



When he's not patrolling the streets of Blooming Prairie, Dan Peach is busy putting up Christmas lights and decorations in the empty lot next to his father's hardware store on Main Street in Blooming Prairie. The police officer has vowed to keep holiday magic alive in the community this year despite a raging COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the city's long-time Holiday Dazzle celebration. It is Peach's first effort of bringing a Christmas wonderland into the community for all ages.

Tis the Season of firsts

Officer creates wonderland in BP

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

While the COVID-19 pandemic has stolen many activities from people this past year, a police officer isn't about to let the virus steal Christmas from the Blooming Prairie community.

For the first time ever, officer Dan Peach, who also helps his father run the local hardware store, is creating a Christmas wonderland in the same spot that provided residents with baked goods and treats to enjoy for decades. B-to-Z Hardware, which took over the lot where the Bakery burned down earlier this year, will offer "Have a Very Prairie Christmas," dai-

ly and nightly throughout December.

The magical area will come to life with decorations and activities for all ages. One of the centerpiece displays will be scenes from National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, an American family comedy film featuring Clark Griswold and Cousin Eddie. The display will feature Griswold's station wagon with a tree strapped to the roof as well as Cousin Eddie's RV, which was painted by local artist Sandy Jones.

Peach also plans to offer a holiday train, a large lit up Christmas tree, a scene depicting Toy Story and other

SEE OFFICER CREATES, A7

Christmas comes to Soubas after century wait

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For the first time in more than a century Christmas is coming to Souba Greenhouse in Owatonna.

The family-owned retail and wholesale operation on the western edge of Owatonna has been in existence since 1882. But until this year, Soubas had not offered Christmas.

It took cousins Jody Hugley and Jon DeMars, who took the operation over earlier this year from Hugley's parents, Bill and Debi Souba, to bring in the festive flair for the holiday season. "We decided we didn't have enough to do," said DeMars. "We thought we could open up for Christmas."

Hugley and DeMars traveled around



Partners Jody Hugley and Jon DeMars are offering Christmas for the first time ever at Souba Greenhouse in Owatonna. The greenhouse has been serving the area for more than a century, but had never offered Christmas until this year.

the state in June when they found a popular family Christmas tree farm near Cambridge. "We

liked the idea of having Minnesota grown trees - something local and cut fresh," said DeMars.

Last week Hugley and DeMars traveled to Cambridge to pick

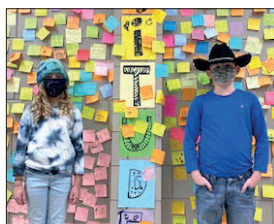
SEE CHRISTMAS COMES, A10

An attitude of gratitude

NRHEG students sticker their school with thanks

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

China has long been known for the Great Wall of China, but NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale is just becoming known for its own greatness.



Fourth graders Christian Thompson and Brynlee Nitzel enjoy expressing their gratitude by placing sticky notes on a wall in school.

Students have developed the Great Wall of Gratitude.

Over the past month students and staff members have been showing an attitude of gratitude by placing stickers on their school walls. They started after

MEA break in October and the thanks just keep rolling in. There are now more than 1,000 multi-colored sticky notes adorning the hallways.

The students were challenged with thinking of something they are thankful for in their lives, said Brooke Krohn, a school social worker who organized the campaign. They were provided with sticky notes to make drawings, write a sentence or list words expressing their gratitude.

Krohn said she stumbled across the idea in an email from "Look for the Good Project" last spring during the COVID-19 quarantine. "I happened to click on it. This one stuck out to me because it looked so simple," she explained.

SEE AN ATTITUDE, A7

Rachel's Light provides much more than shelter

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

When Rachel's Light opened a little more than a year, its founders hoped to fill a void - one that gave women and children without a home the shelter and support needed to get their feet back on the ground.

Changing the stigma of homelessness in the broader community was an important, but secondary goal.

"No one can thrive off shame and judgment," said Amanda Starks, executive director of Rachel's Light, the non-profit agency that runs the transitional home located in Meriden. "We can learn a lot from these women. They

are so resilient and so strong."

Since opening in September 2019, Rachel's Light has received more than 100 referrals and provided housing for 26 women and children.

Starks said she's seen women break the chain of addiction, women who have been told they amount to nothing become something and women reunited with their children.

Not many of Rachel's Lights residents are employed when they arrive at Rachel's Light. And, according to Starks, many have zero resources and no help.

Initially, Starks said, the women need time to rest, pause and reset, which allows them to get into some



Amanda Starks

kind of routine and schedule. About half way through their 90-day stay, Rachel's Light staff and mentors support the women with goal planning and help connect them to the resources they need to become self-sufficient.

SEE RACHEL'S LIGHT, A8

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AREA DEATHS

Dolores Frank, 89, Austin

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

We can still be thankful during a pandemic

To be honest, it is difficult to be thankful during a pandemic. We should take time to pause, however, and offer thanks for our front-line workers who are fighting to keep our lives safe.

It is anticipated that we will have a vaccine to counter the monster coronavirus in a matter of weeks.

In the meantime, we should offer our deepest thanks to the front-line workers who are sacrificing their lives to keep us safe.

Our thoughts and prayers of condolences to the families of those who lost a loved one to COVID-19.

For the past nine months we have been paralyzed by this terrible virus. Thanks to our medical staffs around the world and thanks to our government leaders, we have been able to live our daily lives, even though it's under the most trying of circumstances.

As we approach Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, let's say thanks for the many blessings we have in our families and in our loyal friends. It's because of our blessings that we have been able to realize that we will conquer this terrible menace.

Thanks to our thousands of election workers who diligently dedicated their time to assure us of an honest election. Thanks should also go out to the millions of military personnel who are dedicated to protecting lives around the world.

Think back to the time of our early settlers who gathered for that first Thanksgiving. Think of the many challenges that they overcame to keep their families safe.

This Thanksgiving, many of our family members are absent and that is because of our country's leaders who are asking us to take precautionary steps to guarantee our health and safety.

Wherever you are on this Thanksgiving holiday, remember that your loved ones can only be safe if we all do our part in fighting the coronavirus. Praise, pray and say thanks. HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all.

Area teams are No. 1 once again

Congratulations Blooming Prairie and Owatonna football teams for winning another championship in their respective divisions. The Blossoms captured the Section 1A championship while the Huskies took home the Section 1A AAAA title.

The Awesome Blossoms recorded a 6-0 record this season and now have won 16 games in a row over two seasons. The Huskies wrapped up their season with a 5-2 record. It was Owatonna's fifth straight section title.

It is unfortunate that both teams could not advance in the state playoffs. It would have been nice for the Blossoms to again become the Class 1A champions of high school football in Minnesota for a second straight year.

Even though it was a shortened season, the Blossoms showed their metal to be one of the top football powers in Minnesota during pandemic conditions. Coach Chad Gimbel and his coaching staff deserve a hardy thank you for bringing another championship to Blooming Prairie.

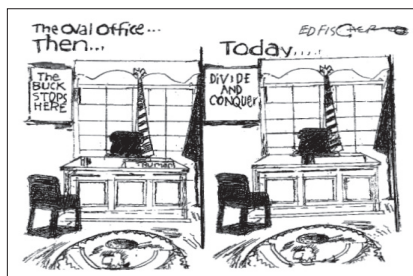
Even though it wasn't their best season, Coach Jeff Williams and his assistant coaches also deserve thanks for pulling down another section title for Owatonna.

All of the players on the Blossom and Huskie rosters deserve congratulations for showing all of us that hard work pays off. These young student athletes worked hard to achieve some unbelievable accomplishments under the duress of a pandemic.

Thanks also go to the many dedicated fans who followed their teams under some different circumstances. Only 250 were allowed in the stands at either field but there were many more who watched through other means.

The Blossoms and Huskies football teams of 2020 will be remembered for battling 11 other players during game conditions but also for fighting a 12th starter on the football field, the coronavirus.

Let's hope that conditions will improve and winter sports and spring sport seasons can be salvaged.



YOUR VIEW

Thanks Howard for passion of Drug Court

To-the-Editor:
On behalf of the Steele Waseca Drug Court, I wanted to express what Howard Lestrud's passion for featuring drug court graduates and festivities in the Steele County Times meant to the program and the people it serves.

Lestrud, and oftentimes his wife, Judy, attended every drug court graduation ceremony and featured every annual picnic along with the first

annual SWDC Volleyball Tournament. The participants and their families beamed with pride when they were able to read about their accomplishments in the local newspaper.

For most, it was the first time they had ever been recognized doing something positive in their life. Many told stories of humiliating past articles featuring them at their low points, and this gave them an opportunity to highlight

how recovery changed their lives. The first graduate from our program proudly framed and displays the Steele County Times article featuring her graduation on her living room wall.

Thank you, Howard, for your passion for journalism and highlighting the Steele Waseca Drug Court program and participants.

Nicole Grams
Steele Waseca Drug Court Coordinator

Depressed and isolated for some this Thanksgiving

As a youngster, one of my favorite holiday traditions was Christmas caroling at the senior apartment buildings in my hometown.

It always made me feel good when I saw the twinkle in the eyes of senior citizens, including my grandfather, as they listened to members of our 4-H club sing holiday carols. Of course, at the time I really didn't think much of it, but as years go on I realize how important it must have been to those seniors to have someone paying attention to them and spreading some holiday cheer.

Fast-forward about 40 years to 2020.

I can't help but think how lonely things have become for seniors, especially this year with the lockdowns at nursing homes and other assisted living facilities. They aren't able to enjoy Christmas carolers or other community members sharing a visit or craft activity with them.

Someone shared with me last week how his 84-year-old mother hasn't been able to have any visitors at her assisted living facility in Owatonna since March.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Facing an unknown period of loneliness and isolation, the woman's wish at this time is that she simply dies, he said.

To hear someone feel that way simply pulls at the heartstrings. How awful to feel that way! It makes me wonder how many other people are out there feeling no hope or the willingness to live any longer.

An emerging body of research has linked social isolation and loneliness to a range of serious health problems, including dementia, heart disease and strokes. In some cases, social isolation can hasten death. Since June, social isolation or "isolation due to COVID-19 conditions" has been a factor in the deaths of at least 12 Minnesota seniors, according to research conducted by

the Star Tribune, which reviewed death certificate records.

Many families are going to be apart for the first time ever this Thanksgiving thanks to a nasty virus raging in our midst. Many seniors are bracing for a long and lonely holiday season after determining that the risks of the deadly virus outweigh the benefits of connection. My heart aches for the families who have loved ones in long-term care facilities and can't get to them.

It's encouraging to learn that there are some local groups taking notice of the plight that faces our seniors. Gail Buckingham of the Exchange Club of Owatonna says her group is sending out cards to those in assisted living homes between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. The goal, she says, is to simply "make sure they know they are special."

I hope other people and organizations will take the Exchange Club's lead and do something to help seniors who are isolated from the world and likely depressed. We may not be able to do things in person, but we can come

SEE DEPRESSED, A5

GUEST COLUMN

We need to say 'thank you' to farmers

BY REV. RUSSELL RUDOLF

Amir Kalantri. In Wealth of Words wrote, "If the farmer is rich, then so is the nation."

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds."

Dinner on Sunday
Back in the 1940s, my mother always prepared the same meal for each Sunday dinner.

It began with homemade chicken noodle soup. Usually, it was fried chicken (fried in lard). There was always a big bowl of mashed potatoes (potatoes that had been loaded with butter and whole milk or cream prior to being mashed). The vegetable varied - it depended upon what was growing in the garden. Usually she always had a big pan of baked rice and there was always pie.

The preparation for each Sunday dinner began on Saturday. On Saturday morning my mother would go into the chicken yard. She went into the yard holding a long wire with a hook on the end. She

would snag a chicken by the leg. She would leave the chicken yard and go to the stump that contained the hatchet where she would chop off the chicken's head.

When the blood stopped dripping out of the neck of the chicken she would place the dead chicken into a bucket of hot water so she could more easily pluck the feathers. Before taking it into the house she would clean out the innards (intestines and junk).

Dinner Statistics
Back in the 1940s, 25% of the nation's population worked on farms. Today, it appears that less than 10% of our population is directly connected to the land.

If my research and sources are correct, back in the 1940s, 30% of a family's income was spent on feeding the family...in the 1960s, 18% of one's income was spent on food...in 2013 the amount of disposable income in a family for food dropped to 10%...in 2020 it appears that only 7% is spent on food for the family.

Back in the early 1800s, Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte needed a method for keeping his armies fed. He offered a cash prize to whoever could develop a reliable method of food preservation. Nicolas

Appert (French inventor) discovered the process of placing food into glass jars and heating them (pasteurization).

In 1810, Peter Durand of England patented the use of cans and by the 1820s was providing canned food to the Royal Navy in large quantities.

In 1812, Robert Ayars built the first canning factory in the United States - built in New York.

When one examines the history of food, one begins to realize that when the military needed to feed their people, women replaced men in the factories and that resulted in the need for "instant foods (1950s)" and "frozen foods (1970s)" easily purchased in a grocery store and quickly prepared in one's kitchen.

Now, supper can be prepared in 15 minutes. **Signing off...**

"I'm glad I don't have to make a living farming. Too much hard work. Too many variables you don't have control over, like, is it going to rain? All I can say is, god bless the real farmers out there." - Fuzzy Zoeller

Rev. Russell Rudolf is a retired pastor who lives in Owatonna. He may be reached at RR3Rudolf@yahoo.com.

YOUR VIEW

Family appreciates story on Rocky

To-the-Editor:
On behalf of my family I want to thank you for the kind story you wrote regarding my husband

Rocky's passing (Nov. 4 edition). It was so well written, and is a great reminder for us of Rocky's true spirit! The story

means the world to me! Thank you from the entire Rogotzke family. Susi Rogotzke Owatonna

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News Editor.....Deb Flemming
Office Manager.....Sherrie Pechan
Sports Editor.....Alex Nuehring
County Writer.....Chris Baldwin

DEADLINES
News: Noon Fridays.
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Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower \$46
Elsewhere
in Minnesota \$49
Out of state \$52

A state and national award winning weekly
MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
2020-9 state awards
2019-7 state and 4 national awards
2018-6 state and 4 national awards
2017-2 state and 3 national awards
2016-3 state and 6 national awards
2015-7 state and 4 national awards
2014-3 state and 2 national awards
2013-7 state and 2 national awards
2012-2 state awards
2011-4 national awards
(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association)



Laurie Kozelka, manager of the Owatonna Elks Club, expects Dial Back, Minnesota, a state-mandated temporary pause of most social activities, in-person dining, sports, and indoor fitness activity, to last longer than four weeks.

