC, \$132,367,024.00. The results are at MnDOT's website at www.dot.state.mn.us/designbuild/hwy14/letting.html.

The first full construction season will begin in spring of 2020 and be completed by 2022.



Wood craftsman Mike Woods, left, talks to a customer, Les Johnson of Stewartville at Blooming Prairie's Village Affair last Saturday, Oct. 26. Woods is the only exhibitor who has his display outdoors. The sun shined on him on this day.

Nice weather brings large crowd to Village Affair

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"What a day!" That was the breathless comment of a visitor to the 47th Annual Village Affair staged in Blooming Prairie at the high school on Saturday, Oct. 26.

More than 80 exhibitors were present to show off their crafts and other unique wares. These exhibitors rented over 140 spaces, said event chairs Pam Folkens of the AAUW and Mandy Doocy of the Women of Today.

Many items were unique and one of a kind.

The craft show ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with food served from the kitchens of the Conger Inn Victory Catering of Conger.

The 2019 event had no more than closed its doors than vendors were asking to sign up for next year. Folkens said signups will begin closer to the date of the 2020 show.

Some of the items this year included: jewelry of all kinds; kids toys, 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.

Wood items included a 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.

"We couldn't be more happy with the outcome," said Doocy. "There was something for everyone," remarked Folkens. Both said this year's event was maybe the largest in history.

Mike Woods of Woody's Woodworks of Blooming Prairie was set up outside the school near the front entrance. The sun shined on him this year, a contrast to last year when rain pelted him.

If anyone is interested in returning as a vendor in 2020, contact the Village Affair Facebook page, or call Folkens at 507-391-4336 or Doocy at 507-530-5084.

A raffle featured a Minnesota basket of 32 items as the main prize. The winner was Barbara Peterson of Blooming Prairie.

The following items were in the Minnesota basket: (Everything was made or produced in Minnesota or had a Minnesota theme) wild rice, dish towels, cookie cutters, state location sponge, Minnesota carry bag, maple syrup, choke cherry honey, coasters, Schell's Sangria, Minne-Salsa, Home for the Holidays in MN sign, stemless wine glass set, cheesy all purpose seasoning, pillow case set, salt water taffy, note pad, chip & dip bowl, beer bread mix, strawberry jam, Minnesota socks, Minnesota made Wine, MN mug, MN shaped cutting board, Blooming Prairie greeting cards, gift certificate to Prairie Home and woven multi purpose basket.



Everly Wenzel, 9 months, and her mother Nicole were early morning shoppers at the 47th Annual Village Affair held at the Blooming Prairie High School on Saturday, Oct. 26. The event was sponsored by the AAUW and the Women of Today.



Hey, there's a spider on top of Keyera Ingvaldson's muffin she purchased at the Village Affair in Blooming Prairie. Keyera, 7, is from Owatonna.

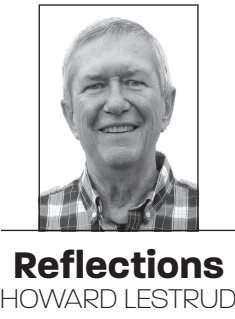


Nancy Miller of Owatonna sold her homemade doll clothes at the Village Affair in Blooming Prairie last Saturday, Oct. 26. Her business is called Nancy's Fancies.



Emily Pearson of Pears on Print of Owatonna has a specialty item that was a popular seller at this year's Village Affair.

Who are tomorrow's biz leaders?



Want to know who our business leaders of tomorrow will be?

Just hang out with some 61 Blooming Prairie Elementary School second graders. They were a part of a Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Junior Entrepreneur Program last week. See story elsewhere in this issue of The Times.

The program, started by Sportstitch owner Linda Klemmensen just over 20 years ago, is a lively, hands-on program that introduces kids to the business world.

Yes, it would be easy just to buy a already printed manual on junior entrepreneurship, but it's more effective when it is home grown and that's what the Blooming Prairie program is – home grown.

Years ago, the Junior Entrepreneur Program was structured with fictitious businesses.

Klemmensen has used actual Blooming Prairie businesses and people to tell the story of Blooming Prairie's diversified business and industry community.

The Blooming Prairie Junior Entrepreneur program is quite impactful, say second grade teachers Diane Pfeiffer, Kim Lea and Denise Hadrath. The hands-on approach is welcomed by the students, says Pfeiffer.

Klemmensen has recruited her daughter Rachel of New York Life and Michelle Vigeland of F & M State Bank to help with the tutoring over a five-day class period time of 45 minutes each day.

This is the second year I have been in the classroom during the Junior Entrepreneur teaching time. I'm so impressed with the thinking processes that go on when the JE teachers from the chamber come into the room.

The students learn how to develop a business, and they also learn about banking and about how to financially manage their businesses.

Benefits gleaned from the program include understanding how the value of goods is created.

A highlight of the program is a tour of the Blooming Prairie City Center. While there, the second graders meet BP Chamber executive director Becky Noble, Mayor Curt Esplan and City Administrator Andrew Langholz.

The kids also had a chance to meet a firefighter, a police officer and an EMT (Emergency Technical Services) individual. While at the center, the students were paid \$25 for their involvement in the cookie factory. Then, Mayor Esplan took \$10 from each student to show them they had to pay for city services.

Police Corporal Jake Peterson then took the kids on a tour of the police station.

It is so rewarding to see a local community grooming its young students for the business world. Even if they don't enter the business world, they have an understanding of it.

Oh, the kids also stopped at The Bakery on their way back to the classroom and got the chance to buy a cookie.

Thanks Linda Klemmensen for providing this program, which gives second graders an overview of the Blooming Prairie community. Thanks also go to the BP Elementary School teachers and to the BP school district for endorsing this program.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

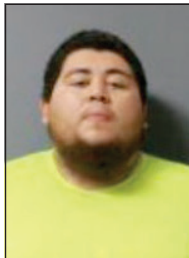
CRIME BRIEF

Bust nets man for child exploitation

A man faces felony charges in connection with a child exploitation investigation in Owatonna.

Jose Gallardo-Ibarra, 22, of Waseca has been charged by the Steele County Attorney's Office with third-degree attempted sexual conduct, soliciting a child through electronic communication and engaging in electronic communications relating to sexual conduct with a child. All three charges are felonies.

On Oct. 18, detectives with Owatonna Police culminated a child exploitation investigation with the arrest of Gallardo-Ibarra. An undercover detective purported to be a 15-year-old girl and engaged in a series of chats on the



Jose Gallardo-Ibarra

KIK social media platform. During the chat, Gallardo-Ibarra identified himself as King Lucifer, police said. He believed he was talking with a 15-year-old and identified sexual acts he wished to engage in with the undercover officer, according to police.

A pre-determined meet location was identified with Owatonna officers setting up surveillance. Detectives approached and arrested Gallardo-Ibarra as he was composing a message shortly after arriving at the location.

In an interview with police, King Lucifer admitted he came to the location to have sex with a 15-year-old, police said.

Emergency team looking for new members

When natural and human-caused disasters strike in a community the resulting damage can overwhelm local emergency responders and resources. They can interrupt transportation and utility and communication networks leaving individuals and neighborhoods isolated from outside support.

CERT promotes a partnership between emergency services and the people they serve. CERT volunteers take classes in disaster preparedness, fire suppression, medical operations, light search and rescue, terrorism response, team organization and disaster psychology. Training requires 24 hours of instruction.

In Steele County, CERT volunteers have responded to events including flooding, tornadoes and missing persons. Some tasks performed include sand bagging, road closures, door-to-door canvassing, damage assessment, searches, river gauge monitoring, sheltering, Holiday Train perimeter safety.



Other events include opportunities for more training and drills.

As a volunteer, you participate in only those events you want to. Most importantly you will learn how to take care of yourself and family first in an emergency. You will meet some fantastic people in

CERT and you will have a special bond with your classmates.

The next CERT class runs from Nov 7-21. If you are interested in joining the class, please call the firehall at 507-444-2454. All participants that complete the class receive a free bag of CERT gear. A back-

ground check is required to join CERT.

Class Schedule: Nov. 7, 6:30–9:30 p.m., Nov. 9, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Nov. 12, 6:30–9:30 p.m., Nov. 14, 6:30–9:30 p.m., Nov. 16, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Nov. 19, 6:30–9:30 p.m., Nov. 21, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

To graduate all class sessions must be completed.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 14 with Judge Robert Birnbaum presiding:

Tyler L. Lockman, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to \$15,919.06, 62 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, 240 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 14 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Daron L. Taylor, 50, New Richland, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault, felony violation of no contact order and misdemeanor DWI. Taylor was sentenced to \$131, 90 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 14 – 20:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cameron R. Elmore, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Robert J. Nelson, 51, Staceyville, IA, revoked license, \$281.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

James T. Adams, 38, Mankato, seat belt, \$106; Foster A. Borger, 20, Murrieta, CA, speeding, \$131; David F. Broin, 33, Austin, seat belt, \$106; Dandrea A. Chester, 24, Minneapolis, speeding and revoked license, \$321; Michael E. Cole, 51, Bloomington, speeding, \$131; Charles E. Cowell, 89, Medford, unsecure load, \$135; Chad A. Cultice, 32, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jason A. Dalbec, 42, Owatonna, speeding, \$81 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Rocio A. De Alba, 34, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Karla G. Devila, 29, Donna, TX, no license, \$175; Richard W. Dietz, 65, Mankato, speeding, \$115; Clarisa A. Doehling, 19, Kenyon, improperly worn seat belt, \$106; Kendra L. Donkers, 32, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Cory A. Fehn, 43, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106;

Jon F. Ferch, 52, Owatonna, inspection decal violation and axle violation, \$275; Michael J. Gallagher, 79, Davenport, IA, unsafe lane usage, \$125; Kelly L. Gilbert, 40, Chaska, speeding, \$131; Will J. Grobner, 26, Ellendale, seat belt, \$106; Lily L. Holtz, 18, Austin, speeding, \$125; Jeffrey A. Hubers, 39, Faribault, DWI, \$381, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Joshua Kaulaitz, 24, Cyril, OK, seat belt, \$106; Jason A. Kellis, 47, seat belt, \$106; Sarah A. Lazowski, 18, Rogers, speeding, \$141; Lewis L. Litzel, 38, Leland, IA, speeding, \$121; Brian T. McArthur-Oothoudt, 22, Inver Grove Heights, no insurance, \$281; Laroy A. McGee, 25, Milwaukee, WI, revoked license, \$281; William L. Melton, 24, Star, MS, hands free violation, \$131; Cole J. Roushar, 32, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Maxwell T. Schaffer, 21, Vermillion, seat belt, \$100; Justin T. Sexter, 29, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Mitchell A. Smith, 24, Waseca, speeding and window tint violation, \$171; Alexander M. Solheid, 21, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Dennis L. Solvang, 44, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Evelyn M. Stransky, 71, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Racey E. Underwood, 40, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jeffery C. Waldriff, 40, Le Center, seat belt, \$106; Abbas R. Yaacoub, 27, Wichita, KS, speeding, \$131.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anthony R. Black, 46, Owatonna, improper change of course, no insurance and revoked license, \$531; Darian M. Bohlman-Reyna, 26, Owatonna, theft and possession of marijuana, \$642.91, 36 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Catherine M. Buck, 66, Owatonna, speeding license, \$281; Bethany L. Butler, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Eric N. Dillinger, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Adam J. Drever, 40, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, stay of adjudication, \$75, diversion program, 30 hours of community service and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ann M. Fitzgerald, 44, West Concord, speeding, \$135; Brittany E. Gade, 28, Owatonna, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, \$50, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, mental health evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Kyle M. Gjerstad, 34, Mankato, speeding, \$131; Jordan

J. Kelley, 35, Princeton, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Jeremy J. Kelsey, 43, Faribault, expired tabs, \$111; Torry E. Kilcoyne, 53, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Rhannon L. Ladue, 40, Bloomington, theft, 37 days in county jail and 30 days of unsupervised probation; Matthew L. Lozano, 37, homeless, domestic abuse, \$131, 60 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Hanah R. Maas, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Karrie S. Meyer, 36, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Makayla A. Phillips-Tucke, 19, Dodge Center, speeding, \$135; Emily K. Slack, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Amy L. Sprute, 39, Waseca, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Michael J. Sutlief, 27, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Maya E. Valtierra, 22, Marshalltown, IA, speeding, \$141; Jerod A. Wigham, 39, Owatonna, assault, stay of adjudication, \$300 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Linda M. Williams, 49, Owatonna, revoked license and speeding, \$341; Jenny L. Wobbrock, 39, Austin, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Oct. 18 Restraining Order: At 12:08 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 1800 block of Hemlock Ave. NE.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began investigations of criminal sexual conduct on Cedar Ave. S. at 11:48 a.m. and on Cedar Ave. N. at 2:03 p.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 3:32 p.m.

Drugs: Drug activity was reported in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 4:26 p.m.

Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 2600 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 10:32 p.m.

Oct. 19 Burglary: Officers arrested a subject for burglary in the 1900 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 7:11 a.m.

Theft: At 9:46 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 800 block of University St. SE.

Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 11:57 a.m. They issued a citation.

Oct. 20 DWI: Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:05 a.m.

Animal: Police received a report of a dangerous dog in the 1100 block of Elm Ave. S. at 10:12 p.m.

Oct. 21 Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 2600 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 8:03 a.m.

Disturbance: Officers

responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Oak Ave. N. at 12:45 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Elm Ave. S. and 18th St. SE at 3:51 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 4:32 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 6:45 p.m.

Oct. 22 Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 100 block of Pine Ave. NE at 12:34 p.m. and the 400 block of 18th St. SE at 7:22 p.m.

Fight: Officers responded to a fight in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 2:04 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Hit and Run: At 3:30 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. N. and Front St. E. at 5:40 p.m.

Oct. 23 Assist: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:20 a.m.

Oct. 24 Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:49 a.m.

Arrest: Police arrested motorists during traffic stops at Dane Rd. and Hill Dr. at 12:50 p.m. and at Bridge St. W. and St. John Dr. NW at 3:45 p.m.

Probation: Police arrested subject for probation violations in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:04 p.m. and at the law enforcement center at 10:32 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 10:53 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Oct. 19 Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of School St. in Ellendale at 4:44 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 5:14 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford.

Crash: At 5:30 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at 98th St. SE and 14th Ave. SE in Somerset Township.

Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 14000 block of 54th Ave. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 10:51 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Oct. 20 Animal: At 9:18 a.m., an animal bite occurred in the 5600 block of 98th St. SE in Aurora Township.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Jose Abigail Gallardo-Ibarra, 22, arrested at 11:48 a.m.

Oct. 18, felony controlled substance crime, held for court.

