



Scores of area residents were out Saturday afternoon enjoying the sun and above average temperatures. Above, Joe Blando of Owatonna spent Saturday afternoon playing pickleball at Morehouse Park with his family. For more on the Blando pickleball match, see Page B1.

Duncan: BP has an alcohol, drug epidemic

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The top leader for Steele County's United Way is calling for a change in what she describes as an epidemic that's out of control in Bloomington.

United Way Director Annette Duncan said Bloomington is on "everybody's radar right now" when it comes to drug and alcohol prevention. "State officials are saying that something has to be done about Bloomington, Prairie," she said.

Through her role with the United Way, Duncan has assumed oversight of the Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition. She is on a mission to facilitate positive change in the community.

"It's a very serious issue," said Duncan, pointing to the most recent Minnesota Student Survey completed in 2019. "Bloomington, Prairie is hurting. They report twice the rate of alcohol and marijuana abuse."

In that survey, Bloomington, Prairie was about 2-1/2 times higher than the state average for

alcohol use in the freshman class and nearly double the state average in the junior class.

For ninth graders, the state average of alcohol use is 11.8%. However, Bloomington, Prairie ninth graders reported 29.5%. It was much the same story for juniors, who reported 41.5% alcohol use compared to the state average of 22.6%.

Bloomington, Prairie's marijuana use was also well above the state average at 19.5% for juniors and 13.6% for freshmen. In the vaping category, Bloomington, Prairie

"Bloomington, Prairie is hurting. They report twice the rate of alcohol and marijuana abuse."

Annette Duncan
United Way Director

freshmen reported 29.5% to the state average of 16.3%, while juniors were 46.3% compared to the state average of 26.4%.

Duncan said per capita, Bloomington, Prairie is "No. 1 in the state for the worst numbers."

To curb this disturbing trend, Duncan

is seeking community partners to secure a \$1 Million grant from Positive Community Norms over five years that would be dedicated exclusively to Bloomington, Prairie Schools. Duncan said the grant would fund a new full-time prevention coordinator within the high school.

There would also be a second part-time marketing and administrative position dedicated to the program. Duncan would oversee both positions. She began circulating letters of collaboration last week to partners within the community to assist with prevention.

See DUNCAN on A3 ►

Krell achieves top state honor

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A top educator, who once reigned on the national level as a distinguished principal, has added yet another honor to her portfolio.

The Minnesota Association of School Administrators has named Michelle Krell of Bloomington, Prairie the Outstanding Central Office Leader.

Krell currently serves as the director of teaching and learning for Owatonna Public Schools.

Krell received her latest honor by exhibiting a willingness to risk, possessing strong communication skills, being a progressive change agent and having high expectations for herself and others.

The association honored Krell during

its spring conference held virtually last Thursday and Friday.

"I am truly honored and humbled to be recognized by the great educational leaders in our state," said Krell.

Krell said she credits the work that has been done in Owatonna to a collaborative, team effort. "I work with an amazing superintendent, district leadership team, and

teaching and learning department," she said.

"We have become a cohesive leadership team who have common beliefs, a clear mission and strong commitments."

"My dad always said, surround yourself with great people and great things will happen," she said, adding that with the current Owatonna team, it surely rings true.



Michelle Krell

Superintendent Jeff Elstad said Krell is a professional educator in every sense of the word. "In every step of her career, See KRELL on A9 ►

Riverland exploring new program options for Owatonna

BY DEB FLEMING
NEWS EDITOR

Riverland Community College President Adenuga Atewologun gets excited when discussing the past, present and future of the Owatonna campus.

Riverland was one of the original educational partners when the Owatonna College and University Center opened in 2002. Six years later, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities acquired the building and designated it as the third Riverland Community College campus.

"We've provided lots of customized training for businesses in the area," said Atewologun, who has served as president of the college since 2013.

See RIVERLAND on A5 ►



Adenuga Atewologun

Same name, different owner

Hoff takes over Worlein's funeral homes in BP and Austin

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Tyler Hoff may turn a few heads with his youthful look, but he's not letting that stop him from conquering the challenge of owning a new business.

At only 29 years old, Hoff recently purchased the Worlein Funeral Home in Bloomington, Prairie and Austin. His arrival brings an end to 31 years of ownership at Bloomington, Prairie and 76 years at Austin for the Worlein family.

Hoff and the Worleins finalized the sale in early February.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Tyler Hoff has taken over ownership of Worlein's Funeral Home in Bloomington, Prairie and Austin. His arrival brings an end to 31 years of ownership at Bloomington, Prairie and 76 years at Austin for the Worlein family.

While he may still be young, the funeral business isn't new to Hoff. He has been around funerals since he was a young child as his family owns several funeral homes in St. Charles, Winona, Rushford, Houston and Lewiston. Hoff's grandfather came from the Milwaukee area to start the funeral business in Minnesota in the late 1960s.

"I am young, but with that comes the energy to take on the new wave of challenges," said Hoff. "It's definitely a challenge and a new adventure."

See NAME on A9 ►

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Jean Larson, 82, Fairbault
Donna Tumlin, 86, Austin
Delores Wilke, 87, Owatonna
Bernard Pribyl, 97, Owatonna
Alan Heide, 83, Owatonna

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Bloomington, Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

BP needs to reverse a disturbing trend

A wake-up call is going out to the Blooming Prairie community to help its youth stay away from drugs and alcohol.

Substance abuse is a problem that has been around for years in nearly every community, large or small. But for some unknown reason, Blooming Prairie is off the charts and currently reeling from a significant drug and alcohol issue.

In the most recent Minnesota Student Survey compiled in 2019, Blooming Prairie freshmen and juniors reported using alcohol and marijuana at nearly twice or more than twice the statewide average.

The youth who participated in the survey provide a very powerful look at what's going on in the community. It's critically important for adults to understand the trends in alcohol, drug and tobacco use.

It has been proven scientifically that delaying the onset of use leads to lower addiction rates and better outcomes. This is particularly important for youth as their brains are still developing.

Good data on substance use allows officials to estimate treatment needs and plan prevention and treatment programs.

It's such a serious epidemic that Annette Duncan, the president of the Steele County United Way, is making Blooming Prairie one of her target projects. But she needs help from the community.

The first step in finding a solution is to recognize there is a problem. Blooming Prairie needs to take a good look at itself and understand that the community's youth are desperately hurting. Duncan is looking for at least 10 partners from various community sectors to help with Blooming Prairie's prevention efforts. Among other things, the partners would serve on committees, serve as coalition officers, help assess and analyze the root causes of substance abuse, offer in-kind donations, assist in communications, offer financial support and attend community-wide events.

This newspaper has already agreed to join the effort to help make Blooming Prairie a healthy and safe place to live. We appeal to others to come forward right away to join us in this cause.

Teen drug and alcohol abuse leads to a variety of problems, including juvenile delinquency, teenage pregnancy and school dropouts.

This problem didn't happen overnight. It has been in the making for decades, and sadly until now, no one has stepped up to say, "enough is enough." But United Way is being that sacrificial lamb and doing what's right for the welfare of this community. Others need to follow and join in the effort.

Duncan hopes to secure a \$1 million grant that would be utilized over five years to get at the root causes of the epidemic and help the community's youth become better positioned to thrive as teenagers.

We owe it to the youth of our community to change this disturbing trend. Anything less could lead to tragic outcomes for our teenagers.

Two careers collide for Podcast Sheriff



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Law enforcement has been in the blood of Scott Rose's family for many years.

His grandfather was a special deputy in North Dakota in the 1930s. His father, Bob, was a deputy for more than 30 years in Dodge County. In his late 20s, Rose became a deputy sheriff in Dodge County and worked his way up the ranks before being elected sheriff in 2014. Rose's son is now a trooper in Colorado.

Broadcasting has also been in Sheriff Rose's DNA. He actually became a radio broadcaster, working in Nebraska, Kansas and Minnesota, before switching over to law

enforcement nearly 30 years ago.

Rose's two career paths have come to an interesting crossroads. Last November, he began producing and hosting audio podcasts for the Officer Down Memorial Podcast. Until then, nobody had

been doing anything like it.

He works out of a studio in his home outside of Kasson. In his demanding career as sheriff (his office handled the Lois Riess murder investigation for more than two years), one would think

Rose would want to go home and have nothing to do with police work. But that's far from the truth.

He goes to his upstairs studio and puts together podcasts on officers who have died in the line of duty. Rose said he works on the podcasts every night and on weekends for about 40 hours each week.

He logs as many as 90 hours working on a single podcast.

"This is my hobby. I'm not a big TV guy," said Rose. "This is my way to forget about work. It's therapeutic for me. It's kind of my little man cave."

Digging into the past of officers who were gunned down or violently killed in other ways can be draining. Rose often interviews current or retired officers about their partners who were killed.

"Many officers I've talked to have fallen apart talking about it because it's still fresh

See CAREERS on A5 ►



Dodge County Sheriff Scott Rose records a podcast at his home studio in what he describes as "my little man cave."

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER



GUEST COLUMN

Teachers move through the pandemic in stride

BY DANIELLE THEIS

Approximately 900 students receive special education services through Owatonna Public Schools each year. These services vary across thirteen disability areas and settings. Our most vulnerable learners are served in our Discovery and Stride programs. Our Stride program serves children that have developmental cognitive or autism spectrum disabilities which impact how they participate and experience school. While all people have been impacted by the pandemic, I wanted to share the views of a few teachers who serve in our Stride program as a bright reminder of how grit, optimism, and kindness brings us all forward.

We are very fortunate to have Christine Gefre, Darlene Runner, and Rhonda Dulas serving students in

our Stride programs. When asked why they have chosen to serve this particular student population, Runner stated, "I surprised myself and completely fell in love with students with the most severe physical and mental disabilities. I can't help myself now, I want to continuously engage, learn, and thrive together with these amazing students."

Gefre echoed Runner's enthusiasm sharing, "I have been teaching in early childhood special education for over 20 years. I love to have the connection with the parents as they start their journey with their child. I choose to work with this population because I love to see these children learn, grow and explore."

Our Stride teachers have been impressed with their students' ability to move through the impacts of the

pandemic. "My students are an inspiration to me. They have moved through the impacts of the pandemic with their positive attitude regardless of their educational setting. They have not once complained about the challenges caused by the pandemic and continue to work hard," Dulas said.

"Stride students show amazing grit and adaptive skills using technology. These students shine in virtual meetings and maintain a sense of community. The excitement that is heard, and big smiles that are seen, is infectious," added Runner.

The pandemic has taught our teachers new things about the kids they serve as we are all asked to stretch our creativity and learn in new ways. "I learn from my students every day! Being able to be flexible is so important in this classroom as

changes occur daily and we need to adjust to meet the needs of the students. I am so proud of them everyday!" said Gefre. Dulas added, "My students have taught me that they are more technologically savvy than I am. For example, I was having trouble presenting sound during a virtual lesson and my students walked me through the process." Runner stressed the joy she experiences through serving her students adding, "Stride students are leaders. Like all students, Stride students want to, and are able to be active participants in their classrooms and school community!"

These amazing teachers want the Owatonna community to understand their student population like they do. Gefre stated, "I would like the community to understand that our students are children first, regardless of

their disability or their needs. We have a great opportunity to teach about inclusion, respect, and kindness every day," Dulas added. "It is my goal to help our community understand that my special needs students are capable of achievements very comparable to those the rest of us take for granted." Runner summarized it well, stating, "We may each have specific and multiple challenges we face daily, physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally, but we

are daily making big STRIDES in learning tools and becoming successful learners." The pandemic, as with any challenge, has given us reason to celebrate what we have learned about ourselves and those we serve. Our staff and students model the resilience and optimism that will see us through whatever challenges we face.

Danielle Theis is the director of special services with Owatonna Public Schools.

CORRECTION

The Times incorrectly reported in its March 10 edition that the Blooming Prairie Public Utilities rebate program included windows. The utility's program reimburses customers who switch to more energy-efficient lightbulbs, heating and cooling systems, air compressor systems, furnaces, dishwashers and refrigerators, dehumidifiers and humidifiers. A complete listing of items covered can be found on the utilities website at <https://smmpa.com/members/blooming-prairie>.

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Steele, Dodge,
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MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER AWARD
2020-18 awards
2019-9 state awards
2018-7 state awards
2017-6 state and 4 national awards
2016-2 state and 3 national awards
2015-8 state and 6 national awards
2014-7 state and 4 national awards
2013-7 state and 2 national awards
2012-2 state awards
2010-4 state and 1 national award
(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association)

Caron's has 'mixed feelings' on easing COVID-19 restrictions

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Steele County's top public health official has "mixed feelings" about the governor's newest executive order loosening restrictions around COVID-19.

While she understands the economic implications of shutting things down, Amy Caron said she isn't entirely convinced the latest order will be

the best for residents' health and welfare.

"It worries me that things are opening up with bigger groups of people," said Caron.

Caron said she's somewhat relieved that Minnesota is taking a more cautious approach than Texas has in opening things up. She is glad that Minnesota still requires masks and social distancing.

She said the new executive order is

complicated at best. Her department is still trying to make sense of everything contained in the order. "We learn as we go," Caron said.

The biggest questions the local public health department is getting right now centers on trade shows. "People want to know how they can run those safely," Caron said, adding she is working with area schools regarding upcoming proms and graduations.

As things open back up, Steele County's new cases are heading back in the wrong direction. During the past week, the county saw 92 new cases, bringing the total to 3,142.

"We are seeing an uptick in Steele County," Caron said. "There have been a few cluster cases with sports teams, but no other sources have been identified."

In Dodge County, there have been 27 new cases over the past week.

Freeborn County has had 69 new cases, while Mower County had 86. The only area county to report a death over the past week was Freeborn.

Meanwhile, Steele County continues its vaccination efforts. The county has vaccinated 2,304

people. Caron said 400 first doses will be available this week. Both clinics scheduled for Wednesday and Friday are full.

The county still has not received any of the one-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccines, Caron said.

COVID-19 VACCINE WATCH

Steele: 2,304
Dodge: 1,512

Source: Steele County Public Health

County awards second batch of relief funds

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

After receiving 165 grant applications from area businesses and organizations totaling \$5.3 million in requested funds, the county has determined which companies and organizations will receive grants from the \$715,000 total allotted by the state.

The county plans to release its list of grantees once it notifies the recipients.

"We didn't see who

the applicants were, we just applied the criteria," Commissioner Jim Abbe said of the impartial process. "The requests were more than the dollars that were available, it's unfortunate that everybody didn't get what they asked for but the idea was to try and disburse it as evenly as possible."

This is the second batch of relief funds that the county has distributed. The first batch went out last fall, with area businesses receiv-

ing more than \$410,000 and non-profits receiving roughly \$254,000 due to losses attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All of the recipients were required to demonstrate revenue loss due to the pandemic and the Governor's Executive Order.

To assist the county in this process, a public finance firm, Ehlers, was brought on board to help the county's Economic Relief Grant Committee review each application and

determine which would receive funding in a 4-tier system based on priority and impact.