Elks Club manager 'sad' for those who will be isolated

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

The television had been turned off at the Owatonna Elks Club since the week of the election, except for Vikings games. Last week, however, it was turned back on for Gov. Tim Walz's press conference.

With the number of new COVID-19 cases skyrocketing, Walz turned to the airwaves to announce a statewide four-week pause on most social activities, including in-person dining, sports, and fitness establishments.

For bars and restaurants – and clubs like the Elks – that means the doors will be closed to the public through mid-December. The establishments can still provide takeout services.



Like many bars and restaurants in Minnesota, the Owatonna Elks Club put the call out to its members asking for help in draining its kegs before closing last week because of new COVID-19 restrictions.

"I'm sad for the people who come in each afternoon to visit with one another. They are

just looking to say hello to someone," said Laurie Kozelka, manager of the Owatonna Elks Club.

She added that many of the club's afternoon clientele live alone and their fellow Elks Club members are family.

"That's what the Elks Club is – it's giving, it's sharing and it's family – it's a place to meet one another."

Kozelka described club members' reactions to the governor's latest restrictions as "respectful."

"Sure, there are differences of opinions among our members," said Kozelka. "We have Trump supporters and Biden supporters, mask and no-mask supporters and those who believe the virus is real and those who don't believe it is real."

That's why the TV had been off, said Kozelka. "It

reminds everyone that we are all Americans."

During the closure, the Elks will be offering Meals to Go on Wednesdays and Fridays in December by reservations only.

Other activities are on hold.

"We've had to cancel our regularly scheduled activities," said Kozelka. Seasonal activities, ranging from the Ugly Sweater Party to the Children's Christmas party, and several private parties also have been cancelled.

Other local clubs and organizations are impacted as well.

Prior to the state's first mandated shutdown, many local groups – Owatonna Christian Women, Lions Club, Sons of Norway, Shriners, Singles

SEE ELKS CLUB, A7

GUEST COLUMN

Can the holidays be saved?

BY MARCEL GEMME

As the holidays approach, many of us already know what we're doing for Thanksgiving. Or better yet, what we're not doing. Since COVID-19 arrived, life has been different. One of the most noticeable ways is in the lack of closeness with others. Often, these are loved ones like our parents and grandparents.

When this whole thing began, the sacrifices were sudden. But so was the panic, so it felt warranted. Sadly, despite hospitalizations and deaths rising still, that sense of urgency is gone for many. Record-breaking day after record-breaking day, with totals coming in of more than 100,000 new daily cases, has made one thing clear: People are not following the protocols they should be to stop the spread.

One reason for this is that our nation has become divided by politics and this has somehow in-

volved things like health care, science, and facts in a polarized debate. Many Americans currently refute the severity and even existence of COVID-19. Thus, disregarding safety protocols and disease prevention practices has become a way of rebelling against "the other side."

Adding to the mess, authorities like the CDC have issued muddled guidelines and statements about staying safe. Recently, they've posted a guide to navigating COVID during the Holidays on their website. It begins by explaining that the safest options for celebrating with your family are limiting it to only your current household members or having a virtual get-together. They then explain all the different factors to consider should you decide to risk traveling to or hosting your non-household family for a more massive celebration.

This is contradictory and a stark difference

from how many other countries have handled this pandemic.

Perhaps a reason for this is the disproportionately large number of seniors in America. Seniors are not only extremely susceptible to the virus, but they are also more prone to a new phenomenon known as "pandemic fatigue." Essentially, the person becomes sick of the precautions and misses their family and everyday life so much that they begin to take unnecessary risks. Everyone can relate to this at this point, to some degree.

So, what are we to do? Nobody wants to throw in the towel and cancel Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. None of us thought back in March that we'd be dealing with this decision right now. Thankfully, there are solutions.

Since the pandemic began, technology has adapted. Video calling has come a long way, and

there are now ways to have multiple people on the same video call simultaneously. This can feel like everyone is together and is often easier to use than many people think. Younger people in the family can quickly help set this up over the phone, or those who live in the household already can help someone who's never dealt with the technology. This pandemic has been exhausting. But let's not give up. Instead, let's focus on solutions and what we can do instead of what we can't.

Marcel Gemme has dedicated his life to helping others find help. He focuses his attention on helping individuals find long-term senior care through journalism, community outreach and his website. For additional information, go to ECDOL.org.

Another COVID death reported in Steele

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For the fourth time in as many weeks, Steele County has experienced a COVID-19 death.

The county recorded its sixth death within the past week. However, no details were readily available about the latest death when this edition went to press.

After setting a record number of coronavirus cases last week, the county's cases leveled off slightly as 269 new cases were reported this week. The previous week's record was 384.

Dodge County reported 109 new cases over the past week. Dodge is one of only a handful of counties in Minnesota that still has not experienced any COVID-related deaths.

Public Health Director Amy Caron was unavailable Monday to provide her weekly update about the pandemic as she has most previous weeks since it began in March.

She previously has expressed concern about how families will handle the Thanksgiving holiday. Public Health's recommendation is for people to stay home and celebrate with only those who live in the household.

The real impact of Thanksgiving won't be known for at least one to two weeks.

Owatonna hospital restricts visitors

No visitors are being allowed at the Owatonna Hospital.

Allina Health System of Minneapolis implemented the new visitor restrictions at its Minnesota hospitals on Wednesday, Nov. 18. Allina will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and visitor guidelines will be updated as needed to help keep patients, staff and visitors safe.

There are the limited exceptions for visitors at this time. They can be found on Allina's Visitor Guidelines web page at www.allinahealth.org/coronavirus-covid-19/getting-care-at-allina-health/visitor-guidelines.

For those qualifying for a visitor exception, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Visitors will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and must pass the screening to visit a patient. Visitors who leave the building must show their screening sticker or be re-screened to re-enter.
- Visitors must wear a mask, visitor badge and screening sticker at all times during the visit.
- Visitors must have good hand hygiene and practice physical distancing during the visit. Hand sanitizer is located at all building entrances and on patient care units.
- If the waiting room is full, visitors may be asked to wait outside the building.
- Visitors should visit only the patient's room and avoid other areas. Visitors may be asked to step out of the room during an exam or treatment.
- Visitors under the age of 18 will not be allowed, unless a compassionate exception has been granted. Compassionate care exceptions may be considered.



Wear a mask in public spaces.



Get tested if you have any symptoms.



Answer if your health department calls.

MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN

COVID-19 Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, you're alive and well, not lying in a morgue, there is no death knell.

I speak of COVID-19 here. It has taken so many victims, we live in constant fear of loved ones being sickened.

We'll be home alone this year, the family won't be gathering, but we can still have good cheer, we'll miss the toddlers' babbling.

Thank him also for the news, a new vaccine is now tested, there was no time to lose, this is sooner than expected.

Thank God for fine health care, Doctors, nurses, who treat our ills, our First Responders always there,

all these folks have great skills.

On this day, don't dine in gloom, enjoy this special thanksgiving day, visit your loved ones on

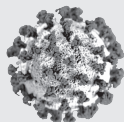
Skype or Zoom, then together you all can pray.

We give thanks to God for our meal,

We thank Him for our loving family, thankful to be alive is how we feel, let us enjoy this day quite happily.

Happy Thanksgiving to all. There are better days to come, In the year of 2021.

Bud Peka
Owatonna



World.....58,700,000
Deaths.....1,390,000
Recovered.....37,500,000
U.S.....12,300,000
Deaths.....257,000
Recovered.....4,880,000

COVID-19 UPDATE

MN.....270,000
Deaths.....3,297
Recovered.....94,416

Steele.....1,675
Deaths.....6
Recovered.....811

Dodge.....785
Deaths.....0
Recovered.....433

Freeborn.....1,393
Deaths.....5
Recovered.....
Mower.....2,367
Deaths.....22
Recovered.....

AS OF NOV. 23, 2020

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.**

Higher court denies appeal in assault case

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The conviction of a Steele County man sentenced to probation will stand after the Minnesota Court of Appeals rendered its recent decision on an appeal of the case.

James Francis Vierling, 40, had sought to have his conviction of second-degree assault against a child thrown out by the higher court. The Appeals Court filed its decision on Nov. 9 affirming the conviction in Steele County District Court.

Vierling pleaded guilty to the assault charge in 2015. He

was sentenced on the assault charge in April 2016. He was later charged in early 2017 with first-degree criminal sexual conduct based on the same incident in 2015. A jury found him guilty and the Appeals Court previously upheld that conviction in a decision earlier this year.

Vierling argued the state violated criminal procedure by failing to disclose the child's sexual abuse allegation prior to his pleading guilty in 2015 to the assault charge. Vierling claimed he would not have pleaded guilty if the sexual abuse allega-



James Vierling

tion had been revealed sooner.

The Appeals Court said in its decision that Vierling was aware of the sexual abuse allegation before sentencing, yet made no attempt to withdraw his plea until more than three years after sentencing.

"Nothing in the record persuades us that this is an exceptional and extraordinary situation in which Vierling's delinquency should be excused," the court wrote. "Because Vierling's post conviction petition was untimely and no exception to the statutory time bar applies, we need not address Vierling's argument that the state's purported discovery violation warrants withdrawal of his guilty plea."

Vierling remains locked up at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Moose Lake. He won't be released until at least May 2026.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 9 - 15:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jordan E. Battey, 30, Ellendale, hands free violation, \$125; Debbie S. Brown, 48, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$135; Joshua Calderon Castro, 25, Austin, invalid license, no child passenger restraint system and no insurance, \$425; Kanna M. Hart, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$95; Cameron G. Kubista, 20, Blooming Prairie, fleeing a peace officer and minor consumption, \$325; substance abuse subtle screening inventory and indeterminate supervised probation; Gerardo Lopez Requena, 42, Austin, revoked license, \$275.

MIN. DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Travis D. Chadborn, 38, take fish without a license, \$175; Nicholas J. Miller, 60, Owatonna, burning violation, \$275.

MIN. STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Jessica C. Anich, 28, Roseville, speeding, \$115; Chandler J. Babbler, 25, Burnsville, speeding, \$115; Robert O. Barnett, 42, Northfield, hands free violation, \$125; Sofia F. Bazan, 21, Edina, speeding, careless driving and revoked license, \$675; Andrew D. Bowen, 35, Livermore, CA, speeding, \$115; Peter A. Carlson, 64, St. Louis, MO, speeding, \$135; Nathan A. Fuentes, 27, Edinburg, TX, speeding, \$115; Kenna M. Gay, 47, Rock Island, IL, speeding, \$215; Matthew R. Gengler, 27, Ellendale, seat belt, \$100; Kyle D. Hovey, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Kelsey D. Johnson, 26, Las Vegas, NV, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; William J. Lapham, 55, Bloomington, speeding, \$115; Daniel L. Mott, 69, Shawnee, KS, speeding, \$125; Lawrence R. O'Brien, 42, Welcome, speeding, \$135; Anthony

N. Och, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Dominic D. Panoos, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Harsh K. Patel, 22, Germantown, WI, speeding, \$375; Elizabeth M. Platte, 22, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Allen M. Pothos, 43, St. Paul, speeding, \$115; Cher Ry, 29, Austin, speeding, \$115; Julie M. Schmitt, 45, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$135 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Michael J. Shinabarger, 20, Waseca, speeding, \$375; John T. Smith, 53, Fairbault, speeding, \$115; Michael R. Spatafore, 39, Ankeny, IA, speeding, \$135; Alicen M. Wulff-Sittes, 18, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115.

Owatonna Police
Department

Jessica C. Barajas, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Matthew K. Begecke, 57, Maplewood, DWI, \$400, chemical assessment and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Joseph M. Brein, 17, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Kelly A. Castellano, 34, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$125; Travis D. Chadborn, 38, revoked license, \$275; Alyssa D. Drake-Moreno, 19, stop sign, \$125 and 30 days of unsupervised probation; Jacob R. Edgar, 32, Eagan, seat belt, \$100; Alexander R. Kennedy, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Asmo N. Mahamed, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Elijah M. Munguia, 21, Austin, possession of paraphernalia, \$125; Tyler R. Schiller, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Payton M. Schwartz, 17, Owatonna, no motorcycle endorsement, \$125; Matthew C. South, 19, Waseca, theft, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Tamira M. Trunnell, 50, Waseca, speeding, \$125; Ashley C. Valadez, 27, Ellendale, no insurance, \$275; John C. Vazquez Brto, 20, Owatonna, no insurance, invalid license and speeding, \$425; Juana G. Zanchez, 33, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Roberto M. Aguilar, 25, Austin, speeding, no

insurance and invalid license, \$425; Jason C. Anderson, 47, River Falls, WI, careless driving and no insurance, \$375; Dominic H. Apolo, 18, Austin, speeding, \$115; Desirae L. Brown, 39, Otisco, DWI, \$475, 90 days in county jail or electronic home monitoring, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Lander D. Coleman, 39, Blue Island, IL, speeding, \$215; Mary L. Davis, 62, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Lindsey M. Finch, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Michael W. Hayford, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$375; Jordan T. Jensen, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Boe S. Lueken, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Duane G. Lyke, 56, Claremont, speeding, \$215; Roosevelt Martin, 51, St. Paul, speeding, \$215; Connie L. Meyer, 43, Ellendale, speeding, \$115; Rezgar T. Muhammad, 42, Lonsdale, failure to drive in single lane, \$125; Jennifer S. Sanborn, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Naj Soe, 24, Albert Lea, permit violation, \$125; Dahvon R. Williams, 17, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Hunter R. Wilmes, 19, St. Peter, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Nov. 13 Assault: Police responded to assaults in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 12:02 a.m. and the 2200 block of 28th St. NW at 4:10 a.m.
Drugs: Officers responded to drug activity in the 200 block of Rose St. E. at 8:55 a.m. They issued a citation.
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Hoffman Dr. NW and Rose St. W. at 10 a.m.
Theft: Officer took a report of identity theft in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 11:58 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of 18th St. SE at 3:04 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 3:06 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 600 block of Mosher Ave. SW.
DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 5:03 p.m.

Nov. 14 Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 2300 block of Phelps St. E. at 8:48 a.m.

DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 5:03 p.m.

Nov. 15 Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1800 block of Cedar Valley Dr. NW at 1:10 a.m. They took a subject into custody.
Restraining Order: At 6:51 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 300 block of Pine Ave. NE.

Nov. 16 Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 600 block of Cherry St. NE at 3:26 a.m. They issued a citation.
Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 6:22 p.m.