Brandon Charles Froid, 33, arrested at 6:22 p.m.

Oct. 19, felony restraining order violation, held for court.

Susana Barajas Garza, 52, arrested at 1:27 a.m.

Oct. 20, DWI-test refusal, held for court.

Tremale Tremond Pitchford, 18, arrested at 10:15 a.m.

Oct. 21, domestic assault and obstruct legal process, held for court.

Oscar Trevino III, 31, arrested at 10:35 a.m.

Oct. 23, felony probation violation, held for court.

Jorge Luis Trevino-Lopez, 50, arrested at 3:56 p.m.

Oct. 24, cancelled license and providing false information of another person, held for court.

Michael Edward Payne, 27, arrested at 4:15 p.m.

Oct. 24, probation violation, held for court.

Raul Vargas, 32, arrested at 1:45 a.m.

Oct. 25, DWI, held for court.

Kevin Jackson, 54, arrested at 10:47 p.m.

Oct. 24, violation of conditions of release and contempt of court, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Randy Peter Hofius, 57, arrested at 11:46 p.m.

Oct. 19, domestic assault/assault and interference with 911, held for court.

Andrea Verle Schmitt, 50, arrested at 3:15 a.m.

Oct. 20, restraining order violation, held for court.

Richard Martin King, 35, arrested at 8:11 a.m.

Oct. 21, warrant arrest, held for court.

Quinton William Luckett, 28, arrested at 10 a.m.

Oct. 24, warrant arrest, \$1,000 bail.

Jose Luis Garcia, 20, arrested at 3 p.m.

Oct. 24, warrants arrest, held for court.

MN STATE PATROL

Jaclyn Rose Andrade, 30, arrested at 12:19 a.m.

Oct. 20, DWI, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 13 – 20:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rene I. Acahua, 23, Dodge Center, no license in possession, \$100; Maurice Allen, 44, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$180; Carey S. Ball, 47, Dodge Center, registration violation, \$180; Scott A. Bowman, 42, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$380; Corey L. Gilchrest, 26, Claremont, fireworks violation, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of probation; Suzann L. Halla, 36, Preston, aiding an offender to avoid arrest, stay of adjudication, \$250, 25 hours of community service and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Glenn F. Kruckeberg, 76, Claremont, registration violation, \$180;

Olivier N. Mpagazihe, 39, Rochester, violation of no contact order, \$280, 15 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Evan J. Timm, 35, Pine Island, speeding, \$120; Jonathan A. Villwock, 46, Le Center, speeding, \$140.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joshua W. Brown, 42, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Paul J. Demars Jr., 49, Faribault, seat belt, \$105; Giancarlo Dominguez, 19, Rochester, no insurance and invalid license, \$380; Cory R. Lussier, 47, Byron, seat belt, \$105; Scott R. Peterson, 55, Hartland, DWI, \$980, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Gail M. See, 30, Rochester, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Katie C. Smith, 35, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Luis A. Tapia, 28, Dodge Center, revoked license and speeding, \$340; Brittney R. Ulrich, 25, Kasson, revoked license, \$280.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Patricia Berntson, 43, Elko New Market, speeding, \$120; Aaron D. Bertram, 30, Byron, seat belt, \$105; Edgar A. De Jesus, 19, Owatonna, speeding and no license, \$230; Chantil N. Hacklander, 21, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Mark A. Motl, 46, Owatonna, ignition interlock violation, stay of adjudication, \$300, comply with ignition interlock and 6 months of probation; Larry J. Ramsey, 68, Gilbert, AZ, seat belt, \$105; Donelle M. Rohlfing, 56, Le Sueur, suspended license, stay of adjudication, 6 months of probation.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Andrew O. Katona, 42, West Concord, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, \$100, 3 days in county jail, therapy, domestic abuse evaluation and 6 months of supervised probation.

OWATONNA FIRE

Oct. 18 Crash: At 7:17 p.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred on Interstate 35.

Rescue: Firefighters responded to a water and ice-related rescue at Highway 14 E. and Highway 218 at 10:14 p.m.

Oct. 24 Smoke: Fire personnel responded to steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke in the 1200 block of 18th St. SW at 2:35 p.m.

Carbon Monoxide: At 8:04 p.m., firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 1300 block of Leif Ave. NW.



Turn your clocks back to the 1920s. These three women were very fashionable when they attended the 3rd Annual Speakeasy event at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Saturday, Oct. 25. Shown from left to right are: Cathy Janning, Stephanie Bruggeman and Jenny Hendrickson.

Austin Big Band scores high marks at Speakeasy event

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Deviating from the past progression of moving from establishment to establishment, the third annual Speakeasy in Blooming Prairie took a different twist on Friday, Oct. 25.

In the past, Speakeasy attendees moved from bar to bar to escape the feds.

This past Friday night, attendees landed at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club and enjoyed the melodies of a 16-piece band called the Austin Big Band. The band played favorites of the past.

Linda Theisen sang a couple of solos including

"Just a Gigolo." Nathan Wradislovsky is the band leader.

Nancy Vaillancourt and Laura Thomas of the Blooming Prairie Library decorated the establishment with the guidance of Chamber executive director Becky Noble. All were dressed in threads of the 1920s and 1930s.

Other guests also dressed accordingly.

The dance floor was crowded during the entire evening.

Laura Thomas, Cathy Janning, Stephanie Bruggeman and Jenny Hendrickson took honors for being the most creative attire.



Becky and Mark Noble got into the swing of things at the 3rd Annual Speakeasy event held Friday, Oct. 25 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Their attire reflected the 1920s.



A 16-piece band was featured at the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce 3rd Annual Speakeasy held at the BP Servicemen's Club. The Austin Big Band was popular for those who liked to dance and also reminisce about the prohibition days.

Student actors fill the air with sounds of music

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

For anyone who has seen the movie or a touring production of "The Sound of Music," it is almost an unforgettable experience.

The story of the Von Trapp Family Singers resonates with people of all ages and has become one of the half dozen most popular and successful movies and stage productions.

The movie starring Julie Andrews was released in 1965, following the stage play's first appearance in 1959. The film became popular immediately and held the box office record for highest grossing film for five years. It won five Academy awards, three Golden Globe Awards, and broke box office records in 29 countries.

The movie tells the story of the Von Trapp family in Austria, as they struggle to keep their independence during the early stages of the war, when Germany was making everyone a citizen of the Third Reich and a follower of Hitler. Captain Von Trapp is a widower, retired naval officer and living his retirement in a beautiful mansion outside of Salzburg, Germany. He travels frequently and



The Sound of Music will be performed by the Blooming Prairie High School Drama Department on Nov. 7-9. Ethan Eilers and Reese Millam as Rolf and Liesl.

needs a governess for his seven children.

Marie, a na'Ve postulant from a nearby abbey, is heard, and her free spirit makes the family an instant cheerful and entertaining group, who spends much of their time learning to sing. This displeases the captain, until he is also turned into a singer. Later, he is very displeased by Maria's relationship with the children, and she is immediately sent back to the abbey. The captain's engagement to a rich baroness falls through, and circumstances bring Maria back to the Von Trapps, where she falls in love with the captain.

They marry and then decide they cannot live under German doctrine. Eventually, they escape after a music contest in Salzburg, which they win, and are helped in fleeing by hiding in the Abbey cemetery. They find freedom in the Swiss Alps until the war ends.

For every aspiring female singer, the role of Maria is a coveted one, and Maria in this year's BPHS production is aptly filled by Cortney Espe. As she commented recently, "I love my role. It is extremely demanding, but I'm doing fine portraying Maria the best I can. I am super excited about doing the role. Practice is going well, and

you can tell that everyone is getting into it more. I think it is really coming together."

Of course, the action is all held together by the captain himself, and Jacob McHenry has that responsibility. He doesn't allow singing in the house until Maria shows him how he and his children sang before his wife died. "It is a great role," remarked McHenry, "and it is good one to show how a character develops."

McHenry said, "Practice is going really well, and I am earning my lines and developing my character and it is a real help to me."

The story of the play is interesting for everyone, and there are many moments of both drama and humor, but it is the songs and the music that lingers with everyone long after the play is done. "Climb Every Mountain," "My Favorite Things," "Do Re Mi," "Edelweiss," and "The Sound of Music" are just some of the songs that have made the play so successful.

This will be the fourth time for the local school to stage this play, and it is almost assured that it will be another rousing success. Make plans to attend now.

Best Christmas Ever nominations are welcome

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

During the 2018 holiday season, a group of caring individuals brought a Best Christmas Ever to Blooming Prairie.

Best Christmas Ever is a 501C3 non-profit organization that partners with business leaders and communities to lift up families who have fallen on hard times through non fault of their own by giving them a Best Christmas Ever! BCE provides additional support to families following their BCE through the BCE family pillars.

This special organization made a brighter Christmas for Brandon Harberts and son Jaxon. Brandon's wife and 8-year-old daughter died of injuries suffered in a two-vehicle crash in Dodge County on Sept. 7, 2018.

Rachel Harberts was a second grade teacher at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Daughter Emerson was a third grader. Jaxon was a seventh grader at the Blooming Prairie High School.

On this particular day in December of 2018, a group of caring individuals from BCE met Brandon and Jaxon at Bunkie's in Blooming Prairie and showered them with Christmas gifts.

Jason Kunz, founder of the Best Christmas Ever

organization, is reaching out again to Blooming Prairie and surrounding communities for nominations of families that might deserve a Best Christmas Ever. Kunz was there the day Brandon and Jaxon were presented Christmas gifts.

The vision of BCE began with a single dad battling Ulcerative Colitis (UC) in 2010. It was Christmas Eve and he had just finished wrapping the few gifts he picked up from the convenience store for his son.

Life had certainly been difficult for them that year. Hearing a knock at the door, he answered to see three of his relatives with huge bags full of gifts.

Falling on hard times can leave a family in a difficult place, says Kunz. "We want them to know there is a whole community out there to lift them up. We created the BCE Family Pillars to provide additional support to families after their BCE: Faith, Family, Finance and Health."

Over 1,000 nominations were received in 2018. Kunz said 200 Best Christmas Evers were presented in 2018.

Nominations will be accepted until Nov. 15. Go to the Best Christmas Ever website at www.bcemovement.org/nominate-a-family.

YOU ARE INVITED!

50 YEARS OF MUSICALS IN BLOOMING PRAIRIE

CELEBRATION!

Saturday, November 9 7:00 PM

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

210 4th St NE, Blooming Prairie

The evening will include a program, photos and videos of past musicals. We will be honoring LeMar Nelson, Sandra Johnson Rowe, Frank Vorliceck, Allison Jacobson, Renee Felchle Burns and Patty Mueller as past directors.

Tickets \$20 Hors d'oeuvres Cash bar

RSVP to Chris & Sheryl Mans by Monday, November 4 via email: sheryl.mans22@gmail.com

General public welcome! Please help spread the word to fellow alumni!

THANK THE HEAVENS FOR OUR CLERGY

During this Clergy Appreciation Month, we want to extend our deepest appreciation and thanks to our area pastors for their spiritual guidance in this broken world!



**Pastor
Todd Buegler**
Trinity Lutheran
Church
Owatonna



**Pastor
Brent Carlson**
Christ
Community
Church
Owatonna



**Pastor
Amanda Floy**
Trinity Lutheran
Church
Owatonna



**Pastor
Cindy Halvorson**
Trinity Lutheran
Church
Owatonna



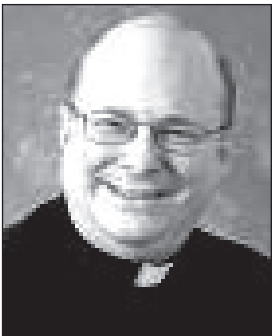
**Rev. Heidi
Heimgartner**
First Lutheran
Church
Blooming Prairie



**Pastor
Sandy Miller**
First Lutheran
Church
Hope



**Deacon
Kris Oppegard**
Trinity Lutheran
Church
Owatonna



**Father
John Sauer**
Sacred Heart
Owatonna



**Pastor
Matt Fennell**
First Baptist
Blooming Prairie



**Pastor
Paul Hauschild**
Trinity Lutheran
Church
Hayfield



**Rev.
Mike Walerius**
First Lutheran
Church
Blooming Prairie



**Pastor
Loren Olson**
United Methodist
Owatonna



**Pastor
Patrick Stitt**
Vibrant Life
Assembly of God
Ellendale



**Pastor
Scott Peterson**
New Beginnings
Owatonna



**Pastor
Randy Cirkse**
United Methodist
Church
Ellendale



**Pastor
Stephanie Wood**
Aurora Lutheran
Owatonna



Pastor enjoys challenge of rural church

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

While October is designated as Pastor Appreciation Month, Rev. Stephanie Wood says the appreciation she sees and feels from her congregation comes all the time. Wood serves as pastor of Aurora Lutheran Church, a tiny rural church located on the east end of Steele County. Up until last December, she also served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church outside of Blooming Prairie. The church closed after 144

years in December and now Wood focuses solely on Aurora. She recalls one time when she was traveling between the two churches and ended up on the side of the road with a flat tire. People stopped to help her with the tire and transported her to church so that services could continue as planned. “Appreciation doesn’t come in the month of October,” Wood said. “It comes in the thoughtful words of encouragement, willingness to change my tires and sharing how I have impacted their day,” she said,

noting any of those things can happen at any time throughout the year. Wood came to the rural churches in Steele County four years ago this month after growing up in the suburbs of Omaha. In general, rural churches are feeling the impact of a shift in society in general, Wood said. “We are adapting and being innovative,” she noted. The pastor is not afraid to try new things. One way is by offering Vacation Bible School for one day coming up in November.

“(Appreciation) comes in the thoughtful words of encouragement, willingness to change my tires and sharing how I have impacted their day.”

~ Rev. Stephanie Wood
Aurora Lutheran Church

Continued on page A7

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Saturday
5:00 pm Traditional Service in Sanctuary

Sunday
8:15 am, 9:30 am Traditional Service in Sanctuary
10:45 am Contemporary Service in Fellowship Hall
tlcowatonna.org/worshipschedule





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Owatonna



PASTOR ENJOYS CHALLENGE: *of rural church* FROM A6

Typically, most churches offer VBS during the summer months.

Last month, Wood offered for the first time a service called Blessings of Animals. Worshipers brought their pets to church service. “It’s a great connection to your faith what you practice inside and your life outside this building,” she said.

Aurora’s weekly worship attendance averages about 70. But what is most encouraging for Wood is the number of youth in the congregation. There are currently 30 attending Sunday School. “It’s unique for a rural church to have as many kids as we do,” she said, adding the congregation is multi-generational.