"The priority system was developed by the committee over the last couple of months," County administrator Scott Gilbert explained.

There were four priority levels, with those deemed in the top priority level receiving up to \$20,000. Six area businesses will be receiving grants under the top priority for a total of \$95,642.

The majority of applicants fell under the second priority, with 45 applicants receiving a total of \$411,559 in grants. Those in priority three received \$163,364, and those in priority four received \$47,500 in grant money. The deadline for the county to award the grants was March 15.

The number of employees for each business or organization ranged from a single employee to more than 230. The majority of the applicants were bars,

restaurants, and catering businesses, with 22 applicants receiving funds. Fourteen salons and barbershops also received funding, as well as 10 community organizations.

The county applauded all of those who worked diligently to sort through the many applicants and determine which ones were in most need of receiving grants. "It's not an easy task because a lot of people are hurting," Abbe said.

State ranks 1st in the nation for children amid pandemic

A recently published study from Save the Children finds that over the last four months of 2020, Minnesota consistently ranked first in the nation for children amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Using four months of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey, the Save the Children's COVID Child Protection Ranking identifies where children have been most and least protected during the COVID-19 pandemic, finding that Minnesota has continually ranked first in pro-

tecting children from hunger, learning loss, and financial stress.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of Minnesotans across the state, but it has hit our working families and their children the hardest," said Gov. Tim Walz. "While we are proud that in this report Minnesota has consistently ranked first in the nation for families during the pandemic, we have work to do. We know that Minnesota children still face unacceptably high disparities in race and income.

Our children are our future, and we must continue to invest in their success to emerge from this crisis stronger than before.

According to Save the Children's study, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a bi-weekly Household Pulse Survey to understand the social and economic effects of COVID. Save the Children analyzed this data, focusing on households with children under the age of 18, or families. To assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, the COVID

Child Protection Ranking uses three indicators: food scarcity, lack of access to tools for remote learning, and difficulty paying for household expenses. Save the Children assessed where children have been most and least protected during COVID-19 to illustrate how disparate the effects of COVID-19 have been on families. They also evaluated how racial and income inequality impacts families nationally and within each state.

And the third consecutive year, the state

ranked in the U.S. News and World Report's Best States rankings.

U.S. News & World Report named Minnesota as the second best state in the nation. The Best States rankings evaluate how well each state serves their residents across a range of categories, including education, health care, and infrastructure. Minnesota is the only state to rank in the top three every year since U.S. News began ranking the Best States in 2017. This year, the state ranked in the top 10 for opportunity (#2),

infrastructure (#9), and natural environment (#10).

As in past years, U.S. News & World Report ranked all 50 states based on data within 71 metrics and across eight categories. New to this year, U.S. News has also compiled data related to the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected states' economies and budgets. The annual rankings seek to inform citizens, community leaders, and policymakers about what's working and what isn't in each state across the nation.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL EPIDEMIC

Ninth Grade	BP	State Avg.
Alcohol Use	29.5%	11.8%
Marijuana	13.6%	7.5%
Vaping	29.5%	16.3%
Juniors	BP	State Avg.
Alcohol Use	41.5%	22.6%
Marijuana	19.5%	15.5%
Vaping	46.3%	26.4%

Source: 2019 Minnesota Student Survey

Duncan: BP has an alcohol, drug epidemic

◀ DUNCAN from A1
tion efforts and form a coalition. Duncan said that without 10 partners from the community, she will not be able to move forward with the grant.

Specifically, Duncan wants people to represent the following groups: parents, students, health-care, law enforcement, justice and corrections, media, religious, business and civic.

"We don't need people to know the solution... we just want them to be a part of it," said Duncan.

She is on a tight timeline to submit the grant application by its March 26 deadline.

"I am doing the best I can to make this a powerful grant," Duncan said.

Duncan is working directly with Superintendent

Chris Staloch on the effort. Duncan says the Blooming Prairie school officials are at "their wit's end" with the problem. A major issue for the schools, she said, is that they don't have the resources or knowledge to address the problem.

Duncan said for whatever reason, up until recently, the issue has been "put on the

back burner" and not dealt with accordingly.

"We have to figure this out," Duncan said. "Something is happening to make the kids make some really bad choices in Blooming Prairie."

Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact Duncan at 507-455-1180 or president@united-waysteelecounty.org.

New policies to improve MNsure affordability

The American Rescue Plan includes several key health care provisions to the Affordable Care Act that will expand benefits available to Minnesotans through MNsure. This includes an increase in the amount of tax credits MNsure enrollees receive to help them pay for their premiums and an expansion of tax credits to middle-income Minnesotans who previously fell outside income thresholds for financial help. This increase in benefits means Minnesotans who purchase health insurance through

MNsure will be able to find a plan with premiums that cost no more than 8.5% of their household income.

"We welcome this great news, which will make health care coverage more affordable," said MNsure CEO Nate Clark. "Every Minnesotan who currently receives tax credits through MNsure will see additional savings, and thousands more Minnesotans who weren't eligible to receive financial help before will now be able to access tax credits that can significantly reduce the cost of their health insurance."

Key takeaways:
- Most people already enrolled through MNsure will see savings.

- People enrolled through MNsure without federal premium tax credits may now be eligible.

- Those currently enrolled in plans outside of MNsure can enroll through MNsure.org and take advantage of benefits.

- Uninsured Minnesotans should consider these new cost savings. *These expanded tax credits will not be advanceable until later this year. This means enrollees will not immediately see any additional*

savings on their monthly premiums but can reconcile the savings when they file their taxes next year. Current MNsure enrollees will be eligible for a full year of savings, retroactive to their first month of coverage in 2021. The enhanced savings will be available in advance for the entire 2022 coverage year.

Additional information, including implementation details and timing, and a tool to estimate potential savings, are forthcoming on MNsure.org. Interested Minnesotans should sign up for MNsure's eNews emails for updates.



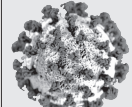
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STEELE COUNTY Times

COVID-19 UPDATE			
	World.....	120,000,000	Deaths.....
	Deaths.....	2,650,000	Recovered.....
	Recovered.....	67,900,000	
	U.S.....	30,100,000	Deaths.....
	Deaths.....	547,000	Recovered.....
	Recovered.....	22,265,000	
	MN.....	498,000	Deaths.....
	Deaths.....	6,815	Recovered.....
	Recovered.....	480,000	
	Steele.....	3,142	Deaths.....
	Deaths.....	11	Recovered.....
	Dodge.....	1,573	Deaths.....
	Deaths.....	4	Recovered.....
	Recovered.....	1,549	
	Freeborn.....	2,946	Deaths.....
	Deaths.....	25	Recovered.....
	Mower.....	4,220	Deaths.....
	Deaths.....	31	Recovered.....
	AS OF MARCH 15, 2021		

**BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT**

Domestic: On March 7 at 4:25 a.m., Owatonna Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Elm Ave. S. They took a subject into custody.

Hotel stays disrupted for 3 people in Owatonna

Plans by three people to spend the night at area hotels instead turned into stays at the county jail.

On March 8, an Owatonna officer arrested Brandon Scinto, 37, of Rochester on seven outstanding felony warrants. Scinto was staying at the Executive Inn.

Officers found Scinto in a room with a woman whom he was not to have any contact with. Besides the warrants, Scinto faces a new charge of violating an Order for Protection.

On March 10, police found a vehicle at Motel 6 in which the registered owner had a felony warrant. While outside the hotel, an officer saw a man and a dog approach the car before returning inside.

Police made contact with Keslie Green, 26, of St.



Brandon Scinto

Cloud at the car. Green was found to have a warrant. She admitted to officers that she wasn't supposed to be together with the man because of a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO).

When officers went inside the hotel, they learned from employees that the man had just run through the lobby. A search of the hotel was unsuccessful.

During a search of the



Keslie Green

outer perimeter, the man and the dog were found hiding near a large medical appliance. Police took Christopher Maricle, 30, of St. Cloud into custody.

He was arrested on the warrant and also faces new charges of violating the DANCO and possession of a controlled substance. Police said Maricle was in possession of a vial that contained heroin.



Christopher Maricle

CRIME BRIEF

Police arrest man sleeping at the gas pump

A man found sleeping in his car at an area gas pump is facing drunken driving charges.

Ricky Ryan, 55, of New Richland has been charged with DWI and refusal to submit to a breath test in Steele County District Court.

The charges arise from an incident on March 6 at a Kwik Trip store on West Frontage Road in Owatonna. Police were called to the store around 11 p.m. where they allegedly found Ryan sleeping at the gas pump.



Ricky Ryan

Police said a citizen indicated Ryan had been sleeping for about an hour. In talking with Ryan, an officer found he was showing signs of intoxication, according to police. Ryan was placed under arrest after falling

field sobriety tests. While at the Steele County Detention Center, Ryan appeared to be manipulating the evidentiary breath test. Police said Ryan was given multiple opportunities to complete the test correctly, but didn't and was considered to refuse the test.

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

1. Anthony Brown – assault – no bail
2. Malik Brown – DWI – \$500 bail
3. Isaiah Brownlee – DWI – no bail
4. Jacinda Buchanan – obstruction – \$1,000 bail
5. William Buchanan – theft – \$300 bail
6. James Campbell – trespassing – \$1,000 bail
7. Jorge Campos Avila – DWI, revoked license – \$500 bail
8. Linda Card – warrant – \$1,000 bail
9. Roberto Castilleja – hit and run – \$1,000 bail
10. Coj Castral – domestic abuse – \$1,000 bail
11. Evangelina Castro – drugs – no bail
12. Noe Cavazos – DWI – no bail
13. Nathan-Adam Chavez – assault – no bail
14. Nathan Chavez-Salgado – dangerous weapon – \$40,000 bail
15. Thok Chul – drugs – \$5,000 bail
16. Luis Clara – DWI – \$1,000 bail
17. Calvin Collier – assault – \$1,000 bail
18. Mario Contreras – DWI – \$500 bail
19. Omar Cordova Jr. – stalking, revoked license – no bail
20. Martin Corrales – DWI – no bail

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

**COURT NEWS
Steele County**

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 22 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding. Andrew M. Wilson, 35, previously appeared and was convicted of felony financial transaction card fraud. He was sentenced to \$613.56, 128 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 22 – 28:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Shadow A. Adams, 26, Jackson, domestic assault, \$125 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Freddie L. Brown, 51, Chicago, IL, speeding, expired tabs and suspended license, \$355; Mitchell A. Heide,

23, Fountain, speeding, \$135; Miguel A. Herrera Zacarias, 20, Minneapolis, suspended license, \$275; Jazmin Herrera, 30, Austin, revoked license, \$275; Dustin D. Hull, 49, Lansing, suspended license and no insurance, \$475; Leonardo Martinez, 19, Austin, no insurance, invalid license and windshield violation, \$415; Bradley P. McNally, 55, Austin, revoked license, \$275; Jada F. Trom Padilla, 19, Albert Lea, speeding and no insurance, \$335; Craig J. Williams, 31, Burlington, KY, invalid license, \$175.

**MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER**

Tristan M. Adams Jr., 23, Des Moines, IA, no license, \$175; Lindsay E. Ahlman, 20, Medford, speeding, \$135; Joseph D. Ahrens, 25, Faribault, no license and possession of marijuana, \$325; Jenna M. Anderson, 43, Waukegan, IA, speeding, \$135; Arnold Barrientos, 42, Eden Prairie, no license, \$175; Jaime L. Beckman, 37, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Christopher L. Bear, 28, Albert Lea, no insurance,

\$275; Jeremiah K. Billings, 32, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; Frederick J. Blodgett, 59, St. Paul, speeding, \$115; Codi R. Brown, 33, Shakopee, no insurance, \$275; Eliza Burton, 44, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Levi P. Cid, 24, Byron, speeding, \$115; Adam R. Davis, 33, Minneapolis, suspended license, \$275; Kelsey L. Eagle Chasing, 28, Madison, SD, no license and window tint violation, \$225; Devonite J. Eaton, 23, St. Paul Park, speeding and revoked license, \$315; Michael-Ray P. Engle, 21, Minneapolis, suspended license, \$275; Megan L. Farrand, 31, Robbinsdale, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Gifty Gladu, 27, Fargo, ND, speeding, \$275; Kyle J. Griesbach, 22, Wausau, WI, speeding and seat belt, \$150; Logan M. Hacker, 18, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Kelvin Harris, 28, Fridley, speeding, \$215; Todd W. Harris, 50, Minneapolis, no license, \$175; Sunday D. Hatten,

36, Kansas City, MO, speeding, \$135; Kevin Hayes, 38, Minneapolis, cancelled license, \$275; Charles City, IA, littering, \$125; Jennifer Perez, 22, North Las Vegas, NV, speeding, \$215; Let Poe, 27, Albert Lea, speeding and revoked license, \$335; Daniel Ponce-Jimenez, 19, Richfield, no license, \$175; Myelisha M. Purdum, 25, Robbinsdale, speeding, no insurance and revoked license, \$615; Tjanelo Rayshun, 21, Forest, MS, speeding and no license, \$375; Nathanael P. Resman, 39, Pearland, TX, speeding, \$135; Melanie A. Robinson, 30, St. Cloud, speeding, \$125; Jamie R. Rocha, 43, Hope, give peace officer false information, \$175 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Rigoberto Sahagun-Hernandez, 24, West Concord, revoked license, \$275; Rachel R. Schmidt, 37, Ellendale, failure to yield, \$125; Bobby J. Smitty, 27, Owatonna, revoked license, child passenger restraint system violation and no license, \$425; Christopher L. Stenzel, 21, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Cassandra M. Sundell, 24, Mankato, speeding, \$125; Adrianna M. Suttle, 33, St. Paul, speeding, \$125; Alexander R. Thul, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Krishna L. Tingelhoff, 50, Lakeville, speeding, \$125; Dominique Veladez Christensen VI, 20, Rochester, suspended license, \$275; Cody J. Wesely, 21, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Jeanita Whitmore, 42, Waukegan, WI, speeding, \$215; Andrew M. Wilson, 33, carry weapon in public place, \$125, 128 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Dath Xiong, 33, Cottage Grove, child passenger restraint system violation, \$125; Frank D. Youngblood, 45, Shreveport, LA, speeding, \$125.