Nov. 17 Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 100 block of 12th Place NW at 9:35 a.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:07 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of University St. SE at 3:42 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the city at 6:22 p.m.

Nov. 18 Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 12:07 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 900 block of Elm Ave. S. at 4:13 p.m.

Nov. 19 Drug: Police arrested a subject for drug activity in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 3:46 a.m.

Probation: Officers arrested a subject for a

probation violation in the 100 block of Pearl St. E. at 8:45 a.m.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 1400 block of School St. E. at 1:22 p.m.

Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Winona St. NE at 7:35 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Shoplifting: At 8:35 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF

Nov. 13 Crash: At 12:45 a.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at Havana Road and County Road 180 in Owatonna Township.

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 6400 block of 74th Ave. NE in Merton Township at 8:20 a.m.

Nov. 17 Property: At 6:50 p.m., stolen property was recovered in the 6700 block of 60th St. NE in Merton Township.

Nov. 19 DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at 7:44 a.m. SE and 158th St. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 7:54 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

Owatonna Police
Michaiah Keegan Del Toro, 32, arrested at 11:53 p.m. Nov. 13, DWI-test refusal, held for court.
Dominic Joseph Marshall, 35, arrested at 5:33 p.m. Nov. 14, DWI, held for court.
Leandro Obregon Garza, 37, arrested at 2:04 a.m. Nov. 14, domestic assault/assault, held for court.
Jalen Lee Primus, 27, arrested at 9:02 p.m. Nov. 16, felony legend drug-misrepresentation, held for court.
Leroy Rashad Blue, 34, arrested at 9:09 p.m. Nov. 16, legend drug-misrepresentation, held for court.
Dak Luk Ret, 24, arrested at 4:29 a.m. Nov. 19, felony felon in possession of a firearm and possession of

a controlled substance, held for court.

Eric Justin Huisenga, 35, arrested at 5:33 p.m. Nov. 18, felony probation violation warrant arrest, body only.
Jeremy Thomas Benken, 44, arrested at 8 p.m. Nov. 18, domestic assault, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 8 - 15:

DODGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Joseph S. Cox, 37, Byron, theft of motor fuel from retailer and revoked license, \$280 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Sharma DC, 31, Clovis, CA, failure to drive in single lane and speeding, stay of adjudication, \$170 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Jordan P. Schoenrock, 18, Byron, seat belt, \$105; Richard M. Schuetz Jr., 36, Dodge Center, illegal burning, \$100.

KASSON POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Emily A. Busho, 22, Ellendale, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$180 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Elijah J. Cyphers, 25, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Aleck M. Sim, 27, Byron, registration violation, \$110.

MIN. STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Jagdin J. Bordeau, 19, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Jax M. Brungelson, 22, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Brittney L. Chadderdon, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Zachary D. Diekmann, 29, Hayfield, no insurance, stay of adjudication, \$220 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Andrew M. Dohmann, 20, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Edward D. Lunn, 68, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Christopher S. Smith, 55, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Charles A. Zander, 41, Byron, seat belt, \$105.

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

- Kodie Swenson - DWI - no bail
- Brandon Tate - domestic assault - \$2,000 bail
- James Thomas - theft - no bail
- Larry Thompson - obstruction - \$3,000 bail
- Cory Tollefson - violation of order for protection - no bail
- Reyna Torres - obstruct legal process - \$300 bail
- Julio Touchet Campos - criminal sexual conduct - \$250,000 bail
- Gustavo Trevino - DWI, revoked license - \$750 bail
- Kyle Trevithick - DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Armut Tunguntunt - drugs - \$10,000 bail
- Marco Valdez - DWI, child endangerment - \$6,000 bail
- Jeremy Vanderlugt - contempt of court - \$10,000 bail
- Andres Vargas - criminal vehicular operation - no bail
- Jose Vazquez - DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Jose Villandrade - DWI - \$6,000 bail
- Anthony Walker - controlled substance - \$35,000 bail
- Dale Walters - possession of pornography - \$30,000 bail
- Kevin Webster - disorderly conduct - no bail
- Paul Wechtur - stalking - \$5,000 bail
- Jonathan Weinstein - traffic - \$500 bail

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

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How to Claim Social Security Benefits During the Pandemic



Dear Savvy Senior:
With my local Social Security offices being closed due to COVID-19, what is the best way to apply for my Social Security retirement benefits?
Approaching 62

Dear Approaching,

Because of the pandemic, all Social Security field offices across the country have been closed since March, so you can't just walk-in, talk to a counselor and apply for benefits in person right now. But there are other ways to claim your benefits that are much easier and quicker. Here's what you should know.

How to Apply?

The easiest and most convenient way to apply for your Social Security benefits during the pandemic is to do it yourself online at [SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.ssa.gov). It usually takes around 15 minutes to complete the application, as long as you've gathered all of the required information and documentation (more on that at the bottom of the column). You can also save your application as you go, so you can take a break at any time.

If your situation is complicated or you're uncomfortable using the Internet to apply, you can have a Social Security employee assist with the process via telephone. To make an appointment call 800-772-1213. (If you're hearing impaired, you can call 800-325-0778.) The phones are monitored Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. At the time of your appointment, the representative will call you.

If you start to complete the online application form but find that it's too confusing or complicated, call the agency and set up a phone appointment.

Once you have submitted your application, a representative may contact you with updates or questions about your application. You can also check the status of your application by signing in to your "my Social Security" account at [SSA.gov/myaccount](https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

When to Apply?

You should file one or two months before you want benefits to begin, but if you're the worrying type, you can do it up to three or four months before. It takes a little time to process the paperwork, so by putting in your application a few months early, you can fix any problems that come up without it interfering with your starting date.

It's also worth noting that if you start receiving your Social Security retirement benefits before age 65, you will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B, and you'll receive your Medicare card about three months before your 65th birthday. It will include instructions to return it if you have work coverage that qualifies you for late enrollment.

But if you decide to delay your retirement benefits, you'll need to sign up just for Medicare at age 65, which you can also do at [SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/) or over the phone at 800-772-1213.

Need Information

In order to apply for Social Security benefits online or over the phone, you'll need to be able to document some information about your identity and work history. So before applying, have the following information handy:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your birth certificate (original or certified).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful alien status if you were not born in the United States.
- A copy of your U.S. military service papers if you had military service before 1968.
- A copy of your W-2 forms and/or self-employment tax return for last year.

• Your bank information (including your account number and the bank routing number) where you want your benefits direct deposited to.

For a complete checklist of what you'll need to complete your application, see [SSA.gov/hlp/isba/10/isba-checklist.pdf](https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/isba/10/isba-checklist.pdf).

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

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And the Blossoms royalty winner is...



TIMES FILE PHOTO

A few weeks back during Blooming Prairie's Homecoming festivities, the Times ran this old Homecoming photo requesting readers to identify the people featured in the photo. We had many entries for the contest with all of them correctly identifying the royalty. So we chose the winner by having a drawing. The winner was Carol Ingalvoldson of Blooming Prairie. She received the mystery prize of a one-year subscription to the Times and a \$25 gift certificate to Prairie Floral. The 1971 royalty included: Homecoming King Jerry Johnson and Queen Debra Trom. Their attendants included, from left: Mike Doocy, Diane Thorn, Randy Lindquist, Peggy Peterson, Mary Pelinka, Ken Christianson, Kristine Johnson and Steve Peterson. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest.

DEPRESSED: FROM A2

up with other creative ways to reach them.

This is definitely going to be an unusual Thanksgiving and upcoming Christmas holiday season. For many, it simply isn't going to be the same without Mom or Dad's loving touch.

While it's easy this Thanksgiving to get caught up in thinking about what we have all lost this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, let's not lose sight of what we do have. For most of us, we still have family members to lean on in hard times. This past year has shown how we can all come together in ways we never knew we could. Cherish the time you do have with them, even if you are forced to do so in unconventional ways like Zoom and other social media platforms.

We are all learning an important lesson: It doesn't matter how old you are—we're all social beings.

I hope you can find a way of going in hot pursuit of connecting in some way with a senior citizen this holiday season.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Nov. 30, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Although he has only 20 wrestlers in the high school with which to work, Coach Kevin Driessen is looking forward to working with this group. "Already they have shown in the first week of practice that they're willing to work hard. The focus and energy has been great," said Coach Driessen. Eight letter winners are returning for the Blossoms, but with 14 weight classes to fill he may have to fill some of them with younger wrestlers.

The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce elected its newest president at their annual meeting on Nov. 18. Jim Fiebigler, president of Farmers and Merchants Bank, has been selected as the successor to current president, Keith Holman. "My goal is to enhance the interaction of the Chamber and its members," Fiebigler said. "I also want to encourage community-wide participation in the local commerce and community through the numerous activities the chamber sponsors throughout the year."

20 Years Ago Nov. 28, 2000

ELSIE SUNGER, PUBLISHER

On Oct. 17, the Blooming Prairie third graders from Mrs. Hansenberger's, Mrs. Meshe's and Mrs. Nelson's rooms traveled to Oxbow Park at Byron to learn about the facts and fiction of wolves. The trip provided direct personal experiences for each child. Study sessions about the Minnesota Timberwolf were conducted by the naturalists at Oxbow. This experience reinforced the classrooms teachings. The students were required to use interviewing and research

skills to develop higher levels of learning.

A total of 16 area students are included in the 34th Annual Edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students. Local students selected for 1999-2000 are: Sara Anderson, Jessica Callahan, Benjamin Hansen, Andrea Hillson, Nicole Jirole, Lisa Meshke, Alyssa Stangl, Wayne Wencil, Melissa Avery, Amanda Clausen, Amanda Haubenschield, Janelle Iacovino, Mike Kaufman, Anthony Nelson, Corey Wencil and Jessica Wondelich.

50 Years Ago Nov. 25, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VYRLE

KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Steele County 4-Her's were awarded the "Premier Trophy" for their total county livestock exhibit at the State 4-H Market Livestock Show this year reported J.P. Gude, county agent. This Premier Award is annually given to the county that ranks highest on over-all placings based on live stock, carcass evaluation, showmanship and herdsmanship ratings. Those members representing Steele County to achieve this award were: from Owatonna: Kay Klemmer, Dennis Paulson, Mark Bartsch, Judy Tomisek, Mark Kaplan, Tom Hanson, Carol Haas, Lynn Cross, Doug Pichner, Kristine Johnson; New Richland: Sandra Nelson; Blooming Prairie: Rick Klemmensen; Ellendale: Stanley Mork, Jimmy and Rick Demmer, Curtis Langlie, Brian Wayne and Clara Kasper.

75 Years Ago Nov. 29, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Fifteen uninvited guests gathered last Wednesday evening in

the Superintendent Emil Estenson's home. They came to honor Estenson on his birthday.

The first one of the six Oswald brothers serving in the armed forces to get his honorable discharge is Sgt. Louis W. Oswald. He was discharged from Army Air Force at Lincoln, Neb. on Nov. 4th. He entered the service June 25, 1941 and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Oswald. They still have five sons serving their country.

Publisher and Mrs. Frank Krejci received a cablegram Wednesday from their son, Cpl. Vyrl Krejci, stationed in Germany, advising them that he was homebound. It is expected that he will land in the United States around Dec. 1. He will take up his former work in the Times office. We are hoping to revert the paper back to its former status as to appearance and size and also be more punctual in getting the paper to our readers with his return.

Owatonna Photo News —

31 Years Ago Nov. 22, 1989

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Loren Dwinnell, Carl Kelm and Harvey Wolfe were each presented with a POW/MIA Flag from the VFW Post 3723 Auxiliary on Veterans' Day. It was presented to them by Arlene Loney, President of the VFW Auxiliary, Clara Risberg, chairman of the POW/MIA Program and Mattie Eastman, District chairman.

The eighth-grade class of Mrs. Jan Wolden of Owatonna Junior High School presented a check to Evelyn Ringhofer, a resident of Cedarview Nursing Home. The check for \$80.40 was raised by collection of aluminum cans. The money will go toward the purchase of a VCR for Cedarview.

Council to close all soft drink places at 12 p.m.

Editor's Note: Local historian Steve Wencil of Blooming Prairie shared some tidbits about the Blue Hen Café. Beginning in last week's edition, we are reprinting some articles concerning the Blue Hen

from 88 years ago in 1932.

Reprinted from Thursday, Sept. 8, 1932

Will require dollar license of everyone selling soft drinks

BANS DRINKING

Set heavy penalty for all violators of ordinance

In their campaign to regulate soft drink places in Blooming Prairie, the village council is having published in The Times this week an ordinance which will require a dollar license of every place selling soft drinks in Blooming Prairie and will necessitate their closing at midnight every evening.

In addition the ordinance requires that the soft drink places be operated orderly and shall not allow any person to drink intoxicating bev-

erages on the premises. Upon failure to comply with the regulations the license may be revoked and the party violating the ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$100 and in default of payment may be confined in the Steele County Jail for a period not to exceed 90 days.

The effect of this ordinance will result in the closing of all restaurants in Blooming Prairie, the Blue Hen on the outskirts and all places where soft drinks are sold promptly at midnight. In the past some of these places have kept open later, particularly on Wednesday and Saturday evenings.

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THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER

Lighter senior moments

BY DON HEINZMAN

As we grow older, we may wonder if our kids are looking for signs in and around the house that we may be losing our senses.

Perhaps they are wondering if it's time for them to move us to assisted living quarters. Let's face it, we want to live in our homes as long as we can.

So, with tongue in cheek, here are top 10 ways to keep the kids from wondering if we are losing our faculties when they come to visit.

Drum roll please.
No. 10: Have a spotless refrigerator, scrub the shelves and get rid of that blue stuff.

No. 9: Don't lose your car; if you do, don't ask them to help you find it.

No. 8: When they tell you something, try not to take notes; They might think your memory is fading.

No. 7: Keep track of your keys. Have extra ones made. Keep one in your purse. Hang an extra one in the garage.

No. 6: Don't mention the contents of your will. They will wonder if you know about your

end date. Let them wonder.

No. 5: Keep the bathroom spick and span. A scent could cause them to wonder if you are losing your sense of smell. Make sure there is a roll of toilet paper on the rung.

No. 4: Empty the waste basket and the garbage container. A scent of rotting orange peels could cause them

to wonder

No. 3: Wash the soup stain off your sweater. This is a tell tale sign that you are shaking as you put food into your mouth.

No. 2: Don't talk about your illnesses and going to the doctor, unless of course they need to know. This will prevent them from thinking you have a disease.

And No. 1: Way to keep your kids from thinking you are losing your faculties:

Zipper up. While these are written in jest, take them for what they are worth.