Looking back on her youth, Wood said she wasn’t the average kid. “I was the pain the butt in confirmation class,” she admitted. “I asked the tough questions.”

Wood attended Augsburg University in Minneapolis. During college, she volunteered for mission work in Argentina. That experience helped her break the expectations she had of what a pastor really is. “A pastor isn’t all knowing,” she said. “A pastor is human and pastors make mistakes. God uses us despite our shortcomings.”

She eventually felt a “growing sense of call” to become a pastor. “It’s like a snow ball rolling down the hill,” Wood said. “It starts out small and gains fast.”

As a pastor, Wood finds it important to connect with people in the church pews. One way she accomplishes this is by preaching without a manuscript. She attempts to make her sermons as applicable to every day daily life as possible. She also tries to answer the question of why God is relevant in our lives. Some of the common themes she focuses on are love, forgiveness and that people have been sent out with a purpose in life.

One of Aurora’s greatest missions and outreach into the greater community takes place every August at the Steele County Free Fair. For more than 50 years, the church has operated the Aurora Diner during the fair. Wood calls the diner “a unique part of Aurora’s history.”

In recent years, Aurora has reached out to other churches and groups to help keep the diner going during the fair. “It’s lay led,” Wood says of the dining venture. “My role is to be a cheerleader on the side,” she added.

Proceeds from the fair diner are donated to a variety of organizations as well as a “Rainy Day Fund” for Aurora’s building projects.

While Wood misses worshipping at Trinity, going down to one congregation has allowed her to try new things at Aurora. “It creates more opportunities to focus on Aurora,” she said. As an example, she recently



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Rev. Stephanie Wood has been pastor at Aurora Lutheran Church in rural Steele County for the past four years. Up until last December, she also served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of rural Blooming Prairie. Trinity closed after 144 years.

took a group to an area zoo where she spoke about God and creation.

“I appreciate the community and

St. Mary’s School to mark All Saints Day

Nov. 1 is All Saints Day, which is a Christian festival celebrated in honor of all the saints, known and unknown.

In Western Christianity, it is celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, the Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, and other Protestant churches. This is an exciting day at St. Mary’s School, as second and seventh grade students will help the school community celebrate it in a unique way. The festival will help all school members to learn more about how these Saints impacted lives as disciples of Christ.

At school mass at St. Joseph Church, starting at 8:15 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 1, the second grade students will lead mass, dressed as the saint they researched.

After mass starting around 9:15 a.m., each second grader will present their saint project by reading a few facts about their chosen Saint. Typically, the student has an association with the saint – such as the same first or middle name as the saint.

Meanwhile, the seventh graders become living saint statues in the Living Saint Museum, which is set up in the St. Joseph parish center and basement until 10:30 a.m. In order for the seventh grade living saint statues to “come alive” and talk about the saint they are depicting, visitors have to drop money in their cup. All money earned will be donated to a cause (typically a non-profit organization or a family in need) that the seventh graders vote on.

It is a fun and educational experience for students.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BP Elementary

Oct. 31- Skeleton leg RIP stick, “Frank”enstein in a blanket, vampire garlic mashed potatoes, Halloween cookie

BP High School

Oct. 31- Skeleton leg, vampire garlic mashed potatoes, RIP stick, BBQ rib sandwich, pizza, cereal bar

BNI PROMOTES: *business relationships* FROM A1

has forced her to get up in front of groups. “When you talk a little each week, it builds your confidence and speaking ability,” she said. “It really helps you with personal growth.”

For the business itself, BNI offers word of mouth advertising, Huisman said. “People want to work with people they trust,” she said. “People are going to talk. If they know you, you are the first one that will come to mind when they hear something,” she explained. “It’s a way to work your business through networking.”

In Tri M’s case, the company has never had a

person dedicated specifically to sales. “We really use it as our sales force,” Huisman said. “The people in our BNI group are our sales people selling our business as much as we are,” she added.

Members of BNI are required to take leadership training each year. “They teach us different ways of networking and how to ask for what we want,” Huisman said.

Huisman looks at BNI as “givers gain.” She said, “Whatever you give, you are going to receive back. If you’re out there being a good steward of the com-

munity, people recognize you and come back.”

Tri M has been operating in Owatonna since 1981 as a commercial and personal printing operation. Jon Jensen, who still helps with the business today, started the company in his garage and had the first fax machine in Owatonna. His son, Mike, has taken over the operations in recent years.

Anyone seeking more information about BNI can contact Huisman at 507-451-3920.

“They call me the den mother because I’ve been here so long,” Huisman said with a chuckle.

PEDESTRIAN HIT CROSSING: *BP street* FROM A1

has been a problem with people yielding.”

Despite a portable sign sitting in the middle of the intersection, it seems to have little to no effect on motorists when it comes to yielding to pedestrians.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Skillestad said a large part of the issue is that the intersection does not feature painted crosswalks. What further complicates matters is that the city’s hands are tied because the roadway is a state highway and jurisdiction belongs to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. “Anything we do on a state highway, we have to contact the state,” he explained.

State law, Skillestad said, requires vehicles to yield to pedestrians regardless if the intersection has painted crosswalks or not. However, the chief noted it’s difficult for officers to enforce the law when the crosswalk is not painted. “We are having a real hard time enforcing (the crosswalk),” he said.

Even prior to last week’s crash, Skillestad made a request to the state to have the intersection painted with crosswalks. He believes to have the intersection painted would make a “huge difference.”

Skillestad has noticed the benefits of painted

A pedestrian suffered non-life threatening injuries on Oct. 22 while attempting to cross this busy intersection at Hwy. 218 and 2nd Street SE by Vandal’s Family Market. Police Chief Greg Skillestad said the intersection is dangerous and needs to at least have painted crosswalks.

crosswalks in other parts of town. He pointed out that each year the city paints crosswalks by the elementary school. “That makes a difference to have painted crosswalks,” he said.

One option the city is exploring is 3D crosswalks, which is reportedly a stunning optical illusion. It’s nothing more than paint that creates an optical illusion that would make drivers think that they’re going over an elevated speed bump. It

gives the effect of walking on air as pedestrians move from one side of the street to the other.

“It looks like pillars are hovering above the streets,” Skillestad said. “It’s an illusion of something above the ground.”

Skillestad, like others, hopes something can be done soon before someone gets more seriously hurt at that busy intersection, which has seen a rise in truck and farm equipment traffic.

SEMAC sets grant application deadline for artists

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council announces a call for proposals by individual artists. All proposed projects must begin no earlier than April 1 and be completed within 12 months, culminating with a capstone event that is accessible and open to the public. Online applications will be available throughout January with a Feb. 1 submission deadline.

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

For information about the grant application process, eligibility, or assistance, contact the SEMAC office at 2778 D Commerce Dr. NW, Rochester, MN 55901 or call 507-281-4848. Information may also be found at www.semac.org. With limited funding available each fiscal year, every SEMAC grant category is competitive and includes an LOI stage used as an initial screening for eligibility.

To encourage the development of entirely original artistic works, SEMAC offers two distinct grant categories for individual artists.

Advancing Artist Grants recognize, reward, and encourage outstanding

individual artists and provide some financial support to enable them to continue their work. The maximum amount for advancing artists is \$5,000.

Emerging Artist Grants offer small but critical support for specific projects by developing artists from all disciplines who are committed to advancing their work. The maximum amount for emerging artists is \$2,500.

Proposals will be accepted from individual artists who are age 18 or older on the grant deadline, not currently enrolled in high school, and are full-time residents of the SEMAC region. No matching funds are required for individual artist grants.

Small town grants awarded by SMIF

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation(SMIF) based in Owatonna recently approved six grants totaling \$48,800 to support small towns of 5,000 or less in SMIF’s 20-county region.

The Small Town Grant Program seeks to build sustainable and vibrant communities by engaging community members, enhancing existing leadership and creating opportunities for new leadership to emerge. Rather than funding one-time projects, the program seeks to build collaborative efforts and partnerships that will perpetuate collaboration for future work.

The 2019 Small Town Grant award recipients are:

- \$10,000 to Amboy Area Community Club to create a

visionary plan for the continued viability of the historic downtown area of Amboy.

- \$7,500 to Blue Earth Economic Development Authority to support SHOP Blue Earth which will provide local high school students with resources to learn more about career options in the community.
- \$5,000 to the City of Eagle Lake to support a Music in the Park program in order to promote the collective enjoyment of music in an outdoor setting.
- \$6,300 to the City of Grand Meadow to support the development of “community nights” which will focus on providing opportunities for people to be more engaged in the community.
- \$10,000 to the City

of Kasota to develop a strategic plan and shared mission for the community of Kasota.

- \$10,000 to Saint Charles Public Schools to create a vision for the future of shared community spaces in Saint Charles.

“SMIF’s Small Town Grant Program is intended to breathe life into ideas that support important community initiatives,” said SMIF President and CEO Tim Penny. “In its third year, this program continues to be an important tool for small towns in our region to support community vitality efforts.”

For more information on SMIF’s grantmaking, contact Jennifer Heien at jenniferh@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7040.

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Awareness Month

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It does not discriminate.

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- On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by a partner in the U.S. This equates to more than 10 million women and men.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by a partner.
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence including beating, burning, strangling, by a partner in their lifetime.
- Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior.
- Only 34% of people who are injured by a partner receive medical care for their injuries.



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OBITUARIES

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Lois Ann Taphorn, 77,
Bloomington



Lois Ann Taphorn

Lois Ann Taphorn, age 77, passed away peacefully Oct. 22, 2019 at Reflections—End of Life Care in Northfield. Lois was a resident of Bloomington at the time of passing.

Lois was born July 28, 1942 in Carroll, Iowa; the daughter of Arnold and Agatha (Brincks) Hackfort. She graduated in 1959 from Kuepfer High School in Carroll. Lois was united in marriage to Robert John Taphorn on Jan. 26, 1963 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Willey, Iowa. Robert and Lois lived in Odebolt, Iowa until 1968 and then moved to the Bloomington area where she has lived ever since. Together they raised four children. Lois was a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker. Lois worked as an office assistant for Contel/Frontier Communications in Bloomington for many years; later in her career she worked as a travel agent for Sterling Travel in Austin where she was able leverage to her passion for travel. Lois was a member of the St. Columbanus Catholic Church where she was active in the Council of Catholic Women and the parish council, and served as the church "flower lady."

Lois' hobbies over the years consisted of gardening, flower arrangements, and decorating, sewing/quilting, baking, and spending time with her family and friends. Lois was much loved and will be dearly missed by all that knew her.

Lois is survived by her four children and their spouses: Debbie (Anthony) Wessel of New Hope; Mike Taphorn of Bloomington; Jeff (Melissa) Taphorn of Apple Valley; Patrick Taphorn of Owatonna; her three grandchildren – Ian Wessel, Taryn Wessel, and Jeremy Carnicelli; and her siblings Joan Becker of Carroll, Iowa; Betty (Marvin) Huegerich of Carroll; Colleen Steffes of Carroll; Doreen Stueve of Carroll; Mary (Wayne) Pluckhahn of Lakeview, Iowa; Robert (Sue) Hackfort of Arcadia, Iowa; Nancy Gach of Carroll; John (Linda) Hackfort of Carroll; Daniel (Janice) Hackfort of Carroll; Karen (John) Kerkhoff of Templeton, Iowa; and Bill (Marcia) Hackfort of Panora, Iowa and sister-in-laws Linda Hackfort of Carroll; Karen Bruch-Hackfort, New London, Wis., and many nieces and nephews.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, Arnold and Agatha Hackfort, husband, Robert Taphorn, brothers, Joseph Hackfort, Eugene Hackfort, David Hackfort, and granddaughter Katrina Wessel.

A Memorial Mass was held on Friday, Oct. 25, 2019 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Bloomington. Interment was in St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery, Bloomington.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be directed to the St. Columbanus Parking Lot fund. Services are prearranged and performed with Worlein Funeral Home in Bloomington. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Helen Ruth Fjone, 94,
Faribault



Helen Ruth Fjone

Helen Ruth Fjone, age 94, of Faribault, died Sunday, Oct. 27, 2019 at The Emeralds at Faribault.

A celebration of life will be held at Boldt Funeral Home, Faribault, on Monday, Nov. 4, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A private service will be held for the family. Interment will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery.

Helen Ruth, the daughter of Clarence J. and Mabel R. (Avery) Sons was born on June 15, 1925 in Deer Park, Ill. Helen graduated from high

school in Hansel, Iowa where she was a member of the basketball team.

On Oct. 31, 1951, she was united in marriage to Duane Fjone in Mason City, Iowa and he preceded her in death on Oct. 13, 2006. They started their life together in Wyoming, traveled to South Dakota and settled in Owatonna. Together, they owned and operated Duane's Studio, professional photography in Owatonna where Helen managed the studio and painted oil portraits. They moved to Hunt Lake in Shieldsville. She was formerly employed at C & S Vending in Faribault.

Helen's pastimes included antiques, playing cards, golfing and visiting with friends. She also enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughters, Andra Fjone (and Pastor Tom Stutelberg) of Robbinsdale and Barb (and Doug) Ruhter of Bloomington; grandchildren, Elizabeth (and Brad) Willett, Stefanie Ruhter, Karl (and Andi) Stutelberg, Jack (and Raina) Stutelberg and Erin Stutelberg, Ginger (and Joe) Bates, Carrie Jo (and Josh) Lake and great grandchildren, Joie Ruhter and Brody and Bryce Willett, Kaydin Kazee, Morgan and Maggie Lake; and special friend, Pat Kern.

Helen was preceded in death by her father, Clarence Sons; mother and stepfather, Mabel and Lloyd Helbling; husband, Duane; two sons, Todd Pandil and Tim Fjone; one brother, David Sons; uncles, aunts and cousins.

Visit boldtfuneralhome.com for information and guestbook.

BOOK NOOK

Time to sew
boomerang bags
at the library

Calling all people who sew! The Friends of the Bloomington Branch Library have offered to sew Boomerang Bags, reusable cloth bags that will be given to library users for free.

As you might guess from the name, the idea for Boomerang Bags began in Australia. As their website states, "Boomerang Bags is about making bags, diverting waste, starting conversations, connecting with each other, fostering sustainable behaviour, and having fun!" We became aware of Boomerang Bags through Ellen Sunde, who saw them at the Austin Public Library. Austin, with their larger population, gave away 700 bags this year! While we have not yet decided how many we will make here at Bloomington, Linda Christianson has arranged for a Thrivent grant, which will provide needed materials. Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch has offered to make special labels for the bags.