Kenyon, speeding, \$115; Benny Nieblas, 31, Mounds View, no license, \$175; John W. Paul, 28, Charles City, IA, littering, \$125; Jennifer Perez, 22, North Las Vegas, NV, speeding, \$215; Let Poe, 27, Albert Lea, speeding and revoked license, \$335; Daniel Ponce-Jimenez, 19, Richfield, no license, \$175; Myelisha M. Purdum, 25, Robbinsdale, speeding, no insurance and revoked license, \$615; Tjanelo Rayshun, 21, Forest, MS, speeding and no license, \$375; Nathanael P. Resman, 39, Pearland, TX, speeding, \$135; Melanie A. Robinson, 30, St. Cloud, speeding, \$125; Jamie R. Rocha, 43, Hope, give peace officer false information, \$175 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Rigoberto Sahagun-Hernandez, 24, West Concord, revoked license, \$275; Rachel R. Schmidt, 37, Ellendale, failure to yield, \$125; Bobby J. Smitty, 27, Owatonna, revoked license, child passenger restraint system violation and no license, \$425; Christopher L. Stenzel, 21, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Cassandra M. Sundell, 24, Mankato, speeding, \$125; Adrianna M. Suttle, 33, St. Paul, speeding, \$125; Alexander R. Thul, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Krishna L. Tingelhoff, 50, Lakeville, speeding, \$125; Dominique Veladez Christensen VI, 20, Rochester, suspended license, \$275; Cody J. Wesely, 21, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Jeanita Whitmore, 42, Waukegan, WI, speeding, \$215; Andrew M. Wilson, 33, carry weapon in public place, \$125, 128 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Dath Xiong, 33, Cottage Grove, child passenger restraint system violation, \$125; Frank D. Youngblood, 45, Shreveport, LA, speeding, \$125.

**OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Jeffrey L. Abare, 42, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel, do not enter liquor establishments, 218 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Santos P. Alferezbarahona, 32, Baldwin Park, CA, invalid license, \$175; Cody J. Anzola, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; David J. Barajas, 28, Owatonna, suspended license and seat belt, \$300; Allison R. Beer, 37, Morristown, expired tabs, \$105; Kalesna M. Berghman, 37, Owatonna, hands free violation and no insurance, \$325; Harry J. Curran, 60, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Jonah M. Deml, 24, Marshall, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Lauren M. Dexter, 38, New Richland, revoked license, \$275; Anthony D. Evans, 24, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Chase K. Everson, 31, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Carlos D. Ferrer Rodriguez, 28, Owatonna, invalid license and window tint violation, \$225; Renee A. Gagner, 58, Lonsdale, speeding, \$125; Rene Gilromini, 31, Owatonna, drive without ignition interlock, \$150 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Johnathan J. Golderos Lopez, 59, Owatonna, domestic assault and violation of no contact order, \$125 and 90 days in county jail; Jared J. Grein, 48, Mankato, damage to property, \$205 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Michael A. Guzman, 35, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Andy J. Hebert, 44, Medford, revoked license, \$275; Richard L. Huber, 57, Owatonna, theft, \$125; Sherice M. Jackson, 33, Rochester, invalid license, \$175; Nicole M. Jensen, 37, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Richard J. Jones, 22, Faribault, open bottle, \$175; James M. Jordan, 61, Owatonna, invalid license and no insurance, \$375; Charles A. Luckett, 28, Columbia Heights, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Michael Machicotte,

See **BLOTTER** on A6 ►

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Technology can help locate misplaced things



Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you recommend any good devices that help seniors with tracking down misplaced items? My wife misplaces everything including her car keys, eyeglasses, cell phone, purse and more.

Always Searching

Dear Always,
There's actually a wide variety of tracking devices that can help you and your wife find items that are commonly misplaced. Here are some top options to consider depending on how tech savvy you are.

BLUETOOTH TRACKERS

If you or your wife uses a smartphone or tablet, you can easily track down lost or misplaced items like keys, a purse or wallet, remote control, smartphone, tablet or even a laptop with a Bluetooth tracker. While there are several different types of tracker products on the market today, the best is Tile (TheTileApp.com), which pairs with Apple and Android apps to help you locate missing items.

All you do is attach a small battery-powered Tile to the items you want to keep track of with an adhesive sticker, a key ring or you can just slip it inside the item.

Then, when a tagged item goes missing, you simply access the app on your smartphone or tablet to see how far away you are from the item or last known location on the map. If you're within 150 to 200 feet, you can make the Tile ring so you can follow the sound to easily find it.

Or, if your wife loses her phone, the Tile work in reverse, allowing her to double press the button on her Tile to make her phone ring (even if it's on silent) as long as it's nearby.

Tile also works with Google Assistant, Amazon Alexa or Siri to find misplaced items. All you have to do is ask.

To fit your tracking needs, Tile offers a variety of different sized trackers including the Tile Mate (\$25) that's ideal for keeping track of keys, purses or backpacks; Tile Slim (\$25), which is the size of a credit card that can be put into a wallet or attached to a laptop; Tile Sticker (\$40 for a 2-pack), the smallest finder that can attach to things like remotes, bikes and more; and Tile Pro (\$85), which is the most durable tracker that has a 400-foot range and extra loud ringer.

GLASSES TRACKER

Since Tile doesn't offer a glasses tracker, a great product to help your wife keep tabs on her eyeglasses is Orbit Glasses (FindOrbit.com; \$40). This is a tiny rechargeable Bluetooth device that sticks to the inside arm of the glasses so it's not noticeable.

So, when your wife's glasses aren't on her head, but are nearby, she can use the free Orbit app to make them ring so she can find them quickly. Or, if she's out of Bluetooth range, she can check the last known location that will be shown on the map.

RADIO FREQUENCY FINDERS

If you or your wife don't have a smartphone or tablet, there are also radio frequency devices like the Eskey Key Finders (EskeyNow.com), sold through Amazon.com, that can help you find misplaced items.

These devices come with an item locator remote and four to six tags with prices ranging between \$20 and \$50. Attach a tag to the items you want to keep track of with a key ring or adhesive. Each tag is color-coded and corresponds to a colored button on the finder.

When an item goes missing, you simply press the colored button on the locator remote and the tag will flash and beep. The signal will go through walls and cushions and have a tracking range of around 100 feet. Make sure you keep the finder fob in a safe spot, because if you misplace it, you won't be able to find the tagged items.

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

STEELE COUNTY Times

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Students of the Week

Daphne 3RD GRADE



DAPHNE comes to school each and every day with a big smile! She is a happy, hardworking, responsible student. Daphne is always ready to give her best and work her way through something that she is unsure of. She is an avid reader! Daphne is a great example of what it means to be Christ-like. She is friendly, kind, helpful, and a

thoughtful friend to all. She has a positive attitude that rubs off on those around her! I am proud to nominate Daphne as our 3rd Grade Shining Knight!

Parents are Corey & Megan | Lucas was nominated by Mrs. Johnson

Finley 4TH GRADE

FINLEY is a Shining Knight in our 4th grade classroom! When she interacts with her classmates, she is kind, respectful, and supportive. In the classroom, Finley is a responsible, hard-working student. She aspires to do her best in the class and puts forth her best effort in all activities. Finley exhibits a positive outlook and attitude in the classroom. She is always willing to share her thoughts and participates enthusiastically. At recess, she has been a wonderful addition to the football games. She treats other students with fairness and is a team player. Finley has been a fantastic addition to our 4th grade! We are very blessed to have her in our class! Congratulations, Finley!



Parents are Brandon & Jane | Marcus was nominated by Mrs. Keger



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Valentines for Veterans



UNSUBMITTED PHOTO

Students at St. Mary's School in Owatonna made Valentine's Day cards for veterans living in assisted living facilities in Steele County. VFW Auxiliary Post 3723 President Sarah Escamilla, left, and VFW Post 3723 Commander Simon, right, accepted the cards from the students and VFW auxiliary members delivered them to the local veterans.

Riverland exploring new program options for Owatonna

← RIVERLAND from A1

"FlexPace has been our signature program," he said, calling the school's innovative online program created for working adults "revolutionary."

Most of the students enrolled in Flex Pace are employed at Viracore and Federated and receive tuition assistance from their employers. Since the program launched three years ago, there has been a waitlist to get in.

In the FlexPace program, students take a series of business classes. The beginning and end of the modules are like bookends; they're fixed, said Atewologun. "But there is flexibility in when and how the students do their work within the timeframe of the modules."

And through a partnership with Minnesota State University – Mankato (MSUM), Atewologun said, those who finish Riverland's program can go on to obtain a business degree through MSUM within about three years.

Partnerships are vital to the student success at Riverland, according to Atewologun.

High school students can earn college credit through the state's

Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO). More than 275 students in the area are taking PSEO classes at Riverland this year, with nearly 50 high school students taking classes and earning college credit through Riverland's Owatonna campus.

And when the new high school opens in Owatonna in the fall of 2023, Riverland will begin offering a Practical Nursing Program at the high school during the school day.

"We try to create pathways for high school students," said Atewologun. "And, health care needs are so important to our area."

A bonus, said Atewologun, is that the program will help bridge the outcomes gap and offer opportunities to students of color and new immigrants.

"We are expecting between 20-30 students," said Atewologun.

Riverland plans to enhance its offerings in Owatonna by adding a new cohort to its Medical Assistant program and Construction Management Certificate to its programming this fall.

Atewologun said he expects 12 to 20 students to enroll in the first con-

struction management class. Enrollees will likely be a mixture of traditional students and working adults.

Customized Power Limited Technician Training is also on the horizon for Owatonna, according to the Atewologun. The program will help utility companies, like Owatonna Public Utilities and Steele-Waseca Electric, in the employee re-certification process.

Riverland is also exploring the option of relocating its Criminal Justice program to the Owatonna campus – the smallest of Riverland's three campuses.

"We are in search of an anchor program that will serve the community and attract students to the campus," said Atewologun. And, he said, the campus's proximity to the Steele County Detention Center is desirable.

Riverland's Criminal Justice program serves between 60 to 80 students per year and is currently based on the Austin campus.

Atewologun and his Vice President of Academic Affairs, Barb Embacher, updated the Owatonna Rotary Club on Riverland's plans at the group's March 8 meeting.

Two careers collide for Podcast Sheriff

← TWO CAREERS from A2

for them," Rose said. "There are lots of tears on the phone."

Even for Rose himself, there are times where he has to simply walk away and take a break. "I get emotional doing these," he said, adding some of the podcasts are "pretty graphic" in nature.

Rose loves to learn about the fallen officers, enjoys talking to the retired officers, and likes digging to get information to put the story together.

But the most rewarding aspect, Rose said, is getting the family's response when the podcast is completed. Family members of the fallen officer profiled reach out to him and some have even shared

that there are bits of information they never knew before.

Sadly, Rose isn't going to run out of work any time soon. We are losing more heroes than ever before in our communities. In 2020, America lost 343 officers compared to 149 the prior year, according to Officer Down Memorial website. In the first 45 days of 2021, we have already lost 44 officers.

Even though the Omaha Police Department has requested that Rose profile its 26 fallen heroes, Rose is primarily focused on Minnesota's officers killed in the line of duty, which currently stands at about 300. Rose hopes to do podcasts on every

fallen police hero in Minnesota.

"It gives the community a better idea of what law enforcement goes through," Rose said, adding a police death affects the entire community.

Rose hopes the podcasts will help people appreciate the risks officers face every time they go to work. And, he stresses, it's the entire family that makes a commitment, not just the officer.

The sheriff's podcasts can be found at officerdownmemorial-podcast.com.

As Rose goes in hot pursuit of sharing officer down stories, he hopes no one will ever forget the heroes who die protecting our communities.

PUBLIC SAFETY

BLUTTER from A4
Blas, 38, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Jovaughnan I. Motley, 29, St. Paul, no plates, no revoked license and no insurance, \$575; Brandon J. Neltz, 37, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Ashley J. Ogilvie, 24, Hull, IA, no insurance and speeding, \$315; Joel J. Olander, 55, Owatonna, stop sign, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Ashley M. Padilla, 29, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Sylvia Padilla, 51, Lubbock, TX, stop sign, \$125; Isiah Y. Perez, 23, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Jacob L. Perry, 29, Le Center, theft, \$75 and 90 days in county jail; Bradley A. Pitan, 31, Owatonna, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$30, 20 hours of community service and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Lamar C. Sears, 31, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Jeff A. Storch, 32, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Nujariri K. Thor, 26, Owatonna, no insurance, expired tabs and revoked license, \$505; Roderick D. Tiller, 19, Adams, failure to yield, \$125; Ross E. Timlin, 36, Fairbault, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Carlos E. Vidal, 22, Fairbault, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Ryan W. Welch, 30, Fairbault, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, \$175, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Gene P. Wells, 27, Rochester, revoked license, \$275; Adora M. Williams, 20, Columbia, MO, speeding, \$135; Laura C. Wittwer, 41, Dodge Center, cancelled license, \$275; Carlos A. Wood, 47, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Nicholas J. Ziemke, 26, Waseca, no insurance, \$275.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Freda Achiaa, 27, Otesoo, speeding, \$125; Korbj L. Anderson, 31, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Daniel S. Ashley, 36, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Joseph R. Aubin, 33, Hollandale, speeding, \$115; Caleb A. Belting, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Hayden B. Berg, 18, Mounds View, speeding, \$125; Kirsten A. Berkness, 26, Waseca, speeding, \$125; Clara L. Black, 21, Des Moines, IA, speeding and suspended license, \$335; Daezon J. Burt, 20, Burnsville, speeding and suspended license, \$415; Ark B. Castro, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$475; Jose P. Chavez, 19, Fairbault, speeding, \$115; Xavier L. Collins, 26, Minneapolis, suspended license, \$275; Jesus Dominguez, 27, Owatonna, speeding and invalid license, \$315; Kirk A. Felten, 33, Fairbault, DWI, \$175, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, 232 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Andrew J. Frank,

18, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; John G. Freerkson, 46, Kasson, following vehicle too closely, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Frances Garcia, 19, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Candace E. Goodsell, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Dana M. Hachfeld, 31, Medford, no insurance, \$275; Gustavo G. Hernandez, 26, Mason City, IA, speeding and invalid license, \$225; Jorge G. Hernandez, 27, Rochester, speeding and suspended license, \$335; Sharon M. Hoover, 18, Withee, WI, speeding, \$115; Syria Z. Johnson, 37, Waseca, speeding and revoked license, \$335; Jemelle J. King, 38, Cambridge, suspended license, \$275; Kaden W. Lopez, 21, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$125; Christian G. Melendrez, 27, Waseca, revoked license, \$275; Bridgett D. Mitchell, 47, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$275; Kristen A. Nelson, 51, Farmington, speeding, \$115; Tamara W. Opsahl, 46, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Xavier M. Rennie, 17, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Alyssa M. Ringhofer, 18, Owatonna, speeding and underage possession of alcohol, \$315; Anthony C. Rivera, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Josh M. Saltou, 26, Mason City, IA, stop sign, \$125; Dustin L. Stewart, 41, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Blake D. Sumruld, 31, Burnsville, speeding, \$115; Lilliane Tharsh, 40, Blaine, speeding, \$215; Jorge A. Torres, 18, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$115; Zachery G. Vangen, 26, Hartland, speeding, \$215; Myron W. Wunderlich IV, 33, Owatonna, speeding and revoked license, \$335.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Picky Dean Ryan, 55, arrested at 11:12 p.m. March 6, DWI-test refusal and open container, held for court.
Ricardo Degollado Jr., 21, arrested at 12:38 a.m. March 8, domestic assault/assault and interference with 911 call, held for court.
Hunter Robert Boet, 28, arrested at 5 p.m. March 8, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.
Jesse James Devlaemnick, 42, arrested March 8, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.
Brandon Jay Sointo, 36, arrested March 9, order for protection violation, held for court.
Shanna Jean Lillian Rose, 39, arrested at 6:30 p.m. March 10, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.
Lucas James Ernst, 33, arrested at 6:30 p.m. March 10, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Anthony Michael Kuster, 54, arrested at 3:29 p.m. March 11, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.
Davon Richard Burris, 30, arrested at 6 p.m. March 11, warrant arrest, \$5,000 bail.