Don Heinzman is a retired community newspaper journalist who lives in the Twin Cities.

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Dolores Frank, 89, Austin



Dolores Frank

Dolores Frank, age 89, of Austin, died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020 at the Cedars of Austin.

Dolores was born April 9, 1931 in Rose Creek to Martin and Alice (Hansen) Reinartz. She attended St. Peter's school in Rose Creek and Rose Creek High School. On Sept. 12, 1949 she married Delos Frank of Lyle.

They started their life together as farmers in the Lyle and Rose Creek area. In the early years Dolores was a partner in operating the farm whether running for parts or supplies, taking care of the chickens or delivering seed to the seed customers. This was all done while taking care of five unruly farm boys and a daughter.

After the kids left home, she went back to school and earned her associate degree in marketing, and worked various jobs in that field. She and Delos were very active in many community activities including Farm Bureau, 4-H leader, Library Board and many others. She was also member of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Lyle.

She and Delos enjoyed and took many trips across the U.S. and elsewhere. A favorite project of hers was her genealogy. Dolores and Delos incorporated the research in their many trips. She and Delos always had the coffee on and cookies ready and welcomed many visitors in their home. Dolores was a resident of the Cedars of Austin for the last several years after her health started failing. Being Mom, she fit in there and made many friends with residents and staff.

Dolores was preceded in death by her husband, Delos; parents, Martin and Alice Reinartz; sisters, Betty Jensen, Ramona Desliva, Lavonne Reinartz, and Kay Reinartz; sister-in-law, Dixie Warrington; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Rufus and Nettie Frank.

Survivors include her children, Vernon Frank, Fairbault, Stanley and Janice Frank (Mayzlik), Medford, Ronald and Beverly Frank (Vogt), Lyle, Carol Frank and Don Atkinson Adams, Wayne and Karen Frank (Kiefer), Lyle, Leslie Frank, Lyle; nine grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren.

We thank the staff at The Cedars of Austin for their dedication to mom's care as it is much appreciated.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 27, 2020 at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Lyle with Father Antony Arokiam officiating. Interment will be in Woodbury Cemetery in Lyle.

There will also be a Celebration of Life held at a later date when we call all gather together again.

Condolences may be left online at www.mayerfh.com.

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 25 Warren Winn Jared Brown Sharon Christianson	Nov. 29 Travis Hensrud Eric Wagner Emma Christiansen Larry Schmeling
Nov. 26 Gale Klinger Maggie Bruns	Nov. 30 Andrew Kasperek Sadie Jensen Nanner Kruckeberg Tyler Carlson David Easton Brad Trom Nellie Wollenberg
Nov. 27 Olivia R. Kohn Claire Butler Todd Mesheke Bennett Wencil	Dec. 1 Kelly Lamotte Andy Krebs Marilyn Mesheke Stephanie Emanuel
Nov. 28 Mike Trihus	

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 1 Luke & Anna Miller

This weekly feature sponsored by:
Dornink & Sons Carpentry
Gene Dornink
507.206.8449

RALLY FOR RALPH



Our friend, Ralph Diaz

DATE: Sunday, December 6th
TIME: 11 AM - 4 PM
NEW EVENT LOCATION
Just east of the Bank on Main Street
• Drive thru meal to go
• Bake Sale
• Silent Auction
• Rally for Ralph on Facebook
• More events to follow

FREE WILL DONATIONS
Donations may be mailed to:
FWB Ellendale
c/o Rally for Ralph
P O Box 337
Ellendale, MN 56026
Venmo:
@RallyforRalph
Go Fund Me:
Rally for Ralph

Masks required at the event.
Social distancing guidelines will be in place.

RALPH DIAZ was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis in February 2019. He is now on the list for a double lung transplant, which will require a 3-4 month stay in PA after surgery. He will be relocating to PA in November to await the "call" for his new lungs. If after his lung transplant he is needing a bone marrow transplant, he will then be staying in PA for 6 months to a year for close monitoring of his progress. Ralph will need to be on anti-rejection medication for the rest of his life. The surgery is required to be done in Pittsburgh, PA as it is the only facility in the nation to offer both lung and bone marrow transplants.

To donate for Silent Auction or Bake Sale contact
Barb Kuckenbecker • 507-383-2221 • Leave donations at RJ's Bar & Grill



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Three local Exchange Clubs recently teamed up to provide Rachel's Light with some needed household supplies. Immediate District Past President Randy Sobrack said Exchange Club members work to make the world a better place to live and they know it starts locally. The work of Rachel's Light, he said, falls within the Exchange Club mission of "Inspiring Change!" Pictured from left are: Mike Brown, president of the Exchange Club of Steele County, Mary Wordelman, treasurer of Rachel's Light, Gail Buckingham, president of the Exchange Club of Owatonna and Nicole Wack, president of the Moonlighters Exchange Club.

RACHEL'S LIGHT:

provides much more than shelter FROM AL

Being able to see that you can go from nothing and not let it own you or define you allows the women to thrive rather than survive, said Starks.

"I'm so grateful, I don't even want to leave," said Tammy Gustavson, who will soon be leaving Rachel's Light. With the help of staff, she looking for an apartment and looking forward to reuniting with her grandchildren at Christmas.

"All of the advocates, love us unconditionally," said the 55-year-old who was suicidal a year ago. "We come in with a lot of baggage and leave with just a suitcase - no baggage in it."

Gustavson added that she'll be leaving Rachel's Light "a happier person, a healthier person... somebody who wants to live her life."

She isn't the only one.

When 26-year-old Payton Crowe arrived at Rachel's Light she was pregnant and had just completed a long-term treatment program for drug addiction. Today, she and her baby daughter are doing well and living on their own in an apartment.

"I had a lot against - evictions and felonies and no job," said Crowe who'd struggled with addiction for years.

But that's all changed. Crowe said she's been sober for a year now, is currently in Phase 3 of Drug Court and will be starting college in a few weeks to become a drug and alcohol counselor.

"Rachel's Light made me feel very welcome and comfortable," said

Crowe. "They are always there to help. They are like family to me." Gustavson would agree.

"Love wins is what we always say," said Gustavson. "Miracles are everywhere."

And for Starks, the executive director who discovered Rachel's Light when researching what resources existed for homeless children in the area, fighting homelessness became a calling.

"It's been more than a job to me," said Starks. "It's been inspirational and a blessing to my life."

More information on Rachel's Light can be found on agency's website at www.rachelslight.org. Financial contributions can be mailed to Rachel's Light, P.O. Box 118, Owatonna, MN 55060.

BOOK NOOK

Wow!
December
begins next
week!



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

The first of December always seems like the beginning of a race to Christmas. As a child I looked forward to having my own advent calendar to mark the days until Christmas. (The little chocolates were good too!) I have continued that tradition by making sure my children and grandchildren have an advent calendar every year.

This year, I am planning to add another activity as we prepare for Christmas. Like so many others, I will not be seeing my grandchildren this Thanksgiving. At this point our plans for the December holidays are uncertain. Even though we may not be together in person, I hope to share the excitement of the approaching holidays by reading a holiday book to my grandchildren each day from Dec. 1 to Dec. 24. I'm grateful that our family has the technology so that we can read together via the internet. But if you don't have that capability, consider reading the books over the telephone.

The idea for this comes from a variety of sources, from friends and from online boards. Give it a try this year! It will show the children how much you value them and how much you value books. There are so many great children's books for Christmas and Hanukkah. If you have older children or grandchildren, you may want to read a chapter each night from a longer book. There are some memorable books to share such as The Best Christmas Pageant Ever or The Christmas Story by Jean Shepherd.

The Blooming Prairie Branch Library staff will be happy to put together a collection of 24 books for you to check out. Just give us a call at the library and get ready to start reading on Dec. 1. We can make this holiday season one to remember!

Tree sales to benefit Owatonna Foundation

to be able to celebrate in whatever means they are able to. We hope that this will still be a festive and reflective time when we see the best of ourselves and our communities come forward to make a better place for all us. This donation will go far in continuing our mission which is: improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education," said Foundation President Denny Meillier.

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 62nd year of serving the

Owatonna community, provides capital grants in Owatonna.

The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has invested more than \$12.4 million dollars for grants to support Owatonna capital projects and annually awards \$30,000 in scholarships.

For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, please visit its website at: www.owatonnafoundation.org or call 507-455-2995.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the **Blooming**
Prairie Turkey Winners

Miner's: Betty Qualls, Blooming Prairie
Dr. Lien: Georgia Minard, Owatonna
Vandal's: Betti Johnson, Blooming Prairie
Steele County Times: Sandy Brase, Owatonna
Floor Tech: Diane Nelson, Blooming Prairie
Prairie Home Floral: Sandra Christensen, Blooming Prairie
US Bank: Carol Kirkebon, Blooming Prairie
Johnson & Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.: Orville Brase, Owatonna
Hometown Insurance: Cletus Glynn, Blooming Prairie

Thanks to everyone who entered the giveaway.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Pastor Lisa Vick
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OWATONNA

What does it mean to be thankful during this time of uncertainty? That is a question I have been pondering a lot lately. With spikes in the COVID-19 cases and a contentious elec-

Being thankful in a time of uncertainty

tion there seems to be little to be thankful for. Unlike most years when extended and blended families would come together on Thanksgiving to dine on turkey and give thanks for all we have. Like, a full house of family, friends, fun, food, crafts and football but not this year. It is just too risky. In last week's press conference, Governor Walz made it clear that even small family gatherings can have deadly repercussions. The CDC is especially worried about family gathering becoming super spreader events. So it looks

like COVID-19 is on track to ruin Thanksgiving, or at least our romantic version of Thanksgiving.

So what does it mean to be thankful when everything about Thanksgiving has been stripped away? What is left? Perhaps, instead of Thanksgiving 2020—let's think of it as Giving Thanks 2020. Even though it doesn't feel like there is much to be thankful for. Giving thanks is an act of not just praising God for all we have—but to acknowledge that it is God who has given us all that we have. This

year more than ever we need to know that God is still the source of all our bounty—and if we are able we need to share in that bounty. Not out of obligation but out of a deep sense of gratitude. This is what our spiritual ancestors were reminded of again and again. In Deuteronomy 8:7-9 Moses tells the Israelites that their long journey is coming to an end and they will be going into a land where they will "eat bread without scarcity." There will be abundant water, grains, vines, fruit trees, rocks for building, metal for weapons and tools.

Then Moses lays out for them in verse 10 to whom they are to be grateful: "You shall eat your fill, and Bless the Lord your God for the good land that God has given you."

One thing I have been saying to my congregation over and over again during this uncertain time is God is still God and for that we are to give praise and thanksgiving. This version of Psalms 100 was read at my father's funeral and it is what I turn to when I need to be grateful even in tough times. Time such as these...

A Thanksgiving Psalm

(The Message Bible)
100 "On your feet now—applaud God! Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence.

"Know this: God is God, and God, God. He made us; we didn't make him. We're his people, his well-tended sheep. "Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him. "For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever. AMEN

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN
AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Interim Pastor:
Rev. Dale Svendsen
507-451-2819
office@auroralutheranchurch.org
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
106 Third St. SE, Geneva
Pastor Kristen Verne
507-256-4288
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-454-2451
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 Hemgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Valerius
507-583-6821
firstlutheran.org
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.
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE,
Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Indoor Worship: Sundays 9
a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Online Worship: Sundays 9
a.m. or anytime on website

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardsen
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:15 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 – LCMC
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-Freborn
Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.rogulutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-525-2404
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN – ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klaviter and
Jade Richmond
507-451-7293
oursaviorsowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m.
Thursday & Saturday:
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight Dobbel
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tciowatonna.org
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Todd Bugliar
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Sundays 9:30 a.m. -
online at facebook.
com/tciowatonna
and tciowatonna.org/worshiplive
Watch the video of our
full service on Spectrum
(channel 181) and Jager TV
(channel 900) (Tuesday-4:30
p.m.; Wednesday-6 p.m.;
Sunday-9 a.m.) and at
owatonnalive.com.

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 – LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Education Hour: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMC
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
Sunday Worship Indoor:
8:30 a.m.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
1909 St. Paul Road,
Owatonna
Senior Pastor:
John Weisenburger
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
507-451-4853
oursaviorsowatonna.com
Worship: 8:15 a.m. -
Traditional, 9:30 a.m. -
Sunday School/Adult
Education
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary

CATHOLIC
CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW,
Medford
507-451-4845
Father James Stasasich
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St.,
New Richland
Father Brian Mulligan
507-234-6244
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9948 SE 24th Ave
Owatonna
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.litomyslweb.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomyśl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomyśl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other
month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Father John Wilmut
507-477-2256
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm
Saturday

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave.,
Owatonna

Father Swaminatha
Pothreddy
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 John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
6:30-7:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd
Wednesday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Stasasich
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. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Key Job 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
507-335-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale
Pastor Randy Christena
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

Rev. Lisa J. Vick Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways):
9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW,
Owatonna
Pastors Rich and Amy Pettet
507-456-4775
www.destinycc.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
6:30-7:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd
Wednesday

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.

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 507-451-1548
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
651-855-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 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
Interim Pastor Wendell
Anderson
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday
Kids Church: 9 a.m.

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 Carla Nelson
507-272-9834
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BETHEL BAPTIST
1611 Hemlock Ave.
Owatonna
Pastor Michael Simmerman
507-451-8548
www.bethelowatonna.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St NE Geneva
Pastor Diana 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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111 Ross Street
P.O. Box 282
Claremont, MN

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507-451-9136
133 N. Broadway
New Richland
507-465-3810

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507-583-2276

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121 W. Broadway St.
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VALLEYVIEW OF OWATONNA
1213 W. Frontage Rd. Owatonna, MN
valleyviewofowatonna.com

CHRISTMAS COMES: to Soubas after century wait

FROM A1

up 250 trees, including Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Canon Fir, White Pine and Korean Fir. The trees range in size from 3-foot to 11-foot. "We didn't know what to expect so we started small," DeMars commented. "It's new to us."

In addition to Christmas trees, poinsettias and table-top trees, DeMars said their decision to expand comes with a love for the holiday. "I love Christ-

mas. I love to decorate my house with lights," he said. "It's always a happy time of the year."

With people spending time at home, DeMars said, they want to make their houses beautiful and smell good. "It's fun to be a part of that," he said.

The greenhouse has turned into a full-time gig for DeMars, who began working at Soubas when he was 12 years old. He is excited to team up with Hugley. "We have the ability to

do what we want and be our own bosses," he said. "We work off of each other's strengths."