So now we need some volunteers! If you are interested in helping, we could use donations of brightly colored material. Helpers will also be needed for cutting out the patterns and then sewing the bags together. We may be arranging some work sessions here. Please call and leave your name and phone number if you are able to work on this project. Thank you all for making this possible. See you at the library!



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Sudoku Corner

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

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

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Recipe Corner
Not Your Grandma's Pumpkin Pie

This is not your Grandma's pumpkin pie recipe, unless your grandmother is creative enough to bake pumpkin pie with milk chocolate chips. Save time by using a pre-made graham cracker crust.

INGREDIENTS
1 (6 oz) packaged chocolate flavored crumb crust
1 egg yolk, slightly beaten
1 egg, slightly beaten
1 can(15 oz.) pumpkin
1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk)
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
3/4 Cup milk chocolate chips. Divided.
Whipped cream and additional milk chocolate chips for garnish

DIRECTIONS
1. Heat oven to 350° F. Brush bottom and side of crust with egg yolk to seal crust. Place crust on baking sheet; bake 5 minutes.
2. Blend remaining whole egg, pumpkin, sweetened condensed milk and pumpkin pie spice in large bowl. Stir in 1/2 cup milk chocolate chips; pour into crust.
3. Place remaining 1/4 cup chips in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at MEDIUM (50%) 30 seconds; stir. If necessary, microwave at MEDIUM an additional 10 seconds at a time, stirring after each heating, until chips are melted and smooth when stirred. Drizzle melted chocolate over pie in decorative pattern.
4. Bake on baking sheet 50 to 55 minutes or until wooden pick inserted into center of pie comes out clean. Cool 1 hour. Serve topped with whipped cream; garnish with additional milk chocolate chips, if desired. Cover; refrigerate leftover pie. Makes 8 servings.

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PASTOR’S COLUMN

Laying bricks or building cathedrals... which are you doing in life?



Pastor Paul Hauschild

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAYFIELD

Christopher Wren, who designed St. Paul’s Cathedral in London (one of the world’s most beautiful buildings), wrote about the reactions of construction workers who were asked what they were doing. Those workers who were bored and tired responded by saying, “I’m laying bricks” or “I’m carrying stones.” But one worker, who was mixing cement, seemed cheerful and enthusiastic about his work. Asked what he was doing, he replied, “I’m building a magnificent cathedral!”

Surveys have found that most people hate their work. They don’t look forward to going to work; instead they are bored with it and weary of it. They dream of winning the state lottery so they never have to work another day in their lives. God didn’t create us to be bored and unfulfilled by our work. He created us to serve Him in EVERYTHING we do, including work. “Work” in Scripture is another word for “worship.” God wants us to enjoy our work because our work is what brings glory to God.

It’s one way we worship God. The same thing can be said when we serve others and volunteer. Do it for the glorify of God! Paul wrote that we should be happy in our work because we are not working for people, but for God (Colossians 3:23). In another place he wrote, “Whatever you do in word or deed, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31). Yet, I know that work can feel like a burden because of a third party; someone who makes it difficult for us. In this case our joy is hindered, and then it’s very import-

ant to give it to the Lord in prayer and talk with another person of faith. It is possible, even when we struggle with our work or another person burdens us, to have a servant-mind with our job. We need to remember that life and jobs are not only about pleasing ourselves and others. We find more fulfillment when our aim is to please God (Gal. 1:10). Whether we are retired, work full time, or are in school, let us pray each day that God would use us to help others and to please him. God’s will be done!

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
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

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

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN – LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
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 Klawitter and Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppegard
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

CATHOLIC

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205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-6353
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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
Father Antony Arokiyam
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave Owatonna
Father Peter Schuster, Parochial Administrator
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. with Children’s Church 8 a.m. Sunday
Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Faith Formation classes for K thru Confirmation
Second Sunday of month: Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council: 2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council: 2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Peter Schuster, Parochial Administrator
507-477-2256
Mass: 4:30 pm Saturday & 8:30 am Thursday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday

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

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

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

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

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

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

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

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

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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The fall colors are still with us even though we are almost finished with October. Enjoy the colors while they last because the leaves will soon be gone and show will be creeping up the tree trunks.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

VOTE YES GROUP: rallies support for referendum

FROM A1

polls next Tuesday, Nov. 5, to vote on a two-question bond referendum:
Question 1 is asking residents to vote on the school district's request for \$104 million to build a new high school. Question 2 asks for \$8 million to repurpose the current high school.
Question 2 is contingent on the passage of Question 1, meaning Question 2 can only be approved if Question 1 passes. If Question 1 passes but Question 2 does

not, most of the current high school would be demolished.
Polls will be open Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Early voting through absentee ballots are available through Monday at the Steele County Auditor's Office in Owatonna. In addition to regular hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, the auditor's office will be open this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for early voting.

OWATONNA SCHOOL REFERENDUM

What: Vote on \$104M bond to build new high school
When: Tuesday, Nov. 5- 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Where: City of Owatonna polling locations and Clinton Falls Town Hall for precincts located outside Owatonna
Absentee Balloting: Now through Monday, Nov. 4, including Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp

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Performance • 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Dinner theatre • 6:00 PM

Performance • 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Performance • 1:00 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION SEATING
Adults \$8 • Students \$5
Dinner Theatre \$25 (Dinner & Admission)

Dinner Theatre Tickets with assigned seating go on sale at the High School Office
Friday, November 1, 2019 - 7:50 AM
You must be present to purchase tickets.



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STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
The Blue Earth Environmental Co. of Mankato last week began demolition of the old Hansen Building, located at 108 3rd Ave. NE.

Hansen building razed in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The walls came tumbling down. That's a bit of an exaggeration when witnessing the demolition of the Hansen Building, a brick building located at 108 3rd Ave. NE in Blooming Prairie. Workmen started demolition of the old Hansen Building at mid-week last week. The work is being done by the Blue Earth Environmental Co. of Mankato. The company specializes in demolition/excavation and asbestos abatement.

The building, owned by the Hansen Family Trust, once housed a movie theatre and a clinic. It borders the old bank building, which currently houses Hometown Insurance. The walkway alongside the Hansen Building was blocked off several weeks ago because bricks were falling from the building and caused a hazard. No plans exist at this time as to the future of the property containing the Hansen Building, said Andrew Langholz, city administrator.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Workmen last week were busy demolishing the old Hansen Building, located at 108 3rd Ave. NE in Blooming Prairie. The building once housed a movie theatre.

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEURS



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Shainnah Cooke, left, buys a pizza from Gracie Heimer, an employee at The Pizza Cellar for the day. The two students were part of the second graders who learned about banking and business in the Junior Entrepreneur program sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

BP second graders learn more about business

BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Second graders at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School recently found out first hand how a small town business community functions. Thanks to the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce and its Junior Entrepreneur program, second graders were given a hands-on opportunity to learn about city government and business and industry in the small community of Blooming Prairie. The second graders sampled a home grown curriculum developed by Linda Klemmensen, chamber member and owner of Sportstitch. Klemmensen and her daughter, Rachel, and Michelle Vigeland brought their curriculum to the elementary school for five consecutive days last week. Linda has taught her self-designed curriculum for more than 20 years. Rachel was teaching the Junior Entrepreneur class for a second consecutive year. Sixty-one second graders from three classrooms participated in the Junior Entrepreneur program. Teachers helping with the program were Diane Pfeiffer, Kim Lea and Denise Hadrath. What is an entrepreneur anyway? The dictionary says an entrepreneur is a person who organizes and operates a business or businesses, taking on greater than normal financial risks in order to conduct business. The curriculum features five different lessons:

- 1) Learn about businesses on Main Street in Blooming Prairie by referring to a map of Main Street merchants.
- 2) Make paper cookies and learn about unit production and assembly line production.
- 3) Tour the Blooming Prairie City Center and



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Second graders Harlee Doocy, left, and Brody Bishop vote for their favorite business they want to come to Blooming Prairie. Both students of Mrs. Lea were studying about business during a Junior Entrepreneur program.

learn about city government and city services.

- 4) Bring a new business to town. Three would-be businesses are surveyed by the second graders.
- 5) Students learn about the banking business on their way to becoming entrepreneurs.

Each class walked to the BP City Center at their own designated time on Oct. 23. The students were met at the center by Becky Noble, BP Area Chamber of Commerce executive director; Curt Esplan, mayor; Andrew Langholz, city administrator; Izzy Wacek, firefighter; Jake Peterson, BP Police Department and Jessica Kremer, ambulance. The emergency personnel actually responded to a 911 call turned in by the students due to a fire at the cookie factory. "We've got the whole city here," said Noble. She said the library is also part of the city. "Better readers make better leaders," she told the students. Noble asked the students what a manufacturer is. She then answered her own question, saying they make fenders (Minimizer), metal parts (Metal Services), bar bells (Heavy Metal) and finishing for metal (Extreme Powder Coating). For working at the cookie factory, each student was paid \$25. Mayor Esplan then went to each student and collected \$10 in tax money that pays for utilities, for streets, for parks, for the swimming pool and for plowing city streets in the winter. "That's not fair," a student remarked when giving up \$10 of the \$25 just earned. "How much do you get paid for being mayor?" a student asked Mayor Esplan. "Not much," he replied. "Well, you just collected \$210," a student retorted. Corporal Peterson took the students on a tour of the police department. "Where

Stark brings back lutefisk tradition in Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Though she's the first to admit that she has no particular love for lutefisk, Marlys Stark has been focused on growing what once had been a popular tradition in Owatonna decades ago. Stark is the organizer of the Lutefisk Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. She brought back the tradition six years ago after about a 50-year absence. "It was my idea to bring it back and have the people of Trinity work together," she said. "The fellowship of people working together is important." Trinity will be hosting a Lutefisk Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for everything, including lutefisk and meatballs, or \$14 for just meatballs and the other sides. It will be an all-you-can-eat buffet style meal. Unlike Blooming Prairie's Lutefisk Dinner that attracts nearly 1,300 people every year, Trinity's brings in just under 400 people. Stark would like to see a better attendance, though she's just fine if it doesn't grow as big as Blooming Prairie's. The Trinity dinner and Blooming Prairie's, which is put on by First Lutheran Church, are the only Lutefisk dinners in Steele County. "The old people are dying off, and the young people aren't eating it," said Stark. In Trinity's case, it seems like the dinner draws more older folks. She has found that it isn't the lutefisk, but rather

SEE STARK BRINGS BACK, B9

IF YOU GO

What: Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church- Owatonna
When: Thursday, Nov. 7- 4-7 p.m.
Tickets: \$18 for entire meal, \$14 for meatballs and no lutefisk
Proceeds: Benefit transitional housing and Trinity's water issue

Medications for your mental health

Mental illness, not unlike physical illness, can affect you or your loved ones quality of life if left untreated. As with treating most medical illnesses, mental illness can also be successfully treated and is a part of taking care of your overall health. People understand they cannot treat diabetes or a lump in their breast on their own, but that same understanding often does not extend to mental illness. You will not have a healthy body if you do not take care of your mind. If you or a loved one is struggling with symptoms of persistent sadness, anxiety, experiencing unwanted, frightening, obsessive or ruminating thoughts, are hearing voices, have lost the ability to perform self-care, have an eating disorder, have addictive behaviors or thoughts of self-harm, are unable to regulate your emotions or behaviors, you may be exhibiting symptoms of a mental illness. There is a wide range of mental illnesses and they have their own specific pattern of symptoms and can vary in severity. Chances are, in order to improve your mental health, you may need to seek professional help and may also require a prescribed medication to help reduce or alleviate your symptoms. Medications can play a very important part in the treatment of mental illness and are often the most helpful when they're a part of an overall treatment program that may include Psychotherapy, Rehabilitative and/or Community Services. Psychiatric medications work by regulating the brain chemicals, as it is believed that symptoms of mental illness come from these chemical imbalances in the brain. A person may need to take medication(s) for a short period of time or may require long term or a life-time of treatment. Some medications may work better for one person than for another. It

SEE MEDICATIONS, B9



Steele Talkin'
PATTY HOCKING

Developing BP through manufacturing

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Bloomington manufacturers dined together at a Manufacturers Luncheon, hosted by the Bloomington Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Following the lunch, manufacturers took center stage at the BP City Center and shared information about their industries.

Chamber member Keith Holman welcomed the manufacturers and thanked them for doing a “great job of developing Bloomington Prairie.”

Becky Noble, executive director of the local Chamber, praised the local manufacturers for what they have accomplished in the community. “The fact you work together is important,” Noble said.

Noble then asked each manufacturer present to tell the group about their manufacturing business.

Lisa Noble, Amber Borland and Matt Schlinger of Tandem Products were first on the unwritten agenda for the day.

Tandem has been in existence for over 40 years, Noble informed the group. She said the business, headquartered in Minneapolis, started out as the Tender Foot program.

Tandem employs 100 individuals and produces modular screens made of polyurethane. More than 80% of its employees live in close proximity to Bloomington Prairie.

Noble said Tandem relies on other businesses in Bloomington Prairie, including B to Z Hardware, Metal Services and The Bakery.

Three new product lines have been added at Tandem, Noble said. “We make our products leaner, better and faster,” said Schlinger.

“We ship to 42 countries,” Noble said. Tandem is planning to have a public open house next spring.

Dennis Heimerman and Ryan Heimerman represented Metal Services of Bloomington Prairie. Dennis said the company started in 1984 next to the Dairy Queen. An \$8 million business, Metal Services is now located on East Highway 30 in Bloomington Prairie.

“We do a little bit of everything from laser cutting to pipe bending,” Dennis said. “We will do one piece or a thousand pieces,” he added.

Metal Services has 40 employees. McNeilus Companies, Rosenbauer, Minimizer, Extreme Powder Coating, Heavy Metal and Tandem Products are some of Metal Services’ major customers.

The company, owned by Dennis, Ryan and Carol Heimerman, has four designers. The company



Ruth and Lyndon Johnson of National Coatings Restoration, Inc. attended the annual Bloomington Prairie Manufacturers Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 21 and told local chamber members about their business purpose.

has left its finger prints on the community by creating the Welcome to Bloomington Prairie sign and also designing the BP Veterans Memorial sign.

Lyndon and Ruth Johnson spoke about their business, National Coatings Restoration Inc. It is located at 10261 Highway 30E. Some of the Johnsons’ buildings were recently sold to Kruckeberg Industries.

National Coatings has over 30 years experience, specializing in blasting, prepping and painting commercial equipment for various types of customers. Company goal is to give the customer the best in basic and custom paint jobs.

Lyndon said National Coatings reconditions heavy equipment and does body work and collision work. “We do 1,700 undercoatings for McNeilus Companies,” he said.

Sandblasting is a unique service offered by National Coatings. The company sand blasts and paints New York city trucks. Rust proofing is another service offered by the company.