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Tax Guide 2021

Tips to help spot and avoid tax scams

Tax season is also busy season for savvy criminals. Scammers impersonating the IRS either over the phone, by email or in person can steal money from people. All taxpayers should stay vigilant against these schemes.

Here are some tips to help people recognize and avoid tax-related scams.

Email phishing scams

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. Generally, the IRS first mails a paper bill to a person who owes taxes. In some special situations, the IRS will call or come to a home or business.

Taxpayers should report IRS, Treasury or tax-related suspicious online or email phishing scams to phishing@irs.gov. They should not open any attachments, click on any links, reply to the sender, or take any other actions that could put them at risk.

Phone scams

The IRS generally first mails a bill to a taxpayer who owes taxes. There are specific ways to pay taxes. The agency and its authorized private collection agencies will not:

- Leave pre-recorded, urgent, or threatening messages on an answering system.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to arrest the taxpayer for not paying, deport them or revoke their licenses.

• Call to demand immediate payment with a pre-paid debit card, gift card or wire transfer.

• Ask for checks to third parties.

• Demand payment without giving the taxpayer an opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.

Criminals can fake or spoof caller ID numbers to appear to be anywhere in the country. Scammers can even spoof an IRS office phone number or the numbers of various local, state, federal or tribal government agencies.

If a taxpayer receives an IRS or Treasury-related phone call, but doesn't owe taxes and has no reason to think they do, they should:

- Not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to report the IRS impersonation scam call.

• Report the caller ID and callback number to the IRS by sending it to phishing@irs.gov. The subject line should include "IRS Phone Scam."

• Report the call to the Federal Trade Commission. If a taxpayer wants to verify what taxes they owe the IRS, they should:

- View tax account information online at irs.gov.
- Review their payment options.

Source: IRS

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Congratulations

To the Valentine royalty at Prairie Manor and Heather Haus

Despite COVID-19, a long-time tradition at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie still went on this year.

The center crowned a king and queen for Valentine's just as it has since 1973.

The 2021 Prairie Manor royalty was chosen by the votes of staff and residents.

The king and queen are Doug and Elsie Kiser.

Heather Haus chose Orene Dennis and Mervin Nelson as its royalty.

HERE'S A LIST OF THE ROYALTY FROM PRAIRIE MANOR DATING BACK TO 1973:

1973 Ora Olson & Ed Mott
1974 Juanita Shaw & David Morgan
1975 Crodula Mullenback & Pete Hansen
1976 Katherine Ranum & Amos Eaker
1977 Alma Murphy & Frank Snider
1978 Libby Sanders & Vern Paulson
1979 Dorothy Lipold & Hartwig Hanson
1980 Martha Herdina & Art Anderson
1981 Isabel Taylor & Joe Matejcek
1982 Mary Cochlin & Clarence Anderson
1983 Elsie Wend & Mike Lester
1984 Agnes Wolf & Walter Noble
1985 Alice Starch & George Peterson
1986 Anna Johnson & Frank Kubat
1987 Libby Ruzek & Victor Jensen
1988 Myrtle Jensen & Lawrence Pfeiffer
1989 Mable Madsen & Ray Bray
1990 Hilda Wajohn & George Kubista
1991 Jessie Collins & Ray Young
1992 Mary Skalicky & Ed Skalicky
1993 Gladys Peterson & Harvie Goldberg
1994 Marie Branderhorst & Andie Anderson
1995 Emma Kruckeberg & Jack Worke
1996 Mable Eaker & Sy Kruckeberg
1997 Mayme Summer & Bernard Nelson

1998 Anita Tapp & Joe Wright
1999 Christy Jelinek & Otto Anderson
2000 Grace Sauke & Leon Thompson
2001 Harriet Ward & Al Burns
2002 Clara Brocker & Lester Janke
2003 Marjorie Smith & Hugo Harpel
2004 Gertrude Nelson & Merlin Nelson
2005 Evelyn Lewison & Franklin Pierce
2006 Eveline Lysne & Stan Bratten
2007 Irene Filley & Don Williamson
2008 Ysable Cervantes & Leon Thompson
2009 Georgia Block & Dale Budreau
2010 Pearl Mason & Herbert Graff
2011 Doris Halstenson & Hank Halstenson
2012 Marion Becker & Robert Becker
2013 Alice Fuhr & Eugene Motl
2014 Evelyn Trom & Robert Swearingen
2015 Sylvia Plunkett & Charles Mollenhaur
2016 Helen Pagakis & Vernon Jackle
2017 Marilyn Thorson & Eugene Kaplan
2018 Donald Bakke & Donna Dittlevson
2019 Clara Sibenaller & Gary Boettcher
2020 Helen Krystosek & Bill Gebhardt
2021 Doug & Elsie Kiser



Doug and Elsie Kiser were crowned king and queen for Valentine's at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Prairie Manor has crowned a king and queen every year since 1973.



Orene Dennis and Mervin Nelson were recently crowned the Valentine's king and queen for Heather Haus in Blooming Prairie.

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OWATONNA PROUD

A8 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Diving and swimming into sections

BY NICK WILLIAMS
OHS MAGNET WRITER

The Owatonna Boys Swim and Dive team has been solid this season. The team has taken a few tough losses, but they have improved substantially lately. They are currently 3-4 and are ranked seventh in the Big 9. With the end of season meet on the horizon, the Huskies hope to finish the year strong.

The Huskies are a very young team and they are relying heavily on underclassmen to help take them to the next level. Assistant coach Tara Lammers said, "We have eight new seventh graders that are incredibly motivated which has been great." There are several other underclass-

men who are also very crucial to the success of the team.

COVID-19 has had a large impact on the swim and dive team. There has been a mix of virtual meets and in-person meets. All meets are streamed on Owatonna Live. This gives the athletes a chance to go back and watch themselves to see what they are doing wrong and what things they can improve on.

The athletes have built a strong bond with each other throughout the year, but they still have some things that they can improve on as a team. Junior captain Evan Fosness said, "Our strengths are we have a good team morale this year along with the bond that each athlete has

with one another. Our biggest weakness is our lack of motivation with COVID, but we really hope to get back to a normal season by next year." The Huskies have several great leaders on the team which has allowed them to maximize their potential as competitors.

OHS senior Jacob Fast was named Big 9 champion diver on Wednesday, March 3. Although the season has been a little shaky they seem to be optimistic heading into playoff time and plan on surprising people when the time comes a week from now. Owatonna's next meet is the Big 9 Conference meet, which will be held at the Rochester Recreation Center on Friday, March 5.



OHS MAGNET PHOTO BY MAGNET JACOTT

Huskies senior Jacob Fast dives into the water for Owatonna's swimming team.

DECA students compete at Districts

Fifty-two Owatonna DECA members participated in the District 1 competition sponsored by Owatonna's Hometown Credit Union and held virtually from Jan. 6-13.

DECA is a group of marketing students who are working on their leadership, marketing, and entrepreneurial skills. The Owatonna Chapter has 52 members in grades 9-12. The events at the conference involve role plays, presentations, interviewing, and entrepreneurship and marketing ideas. Many members of the community also participated at the event as judges.

The following qualified for the Minnesota DECA Virtual State Career Development Conference held March 7-9.

First Place Winners
Avery McManimon - Apparel and Accessories Marketing Role Play Section A, Madeline Wilker - Apparel and Accessories Marketing Role Play Section B, Alex Huemoeller - Business Services Marketing Role Play, Jacob Meiners and Ashton Jensen - Buying and Merchandising Team Role Play, Kiara Gentz and Lileigh Nguyen - Entrepreneurship Team Role Play, Connor Ginsky - Food Marketing Role Play, Lexi Ringhofer and Sabela Maas - Hospitality and Tourism Team Role Play, Claire Heyne - Hotel and Lodging Role Play, Audrey Simon and Hillary Haarsstad - Integrated Marketing Campaign - Product, Audrey Simon - Marketing Communication Role Play, Jonny Club - Principles Fi-



Students of Owatonna's DECA organization take part in a fundraiser at Cashwise Foods in Owatonna last fall.

nance, Jonny Wall - Sports and Entertainment Role Play, Preston Meier - Start-Up Business Plan.

Second Place
Hillary Haarsstad - Apparel and Accessories Role Play, Preston Meier and Sam Pfeiffer - Entrepreneurship Team Role Play, Marlee Dutton and Moriah Noeller - Marketing Management Team Role Play, Haley Meiners - Principles of Hospitality and Tourism, Lane Versteeg - Quick Serve Restaurant Role Play, Lexi Ringhofer - Restaurant and Food Service Management Role Play, Jacob Meiners - Retail Merchandising Role Play, Jonny Wall and Lane Versteeg - Sports and Entertainment Team Role Play.

Third Place
Audrey Simon and Maria Mollenhauer - Buying

and Merchandising Team Role Play, Ashton Jensen - Business Services Marketing, Evan Dushek and Drew Randall - Entrepreneurship Team Role Play, Cael Dowling and Luke Wottrung - Financial Services Team Role Play, Sydney Hall and Haley Meiners - Hospitality and Tourism Team Role Play, Olivia Shaw - Hotel and Lodging, Lexi Ringhofer - Innovation Plan, Aubri Werk and Ava Schawuwerker - Marketing Management Team Role

Play, Aubri Werk - Principles of Business Management and Admin, Asad Ali - Principles of Finance, Derek Klecker - Principles of Marketing Section A, Jack Sande - Professional Selling, Jenna Spatenka - Restaurant and Food Service Marketing Role Play, Ilara Roble - Retail Merchandising Role Play, Leone Jacobson - Sports and Entertainment Marketing Role Play, Claire Heyne and Olivia Shaw - Travel and Tourism Team Role Play.

Others qualifying for state

Janessa Moore, Greta Korbel, Lauren Thamert, Madison Jeno, Becca Nielsen, Kennedy Wilker, Sydney Hunst, Ezra Oim, Sarah Snitker, Taylor Radsek, Mariah Cuellar, Logan Norrid, Evan Buck, Damian Boubin.



Launching into virtual competition

BY COLLIN WICK
OHS MAGNET WRITER

One of the most fun and unique teams at OHS is the robotics team. This season looks a lot different from past years for the robotics team. The pandemic has caused many changes for the season. They are not able to meet in person as much as before. Unlike most teams at the high school who are able to compete face to face with their opponents, the robotics team is unable to. Instead of competing at competitions around the state all competitions are virtual and are done in the OHS basement. They mark the playing field with tape, set up the challenges, and submit videos of their robot completing the task. Junior member Dylan Meiners said, "You get around six weeks to build a robot from the ground up to be able to efficiently and reliably play the season's game. A team competes with dozens of teams from around the state. If a team wins a regional, they get to go to nationals. If a team wins nationals, they get to compete in the world competition."

Being on the Robotics Team takes a lot of skills that other teams don't use. Senior Robotics Member Nic Pilcher said, "A creative mind and patience—things go wrong, and developing clever solutions to fix problems rapidly is critical to success."

This season, the robot's task to achieve includes collecting game pieces off of the playing field automatically, navigating an obstacle course as quickly as possible and launching the game pieces into a basketball hoop of sorts as accurately as can be.

The team has from April 4-30 to send in the video of the robot completing various tasks. Once the video is sent in and other teams send their video in they will be judged.

Owatonna Students of the Week

Elementary



Evan Johnson
Fifth Grade
Parents: Alisha Cozad and David Johnson Jr.
Evan Johnson is a wonderful fifth grade student at Washington Elementary School. He works hard on all assignments and is a fantastic friend to everyone. He is always the first student to help others and is kind to all. Washington Elementary is a better place because of Evan!

Middle School



Mackenzie Montemayor
Eighth Grade
Parent: Angelica Montemayor
Mackenzie is nurturing, courageous, and resilient. She is open and honest and has demonstrated amazing grit throughout the course of the year. Mackenzie, we could not be more proud of the person you are becoming and look forward to seeing all that you accomplish!

High School



Alexis Haggerty
Sophomore
Parents: Brian and Sarah Haggerty
Alexis is a wonderful student and person. She completes all her work on time and at a high level, is super respectful to everyone, and shows leadership in her actions and with her lab partners. It is fun to have Alexis in class; you can even tell she is smiling behind her mask!

Here's a way to learn about the district

The community is invited to join Superintendent Jeff Elstad for a virtual "coffee and conversation" on Friday, March 19 at 8:30 a.m. Hear an update on what's been happening within the school district and bring any questions you have.

RSVP by emailing shoffman@isd761.org to receive the virtual meeting details. We hope you are able to participate!

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Same name, new owner at funeral home

▲ **NAME** from A1 Hoff laughed at the notion that many people often think he is a grandson helping at funerals and not the funeral director.

Hoff took over the ownership of Worlein's from Paul Worlein, who will remain on staff to ensure a smooth transition over the next year. "Paul is a great mentor," Hoff said.

In addition to Worlein's help, Hoff said he also relies on his father's expertise. He said he talks to his father daily to make sure he's doing everything correctly.

The name of the business will remain Worlein's, according to Hoff. "There is no reason to pull

their name off the wall," Hoff said. "We don't want to change something that doesn't need to be changed. We want to pay homage to the previous owners as they worked their whole life."

Hoff said there is "a lot of pressure" for him to live up to the Worlein family name.

There will be no major changes at Worlein's, Hoff said. Besides Hoff and Worlein, there are three other funeral directors. Mary Kittelson will also remain as community services director and offer Wednesday afternoon office hours in Blooming Prairie.

Hoff's father and uncle initially looked

at purchasing Worlein's, but in the end determined it wasn't feasible for them. That's when Hoff stepped up and decided that he would buy the funeral home.

Hoff said the death of a high school girl in a car crash profoundly impacted him as a teenager and influenced his desire to follow in his family's footsteps. He said he was impressed with how his family went to the school to ensure the community healed properly after the death.

"My passion is for serving people and helping them," Hoff said.

Hoff described

himself as "laid back and go with the flow." He said he subscribes to the theory that laughter is the best to get through difficult life situations.

He graduated in 2014 with a mortuary science degree from the University of Minnesota. Hoff returned to the Winona area six years ago to help with the family business.

Hoff and his wife, Emily, have two small children, Haddie, 3, and Kate, 8 months old. They plan to move to Austin by the end of April.

"We will live in Austin, but we want to be a part of the Blooming Prairie community," Hoff said.