In recent years, DeMars had been working for Mills Fleet Farm. Within a 10-year period, he worked at six stores around the Midwest. "It was a good experience, but I'm ready for something new," he said. "I was ready to get back home."

Hugley grew up on the farm and left after graduating from high school. She worked at a jail in Bemidji for eight years before moving back to Owatonna in 2012 after having children. She began working back at the greenhouse again during the garden season.

The cousins are the fifth generation to operate the farm and greenhouse, which began with John Souba in 1892. It started as a truck farm providing fresh vegeta-

bles to local communities and then branched to a bedding plant operation allowing John to raise and sell flowers and vegetable plants in the spring. Bill and Debi operated the greenhouse for the past 40 years before turning it over to Hugley and DeMars.

"My parents decided they didn't want to be the bosses anymore," Hugley said. She noted they are still helping out with the operation but are taking on less responsibility and easing into retirement.

Bill and Debi actually took their first trip in 40 years last spring while the greenhouse was open with Hugley and DeMars running things.

CHRISTMAS AT SOUBA GREENHOUSE

Where: 4003 Crane Creek Rd., Owatonna
What: Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias, and spruce top containers

Hours:
• Black Friday- 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
• Saturdays- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
• Sundays- 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
• Weekdays- 2-6 p.m.

761 Foundation mini-grants exceed \$100K

The 761 Foundation recently awarded nearly \$110,000 in mini-grant funds for use during the 2020-2021 academic school year.

The awards will fund - partially or fully - 53 mini-grant requests received from teachers and principals in Blooming Prairie, Medford, New Richland and Owatonna public schools.

The Foundation's mini-grant program has expanded from a single award of \$15,000 to the Owatonna High School Ag Department

more than 25 years ago to 53 smaller awards totaling about \$110,000 this year. Over the past 25 years, mini-grant awards have totaled more than \$2 million, helping to fund hundreds of local school programs.

"We're proud of our partnership with the schools. The programs we support are some of the most creative and innovative programs offered within the school district," said Bruce Paulson, chair of the 761 Foundation.

The 761 Foundation was established in 1993

to support students and staff with opportunities and programs not usually funded with tax dollars. Since then, the 761 Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million in mini-grants to Owatonna Public Schools teachers and principals for programs and activities that enhance educational opportunities for all students.

More information about the Foundation, its history and its work may be found its website at 761Foundation.com or by calling 507-444-8610.

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Ellendale rallies around Diaz as he awaits lung transplant

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For years, Ralph Diaz has been used to serving others in the restaurant business. But now family and friends of Diaz are hoping to turn the tables by rallying to help him save his own life.

Diaz left last week with his sister to Pittsburgh where he awaits a double lung transplant and possibly a bone marrow transplant. Pittsburgh is the only place in the United States where both transplants can be

performed. He is expected to be gone for at least six months and possibly up to two years.

Diaz, who is manager of RJ's on 5th Ave Bar and Grill in Ellendale, was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis in February 2019. He is currently on the list for a double lung transplant. Once he has the transplant, he will need to be on anti-rejection medication for the rest of his life.

While Diaz awaits his transplant, friends and family back in Ellendale are planning a benefit, Rally for

Ralph, on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Ellendale. There will be a drive-thru meal to go, bake sale and silent auction.

Barb Kuckenbecker, one of the organizers, said the event originally was going to be in the community center, but COVID-19 restrictions forced them out to another location. They ended up right next-door in the Pioneer shed building. "We were expecting over 1,000 people (in the community center)," she said, adding they don't know what to expect now.

Proceeds from the benefit will help Diaz pay for medical bills, according to Kuckenbecker. Thrivent Financial will be providing some financial assistance with action cards, she said.

"Everyone is really scared for Ralph," Kuckenbecker said. "We say lots of prayers for him and have lots of hope."

Kuckenbecker said Diaz's medical problems began about two years ago. He initially had a dry cough before being diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, which is a lung disease that

occurs when lung tissue becomes damaged and scarred. As the condition worsens, people become progressively more short of breath.

"He is looking a little rough," Kucken-

becker said of Diaz. "He is on oxygen," she added.

Diaz, 51, inherited the condition from his father who was 49 years

SEE ELLENDALE RALLIES, B2

RALLY FOR RALPH



Ralph Diaz

What: Benefit for Ralph Diaz
When: Sunday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Just east of the bank on Main Street in Ellendale
Donations: FNB Ellendale 9% Rally for Ralph P.O. Box 337 Ellendale, MN 56026

Familiar face takes over Cedar Floral

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For five years Amy Rieck has been making floral arrangements at Cedar Floral in downtown Owatonna. Just last week she added another responsibility - ownership of the floral shop.

Rieck purchased the floral business from Cory Michaelson, who had owned the shop since 2014. Cedar Floral is located in the heart of downtown in the 300 block of Cedar Avenue.

Rieck said she wasn't exactly looking to buy the business. However, it was an opportunity that presented itself and she took advantage of it. "Sometimes you have to jump in with these kind of opportunities," she related.

Rieck has a long history of being around flowers and plants. She grew up on a century farm on the west end of Owatonna where her parents, Bill and Debi Souza, have operated Souza Greenhouse for the past 40 years.

Just this year, Bill and Debi added her sister and cousin as partners to the greenhouse.

"I have always loved putting flower bouquets together," Rieck said, adding she especially enjoyed doing them for her mother.

Besides helping her parents, Rieck also worked at Hy-Vee Floral during high school. After graduating from Owatonna in 1996, she obtained an accounting degree. She handled the bookkeeping for her



2020 PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

She's not a new face at Cedar Floral, but Amy Rieck is new to owning the business. She took over ownership of Cedar Floral on Nov. 16, purchasing the business from Cory Michaelson. Rieck has worked at the downtown floral shop for five years.

parents' business for about 20 years. When her oldest daughter graduated and went off to college, Rieck said she was in need of something to do full time.

She discovered a job at Cedar Floral, and it's a decision she has no regret. "I fell in love with it," Rieck said, adding that she enjoys every aspect of the business from putting together floral arrangements to decorating the shop. She has also handled the purchasing for the shop.

Rieck said it "seems a little odd" to take on a business adventure in the midst of a deadly pandemic. But she points out that despite the coronavirus, people are still going to need floral arrangements for weddings and funerals.

While some businesses have suffered

tremendously during the pandemic, Cedar Floral has been keeping busy. Rieck said when people were locked down during Mother's Day, they could barely keep up with all the orders.

Rieck said she expects much the same with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, especially with public health officials urging people to stay at home.

"There are a lot of people wanting to adorn their tables since they don't have everyone coming over," said Rieck. She noted more people are sending flowers this year since they can't get together with family. "Flowers lighten your spirit," she added.

In the future, Rieck would like to expand the business by offering more in-person decorating for

homes and other businesses.

Rieck said she loves floral design because "it brings me joy and it blesses the person receiving it." Likewise, she hopes her customers appreciate the flowers. "I hope it brings a smile to their faces and comfort to grieving families," she said, adding she hopes her flowers will express love, appreciation and sympathy.

Asked if the business name would remain the same, Rieck quickly responded, "You don't want to mess with a good thing."

Cedar Floral, which currently employs four part-time workers, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They also offer deliveries for funerals on Sundays.

Are you part of this love-hate relationship?



Steele Talkin'
ANDREA MARSHALL

What is your relationship with food like? Think about it for a minute... for many of us, it is a love/hate relationship. Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, and with that, the focus turns toward food and what food means to us - culturally, socially, mentally, physically, and emotionally. It is a basic human need - to eat - but why do so many of us struggle to feel good about our bodies, and our feelings about food? I sat down and had a conversation with Tracy Bjerke, RD, LD to dive deeper into our relationship issues with food. Tracy is a dietitian who recently started her own business, Bjerke Nutrition and Wellness, LLC, to help people with their relationship with food, dieting, body image, emotional/physical health, among so many other things tied into the way we eat and feel. Tracy's framework for helping people is focused on the self-discovery journey of Intuitive Eating. She is a licensed dietitian and a certified Intuitive Eating counselor. One of only a handful of people in the state recognized for her background in this practice. She is a compassionate, anti-diet, weight-inclusive practitioner whose passion is

SEE LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP, B2

Families grateful as dirt turns on future homes

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Thankful. Grateful. Humbled.

Those three words were repeatedly used by Jessica Willmert and Gatluk Jerweg as they individually described what it was like to learn that their families had been selected for the two Habitat homes being built in Owatonna next spring.

Willmert's 3-bedroom house will be built at 715 Mosher Ave. S.W. and Jerweg's 4-bedroom house will be built on an adjacent lot at 716 Linn Ave. S.W. The land was donated to Habitat by the Kottke family.

"My brothers and I used to mow all of this," said Matt Kottke, pointing to the parcel that's being subdivided into two lots for the two houses.

Kottke said the land had been in the family for a long time - first, his grandfather, Carl, owned it and then it went to his father, Bill. "When Dad died (in

2014, we talked with Habitat."

"It's a real blessing," said Willmert, who will be moving to Owatonna from Oronoco once her new home is ready for occupancy. "There is no fixing the trailer we live in now."

Ironically, when Willmert contacted Habitat she wasn't even thinking of a new home for her family. She said she called to find out how she could volunteer in building a Habitat house for someone else.

"I've never been so fortunate in my life," said Willmert, a single mom with two young children. "I've never been so grateful and humbled."

Now the work she thought about volunteering to help someone else will be done on her own house and will count toward the 200 hours of "sweat equity" required to get her name on the mortgage and deed.

Jerweg is also thrilled to be building a home for his family.

"With a home comes security and peace of mind," he said. "My kids will thrive."

Jerweg said he's moved from apartment to apartment since arriving in Minnesota 1999 from an Ethiopian refugee camp where he'd lived for four years after fleeing Sudan.

"I'm lucky to be here," said Jerweg, a single dad raising three children - Savannah, 14, Bhan, 13 and Gach, 10. "Owatonna is a very quiet, safe good community to raise a family."

"In 2021, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas in our new home," said Jerweg, adding that he'll also be completing his undergraduate degree from Winona State in social work.

"Thank you, to everyone for all they've done for me... and now I would like to help people like they've been helping me."

Partnering with Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity to build the Jerweg home are Daikin



2020 PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

This time next year two families will likely be living in their new Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity homes in Owatonna. The future homeowners - Jessica Willmert, surrounded by her children Joseph and Locklyn, and Gatluk Jerweg - turn shovels of dirt during lot dedications held along Linn and Mosher Avenues Southwest in Owatonna last week.

Applied and Climate by Design International. Their total donation of \$100,000 for the home sponsorship will help

fund the materials and labor needed to build the home.

Both companies are also asking employees

to volunteer on the home build.

Daikin Applied is a manufacturer of heating and cooling equipment for commercial and industrial facilities. The company has three plants in Southern Minnesota - one in Owatonna and two in Faribault - and employs more than 1,200 people in the area. Based in Owatonna, Climate by Design International designs and builds dehumidification and air-handling technology for use in ice arenas, hospital surgical suites, food processing facilities and other applications.

Thrivent Financial is providing the \$95,000 home sponsorship to build the Willmert home.

Thrivent is a diversified financial services organization that helps people achieve financial clarity, enabling lives full of meaning and gratitude. It offers its more than 2 million clients a broad range of financial products, services and guidance.

ARE YOU PART: of this love-hate relationship? FROM B1

helping people have a healthy relationship with eating.

I asked Tracy what types of things contribute to our food-related problems? She explained that there are a plethora of messages that people have been fed (no pun intended). Weight stigma, diet culture, desire to be thin and have a particular body shape, good versus bad, eat-this and not-thats rules, and the major role restricting your food intake has on your mind and body. There is a great deal of guilt and shame that people are dealing with when it comes to exploring our eating behaviors.

As a certified intuitive eating counselor, she explains the basics of what intuitive eating means. The idea started with two dietitians, Evelyn Tribole and Elsie Resch, in 1995. It is a compassionate, self-care eating framework that integrates instinct, emotion, and rational thought and treats all bodies with respect and dignity. She gently guides you through the process by putting you front and center, recognizing that YOU are the expert in your own body. This process is weight-inclusive, evidence-based, and has a validated assessment scale with over 125 studies to date. It is a practice that non-

ors both physical and mental health.

I asked Tracy to explain how to identify "normal" eating, especially in our culture. Lots of people are diagnosed with eating disorders and behaviors identified as disordered eating, as well as nutritional-related illnesses. Intuitive eating can have MANY benefits for people struggling with these! Because of a variety of factors associated with eating and diet culture, it can be difficult to know when eating has blurred between normal and disordered. Normal eating generally is flexible. It varies in response to your hunger, your schedule, your proximity to food, and your feelings. It can look like some of the following habits:

? Eating when you are hungry and stopping when you are satisfied. However, it also includes over and/or undereating at times, as well as, eating for pleasure, and sometimes because of emotions like happiness, sadness, and boredom.

? Being able to choose the food you like and truly get enough of it, not just stopping because you think you should.

? Normal eating takes up some time and attention but keeps its place as only one important area of your life.

If you can identify with the VERY common dieter's dilemma, which is a cycle that starts with the desire to be thin, dieting, experiencing cravings and reduced self-control, overeating and regaining lost weight, then learning more about Intuitive Eating may be for you. Tracy's mission is to help clients heal their relationship with food, find freedom from diet culture, and get back to the joy of eating using weight-inclusive anti-diet approaches to nutrition counseling, including Intuitive Eating and Health at Every Size (HAES).

What does Intuitive Eating nutrition counseling with Tracy look like? You would first schedule a free 15-minute discovery call to talk about your health goals, ask questions, and determine how Tracy can best support you on this journey. Then you would schedule an initial session (about 60 minutes) where you can have a conversation about your health history, your relationship with food and body, your food preferences, and more. After this, follow-up sessions (45 minutes) allow for discovery and clarity. They allow you to ask ques-

tions and work through challenges along the way. They will help you listen, learn, and trust your body as you become the expert of you and rediscover the joy of eating. There is also a 10-week group program, Rediscover the Joy of Eating - an Intuitive Eating Program, which teaches the Intuitive Eating principles and practices.

Tracy also provides consultation and workshops for businesses, local groups, and organizations, and additional services to assist her clients.

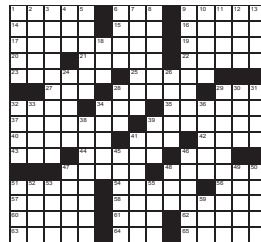
I hope this inspires you to start your journey with her to discover how to overcome whatever your eating issues are and live a more fulfilled and happy life!