Lyndon and Ruth also buy houses and rent or sell them. “Our goal is to keep the town nice and clean for quality people,” Lyndon remarked.

Tiffany Peterson and Barbara Peterson shared information about Extreme Powder Coating, which started in Bloomington Prairie 20 years ago. Tiffany is sales manager and Barbara is the HR director.

Metal Services is a major customer of Extreme Powder Coating. Extreme does metal finishing. “We did the Brazilian wall at Target Field,” Tiffany said. She said the company also partnered with entertainer Billy Joel in refurbishing a 1920s carousel.

“We do a lot of custom coating,” Tiffany informed. She said the company’s product is a plastic, made from resins that are chemically formulated. “We are in the business of protecting metals,” she added.

Becky Noble said Extreme has also left its footprints in the area by helping build city benches.

Carrie Anderson of Heavy Metals said the company makes Olympic weight bars, approximately 1,000 a month. Heavy Metals, founded by the late Tyler Mundy, has seven employees. The company does “a lot of work” for Metal Services, Anderson said.

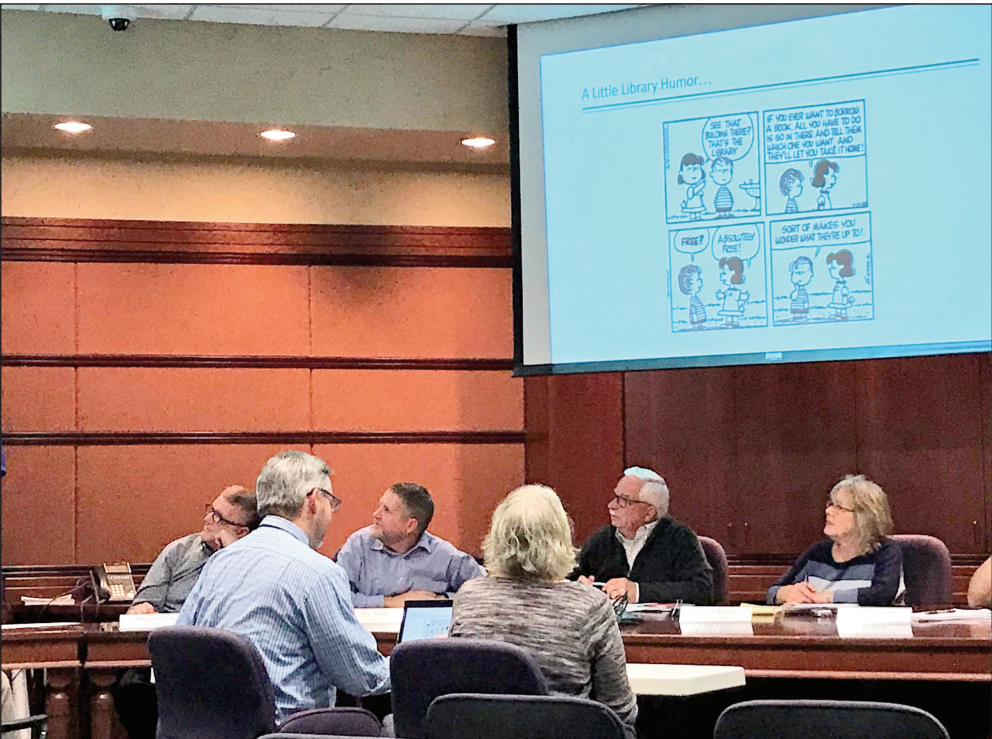
Ricky Soto, engineering manager and Rick Waldee, production manager for Arkema, said Arkema epoxidizes materials that go into many different products, including cosmetics and medical equipment.

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

Arkema employs 45 people.

“We have nothing you can buy on the shelves, it all goes into other products,” Waldee said.

Soto said Arkema is very community minded and supports many local causes. Arkema also has an active Citizens Advisory Panel that links Arkema with community residents including high school students.



Mark Blando and Nancy Vaillancourt give a presentation on the county’s libraries for the Steele County Board of Commissioners. Blando emphasized the evolving industry and highlighted some future ideas for the county.

Board learns about the value of county’s libraries

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During last Tuesday’s regular county board session, Steele County Commissioners heard from Mark Blando of the Owatonna Public Library and Nancy Vaillancourt of the Bloomington Prairie Public Library.

Both library directors provided information on their libraries for the board, while also reminding the commissioners of the importance that each library holds for the county. “We do a lot of programs, and we still check out a lot of books,” Blando said. “We serve all of the community.”

While libraries have remained vital to their communities, they have also had to change with the times, adopting technology and providing additional services such as copying, internet use, tax forms, and digital downloads of music, audiobooks, eBooks, and films. “We do a lot of things at the library, but our main thrust is still the printed word,” Blando said.

“Last year, we circulated over 26,000 downloadable items,” Blando explained. “A big part of what we do in the library world now is downloadable –downloadable eBooks, downloadable audiobooks– things you can put on your phone, or your tablet, or your computer to listen to.”

Outside of lending out materials, the libraries also provide valuable programs for the community. “We did over 440 programs, and we had over 17,000 people attend our programs last year,” Blando said. “We did over 2,200 records transactions.”

Both libraries offer free wi-fi and internet for those in the community who may not have access to the web. This could be anyone from students looking to do their homework, to people of modest means who need to fill out a job application.

“A lot of people still do not have access to the internet in their homes,” Blando explained. “So, they come to the library for that information.” Steele County has over 26,000 registered users, indicating good coverage throughout the county. “We are a very well-educated, heavy library-using county,” he added.

“We have around 2,000 Bloomington Prairie patrons,” Vaillancourt said of the Bloomington Prairie Public Library. “We had 59 programs during our summer program season, and we have several partnerships that we’ve worked to develop.” In 2018, the Bloomington Prairie Public Library reported 15,600 visits from the community.

Both libraries are also able to offer meeting spaces for the community to utilize, something which

Blando hopes to expand on. “Right now, we are looking at doing a library renovation,” he said. “Our ’92 expansion has remained fairly untouched other than some carpeting.”

“We’re looking at the main part of the library now, and we’re looking to add a bathroom on the third floor so that people don’t have to go down the stairs or use the elevator,” Blando explained. The third floor is home to the Gainey Room, which hosts many meetings and events.

It is an ever-changing industry. “Right now, the library world is kind of evolving from just being a place where we have a lot of books to being a community place,” Blando said. “We get asked for small meeting spaces all the time, so that’s what our renovation is going to address.”

“In the next two to three years, you’re going to see some really great changes at the library,” Blando added.

The Owatonna Public Library is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Its Sunday hours are from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Bloomington Prairie Public Library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Area cooperative presents to governor



While making a trip to southern Minnesota for the pheasant hunting season opener on Oct. 11, Governor Tim Walz toured Riverland Community College in Austin. Officials with Northern Country Coop presented their collaboration efforts with Riverland, U of M, Mower County Soil and Water and the local co-op. Joining in the tour were, from left: Jim Kellogg, director on the co-op board; Steve Lawler, Mower County Soil and Water; Governor Walz; Jeff Irvin and Nathan Augustine, both from the co-op.

NRHEG
Panther
of the Week

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Sophia Williams

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week’s Panther of the Week is Sophia Williams. She is the daughter of Scott and Melissa Williams and they reside in New Richland.

Sophia is in Ms. Williams fifth grade class. Sophia is always quick to participate in class. She is kind and helpful to all of her classmates and takes pride in leading by example. She’s very respectful and shows her Panther Pride each and every day.

Sophia loves reading, music, art, acting and sculpting.

Keep up the great work Sophia!

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

NOV. 4 7 p.m. – Planning & Zoning Board Meeting	Commission Meeting 7 p.m. – City Council Meeting
NOV. 5 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library	NOV. 13 4:30 p.m. – Economic Development Authority Meeting
NOV. 6 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library	NOV. 14 4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting
NOV. 12 2:30 p.m. – Public Utilities Meeting 4:30 p.m. – Fire	NOV. 19 5 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

NOV. 1 10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building	Community Building 6 p.m. – NRHEG Band Boosters Meeting, NR Band Room
NOV. 4 10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building 6 p.m. – Ellendale Community Foundation Meeting, Community Building 6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire Department Meeting,	NOV. 5 6:30 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do, Ellendale Elementary Gym
	NOV. 6 10 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

OCT. 31 9 a.m. – Owatonna Granite & Monument Open House, 1180 E. Frontage Rd. 6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library	9 a.m. – Craft & Bake Sale, Owatonna Eagles 10 a.m. – Hunting Seminars, Cabela's 4:30 p.m. – Centennial Celebration Dinner, Country Club
NOV. 1 8 a.m. – Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar, Owatonna Hospital 9 a.m. – Owatonna Granite & Monument Open House, 1180 E. Frontage Rd. 6:30 p.m. – Wine Tasting, Arts Center	NOV. 3 9 a.m. – St. Joseph Extravaganza, St. Joseph Catholic
NOV. 2 8 a.m. – Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar, Owatonna Hospital 8 a.m. – Craft Show, Elks Lodge 8:30 a.m. – Christmas for Veterans Annual Homemade Craft Sale, Trinity Lutheran 8:30 a.m. – St. Joseph Extravaganza, St. Joseph Catholic 8:30 a.m. – Charity Bazaar, Steele County Community Center 9 a.m. – Owatonna Granite & Monument Open House, 1180 E. Frontage Rd. 9 a.m. – Shake Your Flakes Holiday Sale, Baymont	NOV. 4 4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Park & Rec Board Meeting, City Admin Building 6 p.m. – Owatonna Firefighters Relief Association Meeting, Fire Station 7 p.m. – Steele County Planning Commission Meeting, County Admin Building 7 p.m. – Medford Park & Rec Board Meeting, City Admin Building
	NOV. 5 Owatonna School District Special Election 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime, Owatonna Library
	NOV. 6 7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building

Veteran's Day special to feature popular war film

A 2019 Veteran's Day special film event will be coming to Austin.

The historic Paramount Theatre will be showing, "Saving Private Ryan," on Friday, Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. A free-will donation is being requested with all proceeds

benefiting local programs.

The film event is sponsored by SPAM Post 570, American Legion Post 91, VFW Post 1216 and Auxiliary, DAV Chapter 27 and the Austin Area Arts.

For more information, call 507-437-4583.

No tricks, just treats at Applebee's

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar in Owatonna, Austin and Albert Lea is inviting families to join them in celebrating this Halloween with a Kids Eat Free special. Families who dine-in at their local Applebee's restaurant on Thursday, Oct. 31 will receive two free kids' meals with the purchase of each adult entr'e. Children 12 years and under can choose from a variety of a delicious entr'es from Applebee's Kids' Menu, ac-

companied by their choice of a side dish, and juice, milk or chocolate milk.

"We are looking forward to seeing all the little goblins and ghouls that will be visiting us this Halloween," said Terry Culler, regional marketing coordinator. "Celebrating this holiday with our guests and their families and offering the best treat there is – free kids meals – is one of our favorite things to do every year. We hope everyone has a fabulous time dining with us!"

AAUW to learn about the 2020 census

Members of the American Association of University Women of Owatonna invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting on Nov. 7 at 7p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church Lounge.

The program for the evening will feature Andrew Virden of the Minnesota State Demographic Center. Virden will

educate the group about the 2020 Census. The 2020 Census will determine the number of seats Minnesota has in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the number of the state's Electoral College votes. The count will guide the distribution of more than \$8 billion per year in funding in Minnesota communities between 2020 and 2030.

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast planned for Owatonna

The annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast with guest speaker Karen Vaughn will be held on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 a.m. at the Owatonna Country Club.

Vaughn is the mother of fallen US Navy SEAL, Aaron Carson Vaughn (SEAL Team VI). On Aug. 6, 2011, Aaron was killed action in Afghanistan when a chopper carrying 30 Americans was shot

from the sky while rushing into battle.

The speaker is funded by Kris Heichel with Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation. Tickets for \$15 are available until Nov. 15 at Kottke Jewelers, Owatonna InstyPrints, and the Owatonna City Administration Building. This breakfast is hosted by the Exchange Club of Owatonna.

Autism Friendly event coming to Austin

Autism Friendly Austin, which is an initiative of the Hormel Historic Home, is offering a free *community educational* event coming up in November.

It will be on Monday, Nov. 4 beginning with a light meal at 6 p.m. The presentation will get underway at 6:15 p.m.

Mower County's lead social worker, Jennifer Volkart, will share information on the intake/assessment process, grant programs/waivers,

services/supports and program eligibility for both adults and children living with disabilities. Information will also be provided on Children's Mental Health case management.

For more information on the event, or to pre-register visit www.hormelhistorichome.org or call 507-433-4243, e-mail at autism@hormelhistorichome.org. Pre-registration is appreciated. Child-care available with pre-registration only!

Healthy donors needed to maintain blood supply

As influenza activity picks up this fall, the American Red Cross is urging healthy donors of all blood types to give-blood to ensure a strong blood supply for patients in need. Blood can only be given by donors who are feeling well.

One way to maintain health is to get a flu vaccine each fall. There is no waiting period to give blood or platelets after receiving a flu shot as long as the donor is symptom-free and fever-free.

For those that have the flu, it is important to wait until they no longer exhibit flu symptoms, have recovered completely and feel well before attempting to donate. Donors must feel healthy and well on the day of donation.

Donors of all blood types, especially platelet donors and those with type O blood, are urged to give now to ensure a stable supply this fall. Stay healthy this flu season and make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Nov. 1-15:

Dodge
Hayfield
Nov. 8: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Hayfield High School, County Highway 31
Kasson
Nov. 4: 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., United Methodist Church, 801 5th Ave. NW

Freeborn
Albert Lea
Nov. 7: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Bridge Community Church, 2016 Bridge Ave.
Nov. 14: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Shoe Sensation, 2339 Leland Drive

Mower
Austin
Nov. 1: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mower County Employees, 201 1st St. NE
Nov. 14: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Riverland Community College, 1600 NW 8th Ave.
Nov. 15: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mayo Clinic Health System, 1000 First Drive NW

Steele
Ellendale
Nov. 4: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 200 6th St.
Medford
Nov. 5: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Medford School, 750 2nd St.
Owatonna
Nov. 6: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., National Guard Armory, 2323 W. Bridge St.
Nov. 7: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., National Guard Armory, 2323 W. Bridge St.
Nov. 8: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., National Guard Armory, 2323 W. Bridge St.

Woman's Club features hometown author

Woman's Club of Owatonna will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 at St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave.