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Krell achieves top state honor

▲ **KRELL** from A1 she has found success through determined effort, grit and always putting people first," he said.

Elstad said Krell has transformed the teaching and learning department into a data-based, yet people-centered department by focusing on learning through real listening and finding unique ways to empower staff and students. "She is a true problem solver," he said.

Krell began her teaching career in Owatonna before leaving to work in a couple other area districts. In 2014, when she was principal at Kasson-Mantorville, Krell achieved the National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

She rejoined Owatonna in 2017 when she began serving in her current role.

During her time in Owatonna, Krell has been working collaboratively to build and support the design of a Career Pathways program at the high school to align coursework with fields of study to better inform students and families in making career or college choices.

Krell has facilitated the implementation of a strong literacy and math program and has supported Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for students. She has also led the changes in the district's professional development system to better align the needs of the staff with relevant and authentic opportunities to learn new skills.

Her additional accomplishments include taking a leadership role in the passage of a \$122 million bond referendum to build a new high school, recruiting and hiring of a top-notch team in the teaching and learning department and successfully planning and implementing "Courageous Educators: Racial Equity Training" for more than 120 district staff members.

Some of her other career achievements include the 2013-14 Minnesota State Excellence Award, 2012 MESA Leadership Award, 2011 National Distinguished Principal nominee and top three finalist and a 2006 Blue Ribbon School Award.

Krell has earned a master's degree in education from St. Mary's University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Minnesota State University-Mankato. She holds a sixth year administrative and superintendent licensure

from Mankato.

Krell graduated from Blooming Prairie High School. Her husband, Rodney, currently serves as the chairman of the Blooming Prairie

School Board and her daughter, Jenna, teaches at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. The Krells operate a crop farm outside of Blooming Prairie.

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Financial checklist for new(er) parents

If you're a brand-new parent, or even if you've been one for a little while, you're no doubt filled with the many joys your child brings you. But as caught up as you are with the feelings and experiences of today, you also need to think about the future – specifically, the financial issues that accompany a growing family. What are some of the key moves you need to make?

Here's "checklist" to consider:

Establish a budget. If you're going to meet the additional expenses of a child, plus make progress toward other objectives, such as paying down debts, you'll need to know where your money is going. Setting a budget, and sticking to it, may seem difficult, but once you've gotten into the habit, it will become easier – and for many people, following a budget actually gives them more of a sense of control over their finances. Over time, expenses related to your children will change, so you'll need to adjust your budget accordingly – for example, once a child is in school full-time, childcare expenses may drop, which could allow you to boost your savings.

Protect against the unexpected. If something were to happen to you, how would your child, or children, be affected? Even a family with two working parents can face serious financial difficulties if one of the parents were to die prematurely, or even just drop out of the workforce temporarily due to illness or injury. To help ensure your family could still stay in your home and your children could still afford to pursue higher education, you'll want to create an appropriate protection strategy involving both life and disability insurance. Your employer may offer both, but the coverage provided may not be sufficient for your needs, so you may need to purchase your own policies. And here's another protection-related idea: Try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money held in a low-risk, liquid account. Without such a fund, you might have to tap into your longer-term investments to pay unexpected costs, such as a major car repair.

Prepare for high cost of higher education. You may already be thinking about sending your child to college. And it is indeed a good idea to start planning early because college is expensive, and it's getting more so every year. However, you can prepare for these expenses through a college-savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan. A financial professional can help you pick the investment, or investment strategy, that's appropriate for your needs. But whatever route you decide to follow, you won't want to wait until your child is close to college age.

Keep long-term goals in mind. Even while planning for the costs associated with raising a child, including saving for college, you can't forget your other long-term goals. It isn't selfish to build resources for your own retirement – in fact, you'll ultimately be helping your family greatly by taking steps to maintain your financial independence throughout your life. So, during your working years, try to consistently contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Having a child is obviously a life-changing event, and one with considerable financial challenges – but they can be manageable if you make the right moves at the right times.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

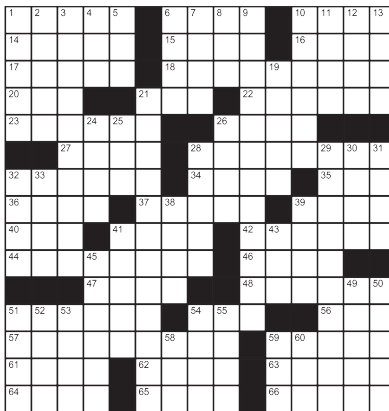
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK



ACROSS

- 1 Capney's partner
- 6 Poker variant
- 10 Nipper
- 14 Got up
- 15 W L A N
- 16 "I'm --- here!"
- 17 Identifies
- 18 Papal
- 20 Slow-witted
- 21 The Tiffany network
- 22 --- quarters; precedes
- 23 Symbol of disgrace
- 26 Earth
- 27 Drawn tight
- 28 "lovels of the King" writer
- 32 The blink of an eye
- 34 Harangue
- 35 Computer brain
- 36 Ice skating jump
- 37 Put back into service
- 39 St. Paul's Cathedral designer
- 40 Follows why, by the sound of it
- 41 Iridescent gem
- 42 Scrubs
- 44 Mental illness
- 46 Waterproofed canvas (Abbr.)
- 47 Measure of sound intensity
- 48 Swellings
- 51 Music for voices
- 54 It means "central"
- 56 Globally calamitous happening
- 57 Home to Everest
- 59 Release
- 61 First lady's partner
- 62 Wander about
- 63 Understand
- 64 Lairs
- 65 Simple arithmetic
- 66 Terminates

DOWN

- 1 Comes ashore
- 2 Anticipate
- 3 Advisory or decision-making groups
- 4 Scrape
- 5 Agreeable response
- 6 Wad of cleaning cloth
- 7 Gratuities
- 8 Mysterious radar image
- 9 Fragmented
- 10 Nervelessly
- 11 Brief let-up
- 12 On the job
- 13 Texas siege city
- 19 Sully
- 21 Butterfly larvae
- 24 Winner of three Olympic golds. --- Devers
- 25 Perform in a pantomime
- 26 Large bodies of salt water partially enclosed by land
- 28 Sincerely
- 29 Can be recycled?
- 30 Exposed
- 31 Convent inmates
- 32 E.g. Speer, Himmler
- 33 Draft cattle
- 38 Dines
- 39 Used to be
- 41 Oscar winner Tatum ---
- 43 Youth
- 45 Tank type
- 49 Top celebrities
- 50 Percolates
- 51 Large African lake
- 52 Conceal
- 53 Persian Gulf monarchy
- 54 Courteous address to a lady
- 55 Sets of beliefs
- 58 Not me
- 59 Expression of disgust
- 60 Gun owners' grp. 58



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Have you ever been to a store, saw the lines of people waiting to check out, and quickly

put your items away because you did not have time to wait? Situations like that are frustrating to customers and employees alike and led to the development of self-check systems. Customers can then scan and check out their items without waiting in line. Larger libraries have systems for self-check

available for their patrons. At the Owatonna Public Library, all items except DVDs can be handled at the self-check stations. The Blooming Prairie Branch Library was offered an older self-check station, but the cost of updating the computer programs for it did not justify getting it. Instead, a free

option has presented itself via SELCO (South East Libraries Cooperating). Now when you come into the library and find your item, you can use the SELCO mobile app to check out your materials! It is quick and easy to navigate. Just make sure you have downloaded the SELCO Library app onto your

smartphone. Find the shopping cart at the bottom of that screen, scan the item's barcode with your phone, and voila - your item is checked out to you. Don't worry - staff members will still be here to help you! We will give you the DVDs to put in the empty cases. If you don't have a smartphone, we will

always be willing to check you out as we usually do. If you need help finding the app, downloading it, and putting your library information into it, we can assist you with that too. No one will force you to use this self-check system, but it is another tool to make our library service faster. See you at the library!

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*Delores Wilke,
87, Owatonna*Delores
Wilke

Delores E. Wilke, age 87, of Owatonna, died peacefully on Thursday, March 11, 2021. She was born on Oct. 6, 1933 to George and Clara (Courier) Klingbeil on the family farm near Brichly. She graduated from high school in 1951 and went on to become a licensed practical nurse. She worked as a nurse at the Blue Earth Hospital until her marriage to Bob Wilke on Feb. 17, 1953 while he was on leave from the Army. She was soon busy raising their three children, but took time to enjoy painting and making/selling quilts. In 1967, the family bought an old house that she proceeded to decorate. It was her dream and a wonderful place to raise the kids.

When the kids got older, she took a job as the activity director at the Owatonna Care Center until 1982. She then could be found shopping or at a rummage sale or working on the things she loved - arts & crafts, sewing, reading, and making quilts for the

kids and grandkids. Delores is survived by her husband Bob; children Chuck (Kathy) Wilke, Susan (Scott) Follese and David Wilke; seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Elwood Klingbeil.

Due to current health concerns, a service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at a later date.

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*Douglas
Johnson, 59,
Blooming Prairie*

Douglas Alvin Johnson, age 59 of Blooming Prairie, passed away Friday, March 5, 2021.

He was born on Nov. 14, 1961 in Owatonna. His parents were Alvin & Grace (Filley) Johnson. Doug grew up in Blooming Prairie and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1980. He entered the workforce after high school and worked for Brown

Douglas
Johnson

Printing in Waseca for many years and then later at Schmidt Printing in Byron. Doug then got into the trucking business and worked in that field up to the time of his passing. He married Kim Temple after graduation and they had three children together - Nicole, Corey and Garrett Johnson. They were later divorced. Doug enjoyed family and friends. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. He liked old muscle cars and riding his motorcycle. He was a great cook and loved to have people enjoy his cooking during holidays. Doug will be missed by his family and his many friends.

Doug is survived by his daughter, Nicole and two sons, Corey and Garrett Johnson; two grandchildren, Gracelyn and Freya; brothers, Bob (Linda) Johnson and Lyndon (Ruth) Johnson; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alvin and Grace Johnson; brother, Jim Johnson; sister, Sharon Lundahl; and his nephew, John Johnson.

We will be having a celebration of life for Doug in August of this year. The family will keep you posted. Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

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*Donna Turnmire,
86, Austin*

Donna Mae Turnmire, 86 of Austin, passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at St.

Mark's Lutheran Home. Donna was born Aug. 28, 1934 to Frank and Ruth (Nelson) Stiebler.

She graduated from Blooming Prairie High School. On May 15, 1954, she married Robert Turnmire at Oakland Lutheran Church in Mower County. They were blessed with three children: Gary, Michael and Connie.

Donna enjoyed playing cards, watching old movies, and dancing with her husband to old-time music. She was an avid reader and her favorite book was *Gone with the Wind*. A member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, she was active in Bible

study and church circle. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert in 2008; son, Gary; grandson, Kevin Michael; and brothers, Jerry Stiebler and Dwaine Stiebler.

Donna is survived by her son, Michael (Julie) Turnmire of Owatonna; daughter, Connie (Lyle) Elbley of Austin; grandchildren, James (Elizabeth) Diser of Duluth, Nicholas Turnmire and Rachel Bakken; great grandchildren, daughter-in-law, Jenny Turnmire of Alden; relatives and friends.

Special thanks to Eucumen Hospice of Owatonna for the wonderful care provided to our mother.

Funeral services were held on Monday, March 15 at Westminster Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Michael Olmsted officiating. Visitation was at the church one hour before the service. Interment was at Danish Baptist Cemetery in rural Steele County.

Clasen-Jordan Mortuary of Austin is in charge of arrangements.

*Jean Larson, 82,
Faribault*

Jean Ann (Thiele) Larson passed away on March 10, 2021 at the Emerald of Faribault.

Funeral Mass was Monday, March 15 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Medford. Jean Ann Thiele Larson was born May 18, 1938 to Leonard and Leona (Dietz) Thiele. Jean graduated from OHS in 1956 and worked at Security Bank and Trust.

She and George were united in marriage Dec. 28, 1957, while George was home on leave from the Navy.

In 1958, after being discharged from the Navy, George and Jean returned to Deerfield where they farmed until George's death in 1982.

Jean continued to run the farm, raising sheep and doing fieldwork. After leaving the farm, she worked at the Kitchen Mail and part-time for Drug Wise in Owatonna.

Jean loved to dance, read, bake, and can jams and jellies. She also enjoyed driving tractor while planting or harvesting, growing flowers and watching over her grandchildren.

She is survived by her children and spouses: Tim and Joanne Larson (Medford), Richard and Teri Larson (Caledonia), Charles and Diane Larson (Owatonna), Trina and Dean Schmelzer (Withee, Wis.), Mathew

and Ashley Larson (St. Charles). Seventeen grandchildren, a great-grandson, a brother Vince and Lori Thiele and sister-in-law Josephine Matz.

Jean is preceded in death by her husband and dearest friend George. Infant son George Junior, her parents Leonard and Leona Thiele, her in-laws, Adolph and Marguerite Larson; brothers-in-law Robert Larson and Harlan Matz and sister-in-law Joyce Larson.

For more information or to leave a condolence message go to www.megercare.com.

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*Bernard Pribyl,
97, Medford*

Bernard "Bud" J. Pribyl, 97, formerly of the Medford area, died Sunday, March 14, 2021 at the Brooks of Owatonna.

He was born May 2, 1923 in Steele County to Charles and Minnie (Pechacek) Pribyl. He graduated from Owatonna High School in 1941. Bud married the love of his life Dorothy (Pfeifer) on Dec. 27, 1948 and together they lived their best life until her passing in 2010.

Bud began his jewelry career after graduation at Jostens. He served in the U.S. Army and Reserves from 1948-1954.

Bud and Dorothy had two children, Larry (Janis) Pribyl and Bev (John) Allgood. In 1965, the family moved to St. Charles, Ill., where he continued his jewelry career until his retirement in 1986.

Bud and Dorothy retired to the Medford area to be close to and enjoy their family. Bud enjoyed dancing and golf with Dorothy and spending time at their cabin on Lake Tetonka. In retirement, he also enjoyed bowling, fishing, card playing and making stained glass projects. He took great pleasure in spending time with family and friends.

Bud was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church and also had memberships in the Owatonna VFW and Elk's Club. Bud is survived by son Larry (Janis) Pribyl of Cable, Wis., and daughter Bev (John) Allgood of Owatonna; grandchildren Steve (Cindy Schaefer) Pribyl of Denver, Natalie (Steve) Tschopp of Owatonna, and Jackie (Tim) Kostner of Duluth. He was a beloved "Papa" to

his great-grandchildren James, Rylea, and Nora Tschopp, and Calvin and Ruby Kostner.

Bud was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy, parents Charles and Minnie, siblings Dorothy Kubick, Helen Chesney, Dick Pribyl, Rose Marie Green and brother and sister in law George and Betty Pfeifer.

The family thanks the Eucumen Countryside and Brooks communities for their loving care the past three years.

Visitation will take place 2-4 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2021 at the Medford Funeral Home with a prayer service at 4 p.m. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery in Medford.