To reach Tracy Bjerke call 507-744-0600 or email her at tracy@bjerkenutritionandwellness.com. She is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving!

Andrea Marshall is a public health educator with Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Crossword Puzzle of the Week



ACROSS

- 1 Distant
- 6 Apex
- 9 Jobs
- 14 "ER" actress --- Tierney
- 15 "--- Believer", Monkees hit
- 16 Start playing!
- 17 Tap
- 19 "Fear of Flying" author --- Jong
- 20 Show runner
- 21 Less common
- 22 Buoyant
- 23 Old-fashioned cab
- 25 Lightweight tropical hats
- 27 Elite group
- 28 Gene Pitney was only 24hrs from here
- 29 Downloadable program
- 32 Small lake
- 34 Natter
- 35 Tenor --- Bocelli
- 37 Sidestepped
- 38 Splendors
- 40 Demosior
- 41 Total
- 42 Capital of Norway
- 43 Source of formic acid
- 44 Jambalaya ingredient
- 46 Little one
- 47 "Band of Gold" singer
- 48 Miscreants
- 51 Economizer
- 54 Succeeded
- 56 One of New York's finest, perhaps
- 57 Nautical fastener
- 58 To
- 60 Carroll's rabbit-hole explorer
- 61 Wyo. neighbor
- 62 Extended area of land
- 63 Waterproofed as many showers are
- 64 Affirmative vote
- 65 Solemn promises

DOWN

- 1 Pennsylvania Mennonites
- 2 Set --- formerly Ceylon
- 3 Ahead of the field
- 4 Mineral source
- 5 Litter of pigs
- 6 Bracket
- 7 Stimulus
- 8 Security detachment
- 9 Anna Paquin won an Oscar for this film, aged 11
- 10 Spanish winds
- 11 The pen
- 12 Recall
- 13 Remain
- 18 Rotating engine part
- 24 Welcome
- 26 Old Testament song
- 28 Silver
- 29 Nobleman
- 30 Rind
- 31 --- double (dance)
- 32 One of the Three Bears
- 33 --- "Almighty", in which Morgan Freeman played God
- 34 Nixon's successor, informally
- 36 Drivel
- 38 At peace
- 39 Rev up
- 41 --- Todd, barber
- 45 Chest pain
- 46 Am disposed
- 47 Serenity
- 48 Pro
- 49 Gun handle nick
- 50 Notices
- 51 Get outta here!
- 52 --- want a room somewhere. ("My Fair Lady")
- 53 Bridal wear
- 55 Start of a Hamlet soliloquy
- 59 Geological time composed of periods

ELLENDALE RALLIES: FROM B1

old when he came down with it.

Diaz has deep connections throughout the area. He previously worked at the Village Caf?, Pizza Cellar and Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie, owned Geneva Bar & Grill and managed the Ellendale Liquor Store before his sister purchased the business about a year ago.

"He knows so many people," said Kuckenbecker, who purchased the Geneva Bar & Grill from Diaz in 2007.

During Diaz's absence from RJ's, his brother Louie has stepped up to help run the bar along with staff members.

Kuckenbecker said the community support for Diaz has been nothing short of miraculous.

When a planning session was held to organize the benefit, more than 60 people showed up wanting to help. She said her initial reaction was, "oh my gosh, we can't have all these volunteers." They eventually settled on a core committee of five people. Joining Kuckenbecker are Kellie Mroz, Jennelle Olson, Stephanie Kehne and Ruth Hagen.

Kuckenbecker said the rally benefit won't be the only event to help Diaz. They plan to do other fundraisers over the next year. "We're going to keep the events rolling for him," she said.

Donations can also be mailed to First National Bank in Ellendale, P.O. Box 337, Ellendale, MN 56026 or Go Fund Me "Rally for Ralph."



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PANTHER OF THE WEEK



SCARLETT CHANCE

This week's Panther of the Week at NRHEG definitely displays an attitude of gratitude. SCARLETT CHANCE is in fifth grade and her teacher is Mrs. Williams. Scarlett recently volunteered as one of 20 leaders for the Great Wall of Gratitude project at the school. She recorded a video explaining gratitude and encouraging other students to share their gratitude. She has proudly displayed in the hallway multi-colored sticky notes from students throughout the school.

Keep up the great work Scarlett!



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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS

By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I drive a 2012 Cadillac with a ton of electronic gadgets. I bought the car when it was brand new and I was still working. I was at a point in my life where a car like this made sense but have since retired and the car is beginning to nickel and dime me, or hundred and thousands dollar me to death. It all started with head gaskets at 90k miles then a transmission followed by all the brakes and tires and various sensors and now shocks. The problem is the shocks cost 1k dollars each and they say I need all four. Should I just get rid of the car and find something cheaper and newer or keep it? It now has 95k miles. Why do the shocks cost so much? The shocks on my last car were a few hundred installed complete.

Denver in Kansas City Missouri

A 2012 Cadillac with only 95k miles is still a desirable car in the used car world. It sounds like you have done a lot of the repairs that are common so overall it may be in good shape yet. Struts are fully electronic on these cars and are expensive, but you may try a conversion kit to save a bunch of cash. Most people do not notice a huge difference in ride quality. Consult with your local mechanic for options and ask them their overall opinion of the car and if should be kept.

Take care, The Motor Medics
11/26

Dear Motor Medics, I bought a 2015 Ford F150 with a 3.5 ecoboost this spring to pull my camper because it had a lot of power for towing and could get great mileage when unloaded for daily use. The truck only had 40k miles on it and I have put over 20k on it since then. During that time, I had to replace both turbos after pulling my camper across the country. They failed in the mountains. The second trip out there the engine blew. Both times it was not overheating and was pulling fine, so I do not understand why it failed? My camper title says it weighs only 9500 lbs. Well under the 11k towing capacity the internet says my truck has.

Even in Okoboji Iowa

While we see a few of these engines fail, we would not say we see an abnormal amount fail when not overworked. However, if overworked they love to break in just the fashion your engine has. These engines do have a lot of power so they will keep pulling faithfully until they explode. Double check that camper weight when fully loaded with all your supplies and add in the weight of you and passengers and other gear. It should be 80% or less of the tow capacity. Also verify total towing capacity with your dealer. Only specially equipped F150s can pull that much. Most without the tow package and gearing are not near that rating.

Take care, The Motor Medics
11/26

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FOOTBALL CHAMPS



The Huskies mob their teammates after receiving their section championship plaque.

Huskies snag another championship

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

Very rarely do football games come down to one play, but that seemed to be the case when Rochester Mayo had the ball in Owatonna territory with the chance to take the lead in the final minute of the Section 1AAAAA Championship game on Nov. 16.

Trailing 28-30, the Spartans needed just a field goal to take the lead, but they faced a fourth-and-two and were outside of field goal range. Mayo tried to get the first down by running to the right, but Owatonna linebacker Grant Achterkirch stripped the ball away from their running back and the Huskies recovered it to seal their fifth straight section championship.

The game came down to the wire, but it didn't seem like it would be based on how the game started.

Head Coach Jeff Williams said his offense got off to a fast start thanks to its balanced offense. "We found a nice combination of ball control throwing and a consistent ground attack," he said.

He noted that one reason the Huskies were able to throw and run the ball so well was the play of its offensive line.

"Our line played their best game of the year and provided Brayden with time to throw and Tanner with holes to run through," he said.

With the help of his offensive line, Brayden

Truelson connected with Payton Beyer for a 17-yard touchdown. The extra point attempt was good and the Huskies led 7-0 with seven minutes left in the first quarter.

The Spartans would have had a chance to tie the game, but Owatonna attempted and recovered an onside kick.

"We were fortunate to recover a short onside as part of our strategy was to keep the ball out of Owatonna's hands as he returned one [for a touchdown] on us in October," Williams said.

The Huskies capitalized on that extra offensive possession when Truelson plunged into the end zone for a one-yard touchdown. The extra point was successful and Owatonna led 14-0 with about a minute and a half left in the first quarter.

Mayo's offense finally got on the field and they wasted little putting points on the board.

First, the Spartans cut their deficit in half by scoring a 19-yard passing touchdown. Second, Mayo recovered a Owatonna fumble and took it 20 yards to the house. The extra point attempt after each touchdown was successful so the game was tied 14-14 with about five minutes left in the first half.

Williams said the Spartans deserve credit for making the comeback so quickly.

"They are explosive and made some big plays to find a way back into the game," he explained.

After another Owatonna turnover, Mayo scored

its third touchdown of the first half via a 19-yard passing touchdown to take a 21-14 lead.

With less than two minutes left in the first half, the Huskies' offense got the ball back and they swiftly began moving the ball down the field.

With just 20 seconds left, Truelson threw a pass into the end zone. However, it was tipped by a Spartan defensive and looked like it would fall incomplete, but Husky receiver Connor Budach kept his eye on the ball and caught it off the deflection for a touchdown. The extra point attempt was good so the score was tied again, 21-21, at the end of the first half.

Williams said getting that touchdown right before halftime was critical for the Huskies.

"It was big for us to tie it up right before half on a nice play on a tipped ball by Connor Budach. Mayo would start with the ball after half so it was big for us to come up with points there," he said.

During halftime, he noted the Huskies made a few defensive adjustments to try to contain Mayo's explosive offense.

"Coach Achterkirch does a great job of making adjustments on defense. With a few changes at the half, our pass rush improved, as well as our coverage, and we were able to limit Mayo's effectiveness throwing the ball," he said.

SEE HUSKIES SNAG, B5



Senior running back Tanner Hall finds a nice hole to run through thanks to the blocking of his offensive line.



Colin Jordison (2) and the whole Blooming Prairie football team were excited after winning the Section 1A Championship.

BP routs Randolph, wins section title

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blooming Prairie offense struck early and often and the defense held Randolph scoreless for the first three and a half quarters to propel the Awesome Blossoms to a 49-6 win in the Section 1A Championship Friday night.

Blooming Prairie quickly took the lead when Bradley Simon caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Drew Kittelson. Carson Brennecke's extra point attempt was good so the Blossoms led 7-0 with eight minutes left in the first quarter.

Coach Chad Gimbel said his offense was able to score quickly thanks to its balance offense.

"We were able to stay balanced with run and pass. We got the ball on the edges using sweeps and short passes. The wide receivers did a good job blocking on the edge," he said.

The Blossoms then punted, but the Rockets' punt returner fumbled the ball and Blooming Prairie recovered it.

Gimbel said recovering that fumble was a "huge" play for his team.

"When you are playing an underdog, if you can get them down, you create a lot of uncertainty of whether they really can win the game," he said. "It [also] gives our kids a lot of momentum and confidence. Our kids did a good job of

capitalizing on that turnover. It's one thing to get the turnover, [but then] you have to turn that into points, which they did.

They did that less than a minute later when Mitchell Fiebigler caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Kittelson. The extra point was good and the Awesome Blossoms led 14-0 midway through the first quarter.

In addition to good field position, he explained that the Awesome Blossoms' offensive game plan helped them score quickly.

"We used a lot of double teams in the run game to get movement on the defensive line. Tyler did a good of making one man miss to make a modest gain into a big game. Our passing game [was successful because] we did short passes to get the ball out of Drew's hands quickly. The strength of their defense was their interior players so we mitigated that by again getting the ball out of Drew's hands quickly and running the ball to the perimeter," he said.

After Blooming Prairie's second touchdown, the Blossoms' defense finally got on the field and it didn't take long for them to work their way off the field.

"Our kids were aggressive. The linebackers did a good job of read and filling the holes. We were able to get them behind the chains early on downs

which allowed our defensive line to focus on the pass rush on third down," Gimbel said.

Blooming Prairie scored its third touchdown of the first quarter when Tyler Archer ran the ball into the end zone from 13 yards out. The extra point attempt was good and the Awesome Blossoms led 21-0 at the end of the first quarter.

He explained that the keys to Blooming Prairie scoring three touchdowns on its first three possessions are strong offensive line play and having multiple playmakers.

"It starts up front with the offensive line being solid in what we do. Balance [in whether we] run or pass and balance with who we run with and who we pass the ball to. We have three to four different players who can run the ball on any given play and five different players that we can throw the ball to so the defense can't focus on just one thing," Gimbel said.

In the second quarter, Blooming Prairie scored just once but it was a beauty as Archer broke free from Randolph's defense and ran 63 yards for his second touchdown of the night. The Brennecke extra point attempt was good so the Awesome Blossoms led 28-0 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Kittelson got the scoring started when he

SEE BP ROUTS, B5



Senior receiver Alex Piller (94) refuses to go down easy. Instead, he drags a Randolph defensive back into the red zone. Shortly thereafter the Awesome Blossoms scored another touchdown to extend their lead to 49-6.



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Tigers finish season strong with 2 wins

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off its first loss in a month, the Medford football team ended its season on a high note by beating New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) 21-0 on Tuesday, Nov. 17, and beating St. Clair/Mankato Loyola 28-14 on Friday, Nov. 20.

In the Section 2AA Quarterfinal against the NRHEG Panthers, it was the Tigers' stifling

defense that set the tone. In fact, Medford's pass defense gave up just four completions for 46 yards and its rush defense did even better, giving up just 13 yards on 11 carries.

With such a strong defensive, the Tigers didn't need much offense and it got more than enough thanks to three touchdowns and three successful extra point attempts.

After handily beating NRHEG, Medford faced a tougher test

when they hosted St. Clair/Mankato Loyola, who had won their last six games, in the Section 2AA Third Place game just three days later.

While the Tigers' defense wasn't as stout as they were against NRHEG, they only gave up 14 points.

However, Medford's offense performed even better it did against NRHEG. That's in large part due to the play of their offensive line and senior running back

Josiah Hedensten.

By winning third place in their section and finishing the season with a 3-2 record, Medford achieved its most successful season since 2013.

The Tigers' seniors who played their last game of their high school career are: Josiah Hedensten, Kael Hermonstorf, Tony Ortiz, Gavin Hermes, Peyton Seiler, Derek Bartosch, Brayden Beede, Ernesto Lazard and Brennan Hoffman.



Medford's Josiah Hedensten (17) blasts through some Spartan defenders during Friday night's game against St. Clair/Mankato Loyola. Hedensten's ball handling helped the Tigers close out the season by beating the Spartans 28-14.

PHOTO COURTESY SKYE DEVISE



Huskie seniors Jenna Gleason, left, and Lanie Schuster rise up to try to block a John Marshall kill attempt during a recent game.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Hope of ending losing streak falls short for Huskies volleyball

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna volleyball team was hoping to end its losing streak by beating the last team it beat, the John Marshall Rockets, but the Rockets won the rematch 3-1 on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

The first set was tightly contested, but the Rockets pulled away at the end, winning 25-20 to take a 1-0 set lead.