Guests are welcome. The program is "Under Minnesota Skies – a Steele County Family Memoir." It is the story of three girls who grew up on a farm 10 miles south of Owatonna, "doing all the things normally done by boys" as well as telling the story of their immigrant great-grandparents who came to Minnesota in 1867.

Presenting will be Colleen Hondl Gengler, co-writer, the youngest. Her sister Bernadette Hondl Thomasy, the middle sister, is the co-writer. Their oldest sister Nadine Hondl also contributed. All will be at the meeting. The book will be sold by the sisters following the presentation.

The book was inspired by their father and his love for the 394-acre century farm. The authors searched for stories of their Czech and German Bohemian ancestors to gain a greater understanding of their traditions, foods and work ethic.

Colleen says that the farm is almost a character in the book as it evolves from horses to tractor power and new labor saving machinery. Home family life, 4-H, and Sunday drives all played a part of their lives on the farm.

The Hondl sisters are all graduates of Owatonna High School: Nadine, 1960; Bernadette, 1962; and Colleen, 1969.

Presenter Colleen is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and received her master's degree from South Dakota State University. She



Colleen Hondl Gengler

worked for 38 years with the University of Minnesota Extension, primarily in southwestern Minnesota, but also throughout the state.

Colleen is married to Don Gengler. They live on a farm near Slayton and are the parents of two adult daughters. She retired in 2012 and volunteers with Friends of the Slayton Public Library and the U of M master gardener program. She is a member of several heritage societies.

Bernadette, the co-author, is also a graduate of the University of Minnesota. She received her master's degree in journalism from the University of Michigan. She worked as a reporter and in public relations in Toledo, Ohio, for 30 years. She and her husband, Ken, moved to Sacramento in 2009 to be nearer their two daughters.

Nadine, who contributed to the memoir, lives in Rogers, Minn., and has had a long career as a hairdresser. She is an active gardener.

Greeting members and guests will be Marilyn Nelson and Betty Randall.

Carol Zetah is chairing the tea committee. The committee members are LaVada Benz, Phyllis Helge, Karen Killen, Sandy Muir, Bev Wessels and Jean Zinter.

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.

Hospital Auxiliary Bazaar runs over two days

If looking for holiday gifts, come to the Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1-2.

More than 1,000 attended last year's Holiday Bazaar.

Get a passport and travel around the Bazaar

areas. The passport, given out at the main entrance, will gain the visitor entrance to eight different areas.

The bazaar opens up at 8 a.m. both days and continues until 5 p.m. on Friday and until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

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Nov. - April: Available Later
May 5: Wine Tasting "Gala"

Holiday Dazzle Wine Tasting
Thurs. Nov. 7 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Held at the BP Servicemens Club
Tickets: \$15 Advance/ \$20 Door
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Tar spot – a new disease found in Minnesota corn

Tar spot is the common name of a plant disease caused by certain fungi. The name is fitting, because one symptom of the disease is the appearance of black splotches that look like droplets of tar on leaves. You may be familiar with tar spot on your maple trees – this disease shows up on maples as large black blemishes on otherwise lush, green leaves. This year, however, tar spot was discovered on another plant. It was confirmed for the first time on corn in Minnesota at the end of September.



PHOTO COURTESY: UMN EXTENSION.

The first instance was in southern Fillmore county, but it has since been found in Faribault, Winona, and Freeborn counties as well. At this point, it hasn't been widespread throughout these counties, just found in one to two fields per county. Fortunately, the disease was at low levels in each of these fields, with no measurable yield loss expected. UMN Extension specialists have suspected that tar spot might move into Minnesota soon, because it has been present in Iowa and Wisconsin. This year's wet weather has likely played a role in the spread of the disease. Tar spot on corn is caused by the fungus *Phyllachora maydis*. The fungus infects corn leaves and produces raised, small black structures, ranging from about 0.1" – 0.3" on the leaf surface. The black structures are firm, appear smooth on the surface, and



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

do not rub off or break open like some of our other corn leaf diseases. Tar spot can, strangely enough, sometimes produce fisheye symptoms, which are tan lesions with dark borders surrounding the tar spots. Be on the lookout for tar spot because there is a good chance it is present in other areas in our part of Minnesota. In fields where the disease was found, tar spot appeared to be mostly concentrated in one area. In these cases, tar spot was not visible from the nearest road; walking in the field was required to see it. Tar spot reached yield-damaging levels in some states in 2018, so UMN Extension specialists suspect that part of the reason the disease wasn't severe in the Midwest this year has to do with the requirements for disease development, which include high moisture, cool temperatures (60-70°F), and the availability of fungal inoculum, not coming together at the right time for infection to start early enough to cause serious plant damage. Though tar spot will not likely cause yield reductions in the fields where it has been found so far this year, the disease has the potential to result in significant yield losses. Please contact me at 507-444-7691 or lacanne@umn.edu, if you suspect tar spot in your field. To see current distribution maps for tar spot on corn, visit: <https://corn.ipmPIPE.org/tarspot/>. *Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for the University of Minnesota Extension based in Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.*

Republicans blast farm tax law

A bad tax law approved by House Democrats and signed into law by Governor Walz last session is now costing farmers thousands of dollars, say Republican leaders. Specifically, farmers and other business owners who traded equipment are having that trade value counted as income and can likely expect a bill from the Department of Revenue, and it won't be cheap. "We are hearing from farmers who are in shock by this news," said State Representative Paul Anderson, R-Starbuck, the lead Republican on the House Greater Minnesota Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division. "I warned people during the last session that the lack of conformity was going to be a real problem and now, unfortunately, those concerns are coming back to bite farmers." "For some reason we expect farmers to have thousands of dollars just sitting around when the tax man unexpectedly comes calling," said State Representative Greg Davids, R-Preston, Republican Lead of the Minnesota House Taxes Committee. "We have had House floor debates discussing high stress levels being faced by farmers and the growing number of suicide rates among them, and now they are facing a new and unnecessary financial burden." The tax problems center on the failure to fully conform to Section 179 – accelerated depreciation – in the federal tax code. Under last session's law, the Department of Revenue is directed to Review Section 179 claims, adjust for new expensing limits, and review any gains or losses from the equipment they traded in. For a farmer or business owner who traded in farm equipment or other machinery in 2018, and realized a financial gain on that equipment, the Department of Revenue will send a letter to them stating income taxes will now be owed on that gain immediately, while the higher expensing limits will only benefit them over time. Davids and Anderson say they are working on legislation to alleviate this financial hit on farmers. The bill will fully fund conformity to Section 179. It will also cancel any penalties and interest leveled by the revenue department on unpaid debts due to the Section 179 debacle. "Our proposal should be met with urgency when the 2020 session begins," Anderson said. "Farmers deserve better than this and we need to make it right."

Annual land rent meetings set for Owatonna

Landlords, farmers, and agribusiness professionals are invited to attend one of the informative land rent meetings being held across Minnesota. These free meetings are provided by the University of Minnesota Extension Agriculture Business Management Team. Farm land rental is one of the largest input costs a farmer has and determining a fair and profitable farm rent agreement which satisfies both the landowner and the farmer can be challenging. Recently, farmers have been receiving significantly lower corn and soybean prices, which makes determining a fair rental agreement even more difficult. University of Minnesota Extension's Land Rent Meeting can help guide your decisions.

SEE ANNUAL LAND RENT, B9

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NATIONAL PORK MONTH

October is National Pork Month, marking the time of year when hogs were traditionally marketed. On hog farms across the United States, pork producers celebrate National Pork Month every month. So join the celebration, learn more about this delicious protein and plan to serve it on your dinner table as a nutritional meal for your family.

18 FACTS ABOUT PORK

Plenty of pork

One market hog provides 371 servings of pork. This is based on 265-pound market weight at 70% yield and 8-ounce servings.

Safe, quality pork for your plate

Nationwide, more than 68,000 pork producers annually market more than 110 million hogs. These animals provide total gross receipts of \$23.4 billion.

50 years of upgrades

Today's on-farm efficiency means that pound for pound of pork, farmers are now using far fewer of our earth's precious resources than they were in 1959.

Calorie matchup

Pork tenderloin contains the same amount of fat and slightly fewer calories than the same serving of skinless chicken breast. Three ounces of cooked pork tenderloin have fewer calories than the same sized serving of chicken breast and beef eye or round steak.

Leaner over time

Through changes in feeding and breeding techniques, pork producers have responded to consumer demand for leaner pork. Today's pork has 16% less fat and 27% less saturated fat as compared to 1991. Many cuts of pork are now as lean as skinless chicken.

Typical market hog

A typical market hog weighing 275 pounds live produces a 208-pound carcass with 114 pounds qualifying as "lean" meat. The wholesale cuts of pork are ham, loin, shoulder and belly.

Third largest pork-producing country

The United States is the third largest pork-producing country, following China and the European Union.

Bacon from the north

Canadian bacon is smoked boneless pork loin.

Bacon, bacon, bacon

Americans on the average eat around 18 pounds of bacon each year. That's about 5.6 billion pounds for the entire United States

A third of pork consumed is via bacon.

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Section titles await powerhouses

BP shoots down Rockets again



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING
Blooming Prairie receiver Colin Jordison uses his left hand to ward off a Randolph defender during the second half of the Blossoms 56-27 victory on Saturday, Oct. 26.

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second time this season, the Blossom football team used an usual fast start and defeated Randolph in a section playoff game Saturday Oct. 26 on the home field.

The Blossoms took a 40-6 lead at the half and then were content to run out the game 56-27. The win kept the locals undefeated and moved them into another game against arch-rival Goodhue.

Saturday's playoff game turned into a full-fledged aerial contest, with quarterback Kaden Thomas leading the way. Thomas completed 21 of 25 pass attempts in piling up 354 yards and seven touchdowns, and Drew Kittelson went 7 of 12 attempts for another 87 yards. That made a whopping 431 yards through the air.

Alex Baldwin piled up 119 yards receiving with 9 catches, Gabe Hagen was on the receiving end for 87 yards, Mitch Fiebiger had 110 yards on 3 catches, and Zach Weber added 35 yards on two grabs.

The ground game almost got the night off, with Matthew Pryor counting 37 yards and Tyler Archer adding 33, with several other runners adding to the total.

The only difference in this game from the first meeting with the Rockets came with Randolph being more productive in moving the ball. The team took the ball for 541 total yards, 286 of them on the ground. Much of it, however, came against the Blossom reserves.

GAME SUMMARY				
Blossoms 56,	Randolph 27			
Blooming Prairie	13	27	14	2-56
Randolph	0	6	6	15-27



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING
Halfback Tyler Archer keeps his legs churning for more yards despite being wrapped up by a Randolph defender.

Unbeatens in finals Friday

More gridiron action will take place Friday night with the unbeaten Steele County powerhouses advancing to section finals.

The top-ranked Blossoms (9-0) killed Randolph 57-27 in section semi-finals for the second time this season to advance to the section championship Saturday against Goodhue (8-2). Third-ranked Goodhue knocked off second ranked Rushford-Peterson Saturday night.

During the regular season, BP easily defeated Goodhue 27-6.

The section finals will be played Friday at 7 p.m. at Triton High School in Dodge

Center. The winner will move to the state quarterfinals on Nov. 9.

Meanwhile, in the Class 5A section finals, defending state champions Owatonna (9-0) will host Rochester Century (7-2) Friday at 7 p.m. The Huskies killed Rochester John Marshall 42-0 Saturday to qualify for the section finals. In other action Saturday, Century easily defeated cross-town rival Mayo 43-13.

Owatonna started out the regular season by walking all over Century 44-7.

The Section 5A champions will move on to the state quarterfinals Nov. 9 at Osseo High School.

Huskies advance after overpowering Rockets



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING
Husky receiver Matt Williams leaves a Rocket defensive back in his dust as he scores Owatonna's second touchdown of the first half.

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

It's a different year and a different team, but the Owatonna Huskies earned the same result as they are once again advancing to the Section 5A championship. This year, they accomplished that feat by routing John Marshall 42-0 on Saturday, Oct. 27.

However, the game didn't start that smoothly for the Huskies as the Rockets' defense forced a punt on Owatonna's first possession.

Following a John Marshall punt, the Huskies' offense rebounded on their next possession.

Owatonna Head Coach Jeff Williams said some shorter passes got their offense going.

"After running a few underneath routes to Opegard early, we were able to spring some vertical routes to Beyer, Williams and Walter," he said.

Beyer caught the first touchdown pass and Williams' 55-yard catch and run gave Owatonna a 14-0 lead later in the first quarter.

After that, John Marshall got its biggest offensive play of the night when quarterback Cole Peterson recorded a 40-yard run.

"It usually takes a series or two to adjust to wrinkles that teams present and scheme appropriately. Kids also tend to become more disciplined in their reads as time goes on and they see what happens if they aren't," Williams said.

However, Owatonna's defense clamped down and stopped the Rockets' fourth-down attempt to keep them scoreless.

The Huskies' offense once again got deep into Rocket territory, but a fumble stopped their progress.

Owatonna's defense gave up only a few yards to John Marshall's offense so the Husky offense started with great field position.

Running back Tanner Hall cashed in on that great field position with a short touchdown run to give Owatonna a 21-0 lead.

Williams was pleased with how his offense bounced back after the fumble, but he said the team knows it can do better.

"I think we have a feeling that we are leaving some points on the field. We need to clean that up," he said.

Even though the Huskies were leading 21-0 at halftime, he thought his team could play even better in the second half.

"We found some things in the pass and run games that presented themselves in the first half that we felt that we could exploit in the second," he said.

Receiver Ethan Walter added two touchdowns in the second half to break the game wide open.

Williams said the connection between quarterback Brayden Truelson and his receivers was clicking throughout the game.

"Our quarterback and receivers were outstanding," he said. "I thought our pass protection was excellent as well."

On defense, he was impressed with the play of the Husky's front seven.

"Our defensive line and linebackers did a great job," he said. "We got a good push against the run and put tremendous pressure on their quarterback when they tried to pass."

That pressure led to another touchdown as defensive lineman Ethan Rohman earned a pick-six in the second half.

Overall, Williams was proud of how both his offense and defense played throughout the game.

"The kids did a good job executing a diverse game plan on both sides of the ball," he said.

After beating John Marshall 42-0, Owatonna will now face another Rochester team, Century, in the section championship game.

Williams said slowing the Panthers' offense will be critical.

"They are very explosive in both the run and pass games. It will be a challenge to contain them," he said.

However, if Owatonna can contain Century, they'll be on their way back to the state tournament.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING
Owatonna receiver Peyton Beyer makes a leaping catch during the first half of the Huskies' 42-0 victory over John Marshall on Saturday, Oct. 26.