For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.megercare.com.

**BRICK-MEGER
& MEDFORD**
FUNERAL HOME

*Alan Heide, 63,
Owatonna*

Alan G. Heide, age 63, of Owatonna, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 2, at his home.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, March 13, at Hope Lutheran Church in Fosston with the Rev. Jane Ekholm officiating. Due to the pandemic and attendance restrictions, the service was for family only but was livestreamed for the public on the Carlin Facebook page. Interment will be in Ross Lake Cemetery, rural Fosston, at a later date. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of Fosston and messages of condolence may be shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.

Alan Gary Heide was born on Dec. 1, 1957 to Albert H. and Carol J. (Sammes) Heide in St. Cloud. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1976. Upon graduation Alan attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where he majored in accounting. From there he went on to a successful career with Truth Hardware in Owatonna, leaving in 2014 as plant manager.

Alan was passionate about the outdoors and being on his land in northern Minnesota. He enjoyed deer hunting, fishing and trapping. He especially loved music (oldies and classic rock) and making an annual trip with friends to Moondance Jam near Walker.

Alan will be deeply missed and is survived by his loving parents, Albert and Carol Heide of Fosston; brothers, Roger of Chicago, Neil (Val) of Lengby, Minn., and Steven (Esther) of Savage; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents; his sister, Laurel Skala; and infant sister, Eileen Gail.



Alan Heide

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BIRTHDAYS

March 17
Landon Allison
Isabel Lindeman
Erik Anderson

March 18
Mary J. Olson
Shannon Spinler
Olivia Trotman
Mary Ramsey

March 20
Dillon Easton
Sandy Christianson
Hunter Borg
Tom Walters

March 21
Calla Stads
Mary Ann Betlach

ANNIVERSARIES
March 17 • John & Barb Stenzel

March 19 • Jessie & Aaron Christianson

March 20 • Larry & Gerry Wurst

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PROUDLY SERVING STEELE COUNTY

Love doesn't seem very logical



Pastor Lisa Vick
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OWATONNA

Last year I started doing something that helped keep me grounded. For it was this time last year that things started to unravel – COVID-19 had gained a foothold on us, and to keep everyone safe we suspend in-person worship. At that time, we thought the suspension would only last a few weeks, maybe a month max. Yet we all know now that that didn't happen!

We were also heading into a contentious Presidential campaign – our denomination was, and still is, coming face to face with some deep divisions – and the racial inequities in our coun-

try could no longer be ignored. It seemed like madness was everywhere.

I needed help sorting through everything so I turned to Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 12. Every day for a month I read Roman 12 before I went to sleep. I read it from a place of need – I took my theological cap off, and read it as a child of God who was in need of direction and help.

There are many reasons Paul wrote to his churches in Rome – but one of the main ones is he wanted them to pray for him. Paul was not sure he would ever reach Rome per-

sonally. He was going to Jerusalem and knew he may die there. "I beseech you, brethren, ... strive together with me in your prayers to God for me." (Romans 15:30) Paul needed their prayers and in return he let them know how much they were loved, so that we, in turn, would know how much we are loved. Something I had started to doubt last year.

In his book "Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times" Bishop Michael Curry writes: "In the New Testament there is a passage in which the Apostle Paul reflects on living the

logic of love. It begins with the words 'Let love be gentle; hate what is evil, hold fast what is good.' Then Paul concludes with, 'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.' (Romans 12:9-21)

Love doesn't seem very logical – especially right now. Yet Paul tells us what we need to do to overcome evil with good in verses 9-21: Welcome strangers, even enemies, to your table. Bless those who curse you. You can't think you're better than anyone else. You don't seek revenge or fight evil with evil. And while you're doing all

that, you have to be genuine about it.

There's no pretending. I know, it is a tall order, loving one another is not easy but it is work that needs to be done. Bishop Curry writes: "love builds, hate destroys, we have to stop the madness and you don't stop the madness with more madness."

Last year I started my journey to love genuinely and it hasn't been easy – evil or madness is always ready to take over. When that happens I return to my ritual of reading Romans Chapter 12, and "hold fast to what is good."

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, Elceva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC

503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
507-684-2451
Men's Bible Study:
8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church- 9 a.m. and
Confirmation- 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study:
9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School:
9:15-7 p.m. Followed by
Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA

434 First St. SW,
Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Helmgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Valerius
507-585-6821
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – 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: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – 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-Freedom
Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.rgllutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMC

28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN - ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klaviter and
Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Th. Thursday &
Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday; Summer Services:
8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA

30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Vicar Jackie Short
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMC

202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tciowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd
Bueger; Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floyd
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 Jaguar TV (channel
900) Tuesday-6:30 p.m.;
Wednesday-6 p.m.; Sunday-11
a.m.) and at owatonalive.com.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA

609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tciowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd
Bueger; Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floyd
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Sundays 9:30 a.m. - online at
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and tciowatonna.org/
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Watch the video of our full
service on Spectrum (channel
181) and Jaguar TV (channel
900) Tuesday-6:30 p.m.;
Wednesday-6 p.m.; Sunday-11
a.m.) and at owatonalive.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

106 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.
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
Interim Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m.

OUR SAVIORS 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 Starasinih
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

9946 SE 24th Ave Owatonna
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.litomyslweb.com
Sunday Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other
month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

150 NE Second St., Hayfield
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
Potthenski, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Masses: Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m.,
and 12:30 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Tuesday through Friday
Reconciliation 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration - Thursdays 8
a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starasinih
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues.,
Wed. & Fri. (Communion
Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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or weekends

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT

540 St. 14th St. NE, Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:35 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL

230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-583-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST

43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sun.
www.ellendaleumc.org

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST

200 Sixth St. NW, Ellendale
Pastor Randy Orlsen
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

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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.destinyccp.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

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 Bremer
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2330
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

2373 Seventh Ave. NE,
Owatonna
Pastor Brian Bevers
651-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

211 Main St., Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

702 Third St. SE, 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

106 2nd St. NE, Canby
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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valleyviewofowatonna.com

PUBLIC RECORD

Steele County Births

April 2020

Gracie Lea Kasper, Parents: Betsy and Anthony, April 2.
Camila Rose Dettmer, Parent: Anamarie Herbert, April 3.
Marcel Victoria Vargas-Sanchez, Parents: Maria Sanchez Limon and Jose Vargas Gutierrez, April 5.
Livia Mae Walstrom, Parents: Katie and Roderick, April 6.
Yusuf Abdighadir Abdillahi, Parents: Fowzia Kuliyige and Abdighadir Ahmed, April 6.
Davina Isabella Carrillo, Parents: Amanda Haskell and Hector Carrillo, April 7.
Vincent Oredence Sanchez-Sorensen, Parents: Michelle Sorensen and Manuel Sanchez, April 8.
Ava Elizabeth Sturman, Parents: Megan and Ian, April 9.
Maximus Michael Malmquist, Parents: Anne and Justin, April 14.
Mason Raul Martinez, Parents: Kracelly Fernandez and Cesar Martinez, April 14.
Spencer Neeb Xiong, Parents: Hlou Yang and Cheanu Xiong, April 15.
Samuel Franklin Thamer, Parents: Katherine and Matthew, April 15.
Matteo Charles Montelongo, Parent: Kiley Knauf, April 17.
Cody Jean Peterson, Parents: Josey and Alexander, April 18.

Xakezion Malcom Xikiyus Perkins, Parents: Heidi and Don, April 20.
Araja Love Guevara, Parent: Rachael Moran, April 21.
Diego Perez, Parents: Veronica Castillo-Osorio and Daniel Perez Esquivel, April 21.
Tirzah Saniqua Schiell, Parents: Jillian and Ryan, April 21.
Nicole Yuan, Parents: Qin Sun and Wellong Yuan, April 22.
Brayden Thomas Loverink, Parents: Amber and Brandon, April 22.
Isabella Deann Vick, Parents: Alliehe and Justin, April 23.
Raya Marie Kay Camerer, Parents: Kate and Cory, April 26.
Charles Paul Lofgren, Parents: Laurie and Jordan, April 26.
Naelia Annemarie Starkson, Parents: Amber and Jason, April 29.

Steele County Deaths

April 2020

Edna Mae Webster, 95, Owatonna, April 1.
Marjune Grace Fiebigler, 89, Blooming Prairie, April 2.
John Seymour Peterson, 94, Blooming Prairie, April 7.
Linda Marie Jones, 58, Hope, April 8.
Jeanne Catherine Jensen, 81, Owatonna, April 10.
William Alan Kubinski, 54,

Faribault, April 10.
Jack Donald Evanhoe, 71, Owatonna, April 10.
Eleanor Marie Schroht, 89, Owatonna, April 12.
Wesley Edward Ostlund, 98, Medford, April 12.
Harold Richard Emery, 90, Owatonna, April 13.
Dean Carl Husemoller, 74, Owatonna, April 14.
Robert William Binkley, 75, Owatonna, April 15.
Joyce Ann Melby, 94, Owatonna, April 15.
Dorothy Rose Steinbauer, 99, Blooming Prairie, April 17.

Marie Luetta Roeker, 99, Owatonna, April 20.
Evelyn Katherine Messie, 95, Owatonna, April 22.
Barbara Ann Lorenzen, 90, Blooming Prairie, April 23.
Leonard Alvin Johnson, 92, Owatonna, April 23.
Clara Letona, 95, Owatonna, April 24.
Jual Kenneth Delatsch, 90, Owatonna, April 25.
Charmaine L. Gonzalez, 64, Owatonna, April 27.
Theresa Irene Heimerman, 92, Ashley Ann Apple, April 18.

Waltham, April 27.
Maxine June Williams, 87, Owatonna, April 28.
Rita Ann Tacheng, 87, Owatonna, April 28.
Steele County Marriages
April 2020
Shawn Bradford Stilwagon and Amy Lynn Gosh, April 4.
Dana Sue Wallace and Scott Alan Gasparotto, April 11.
Jessica Marie McCarthy and Ross Benjamin Hooper, April 13.
Brandon Allan Stadler and Ashley Ann Apple, April 18.
Samson Donald Pittman

and Dorothy Mary Ballstadt, April 20.
Jenny Lynn Saplis and Noah Mukunda Logsdon, April 22.
Timothy Allen Banister and Laura Ann Hanson, April 25.
Elyse Marie Gibson and Scott Jacob Bjorkquist, April 25.
Dana Christine Kosh and Garrett Allen Skonsang, April 25.
Gary Hatfield and Janice Kay Tomlinson, April 30.
Steele County Divorces
April 2020
Cole David Rakek and Whitney Marie Rakek, April 14.



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BP City Council proposes regulations, fees for food trucks

BY ALEX NUERHING
STAFF WRITER

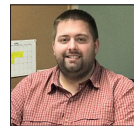
With COVID-19 forcing cancellations of last summer's fairs and festivals, food trucks looked for other income sources and visited small towns like Bloom-

ing Prairie for longer stretches and more often than usual. In light of that, the Bloomington City is considering an ordinance to establish permit fees and rules about where and when food trucks can operate

in the city. "We had some business owners concerned about their brick-and-mortar business paying property taxes, and somebody else can just come into town and pop down. Brick-and-mortar businesses

are here year-round, so it's a fully justified concern," said City Administrator Andrew Langholz. Langholz said he reviewed ordinances from five other towns before drafting the proposed regulations,

which would require food trucks to purchase permits to operate in Bloomington. Under the proposal, vendors could purchase a 1-4 day permit for \$40, a 5-12 day permit for \$100, or an annual per-



Andrew Langholz

PLAYING PICKLEBALL



STAFF PHOTOS BY DEB FLEHNING

The Mark Blando family of Owatonna enjoyed Saturday's warmer temperatures on the pickleball court at Morehouse Park. (TOP) When a the match ended, per game etiquette, the family came together to touch paddles and congratulate one another on a good game. From left are Joe, Blando, Lydia Blando, Harper Blando and Mark Blando. (BOTTOM LEFT) Joe carefully eyes the ball and positions himself for the next volley. (BOTTOM RIGHT) Lydia watches her serve as it heads for her opponent's court.

Owatonna schools delay budget decisions

BY MITCHELL BREUER
STAFF WRITER

An estimated \$2 million in budget cuts for the 2021-2022 school year in Owatonna are on hold until next month, given the uncertainty surrounding enrollment and funding from the state and federal government. "The last thing we want to do is start letting staff know that we won't be bringing them back, and then all of a sudden we get some windfall from the federal government, and then we would ask them to stay when perhaps they may have already taken a position somewhere

else," said Superintendent Jeffery Elstad. When it comes to enrollment projections, school officials don't know whether those who chose to home school because of COVID-19 will be returning in the fall -- either in-person or through the district's planned online learning program. A decrease in enrollment would mean less funding from the state. The district also is expecting to receive two more rounds of one-time COVID relief. However, the specifics of these funds are currently unknown. See OWATONNA on B3 ►

New building nears completion



Steele Talkin'
SCOTT J. WESTBROCK

Big things continue to happen at South Central Human Relations Center (HRC). The most noticeable is the new building going up on our Florence Avenue campus in Owatonna. Mohs Construction reports the building is on schedule and will be at

substantial completion the week of March 22, at which point the city can issue the Certificate of Occupancy. This new building will house our community programs -- adult mental health case management, Behavioral Health Home program, adult and children's rehabilitation programs (ARMHS and CTSS), care coordination, and Crisis Response services. Behind the scenes work continues with our planned transition to a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). The CCBHC was described in more detail in my previous Steele County See NEW BUILDING on B3 ►

Construction bids roll in for new Owatonna High School

BY MITCHELL BREUER
STAFF WRITER

The Owatonna School District received more than 200 bids, to build the new high school, and a contract is expected to be awarded at the March 29 school board meeting.

Meanwhile, Bob Olsen, the district's director of facilities, said the district and its construction manager will be reviewing the bids for the more than 300,000-square-foot project.

It's more than just picking the lowest bidder, said Olsen.

"We have a scoring system that we use based on the price that they gave us and then references and then history of projects our size," Olsen said. "What we'll then do is take up to four people who put in bids and then bring

See CONSTRUCTION on B2 ►



A rendering of the exterior of the new Owatonna High School, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2023.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

New outdoor stadium to offer a taste of nostalgia

BY MITCHELL BREUER
STAFF WRITER

The new Owatonna High School will include new outdoor football field, surrounded by a nine-line track with fenced off bleachers and five-room press box.

A name for the stadium itself has yet to be determined. Connected the field will be

a new outdoor plaza, featuring some things of the past, including light poles originally donated to the school in the early 1920.

Bob Olsen, who is district's director of facilities, said that this move is to incorporate a sense of nostalgia for visitors coming to the stadium.

When coming up with a design for the stadium, Olsen

said that a committee was put together to essentially scout out other locations that have opened to athletic facilities.

"That went out and looked at stadiums, basketball courts, and other areas, all that stuff to see what is it that we like about these and how can we do the same thing or do things a little better than what they did," Olsen said.