Owatonna Head Coach Tai Tolle explained that the Huskies' first-set loss can be attributed to some defensive mistakes.

"Our defense struggled with touches at the net on a couple of JM's go-to offensive leaders and our serve receive started off sluggish," she said.

The Huskies did a little bit better in the second set, losing 22-25, and much better in the third, winning 25-15, to force a fourth set.

Tolle said her team's improved play in the second set and especially the third was due to better hustle, better setting and better decision-making.

"As the match went on, we started getting our feet to the ball and our passing game improved. I thought our setters did a nice job of getting the ball in the hands of our hitters even when we were out of system and our hitters made wise decisions at the net," she said.

However, in the fourth set, John Marshall made some improvements of their own and that ended up

being enough for them to win the fourth set 25-20.

The 1-3 loss dropped the Huskies' record to 3-8.

Owatonna statistics: Bailey Manderfeld tallied 4 aces and 23 assists, Ava Eltrom recorded 10 kills, Leah Welker scored 9 kills and Emily Hagen compiled 8 kills.

The next day, the Huskies had another chance to end their losing skid but their opponent, the Northfield Raiders, is the No. 9 ranked team in Class 3A and they handily beat the Huskies 3-0.

The Raiders were firing on all cylinders right from the get go and ended up winning the first set 25-8.

Tolle explained that Northfield is a hard team to score against because they have talented student-athletes up and down their roster.

"They have multiple Division I college recruits in their lineup. They do not have a single rotation where they don't put up a strong front. They keep a lot of teams from scoring because they have a fantastic defense from their back row," she said.

The Huskies were able to score a few more points in the second and third set, but lost both of those sets by the same score, 11-25. However, Tolle said the final scores don't show the whole picture.

"The scoreboard did not reflect the effort our players gave the entire match. I thought we made a great effort

to control the things that we could control, such as our serve receive, decisions on offense (both from our setters and our hitters), as well as serving aggressively. Our defense was up against some of the state's best hitters and we played aggressive in the backcourt, making some great plays against some very skilled hitters," she said.

In addition to the Huskies' effort and aggressiveness, she also liked that her team had a good time even though they lost.

"Our players had a memorable night and had a lot of fun competing," she said. "Win or lose, that's what matters."

The 0-3 loss means Owatonna's record is now 3-9.

Owatonna statistics: Kiale Kleeborg led the Huskies with 17 digs while Haylee Mullenbach contributed 13 digs. Ava Eltrom led the team with 5 kills while Lanie Schuster and Emily Hagen each recorded 4 kills.

In another contest Nov. 14, the Huskies made it close a couple times, but could never catch Mankato East, losing 3-0.

The first set was pretty one-sided as the Cougars won 25-12.

The Huskies did a bit better in the second set, but Mankato East still won by 11 points, 25-14.

Owatonna was hoping they could do better in the third set, but it ended up the same score as the second set, 25-14.

BP ROUTS RANDOLPH: FROM B4

turned a broken play into his third touchdown pass of the night and second to Simon. The extra point attempt was successful so the Blossoms led 35-0.

He explained that that touchdown was made possible due to Kittelson's ability to run.

"Drew made that play go by using his speed and athleticism to run away from the defensive line and getting his eyes down field to find Bradley Simon wide open in the corner of the endzone," he said.

Gimbel also lauded Kittelson's decision-making.

"He has made great decisions all season long, having only one interception," he noted.

For all of the third quarter and the first half of the fourth quarter, the Blooming Prairie defense continued to hold Randolph scoreless.

He explained that his defense is so stout because his defensive coaches and defensive players both put a lot of time into knowing and executing the game plan.

"Matt and Justin do a great job getting guys into the right spot. Matt watches a ton of film and takes away what teams do well. The kids do a great job of being coachable and executing that plan. The guys do a great job of trusting the man next to them, knowing their job, doing their job, listening and doing the details.

The most important key on defense is being disciplined," he said.

The Awesome Blossoms took a 42-0 lead after Fiebigler caught his second touchdown pass of the night, this one a 36-yard reception.

Then, with less than eight minutes left in the game, Randolph caught a blitz and scored a 77-yard passing touchdown. The Rockets attempted a two-point conversion, but their run failed so the Awesome Blossoms led 42-6.

In the final minutes, Blooming Prairie scored its seventh touchdown of the night when Brennecke ran it in from seven yards out. He also nailed the extra point attempt to give the Awesome Blossoms a 49-6 win.

Gimbel mentioned that a couple student-athletes stood out as having really good games.

"I felt Drew had a great game both offensively and defensively and taking their best wide receiver out of the game. Mitchell Fiebigler [also had a big game] at wide receiver and linebacker. He is just a heck of a football player. He plays the game the way it's supposed to be played, with a passion and intensity that is unparalleled," he said.

With the help of those two, Blooming

Prairie not only won the section championship, they also finished the season undefeated.

Gimbel said what makes this team special is its ability to overcome adversity.

"This year has been difficult, missing games and practices, [but they've been] understanding of circumstances," he said.

He also applauded this team for all its hard work and unselfishness.

"They work hard, know the system, were a very cohesive group, display good leadership on the field, play for each other and are willing to do whatever it takes to make the team successful," he said.

Thanks to all those attributes this season and winning the state championship last season, Gimbel said this year's seniors are the most winning group of seniors in Blooming Prairie football history!

Blooming Prairie statistics: Passing - Drew Kittelson completed 11 of 21 passes for 138 yards, 4 TDs and 1 INT. Rushing - Tyler Archer ran the ball 11 times for 116 yards and 2 TDs while Carson Brennecke ran the ball 5 times for 36 yards. Receiving - Mitchell Fiebigler played 6 passes for 87 yards and 2 TDs while Bradley Simon caught 3 passes for 34 yards and 2 TDs.

HUSKIES SNAG: FROM B4

Despite those defensive improvements, the Spartans were able to score a touchdown on its first drive. The extra point was good so Mayo led 28-21 with 11 and a half minutes left in the third quarter.

Just a few minutes later, the Huskies tied it up once again when Truelson scored his second rushing touchdown of the night.

"Tanner did a great job protecting the ball and moving the chains in the second half and allowed us to hang on to the lead until late," Williams said.

Owatonna got that lead when Mayo snapped the ball too high and couldn't recover it until the ball was in the end zone for a safety.

After that, the Huskies relied on their defense to hold that lead.

Owatonna's defense faced its toughest test late in the fourth quarter. The Spartans crossed into Huskies' territory, but Owatonna forced Mayo into a fourth-and-17. However, a 15-yard pass

interference penalty made the yardage that the Spartans needed to convert much more manageable.

"Our defense was resilient on the last drive after the pass interference call kept Mayo alive. Grant Achterkirch made a whale of a play to strip Simmons on fourth-and-two to put the game away," he said.

"Thanks to Achterkirch's big play, the Huskies won their fifth straight section title.

"Winning five straight section titles is pretty special," said Williams.

"The players change, but the one constant has been senior leadership."

Owatonna offensive statistics: Passing -

Brayden Truelson completed 18 of 25 passes for 176 yards, 2 TDs and 3 INTs. Rushing - Tanner Hall ran the ball 43 times for 191 yards and Truelson ran the ball 4 times for 5 yards and 2 TDs. Receiving - Payton Beyer caught the ball 9 times for 101 yards and 1 TD. Nick Williams caught the ball 5 times for 50 yards, Connor Budach caught 3 times for 24 yards and 1 TD and Tyrel Creger caught the ball 1 time for 1 yard.

Owatonna defensive statistics: Grant Achterkirch recorded 6 total tackles and forced 2 fumbles, Connor Budach recorded 4 total tackles and 2 sacks, Zach Stransky recorded 7 total tackles and Eli Spurgeon recorded 1 total tackle and 1 sack.

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How do you cook a turkey?

How to cook a turkey.
First take it out of the box and grab a pan. Second put butter. Finally put it in the oven and put salt and pepper and stuffing and then eat it!! Sincerely, Shainnah C.

How to cook a turkey
First you shoot the turkey. Second you stuff it. Make sure to cook it in the oven. Next you put butter. Finally you put seasoning. Sincerely, Isaac S.

You're likely scrambling around the kitchen trying to pull together a Thanksgiving feast. Perhaps you just encountered a major problem and have absolutely no idea how to cook the showcase piece of the feast—the Thanksgiving turkey!

Well, we're here to save the holiday for you. We have enlisted the help of the experts—third graders at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. We're providing their responses as to how turkeys should be cooked. Their responses are real and genuine from the minds of young children. They have not been edited and are being used in their original form.

Thanks to the students in Becky Johnson, Alli Schmidt and Mr. Larock's classes for helping us out.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Becky Johnson's class

First you get it from the store. Then you put it in the oven. Second you wait till it's done then you have to stick a thermometer in it. Next, put butter on it. Last, you can feast on it with your family! Sincerely,

■ Gracie H.

First, you must ether go hunting for a turkey or you can go buy one. Next, how to cook it, you should put lots of seasoning such as... butter, salt, pepper and stuffing lots and lots of stuffing. Then put the turkey on a pan and put it in the oven. When your timer rings, take it out and wait for it to cool. Last, and most important, enjoy it with family and frinds! Sincerely,

■ Addison W.

Frst you unwrap the turkey. Then you season it. Then you pute it in the oven. Then you take it owt of the oven. Then you putet it on the tabel. With the stuffing and over stuf. And eat it with yoru family for Thanksgiving. The end. Sincerely,

■ Jena

First you pull the turkey out of the box and put some butter on the turkey then put it on a pan. Second, season the turkey like peper and salt. Next, put it in the oven take it out of the oven and let it cool. Sincerely,

■ Lydia S.

First take a turkey put it in a oven then take a thermom-eter and see if the turkey is warm enough. If it is put butter salt and pepper. Then cool it when it is all cooled of serve if and enjoy! Sincerely,

■ Ava L.

You could meck a plan to meck a turkey but first you need seasoning and butter and stuffinf and meat on a plate and put the turkey on the table and wait till a fami-ly or friends are there. Sincerely,

■ Grant S.

First you have to unwrap the tinfol. Second you have to prepare the food peel of the feathers off. Next use ingre-dients such as seasoning, stuffing, salt and pepper. Finally put it in a pan and put it in the oven. Sincerely,

■ Carter S.

First you cook the turkey. Second you season the tur-key. Last you eat the turkey. Sincerely,

■ Mavrick S.

Frst, I set up the table. I put on the salt and pepper and the seasoning and butter on the table. Second, put it in the oven. Next, take it out of the oven and put a thermometer in the tur-key. Finally, wate for you'er family. PS: Shote it. Cook it. Eat it. Sincerely,

■ Max B.

First, preheat your oven. And put the turkey in the oven. Then, take the turkey out in about 1 hour. Next, you put on seasoning. Finally, eat! Sincerely,

■ Valerie W.

First un rap the plastic from the turkey and put it on a plate. Next put the turkey in the oven untell it look's ready. Finally, put butter on the turkey then put on sea-soning then, eat it. Sincerely,

■ Claire K.

First, you want to butter the hole turkey. Next, put on all of the seasonings you need. Don't put to much seasoning. Then you should put it on a big enough pan to fit your tur-key. Next, your oven or grill. Sometimes you'll have to cook it in till it looks kind of a little burnte on the outside of your turkey. Next, when it is done you are going to need to let it cool off till you can eat it. Mmmm—hmmmm! Sincerely,

■ Ellee J.

Frst... buy a turkey. Cook the turkey. Next... put seasoning on it. And now cut it and eat it. Sincerely,

■ Seth P.

First get a turkey and put it on the pan and then it in the oven and set the thermometer for it to get rete. Second tak it awt of the oven and put butter on it and then put seasoning on it and then let it cool and then eat it do not forget the stuffing and the end. Sincerely,

■ Shelby S.

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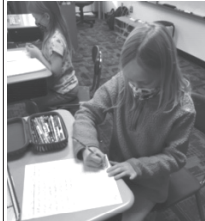
Alli Schmidt's Class

First preheat 300° and get the turkey out of the package and put the stuffing inside the turkey. When the oven is done preheating put the turkey inside. Then get the potatoes and start scraping the skin off. And then start boiling them. When they are done leave them on the table to cool off.

Liberty

First you have to go to the woods and you have to shoot it. Next you bring it home. Then you preheat it to about 350° and leave it in the oven for 2 hours. After you take the turkey out of the oven, then you put the stuffing in the turkey and then you have to put some seasoning on the turkey with a little bit of salt. Sometimes you can cut the turkey up. Finally it's Thanksgiving and all of the family comes over and eats it.

Abbey



With face mask in place, Samantha Horan gets every detail on paper. She is in Mr. Larock's third grade class.

1. Preheat the oven to 400° and you season it.
2. Put it in the oven for a hour.
3. When it is done you take it out of the oven and you stuff it.
4. You cut it up and eat it and don't forget the vegetables.

Ava

- #1 Preheat oven at 120°
- #2 Leave turkey in oven for about 1 hour
- #3 Put the turkey on a tray then put it in the oven
- #4 When your turkey is done put salt and pepper or any other seasoning
- #5 Last step put on table and enjoy with family and friends.

Jameson

1. First preheat to 400°
2. 4 hours and 15 minutes
3. Get the turkey to make the feast
4. Put the oil in to pan
5. Take the turkey and rip the turkey butt and rip it open to put the stuffing in
6. Put the turkey in the oven
7. Leave in for 2 hours
8. Then eat the end

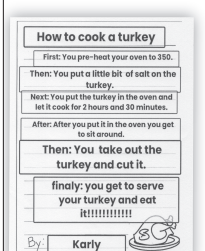
Savanna Faith Zystra

1. First preheat 99°
2. 1 hour long in the oven
3. Orange seasoning to cut up and suf

Andrew

1. First preheat the oven to 200°
2. Then put the turkey on a pan
3. Next put on seasoning
4. After put the turkey in the oven
5. Then put a timer to 30 minutes
6. After it beeps take the turkey out and let it cool
7. Last cut it and eat.

Ashton



By: Karly

1. First you have the turkey then you put vegetable in the turkey but you need to put it in the back
2. Then you need to put it in the oven for 50° then 24 minutes long when it beeps take it out and then leave it out so it can cool off and put
3. Oil food oil then wait for a minutes and then you can eat it.