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Running back Tanner Hall eludes what looked like a sure-fire tackle by John Marshall's Parker Navitsky.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

HUSKIES ADVANCE AFTER: overpowering Rockets

FROM B5

GAME SUMMARY

Huskies 42, John Marshall 0	
Owatonna	14 7 14 7-42
Rochester JM	0 0 0 0-0

PASSING	Comp.-Att	Yds.	TD	Int
Sol Havelka	0-2	0		
Brayden Truelson	14-17	279	4	1

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Sol Havelka	4	8	2	0
Brayden Truelson	4	4	1	0
Tanner Hall	16	70	4.4	1

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Matt Williams	2	59	29.5	1
Isaac Opegard	5	52	10.4	0
Payton Beyer	2	48	24.0	1
Ethan Walter	5	120	24.0	2

DEFENSE	Tackles	Sacks	Int
Carson Dekam	7	.5	0
Isaac Gefre	6	0	0
Grant Achterkirch	4	0	0
Zach Stransky	4	0	0
Cole Earles	4	0	0
Carter Debus	2	2	0

Battling to the end



PHOTO COURTESY CARINA BEAUVAIS

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva football players battled to the end in a hard-fought battle against Janesville-Wal-dorf-Pemberton in the opening round of section playoffs Oct. 22. NRHEG's Max Seltun (71) and Hunter Knutson (75) wrestle the ball away from a J-W-P defender in the playoff contest, which J-W-P shut out the Panthers 8-0. NRHEG's season came to a close with a 3-6 record.

FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Mid Southeast-White Conference

	Conference	Overall
*Blooming Prairie	5-0	9-0
Goodhue	4-1	7-2
Randolph	3-2	6-3
Faribault BA	1-4	2-6
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-4	3-5
Medford	1-4	3-5

Big Southeast-Red Conference

*Owatonna	6-0	9-0
Mankato West	4-2	7-2
Century	4-2	7-2
Mayo	3-3	4-5
New Prague	2-4	4-4
John Marshall	2-4	3-6
Northfield/Arcadia	0-6	1-8

Football State Rankings

Class A	Class 5A
1- Blooming Prairie	1- Owatonna
2- BOLD-Olivia	2- Hutchinson
3- Springfield-Comfrey	3- Robbinsdale-Armstrong
4- Ada-Borup	4- Lakeville North
5- United South Central	5- Caledonia
6- Goodhue	6- Chaska
7- Mayer Lutheran	7- Becker
8- Browerville	8- Lakeville South

L-O knocks BP netters out of playoffs

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

In a sub-section play-off match between two evenly matched teams, LeRoy-Ostrander edged the Awesome Blossoms in a five-game set.

The win for the No. 9 Cardinals against the No. 8 Blossoms on the home court Oct. 22 finished BP's season with 13-13 overall record for the year.

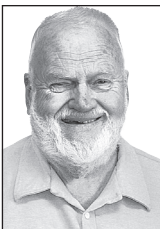
BP came out fighting and dominated the first game 25-8. L-O, however, regrouped quickly and split the next two games. The Cardinals won game two 25-22, but the locals grabbed game three 25-22. LO took back the momentum to even the match at two games each, and then outlasted BP 15-12 in the deciding game.

Micalyn Trihus and Julia Worke kept the Blossoms in the match with their play at the net, and Trihus provided a real bright spot for BP when she set a match record for the school with 30 kills. The old record was 26 kills. Trihus also had 3 blocks, and Worke pounded out 16 kills and scrambled for 22 digs.

Maggie Bruns piled up 26 assists and 14 digs, and Heather PirkI added 14 as-sists. Maren Forystek had 14 digs, Megan Oswald had 4 kills and 4 blocks, and Maya Lembke served 2 aces and had 8 digs.

Although the ending disappointed Coach Ranell Kittel and the girls, they took pride in the fact that they played hard throughout the season, and played with a positive attitude all year.

Still perfect



Outside the Lines

LEMAR NELSON

Another 50-point effort by the Awesome Blossoms kept their record unbeaten and moved the team into another meeting with big rival Goodhue for a second time this season. The victory over Randolph last Saturday marked also the second time defeating the Rockets.

Sometimes a team's record accurately reflects a team's strength, but sometimes records are a little misleading. Randolph came to McFarlin Field undefeated earlier this season, but the Blossoms had little trouble running roughshod over the Rockets. The same thing happened now in the play-offs, which would indicate that our Blossoms had a better team with more talent this year. Now the Blossoms are on a mission to beat the Wildcats with hopes to land a return trip to U.S. Bank Stadium. We are hoping they make it.

It is no secret that Coach Chad Gimbel has established a remarkable record in his many years as the Blossom coach. His ability to develop record-breaking quarterbacks is unsurpassed, and a trip to the state playoffs now number five or six. The team has established a reputation as one of the best teams in the area year in and year out. It is good to be a Blossom.

I think the volleyball girls were a bit disappointed after their season ended for not doing a little better, but there were a lot of good teams in the area this past season. Only a few teams swept the Blossoms, and they remained competitive in most matches. I would like to thank the girls for the way they competed all season and their positive attitude throughout. They were a fun team to watch.

A BIG PARTY

It is hard to fathom once in a while, but this year marks the 50th one in which the local high school drama and music departments have produced an all-school musical. From this year's fourth presentation of "The Sound of Music" to "Music Man" to "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" to "Annie Oakley," BPHS students have demonstrated a large amount of talent through those 50 years of performing.

To celebrate that milestone, the present drama and music departments have planned a big party at the Servicemen's Club on Saturday, Nov. 9, beginning at 7 p.m. The evening will include a program, photos, and videos of past musicals and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the door. The general public is welcome. If I guess right, some

unexpected surprises will pop up. It sounds like a fun time, and final details will be published for the event in next week's paper.

A MEAN TRICK

Last week, I wrote about my rather feeble attempts to carve jack-o-lanterns from pumpkins and how far down the list I landed for creative talent and accomplishment. That routine reminded me of another Halloween tradition at one time popular, but thankfully no longer a part of the Halloween celebration.

Back in the 1930s and 40s residents in our local town still were without indoor plumbing. The commonly used convenience location for health purposes was the familiar outhouse with its two (sometimes just one) hole for daily use. Also in our community were several older teenagers who used Halloween as a perfect opportunity for a mean trick. I was too young to participate, thankfully.

Anyway, at some point late in the evening three or four of those boys would sneak up behind a resident's outhouse and push it forward until it tipped over into the hole and make a bigger mess than was already there. One older resident would stay up and guard his outhouse, but eventually go to bed, at which time the mean trick would be fisted upon him and his property.

The old man, however, was a fairly smart and creative individual, and one Halloween inflicted his revenge on the trouble-makers. Sometime during the day of Halloween he took a long two by two and used it as a lever to pry the outhouse forward just a few feet. I didn't see the ultimate feat, but eventually learned that the ploy had worked perfectly. When the boys approached the outhouse quietly, they took the usual step forward and suddenly found themselves falling into a real mess. I guess they climbed out of the outhouse, but that was the last time for that trick to be devised for any resident.

One other comment about Halloween concerned several years in the late 60s when trick or treating got carried away into vandalism. Teenagers smashed pumpkins on the street, and some actually harassed residents, especially teachers, to the point that fear crept into residents' vocabulary. Fortunately, this phase didn't last long, and new and harmless traditions now are practiced by most youngsters.

We have noted how busy the month of October was. Now we are on the verge of moving into November, and we will find that this is another busy one. And this month gradually leads us into Thanksgiving and a stretch of holidays all through the annual Christmas holidays. This is a time of the year to which everyone looks forward and spirits in general rise accordingly. Let's all look forward to a happy season, and we'll talk again.

NRHEG's volleyball season ends in playoff loss

BY LEMAR NELSON
SPORTS EDITOR

After edging Byron in the opening game of a section playoff match, the NRHEG volleyball team couldn't keep up with the stronger Bear team and lost the match in four games on Oct. 24.

The Panthers won game one 25-22, but Byron took over with three straight victories of 25-13, 25-9, and 25-13.

"We played an almost perfect first game," remarked Panther Coach Onika Peterson. "doing all the little things and passing, hitting, and blocking. Unfortunately,

the Bears really took off and dominated the rest of the match." Byron had a couple of tough hitters at the net that NRHEG could not contain.

The Panthers finished the season 15-16 overall, but "I am proud of what we accomplished and how much the team grew over the course of the season," Peterson said, adding the seniors on the team proved to be good leaders.

Sophie Srork led the team scoring with 13 kills, 17 digs, and 3 ace serves. Grace Tufta had 20 assists and 11 digs, and Cambria Nissen scrambled for 5 digs. Four other Panthers had at least 4 digs each.

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Tie-Breaker Score _____

7. Minnesota (NFL) at Dallas*

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 dcf@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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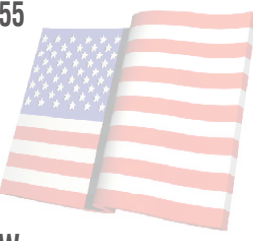


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So what can you do if a deer jumps in front of your car? Here are some useful tips to keep from being one of over 200 people annually killed by deer coming through your windshield:

Don't get distracted by anything. If you see deer crossing signs or know the area to have deer, pay close attention to the road. Look as far down the road as possible, again to give yourself time to slow down if you see something.

If a collision is inevitable, if you get the proverbial "deer in the headlights" look from a deer and you know you can't stop, plow through without hitting the brakes. It is intuitive to want to stop, but often at highway speeds, it cannot be done. Braking will dip the front end of the vehicle and increase the chances the deer will come up the hood and through the windshield.

Use your high-beam headlights when there are no oncoming cars. Deer are hard to see early in the morning and at dusk, your bright lights will help pick up a deer's eye to give you advanced warning time.

Don't be afraid to use your horn. Animals have a tendency to run when you really lay on your horn, which can often make them get in gear and move.

Do not swerve. There is nobody who loves animals more than me, but swerving often leads to hitting a fixed object, especially a tree. I hate the thought of killing an animal, but sometimes that may be the smartest move.

If you do hit a deer, you may have an airbag deployment, which can save your life but also shock you and injure you. **Get off the road in a safe place,** turn your flashers on, and use your cell phone to call for help. Put safety first, always.

State Farm's latest annual report, estimates there were 1.33 million deer, elk, moose, and caribou collisions from July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018. Be alert, follow the tips I have given you and hopefully you can avoid a collision with an animal, no matter what species.

When you run into trouble. We're here to help you out.

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MEDICATIONS: *for your mental health* FROM B1

is often difficult to predict who will respond to what medication, but prescribers usually will review your clinical records and gather a family and medical history in determining one medication over another. Some psychiatric medications tend to work very quickly, while others may work slowly and you may need to be on a medication for several weeks before you see any improvement.

Medications for mental illness fall into the following categories:

Antidepressants - Work to improve symptoms of sadness, depressed mood and anxiety and thoughts of self-harm. Medications for depression impact the brain chemicals associated with emotion, such as serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine.

Antipsychotics - May reduce or eliminate symptoms of psychosis such as hearing unwanted voices or having fearful thoughts. These medications can help

you have clear thoughts, stay organized and calm. Antipsychotic medications impact the brain chemical called dopamine. Antipsychotics may also be used to treat depression as they work on the brain differently than antidepressants and may help those who have not been relieved by other treatments.

Mood Stabilizers - Reduce extreme mood swings and have been proven effective in treating Bipolar Disorder. Mood stabilizers can also be used to treat depression.

Anti-Anxiety - Reduce the physical and emotional symptoms of anxiety, can help with social phobias and panic attacks and can aid with insomnia and help to make you feel more relaxed.

Stimulants and related medication - Can be helpful in reducing the symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorders such as hyperactivity and impulsiveness and may improve

concentration and attention spans.

Before starting a medication:

- Talk with your prescriber and be honest about all the symptoms you have been experiencing.
- Tell your prescriber about any and all drugs, alcohol, herbal supplements, over the counter or other prescription medications you are or have been taking.
- Discuss your concerns and ask about your options to create a plan that works well for you.
- Ask about the potential benefits, as well as potential side effects, and ask whom you should contact should you experience unpleasant side effects.
- Be persistent until you find the medication or combination of medications that work for you.
- Work with your prescriber if you wish to discontinue your medication as stopping abruptly can often lead to unpleasant

side effects or withdrawal symptoms.

- Take your medication as prescribed even if your symptoms improve unless your physician discontinues them.

Work with your prescriber so you can decide which medication may be best for you. Remember it is very important to treat your mental health as a part of your overall health. Your mental health affects your physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. Managing your mental health can lead to better quality of life and no one's illness affects only the individual, but can affect your loved ones, your job and other aspects of your life. Take care of yourself!

Patty Hocking, RN, is the director of nursing at the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors from various organizations throughout Steele County.

STARK BRINGS BACK: *lutefisk tradition* FROM B1

the meatballs that draws people to the dinner.

Putting on a large dinner is no easy task. About 130 volunteers are recruited from the congregation to help with the dinner. Stark says they have no problems finding people to help out. This is the only community dinner that Trinity puts on throughout the year.

The Lefse and meatballs are made from scratch the day before. "It's very fresh, not frozen," Stark points out.

Proceeds from the dinner will go to the transitional housing program in Steele County as well as addressing a water rust issue at Trinity. Stark said the rust has been getting worse in Trinity's water over the past few years.

As for Stark's love for lutefisk, she's the first

to say she's not big on it. "We fish, but we don't eat lutefisk," Stark said. "We're not working too hard on that. We probably will never acquire a taste for it," she added.

Ironically, lutefisk played a role in the early years of Stark's relationship with her husband. They came to Trinity's lutefisk dinner when they were dating. "He thought it smelled the worst," Stark said of her now husband. "We're still together after 58 years," she said, adding they don't believe lutefisk smells as bad as it once did.

Stark is looking forward to next week's dinner. "Thanks to me, we're it. I don't know if this is a good idea or not," she said. She quickly added, "People have always been real happy with our dinner. Give us a try."

ANNUAL LAND RENT: *meetings set for Owatonna* FROM B4

David Bau, Extension educator in Ag Business Management, will provide guidance for determining a fair rental agreement through examples, fact-sheets, county and statewide rental averages, and worksheets.

Topics covered at the meetings will include historic and projected farmland rental rate trends, current farm land values and sales, input costs, corn and soybean prices, and personalized worksheets. Input costs for 2019 will be presented along with current 2019 corn and soybean prices. Worksheets will examine 2020 costs, determine affordable rent that farmers will be able to pay in 2020, the rate of return to the landlord at current market values, and examine flexible rental agreements.

Make plans to attend one of these informative meetings. Attendees will receive several educational worksheets and factsheets that will help to determine a fair farm land rental rate for 2020.