Olsen said that this process was done with other areas of the new school project as well, with two other committees being formed to focus on areas such as fine arts for their new facilities.

Olsen said that the entire project has relied heavily on the feedback of the Owatonna community, as well as the students.



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Minnesota Nice makes people forget about COVID



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

It is difficult to believe that it has been one year since we were introduced to COVID-19 and its grip that it has had on people around the globe.

COVID is still with us but its strangle hold on us has been diminished, mainly because of vaccines and the public's willingness to wear masks and follow other safety recommendations. Anti-virus vaccines have also helped us fight the battle.

Many have lost loved ones and friends due to COVID-19. Because of our dedicated health care professionals and first responders, many have had their health security protected. What has been most gratifying has been the

caring concern shown by family, neighbors and friends.

It's called Minnesota Nice as we become the beneficiaries of acts of kindness shown to us by others.

Judy and I have seen this Minnesota Nice first hand in recent months when our line of luck hasn't been the greatest.

People have shown their concern for our misfortunes. Judy has dealt with a broken wrist and heart problems. Yours truly had a broken arm a few years

ago, and now most recently, I have been recovering from a broken ankle, broken shoulder and torn rotator cuff.

Our friends have knocked at our doors and showered us with kindness, which includes meals, gift cards and offers to take us to our doctor appointments.

I know other people in the Blooming Prairie area have received these gifts and also have given to those who need some assistance.

Upon our return to our home area six

years ago, we have seen how loving and caring people can be. The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group is a true example of how people help others with their needs.

Take time to recognize those people who need a little help because of health or other personal problems.

Also, take time to send a card, make a meal and offer a ride to those who could use a lift to pick up a prescription, or to go to a doctor's appointment. In the days of

COVID-19, we have seen first hand how a pandemic can cause grief for many of us. That grief can be lessened somewhat by those who exemplify Minnesota Nice.

Be a gracious recipient of Minnesota Nice and also be a giver. It's easy to take a moment to think of others' needs. It's called Minnesota Nice and this is one of the best ways to knock out COVID-19. Thanks everyone for thinking of others. That's MINNESOTA NICE!

Zumbro Education District's new home ready for construction

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

For the past 30 years, Zumbro Education District's (ZED) students, including students from Blooming Prairie School District, and staff have been spread out over three facilities. Now, after years of planning, construction on a new facility, which will house everything under one roof, has been scheduled for construction.

ZED Executive Director Patrick Gordon expects construction on the district's new home to begin within a few months.

"We are hoping to break ground this spring, as early as late May, or early summer," he said.

He said that construction is expected to take about a year.

"We're still on track to open in Fall 2022," Gordon said.

Before construction

can begin, ZED has to go through the financial process.

"We want to have the best building possible for our students and our staff, but also be cost-efficient about it. And the interest rate can play a big role in that," he said.

Certificates of participation, which function like bonds, will lock in ZED's interest rate for 20 years.

Gordon said that each of ZED's member districts' school boards

voted and agreed to lock in the lowest interest rate they could.

"We're doing this at the right time. Interest rates are at historic lows, which is very exciting because it saves on costs for the building," he said.

"We should lock in our interest rate next month, and the construction funds should be available in early May," he said.

Kraus-Anderson is ZED's construction

manager for the project, and Wendel is its architect.

"We're in the bidding process for subcontractors for our project, and that will be finalized next month. That's when we'll have a firm construction timeline," he said.

While there are still some hurdles that need to be cleared, he's glad that ZED is getting closer to the finishing line.

"This building has been 30 years in the

making, that's how long ZED has been operational, and this is its first newly constructed building," said Gordon, adding, "We're very grateful for the member districts' support of this endeavor."

Gordon and the superintendents of each of the six member school districts will meet on Wednesday, March 17, and more information on the project will be made available after that meeting.

MnDOT announces winners of snowplow contest

After plowing through more than 122,000 votes cast, the Minnesota Department of Transportation recently announced the winners of its inaugural Name a Snowplow contest.

In District 6, which includes Steele County, the winning name was Snowy-Wan Kenobi. One snowplow in the district will officially take on the winning name later this month.

Other winning names and their future homes are:

- Plowdy McPlowFace — Metro District
- Ope, Just Gonna Plow Right Past Ya — District 4
- Duck Duck Orange Truck — District 1
- Plow Bunyan — District 2
- F. Salt Fitzgerald — District 7
- Darth Blader — District 3
- The Truck Formerly Known As Plow — District 8

"We are amazed by the number of creative name suggestions

people proposed," said Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher. "We thank everyone for their votes and participation in this fun contest, and through the process, becoming more aware of our snowplows, the tireless women and men who operate them, and the work necessary to keep our roads safe."

The agency first invited people to submit creative ideas for snowplow names in mid-December. After more than 22,000 name ideas were submitted, MnDOT staff had the challenging task of narrowing down the list and selecting 50 finalists for the public to vote on. These 50 names were determined by considering several factors, including but not limited to how creative or unique the name was, whether it would be understandable or identifiable to broad audiences, and the frequency of submissions.

Turnout for township elections low in Steele County

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Fewer than 5 percent of voters in Steele County's townships cast ballots in the March 8 election.

Blooming Prairie Township recorded the highest turnout in number of votes cast and the percentage of voters casting a ballot. With 38 of the township's 281 voters casting ballots, voter turnout was 13.5%. Two townships tied for the lowest turnout: 9 voters cast ballots in Medford Township and Meriden Township, respectively. In both cases, those casting ballots represented less than 2.5% of the voters. Elected to township positions were:

AURORA TOWNSHIP

Kevin Loken — 3-year term as supervisor (14 votes)
Barb Galea — 2-year term as treasurer (14 votes)

BERLIN TOWNSHIP

Charles Crabtree —

3-year term as supervisor (14 votes)
Pat Motl for a 2-year term as treasurer (13 votes)

BLOOMING PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

Jerry Wencil — 3-year term as supervisor (37 votes)
Katie Zipse — 2-year term as treasurer (36 votes)

CLINTON FALLS TOWNSHIP

Darren Hagen — 3-year term as chairman (9 votes)
Arch Mrkvicka — 2-year term as supervisor (10 votes)
Cynthia Johnson — 2-year term as treasurer (10 votes)
Susan Rypka for a 1-year term as clerk (10 votes)

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP

Karl Buscho — 3-year term as supervisor (28 votes)
Joel Dulas — 1-year term as supervisor (27 votes)
Brian Kanne —

2-year term as treasurer (28 votes)

HAVANA TOWNSHIP

Larry Schubert — 3-year term as chairman (13 votes)
Alex Ebenhoeh — 2-year term as supervisor (13 votes)
Steve Dornquist — 2-year term as treasurer (13 votes)
Laurie Wolhart — 2-year term as clerk (13 votes)

LEMOND TOWNSHIP

Dale Johnson — 3-year term as supervisor (16 votes)
Vicki Arthur — 2-year term as treasurer (16 votes)

MEDFORD TOWNSHIP

Vern Wheeler — 3-year term as supervisor (9 votes)
Alison Jaster — 2-year term as treasurer (9 votes)

MERIDEN TOWNSHIP

Keith Dinse — 3-year term as supervisor (9 votes)

David Mueller — 2-year term as treasurer (9 votes)

MERTON TOWNSHIP

Eugene Peterson — 3-year term as supervisor (10 votes)
Janet Springer — 2-year term as treasurer (10 votes)

OWATONNA TOWNSHIP

Jerry Katzung — 3-year term as supervisor (12 votes)
Garret Miller — 2-year term as treasurer (12 votes)

SOMERSET TOWNSHIP

Jody Hooking — 3-year term as supervisor (11 votes)
Becca Sletten — 2-year term as treasurer (11 votes)

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP

Kevin Noble — 3-year supervisor position (19 votes)
Wayne Dobberstein — 2-year term as treasurer (20 votes)

Spring load restrictions in place

Spring load restrictions began on Steele County highways on March 4, effective when load restriction signs are posted.

Highway maps showing the load postings that will be in effect are available on the Steele County website at: https://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/public_works/transportation/road_restrictions.php.

For updates on load restrictions or Steele

County Highway construction projects, visit: https://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/public_works/transportation/index.php

Walz to deliver annual address Sunday

Gov. Tim Walz will deliver his third State of the State address on Sunday, March 21, beginning at 6 p.m. The address will be delivered live from the Governor's

former social studies classroom at Mankato West High School. "Over the past year, Minnesotans have made extraordinary sacrifices to save lives

and change the course of this pandemic," said Walz. "I look forward to the opportunity to speak directly to Minnesotans and young people across the state as we look

toward brighter days ahead." The governor's address will also be streamed live on the Governor's YouTube page.

Construction bids roll in for new Owatonna High School

◀ CONSTRUCTION from B1
them in for interviews." Interviews are expected to begin on Friday. Once this vetting process is completed, a contract will be awarded. Because of COVID-19, the bidding

process was handled virtually. Traditionally, Olsen said, all interested bidders would bring in sealed envelopes that contained their bids. The envelopes would then be opened, and the school and their

construction manager would look through everything. Instead of meeting in-person, bidders shared their screens to present their bids. Olsen said that everything was business as usual, with no

problems, and that he was happy with how the bid day turned out. Olsen said the groundbreaking for the new high school is slated for June, with the new high school projected to open in the fall of 2023.

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PANTHER OF THE WEEK

This week's Panther of the Week is **MADISON SCHULTZ**. She is the daughter of Jeffery and Ashley Schultz and they reside in Ellendale. Madison is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Madison takes Panther Pride very seriously. She's respectful and attentive in class and loves to participate. She's kind to all her peers, she picks up after others, and she's responsible and independent. Madison's integrity really shines; she's always doing the right thing even when she's not being watched.

Madison loves her mom and dad and enjoys playing with her brothers. Her favorite food is tacos and her favorite show is 'Tuned In'. Her favorite book is 'Sideways Stories of Wayside School'. *Keep up the great work Madison!*

MADISON SCHULTZ

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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

MARCH 19

11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

MARCH 22

11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

MARCH 23

8:30 p.m. — Ellendale Fire Building
Committee Meeting, Community Building

MARCH 24

11 a.m. — SEMCAC, Community Building

MARCH 25

7 p.m. — Steele County Assessor Meeting-Berlin Township, Community Building
8:30 p.m. — Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

MARCH 22

4 p.m. — Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Hall
7 p.m. — Medford City Council Meetings, City Hall

MARCH 23

10:30 a.m. — Online Storytime, Owatonna

Library Facebook
4 p.m. — CPU Commission Meeting, Virtual
5 p.m. — Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. — Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall

COLLEGE NEWS

Area students earn degrees

MINNESOTA STATE, MANKATO

Ethan Arett of Blooming Prairie recently earned an Associate in Arts (AA) degree in Liberal Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU).

MSU award 1,796 degrees to 1,753 students at the end of the fall 2020 semester.

Degrees awarded at the undergraduate level included 42 bachelor of arts degrees, 24 bachelor of fine arts degrees, 1,251 bachelor of science degrees, nine bachelor of science in integrated engineering degrees, one bachelor of science in civil engineering degrees, nine bachelor of science in computer engineering degrees, 20 bachelor of science in electrical engineering degrees, two bachelor of science in mechanical engineering degrees, 38 bachelor of science

in social work degrees and 37 associate of arts degrees.

MINNESOTA STATE, MOORHEAD

Minnesota State University Moorhead recently celebrated its newest graduates' achievements during virtual ceremonies.

Among this year's graduates was Tori Folkstad who graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

MSUM will award degrees to more than 335 undergraduate students and 135 graduate students.

TRINE UNIVERSITY

Aaron Peterson of Owatonna graduated from Trine University at the end of the Fall 2020 semester.

Peterson earned a master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies.

Owatonna's early intervention services strive to help families

BY MITCHELL BREUER
STAFF WRITER

When we think of teachers, we tend to think of the work that goes on inside the classroom. However, what happens outside of it may be more critical. That is especially the case with the early childhood special education program at the Owatonna Public School district, designed to help their families, as well as students.

The group offers free, early intervention services, which start when a child showing a delay in their development is referred to them.

From there, the program would conduct a play-based evaluation.

"Throughout the evaluation, if we were to identify some type of delay, then we would go ahead and have a meeting with the parents and talk about the results and then develop an individual family service plan," said Ashley Glende, a teacher in the program.

In this individual family service plan, the group meets with the family and figures out goals and how the program can help.

One of the program's main goals is to build families' competence and confidence within their daily routine.



Educators in the Owatonna Early Childhood Special Education program work with families in and outside the classroom. Pictured, left to right, are: Maggie Goldale, special services supervisor; Jill Achterkirch, speech/language pathologist; Ashley Glende, teacher; Jenn Radel, teacher; and Megan Schultz, teacher. Maggie Goldale, special services supervisor; Jill Achterkirch, speech/language pathologist.

That means finding out what works in natural settings using a technique called evidence-based quality intervention practice.

In their presentation to the Owatonna school board on Monday, March 8, the group

used a grocery store trip as an example. If the family came to them and said that this was an area of concern, they would send someone with them to the grocery store and help them find ways to make future trips better.

New building nears completion

◀ **NEW BUILDING** from B1
Times article but will ultimately have us integrating care with behavioral (mental and chemical health) and physical health. As also noted in that article, the model relies heavily on care coordinators who will work with each client to ensure they are receiving the services necessary for them to be successful and following up with medical providers to ensure that when referrals are necessary, these are being accomplished. The goal is to improve the overall health of our clients through integrated care.

This new model will provide greater financial stability for the organization because the Medical Assistance payments to the Center will be based upon the actual costs of providing the services. This will allow the Center to do a better job with strategic planning in order to ensure that our services are

available to the communities we serve for the foreseeable future.

To this end, we will need to increase staffing by hiring additional therapists, care coordinators, and community programs and administrative staff. We plan to do so beginning in April 2021 so that staff are in place when we apply for certification as a CCBHC early in June. We are excited about this transition with the opportunities it presents to provide an integrated, and holistic approach to our communities.

Scott J. Westbrook, MSW, is a licensed independent clinical social worker, and the CCBHC implementation project manager of the South Central Human Relations Center. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

Owatonna schools delay budget decisions

◀ **OWATONNA** from B1
Elstad said delaying the budget decisions allows the district to be cautious of how it moves forward.

Any cuts made this year will directly impact class sizes across the elementary, middle, and high schools.

Cuts made last year, Elstad said, targeted support staff for buildings so that classroom sizes would not be affected. However, with the school's current financial situation, positions that would prevent class size increases now have to be on the block.

District officials hope to have finalized recommendations to go along with a final budget ready for the school board next month.

BP City Council proposes regulations, fees for food trucks

◀ **BP CITY COUNCIL** from B3

The daily permits would not have to be used on consecutive days. Food truck vendors also would be required to provide a certificate of insurance and a copy of its state licensing.