Bella

First preheat to about 120°. Next you have to mette pan that's a retangl. Then put the turkey in the oven for 5 hours. Finly you put vegetables aroa a big conter put the turkey on the conter as well and stuffing and smast potatoes put the turkey the smastpotatoes and the stuffin and injoy.

Jaycob Miller

1. First preheat to 400°
2. Put turkey on pan
3. Make stuffing and put in turkey
4. Put in oven for 30 minutes
5. When turkey comes out of the oven put oil and then put sealt on
6. Mack corn and pumpkin pie
7. Put on table for fest

Payton

First I preheat the oven 100° and 30 minutes. Then I pate it in a pan and pate salt and peper on the turkey. Then I pate in the oven. When it's done I tack it out and let it cole when it's done I put it on the table.

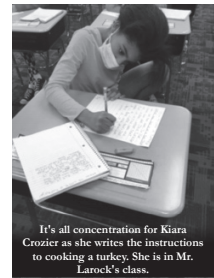
Myah Finke

First preheat to 450°. Next I set a timer for 1 hour. Then put the turkey in the uwin after I take it out of the uwin.

Brody Bishop

First you preheat the oven to 500°, second you put orange seasoning on the turkey, third you put the turkey in the oven for 1 hour, fourth you put it on a plate. Fih you brush olive oil on to it. Finally you serve it.

Kazaiya



It's all concentration for Kiara Crozier as she writes the instructions to cooking a turkey. She is in Mr. Larock's class.

1. First preheat the oven to 100°
2. Wait 20 minutes
3. Opin the oven
4. And put a pan in the oven and put the turkey
5. Injoy.

Nolan Parr

Step one you want to buy a turkey. I person buy one on sale. Then you want to get all the bons out and macke sher to wash your hands. Next you want to preheat your oven to 300° dgres and wat for about tow hours and then put the sesing on like peper and orange sesen and then put all on it and then put it in the oven then you want to make the stuffing and corn.

Harlee

First we google how to cook a turkey. Next we put it in the oven. Then we wait a couple hours. After that we pop it out of the oven and let it cool. Then Voila!

Weston Johnson

First preheat the oven to 365°. Then put stuffing in it well you wait and season the turkey with paprika. Next put the turkey on a large baking pan and put the turkey in for 1 hour and 30 min and then is done! Enjoy.

Kate

Erik Larock's Class

Firs you take a pan and you put tin foil on the pan. Second you put the turkey on the pan and put it in the oven put the temperature at 350°. Next put the oven at 2 hours and 1 minute. Last take the turkey out of the oven and let it cool down and how to make stuffing you need 20 peesies of bred and rip the bred into little peesies and let it drie and set the table and add any siding to your diner and add anything your turkey!

Avilynn Wacek

First, you take the turkey out of the refrigerator and let it thaw out. When it has thawed out you have to get out a pan and tin foil. Then, when you have got all the stuff out you can put the turkey on. When you got that done you have to set the time to 350°. Next, when it is done you have to let it cool down. When it has cooled down you can eat it. The end.

Lacey



Third grader Lacey Root lets her ideas flow on paper regarding how to cook a turkey.

First, I take the turkey out of refrigerator. Second, we put some salt and pepper on. Next, we put it in the oven to 400° F. Then, we take it out and we put some seasoning on. We put some cinomin and lemon juice on. After, we put in oven again. And take it out. Last, We! Serve!

Meghan Spinler

First you go to a stove and buy a turkey. Let turkey thaw then put seasoning on it. Next put stuffin in it put it on a tin pan put it in the refrigerator before you put it in the oven. Preheat it to 350° then chee if good eat it.

Jadon Feyevein

First, you take the turkey out of the freezer and let it thaw in the sink. Then, you preheat the oven to 355°. Next, you wash the oven is ready and put the turkey in. Set the oven for 3 hours and 12 minutes. Then, take the turkey out and stick the thermometer into the turkey to see if it is ready. If not put the turkey back in the oven and set the oven for 33 minutes. Now, take out the turkey and set it on the platter. Next, you can put on seasoning like rosemary, pepper, salt and maybe butter. Last of all, the best part eat it.

Abigail Kennedy

First, you put aluminum foil on a pan. Next, you preheat the oven. Then, you put the turkey on the pan and you put it in the oven. Next, you put the heat on 350°.

Then you put in a little salt on it and pepper and rosemary. Next, you keep it in there for half an hour, then you take it out when it is pink. Next, you put a little more salt and pepper then you EAT! The end.

Isabella

First you put the turkey in the oven. Second you put seasoning on it. Thead you put the temperature at 350. Fourth you take it out. Fifth can you check on it if it is right.

Linkin

First you put it on a pan. Then you set the oven to 350°. Next you put the turkey on a pan after that put it in the oven and wait a couple hours tell it is done and you can chek if it is done whith a tooth pick. Were it is done put dressing on the turkey like sale, butter, pepper, rosemary.

Kiara Crozier

First, let the turkey thaw in the sink overnight. At 5:00 a.m., preheat the oven 310° and set it for 15 hours. Second, get out the potatoes and cut them with a knife. Next, take the blender and mash the potatoes with it to make stuffin. It looks like mash potatoes doesn't it? Then take some bread and toss it into the bowl of mashed potatoes. Take the blender again and mash it up into picies. Beep! Beep! Take your oven gloves (be carful) and take out the turkey. Then put pepper on (don't sneeze) and put it on a plate. Set it on the table and hold hands with your friends and family and thank God for the Pilgrims.

Lydia Kennedy

First you sezen the turkey. Next you put the turkey in the oven for 30 to 45 min. Then you cut the turkey and get plat's out and put the turkey on the plat's you can put solt, peper, rosemare, gorlik and simumin on the turkey. Enjoy!!!!

Ava H.

First you turn on the oven on second, let it thare. Next put it on a plate. Then put it on seasoning on it. After that put the turkey in the oven at 550°. Set a timer for 2 hours and 30 minutes. Last get the turkey out it loks good rip it apart and it is time to eat.

Ayla Mueller

First you put the turkey on a pan then you preheat the oven to 350°. Next you season the turkey. After you put the turkey in the oven for 2 hours. After the 2 hours you take the turkey out form the oven. You grad a plate then you cut the turkey. Last you have a feste.

Daniel Coleman

First you get the turkey. Second you put the turkey in the middle of the ofin. Next you put it to mabe to ". Then you put the minutes. I whnd put it at 6- minutes then you wat and wat in til it is rete. Then you tack it out and you cud put pepper and salt stuffin and mabe lemon juice then it will be retery and you can eat it mmm!

Shelly Kasperck

First preheat the oven after it's dun put the turkey put tinfol on the turkey put it in the oven and wat untel it's dun then out seasoning pepper then it's dun and that's how you cook a turkey.

Easton Valek

First, put it on a pan. Second, put the turkey into the oven. Next, put the heat to 230°. Then, put a timer to 30 min. After, take it out. Last, take the turkey off the pan and put it on a big plate and shard it. Injoy.

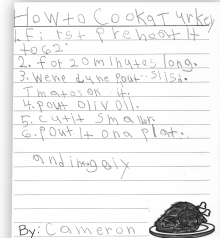
Connor K.

First you put it in a pot. 2 you put hot whater in the pot. 3 you put salt and peper and seasoning. 4 the temp chek hast to be at 450° 5 then you let it sit fore a fuwe awers. 6 you take it out. 7 you let it cool down.

Bently Lee Ramsey

First you thaw it and then you put it on the pan. Then put it in the oven at 350° and set the timer for 30 minutes. Then you season it and then you eat it.

Landyn James Alitz



By: Cameron

Happy Thanksgiving

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
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11/26

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11/26

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If you are interested contact Karen Jorgensen by emailing a letter of interest to: editordci@kmtel.com.

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11/27/20

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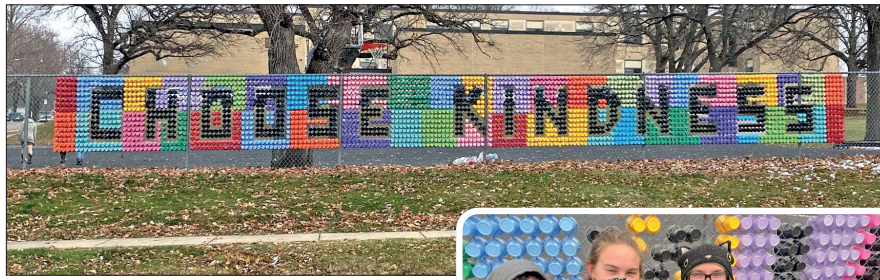
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B10 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Inspiration during a dark time

The OwatonnaProud ALC students, along with teachers Kim Penning and Jessica Klein, wanted to make a statement piece that spread an inspirational message. Their colorful message is "Choose Kindness." We think they did a wonderful job! #WorldKindnessDay

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Free meals available during distance learning

BY JACOB MEINERS
OHS MAGNET WRITER

The Owatonna Public School system has recently implemented a new strategy for distributing lunches to students and youth throughout Owatonna. Ms. Sarah Brooks, Director of Nutrition Services in the district, is one of the many people behind the operation that is trying to keep the bellies in Owatonna full. COVID-19 has impacted the U.S. immensely since March of this year, and the impact runs much deeper than it may seem, even to the point where kids may not have meals throughout the week due to distance learning. Brooks and the district office, along with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture, have implemented a new system of distributing breakfast and lunch to kids in Owatonna for free as a response to this pandemic.

Expanding the horizons of food distribution in the Owatonna Public School system was imminent as the effects of COVID-19 rapidly poured in following the shutdown of schools including Owatonna Public Schools. Many kids in the community had decided to turn to a full distance learning schedule, which meant they would not have been able to get the daily breakfast and lunch offered. Of course, that was earlier in the year when there was an option, but there is hope that the hybrid schedule will return later in the school year. Brooks said, "When COVID hit, we recognized that the nation, overall, was going through some

tough times and food is a necessity. And that our most important population, which is our youth, are getting meals and our families affected by this are not having to have that extra burden of figuring out how they are going to pay for those meals."

Kids that were following the hybrid schedule also had over half of the week on distance learning, so they also were available to get free lunches for their days out of school and in school. When in school, meals are the same as previous years, made hot and ready. Now that the public schools have integrated into a full distance learning schedule, pickup days, times and locations have changed. You are able to pick up your meal bundle on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at either of the five locations, Owatonna High School, Owatonna Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Lincoln Elementary and Wilson Elementary. There is no sign up sheet or any forms to fill out, just show up to one of the locations and get your meal bundle.

For hybrid learners, pickup days were the last day they were in school that given week, so generally, pickup days for group one were on Tuesdays right after school, and group two was on Fridays right after school. These bundles were all cold, shelf stable lunches. This schedule will most likely continue as it used to if we do end up integrating back into a hybrid learning schedule. Brooks and her staff, however, are being creative with the meals and trying to keep them fresh

by mixing them up so students are not getting the same meals over and over again. Every meal is packaged in a bundle, with each different part of each meal packaged separately in portions. Portion sizes do not differ throughout the age groups, as the free meals are open to kids in town aged 1-18. The district wants to keep food available for all kids in the area, even if they are not a part of the Owatonna Public School system. Owatonna High School senior Mason Kunkel said, "I like having free lunches, but I do feel like I am stealing from the school everyday." Kunkel said he has been so used to paying for meals that it seems wrong at times taking them from the school.

Brooks had a very strong message, implying that students should not feel guilty or ashamed that they are taking these meals for free, as they are funded by the USDA and meant to make it easier on families in this tough time. Caleb Schuler, OHS Senior, said, "It is kind of nice not having to enter in my lunch pin everyday." Multiple families have given feedback to Ms. Brooks, saying that they are very appreciative and happy with what they have done so far with distributing these free meals. Brooks does, although, point out that there are some things they can improve on, like giving larger portion sizes to older kids, and getting hot and ready meals for the distance learning kids. They have changed the pickup times from only a half

a two hour window during the distance learning schedule. They know what they can improve on, and are willing to work hard to make the process as good as it can be for the families. If the district does decide to go back into a hybrid learning schedule, Brooks and the nutrition services in town will move back to what they were doing beforehand. Overall, the main goal for Ms. Brooks and the nutrition services in town is to provide families with meals at no cost during this tough time. COVID-19 has greatly impacted not only this community, but the entire world and this is just a step in the right direction to help all of the families with children in town.

Jacob Meiners is a senior at Owatonna High School. Meiners participates in multiple extracurricular activities at Owatonna High School, including DECA and being a pitcher/second baseman on the baseball team. After high school, Meiners is planning on continuing to play baseball at the collegiate level, along with studying statistics and analytics. He is interested in attending multiple MIAC schools, such as Saint Mary's in Winona, Augsburg and Gustavus. In his free time, he likes to spend time playing video games, and with his family and friends. Overall, Meiners likes to work hard at whatever he is putting his mind to, no matter if it is sports, or the classroom.

Drever loves teaching in Owatonna



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Adam Drever has been teaching in Owatonna for six years. His family includes wife Liza, sons Brenden and Cody and daughter Regan.

Here are five facts about Adam Drever in today's #TeacherFeature!
• He is a fourth grade teacher at Washington Elementary.
• Work experience includes 11 years at Medford Elementary and six years at Washington Elementary.
• His hobbies are running, golfing, MSHSL Baseball Umpire, U of M

Gophers fan ROW THE BOAT!
• Mr. Drever's family includes wife Liza, two boys Brenden and Cody, and daughter Regan.
• "I love working for the Owatonna Schools because the families I meet and work with are exceptional supporters of education and my class! So many great people in our community!"

Owatonna Students of the Week Elementary



Tiah Aby
Fifth Grade
Parents: Tressa Baby and Thomas Aby
Tiah Aby is a bright light at Wilson Elementary. She is driven, hardworking, so kind, and has an infectious smile. Tiah is an avid reader, reading more than 30 books and logging over 8,000 pages so far this school year. Way to go Tiah!

High School



Mehssa Krause
Freshman
Parents: David and Renea Krause
We are pleased to nominate Mehssa Krause for Student of the Week. Mehssa is a great student who has consistently produced high-quality, thoughtful work in both the in-class setting and during distance learning. Keep up the great work, Mehssa!

THANK YOU
RICK GNEMI
Steele County District 3 Commissioner

I would personally like to thank you for your support and encouragement these past four years. I look forward to serving all the citizens of Steele County. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Home telephone: 507-451-3813
Steele County phone: 507-444-7427
Email: rick.gnemi@co.steele.mn.us

I look forward to fighting for YOU and Steele County to protect your tax dollars and to build unity within the county.

Prepared and Paid for by Rick Gnemi for County Commissioner