The free meetings will be held in locally at:

- Rice County 4-H Building, 1900 Fairgrounds Dr. #17, Faribault, on Friday, Nov. 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Steele County Community Center, 1380 S. Elm St., Owatonna, on Friday, Nov. 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

RSVPs are appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome. Please contact Madison Tebay at mtebay@umn.edu or 507-444-7686 if you plan to attend either meeting.

PUBLIC RECORD

Steele County Births February 2019 Eli Paisley Grunklee, Parents: Jacqueline and Keith, Feb. 1. Emmitt Prescott Grunklee, Parents: Jacqueline and Keith, Feb. 1. Kennedy Jean Webb, Parents: Jessica and Patrick, Feb. 1. Abigail Joy Babcock, Parents: Trista and Adam-John, Feb. 2. Olivia Mello Meyers, Parents: Carina and Aaron, Feb. 3. Ulysses Masaichi Russell, Parents: Jordan and Burgin, Feb. 5. Ella Sue Summy, Parents: Rebecca and Timothy, Feb. 5. Kensley Melissa Plasek, Parents: Melissa and Christopher, Feb. 6. Emilio Joe Escobedo, Parents: Christine and Jose, Feb. 6. Marianna Debra Jean Hambrick, Parents: Tori and Michael Feb. 7. Walker Jack Schultz, Parents: Lindsay and Luke, Feb. 9. Juliet Syrene Flink, Parents: Michele Enger and Jeremy Flink, Feb. 9. Olivia Jo Selvik, Parents: Meghan and Todd, Feb. 11. Elijah Jude Wiersma, Parents: Frances and Jordan, Feb. 12. Nolan John Wiersma, Parents: Frances and Jordan, Feb. 12. Jonathan Curtis Orchard, Parents: Lori and Curtis, Feb. 14. Jezah Abdirizak Nur, Parents: Ayan Abdi and Abdurahman Nur, Feb. 14. Jolin Gregory Klinkner, Parents: Danielle Prestegard and Nicholas Klinkner, Feb. 14. Richard Gene Pettet IV, Parents: Kallie Pettet and Ricard Pettet, Feb. 15. Arlo Dean Wacholz, Parents: Chelsey and Michael, Feb. 15. Isaac John Jewison, Parents: Rachel and Steven, Feb. 18. Bennett Nolan Ferris, Parents: Rachel and Anthony, Feb. 21. Benjamin Severus Gaul, Parents: Brittaini and Daniel, Feb. 21. Francis Rodney Pospisil, Parents: Katy Marco and Brett Pospisil, Feb. 24. Everly Ann Partridge Thiessen, Parents: Anna Partridge and Justin Thiessen, Feb. 26.	Steele County Deaths February 2019 Adam James Knopik, 45, Owatonna, Feb. 2. Marianna Catherine Warner, 90, Owatonna, Feb. 2. Allison Christine Anderson, 67, Owatonna, Feb. 2. Harlan Orlan Schultz, 75, Owatonna, Feb. 4. Albert Chase Batchelder, 91, Faribault, Feb. 4. Richard Edward Tollefson, 66, Owatonna, Feb. 6. Dolores Olga Smith, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 6. Robert Lee Nesbit, 84, Owatonna, Feb. 7. Randy Lee Harris, 59, Owatonna, Feb. 12. Richard Wallace Scholljegerdes, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 12. Denny Edward Willcox, 49, Owatonna, Feb. 12. Barbara C. Miller, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 13. Dolores Hentges Nelson, 89, Owatonna, Feb. 14. Darlene Grace Noyce, 84, Owatonna, Feb. 14. Frank Arthur Korblick Jr., 88, Owatonna, Feb. 15. Judy Lee Boe, 78, Owatonna, Feb. 16. Marie Monique Johnson, 84, Medford, Feb. 16. Lavonne Anne Schmidt, 95, Owatonna, Feb. 17. Gene Carleton Muchow, 87, Austin, Feb. 18. Arlene Mavis Peters, 83, Owatonna, Feb. 18. Virginia Adeline Tovson, 80, Owatonna, Feb. 20. Diane Louise Olson, 78, Faribault, Feb. 21. Kathryn Lynn Grovdahl, 64, Owatonna, Feb. 21. Gabriel David Bebout, 36, Owatonna, Feb. 21. Ruth Elsa Koehler, 95, Owatonna, Feb. 22. Marna Lee Bauer, 83, Owatonna, Feb. 23. George Benjamin Hiniker, 89, Owatonna, Feb. 24. Shayla Michelle Cooper, 23, Brooklyn Park, Feb. 24. Wilfred Gerhart Gerhart, 90, Owatonna, Feb. 26. Elizabeth Freda Becker, 97, Owatonna, Feb. 27. Daniel Dean Bauernfeind, 57, Janesville, Feb. 28. Bert Rudolph Nelson, 96, Owatonna, Feb. 28.	Steele County Divorces February 2019 Nichole Michelle Roden and Hunter Daniel Roden, Feb. 11. Sara Elizabeth Spatenka and Jon Carlos Spatenka, Feb. 12. Jacob Raymond Hines and Heather Lynn Hines, Feb. 20. Melissa Ann Guy and Shannon Arnone Guy, Feb. 20. Michelle Sue Miller and John William Miller, Feb. 20. Aimee Meliza and Joshua David Killen, Feb. 20. Rukiya M. Ali and Ahmed D. Wais, Feb. 25. Nichole Christine Burns and Daniel Jackson Burns, Feb. 28.
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Bachelor of Science in Library Science and three years of experience or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge and abilities for this position. Salary range \$61,651 to \$74,692 with standard benefits.

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MONSTER MIX-UP!

WONDER MIX-UP!

flowers do monsters plants? What kind of?

10. Other M o i t e r (a house with tangs) (chocolate) 8. M o n s t e r (The Boxplot) 3. eggs and f i e r (Hole) (tasty) (vampires) 4. E t a n k e n e t e m (Mighty) (Before Christmas) 3. back 2 k e t i n t o n (monsters dog) 2. f i a n k e n e t e m (monsters High) 1. D e a t i s u s (Colum) 10. Other M o i t e r (a house with tangs) (chocolate) 8. M o n s t e r (The Boxplot) 3. eggs and f i e r (Hole) (tasty) (vampires) 4. E t a n k e n e t e m (Mighty) (Before Christmas) 3. back 2 k e t i n t o n (monsters dog) 2. f i a n k e n e t e m (monsters High) 1. D e a t i s u s

One of my favorite monster movies is called *The Mysterious Island*. Some people escape a battle by jumping into a hot air balloon and sailing off into the sky. They land on a hidden island. It is full of danger and mystery. The best part is that there are giant crabs.

Monsters! We find them in books, movies and stories. We even make up monsters to scare one another – and ourselves. Why do we like monsters?

Most people like to be scared a little bit, so we enjoy the idea of monsters. Since we use our imaginations to create monsters, we know they're not real. When we want to scare each other, we make up monsters that are waiting under beds, living in closets or smashing buildings.

Some people believe that we have real "monsters" on our planet. Huge whales, giant snakes or piranha fish that attack humans are sometimes called monsters. They are actual animals that frighten us. When we run into one of these animals, we should be truly frightened!

It does exist!

werewolf vampire Godzila boogeyman

Real or Not Real?

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with monsters that are "real" and ones that are made up for a bit of spooky fun.

Monsters that are not real (Fictional) – Across

1. spooky creature that hides in your closet or under your bed

4. a man that transforms into a beast when the moon is full

6. a dancing _____ clattering its bones on the dance floor

8. blood-sucking monster that cannot stand the light of the sun

11. a fire-breathing _____; winged, scaled monster that lays eggs

12. evil creature that is shorter than a person; has ugly green face

13. enormous reptile-like creature that terrorizes streets of Japan

2. the giant _____ is a flying rodent with wingspan of 5 feet

3. dead person wrapped in cloth

5. the killer _____ is a water-based mammal

7. giant _____ is a tentacled sea creature that can grow over 40 feet long

9. toothy, meat eating fish, known for their feeding frenzy

10. one of longest reptiles in world, these serpents can grow to 20 feet long

14. a _____ monster is a venomous lizard that is very slow moving

1. How do you greet a two-headed monster?

2. Why did the night monster eat a lightbulb?

1. Hello! Hello! 2. He wanted to lighten up!

SNAPSHOTS OF HOPE

Breast cancer survivors tell their stories

CANCER IS A DISEASE THAT HAS TOUCHED ALMOST EVERY FAMILY. It takes many families on a journey they will long remember. Help us honor three incredible women who have shared their stories of how breast cancer has affected them and their families. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, we share these snapshots of hope with you as a way to provide encouragement and hope to others facing breast cancer and any other form of cancer or illness.

These women are definitely champions of courage in our community!



By **KARAN HEATHER**

WORDS: LOVE, HAPPINESS, CURIOSITY, ANGER, ANTICIPATION, FRUSTRATION, SADNESS AND HOPE.

In August of 2000, I experienced many of those feelings when my doctor uttered the words “You have breast cancer.” The words were chilling.

Many of my health and treatment experiences from 2000 to the present at times seem to be a blur. With the initial news came a flurry of decisions. The tumor was located adjacent to my chest wall, which complicated treatment a bit. The doctor explained the treatment options - I gave an understanding nod – he left the room, leaving me alone to process his words. My husband Jack and I decided the best course of action would be mastectomy, followed by chemo therapy and radiation treatments. We prayed for God’s grace to strengthen us for these new challenges. An emotional and very trying time came after the initial diagnosis when we informed family and friends of the findings and plans for treatment. Stories of chemo therapy side effects had been circulating for years and none of them were pleasant except for the ones that told of cancer cells being destroyed completely. Thoughts of mouth sores, nausea, fatigue and hair loss led to anx-

ious moments, but I decided early-on that worrying would not help! As it turned out, I had no mouth sores, no nausea, no fatigue and (sadly) no hair. Losing my hair was one of my fears and coping with it was trying. Needing to feel some sense of control led me to search out appearance options in case of hair loss. With the help of a dear friend and the advice of oncology staff, time was spent looking at hair pieces, cosmetics and comfortable clothing. I discovered a vast number of options available to oncology patients. Five chemo and 30+ radiation treatments were completed over the course of a year. I needed to take oral meds for five additional years to suppress the hormones that fuel breast cancer cells. Finally, the day came when my oncology doctor gave me the news I had longed for – “tests show no sign of cancer.” Prayers had been answered and many bridges in treatment had been crossed successfully. What relief! Every journey we take

seems to have a bump or two in the road. Fourteen years after chemo/radiation treatments were finished, I began having hip pain. A series of tests that began on the day of our 50th wedding anniversary in 2015 revealed lesions on bone tissue in a number of areas. Further testing revealed that I have stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. (The cancer made the hip brittle, causing a fracture.) After surgery to repair my hip, I began a chemo program that is ongoing. Something else has been revealed to us – there are many more “tools” available for cancer treatment than was the case in year 2000. I am fortunate to be using meds that have been developed in recent years thanks to dedicated research. I am fortunate to feel the support of so many people. I am thankful, as well, for the hard work of our community cancer support group. Through prayer, I am confident that God’s love is giving me strength and hope.

God’s love is giving me strength and hope

Diagnosis changed everything for me

By **STEPHANIE MILLER**

MY JOURNEY BEGINS FOUR YEARS AGO TO THE DAY.

It started in October of 2015 when I noticed a difference in my breast. I got it checked by a doctor and after a mammogram, ultrasound, and biopsy, I heard the words that changed everything. It was cancer and it spread to my lymph nodes. Within 24 hours of diagnosis, my army had been rallied. My family, friends, and the community had begun to reach out and show their support. The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group sent me a basket full of resources and my family and friends were ready to help in any way they could. I would do 20 weeks of chemotherapy followed by a double mastectomy and radiation for five weeks at five days a week. Chemotherapy started in a scary way as

I was allergic to the Taxol, but once they figured out the right combination of medications, I was able to get through the other treatments of Taxol without any trouble. The second chemotherapy treatment was Dose Dense A/C, which is also known as Red Devil. I had four treatments every other week. Our families rallied around us and helped in any way they could. I was able to work through most of the chemotherapy. Prior to the double mastectomy, our families organized benefits to help pay for medical costs. The overwhelming amount of love and generosity that was poured into us from our families and the community can simply not be explained. After surgery, I heard the two most beautiful words, “disease free.” After surgery, I began five weeks of radiation. I continued to work through radiation, thanks to my very understanding and supportive co-workers and supervisor. I was then put on medica-

tion to help prevent reoccurrence. Fast forward to March of 2019. The cancer has returned, but it was caught early and has been managed with oral chemo and scans every three months. I know it sounds cliché, but I always say cancer gave me so much more than it took away. It made us incredibly humble to realize the people we have in our lives are truly the most amazing people in the world. Family, friends, the community, and colleagues have been through this entire journey with us and continue to show us every day how truly blessed we are. I know that no matter what happens we have everything we need to fight any battle. I have been developed in recent years thanks to dedicated research. I am fortunate to feel the support of so many people. I am thankful, as well, for the hard work of our community cancer support group. Through prayer, I am confident that God’s love is giving me strength and hope.



By **CHERI KREJCI**

SURVIVOR.....ACCORDING TO WEBSTER... “TO REMAIN ALIVE,” OUTLIVE, OUTLAST.

I guess that is what I, and many others have done . . . become a cancer survivor. In December 2009, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. That is a day I will never forget for the rest of my life. After undergoing a double mastecto-

my and four rounds of chemotherapy, I was considered a “survivor.” I have been blessed for almost 10 years of being cancer free. In some ways it seems like a lifetime ago, and in other ways it seems like it just happened. During my cancer journey, I learned a lot of life lessons. One of the biggest ones was just how caring and supportive this community is. I had help with meals, house work and with planning Aaron’s graduation

from high school. I could not have gotten through it all without the help of so many. Another thing I learned was not to sweat the small things in life. There are so many big things to worry about. Having been diagnosed with cancer opened up my eyes to a whole different part of life. Be yourself, be kind, gentle and generous, and you will be rewarded with a full and happy life. Cancer did take a lot from me but it also taught me a lot. Survivor -- Yes that is me!!!

Cancer opened my eyes to a whole different part of life



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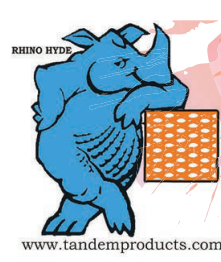
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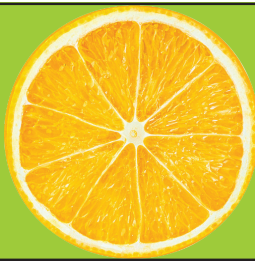


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