Langholz said mobile food units or food truck vendors would be exempt from purchasing a permit if they're operating in conjunction with a sanctioned event by the city, such as Blooming Prairie's Fourth of

July celebration. Ice cream trucks selling in residential areas also would be exempt.

Food truck vendors, he said, can get a permit to go into residential areas to cater an event. Otherwise, they would have to be in non-residential districts and at least 100 feet away from an outdoor dining area or front door of a restaurant if there's no outdoor dining area or the nearest restaurant or have approval from that restaurant.

"So it'd be difficult for them to be on the same block as The Cue Company and Bunkies because they'd be within 100 feet of a restaurant there," said Langholz.

The ordinance doesn't apply to produce trucks, the Schwan's truck or the farmer's market, according to Langholz.

After some discussion between council members, the hours of operation for visiting food trucks would be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., with an extra hour before 7 a.m. and after 8 p.m. for set up and take down.

A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 12.

Sudoku Corner

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

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

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- Entertaining food, art or drink segment
- Aquatic Invasive Species prevention Minute
- The latest on habitat restoration



Dushek's Magic

Huskie achieves 1,000-point milestone

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

During the March 8 Owatonna boys basketball game against Northfield, junior Evan Dushek accomplished what only seven other players in team history had before him. He scored his 1,000th point as a Huskie.

"It's super cool," Dushek said. "Obviously living here my whole life and growing up here, it's cool to be one of those guys that even in the future people will remember that, as me being just one of the great players that come through here, so awesome."

While the milestone is impressive, Dushek said he did not focus on accomplishing the feat much, not even realizing how close he was until an assistant coach brought it up to him.

For Dushek, it is more about what the team accomplishes than himself, especially with the section tournament about to begin.

"Obviously, sections is more where my mind is focused on," Dushek said. "Those other things, I mean, they are cool, and I mean, it means a lot as a hard worker, when you get those kinds of accomplishments, but I'm focused more on sections and stuff like that."

Someone is well aware of how much a hard worker Dushek is Coach Joshua Williams. The apparent signs of Dushek's potential became clear to him, when he was he promoted to the varsity roster in the eighth grade, a rarity for somebody at that age.

"He's a kid that's put in a lot of time for many, many years, going back to his young junior high days, or elementary days, all the way up here," Williams said.

"And obviously the scoring, in terms of pursuing that goal, was started in high school, but just the hard work that led up to get him to this point in his career, to have the ability to do that."

One of the biggest things Williams praised about Dushek was his development, saying that he has become one of the team's best players.

"I'll say, mature is the best word over the course of especially his high school career. He was on the varsity team as an eighth grader," Williams said. "To watch



STAFF PHOTO MARSHALL BREUER

While Huskies star Evan Dushek is defending in this photo, it's his shooting ability that's perhaps most noteworthy. The junior recently scored his 1,000th point of his career, a milestone only achieved by seven other Owatonna players.

"It's cool to be one of those guys that even in the future people will remember that, as me being just one of the great players that come through here."

Evan Dushek
Huskies 1000 Point Player

him develop and go from kind of being the young guy on the team, to now, as an upperclassman, arguably the best player on the team, kind of our go-to guy, and a leader for us, it's just been fun to watch him develop over the course of his career."

From the young guy to the guy on the team, development and figuring out where you need to be something that Dushek stressed when asked about what advice he would give to his younger teammates.

"If you kind of figure out what your weaknesses are, just work on those, it is a team game. So, focus on what you can do to help your team, and if scoring is what that is then, I mean, do that."

The next goal for Dushek? A state championship. "I think for sure we can make it to state and you know, from there it's going to come down to how well we play as a team and follow what the coaches say," Dushek said.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Oien scores 100th goal for Huskies

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

The Owatonna girls hockey team ended its regular season with two wins and one loss.

In conference play, the team was able to first defeat Austin, 7-0, on Monday night and, then took down Albert Lea, 6-2 on Wednesday night.

Monday's game proved to be a special one for sophomore Ezra Oien, who scored her 100th goal of her varsity career.

With her high school career winding down, senior Sydney Hunst added two more goals to her career total as a Huskie. The wins allowed Owatonna to finish the regular season with a record of 15-2 in conference competition.

The Huskies traveled out of town for its first non-conference game of the season against New Prague Saturday. The team saw struggles, as they were shutout for the first time all season, losing 0-2.

The Huskies will look for a quick bounce back, as the section tournament begins on Monday, with Owatonna starting off at home. If the Huskies win, they will be in action Wednesday

BOYS BASKETBALL

Huskies end season on a winning note

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

The Owatonna boys basketball team ended its regular season with a pair of wins this past week.

The team started off on the road against Northfield, where the Huskies won 45-39 and were led by junior Evan Dushek and his double-double performance. Dushek had 18 points, and 10 rebounds in the contest.

Owatonna wrapped things up on Thursday, with another close road victory, defeating Red Wing, 55-46. Junior Brayden Williams led the team in scoring on the night with an impressive 26 points.

The team ends its regular season with a record of 13-3, and 8-2 in conference competition, good enough to land them a home playoff game to start the section tournament.

That game will take place on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Blossoms fall short in pair of OT heartbreakers

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Blossoms guard Emily Miller drives past her WEM defender during the second half of the Blossoms' 60-51 overtime loss to the Buccaneers.

up between the ninth-ranked Buccaneers and eleventh-ranked Awesome Blossoms lived up to the hype.

With their biggest home crowd of the season cheering them on, the Blossoms built an early lead over the Buccaneers. However, WEM fought back and trailed by five points, 30-25, at halftime.

The Buccaneers got off to a fast start in the second half, scoring seven of the first nine points to trim their deficit to just one point, 32-31, in the first five minutes of the second half.

After a basket by Bobbie Bruns, WEM went on a 6-0 run to take a 37-34 lead with just under 12 minutes left in regulation.

The Blossoms responded when Maren Forystek sank a three-pointer to give Blossoms a slim 38-37 lead.

Following that, both teams traded baskets, culminating with a made jumpshot by Blossom senior Allison Krohnberg that tied the game 42-42 with six and a half minutes left in the game.

Blossoms' Megan Oswald broke the tie by making a layup as she got fouled and making the free throw for an old-fashioned three-point play. After a defensive stop, Bobbie Bruns got fouled on the Blossoms' next possession and made one of the two free throws to give Blossoms a 46-42 lead with four and a half minutes left in the game.

Unfortunately for the Blossoms, the Buccaneers answered with back-to-back baskets to tie the game at 46 with just over a minute left in regulation.

After a basket by Krohnberg, Blossoms

Prairie held a two-point lead with 21 seconds left in the game, but WEM raced down the court and got a quick basket to tie the game up again with 10 seconds left. In the final seconds, the Blossoms got a good luck, but their shot rolled off the rim and the game went into overtime.

In overtime, the Buccaneers took over, scoring the first nine points to take a commanding 57-48 lead. W-E-M was led by Taryn Richards who scored eight of the Bucs' 12 overtime points.

Meanwhile, the W-E-M defense prevented Blossoms from getting any easy baskets. In fact, the Blossoms' only overtime points came on a three-pointer by Forystek with a minute left in overtime.

The Buccaneers' hard-fought 60-51 win See BLOSSOMS on B5 ▶



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Biggest win for Huskies in upset over East

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

Owatonna's girls basketball team captured its biggest win of the season, as it defeated a 13-5 Mankato East team, on the road to close out the regular season.

Junior Lexi Mendenhall led the way for the team in matchup with 22 points, as the Huskies defeated East, 64-56. The win proved to be exactly what the team needed during what was a tough week for the team.

On March 8, the team started out its week at home against Northfield. As has been a trend in previous games, the Huskies fell behind early on, but never let the visitors get out to too much of a lead.

In the second half, Owatonna was able to cut what was once at 14-point Northfield lead, but could not trim it anymore, as they fell 52-59.

Senior Maggie Newhouse and Mendenhall were the scoring leaders in the contest with 10 points each.

The second game of the week proved to be a bigger challenge for Owatonna, as they took on Red Wing.

Red Wing had handed the Huskies one of its biggest losses of the season during the first meeting with the Wings dominating by 25.

Thursday's loss for Owatonna proved to be a little closer, but it was still a double-digit defeat for the Huskies,



Huskies juniors Lexi Mendenhall and Taylor Schlauderaff fight for the ball during Owatonna's March 8 matchup against Northfield. The Huskies came out on the short end of the game, 52-59.

with the final score being 38-52. Senior Sarah Kingland led the team with 15 points.

These losses though may prove to be inconsequential in the

grand scheme of things though, as Owatonna's road trip victory Saturday gives them momentum heading into the upcoming section tournament.

The Huskies will head into the postseason with a regular season record of 7-10. Rochester Mayo, who was crowned Big Nine Champions, undefeated

in conference competition at 11-0. Owatonna will go on the road to open the section tournament, playing Rochester John Marshall, who the Hus-

kies defeated during the regular season. That game will take place on Tuesday at 7 p.m. If Owatonna wins, they will play again on Friday.

BOYS HOCKEY

Johnson's hat trick leads to a win

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

The Owatonna boys hockey team ended its regular season with a dominant win at home, defeating Red Wing, 9-1.

The star of the show proved to be senior Casey Johnson, who had a hand in seven of the team's points, grabbing a hat trick with three goals, and also helping out the team with seven assists on the night.

The momentum started off quickly for the Huskies, as a pair Casey (Pederson and Johnson) scored two goals in the opening period to put a gap against Red Wing.

The gap grew bigger in the second, where Owatonna did the most damage, scoring four goals to Red Wing's one.

Not letting off the gas, Johnson made his presence felt again, scoring two more goals for Owatonna in the final period. Junior Tanner Stendel then put a cap on the night, scoring the game's final goal of the night.

As told by the final score, offensive pres-



Casey Johnson fights for the puck during a face-off in Owatonna's game against Red Wing on March 10. Johnson led the Huskies with a hat trick.

sure was a trend all night, as Owatonna put up 45 shots on the night to Red Wing's 14.

With the win, the Huskies end the regular season with an overall record of 12-4-1, 8-1-1, good enough to put them third in the Big Nine conference behind Northfield and conference champion, Mankato East.

Some of the stat leaders for the team on the year so far include Stendel, who led the team with 13 goals during the regular season, and Johnson, who led the

team in assists with 22 and total points with 30. Helping the team on the defensive front was junior goalie, Preston Meier, who had a save percentage of .888.

The Huskies will now look ahead to the upcoming section tournament, as they look to advance to the state tournament, which begins on March 30 at the Xcel Energy Center.

Owatonna will begin its post-season run on Thursday at home against an opponent that is TBD. Puck drop will be at 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tigers come roaring back with wins

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Following a disappointing 70-34 loss to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, the Medford girls basketball team came roaring back with a pair of wins over Gopher Conference foes.

First, the Tigers

went on the road and beat the then 6-8 Maple River Eagles 45-36 on March 8.

Then, they added an even more impressive win to their resume by the then 13-2 Blooming Prairie Blossoms 55-53 in overtime.

With these two wins, Medford improved its

overall record to 9-4 and its Gopher Conference record to 8-3.

The Tigers will head into the playoffs having won five out of their last seven games.

Medford begins the playoffs with a home game against Maple River at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tigers can't ground 2 teams

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

After a 20-point win over Alden-Conger, the Medford boys basketball team was looking for its first consecutive wins of the season when it hosted Maple River, but the Eagles (12-1) flipped the script by beating the Tigers by 20 points, 64-44, on March 8.

With its overall record now at 3-13 and

its Gopher Conference record at 2-10, Medford had one more chance to add another win to its overall record and its Gopher Conference record when it went on the road to face the then 3-11 Bethlehem Academy Cardinals.

Like most games between teams with similar records, this game came down to the wire, but in the end it was the Cardi-

nals who scored one more point than the Tigers to claim a 59-58 win.

With that loss taken into account, Medford ends the regular season with an overall record of 3-14 and a Gopher Conference record of 2-11.

Medford's first playoff game is a road game against the 13-4 Blue Earth Area Knights at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Blossoms fall short in pair of overtime heartbreakers

◀ BLOSSOMS from B4 improved their Gopher Conference record to 11-1, while the loss made Blooming Prairie's conference record also 11-1.

With two games left for both teams, if they both won out, they'd be Co-Gopher Conference Champions.

Even though they lost, it wasn't all bad news for the Blossoms as senior Megan Oswald reached 1,000 career rebounds

and became the first Blooming Prairie girls basketball player to reach that milestone.

BP statistics: Bobbie Bruns - 18 points and 7 assists, Megan Oswald - 12 points and 9 rebounds, Maren Forystek - 9 points, Allison Krohnberg - 7 points, Emily Miller - 3 points and Anna Pauly - 2 points.

Another overtime loss

After a heartbreak- ing loss to WEM,

Blooming Prairie had little time to recuperate as they went on the road to face the 8-4 Medford Tigers just 24 hours later.

"The energy we expended last night definitely affected us at the beginning of the game as we got off to a slow start on both ends of the court," Bruns said.

Despite that slow start, the Blossoms led 27-21 at halftime.

"We did get things going pretty well late in the first half and through most of the second half, but foul trouble and Medford making their free throws caught up with us," he said. "Medford played very well and took advantage of some miscues we had down the stretch."

Thanks to taking advantage of the Blossoms' miscues, the Tigers held a three-point lead in the final

minutes of the game, but Blooming Prairie's Macy Lemke hit a game-tying three-pointer to force overtime.

Medford scored two more points in overtime and the Blossoms suffered their second overtime loss in two days.

With this loss by Blooming Prairie and WEM winning its last two games, the Buccaneers are Gopher Conference champions.

The Blossoms ended the regular season with a 15-3 overall record and a 12-2 Gopher Conference record.

Blooming Prairie begins the postseason with a home game against Spring Grove at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

BP scoring: Megan Oswald - 55 points, Maren Forystek - 9 points, Bobbie Bruns - 8 points, Allison Krohnberg - 4 points, Anna Pauly - 4 points and Macy Lemke - 3 points.

Fiebigler's super senior season

BP football star earns pair of prestigious honors

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Besides getting a chance to compete in the state tournament, Blooming Prairie tight end/linebacker Mitchell Fiebigler's senior season couldn't have gone much better.

His team went undefeated and won the Section 1A Championship. He made the All-District team and was named District MVP and he was the only single A player to make the Minnesota Vikings All-State Team.

His season recently became even more illustrious; he was chosen as one of the 31 players in the state to be nominated for the 2020 Mr. Football Award and he was selected to participate in the Minnesota Vikings Showcase Game in June.

Fiebigler said he was thrilled when he found out about both honors, especially the Mr. Football Award. "I found out two weeks ago that I was going to be a nominee for it, and I was super pumped, excited and hoping I would win it obviously," he said.

Even though he ended up not being chosen as one of the 10 finalists, he said being nominated for the Mr. Football Award and chosen for the Minnesota Vikings Showcase Game both meant a lot to him.

"It's a great feeling when you get those kinds of honors," he said. "It was definitely a big relief after working so hard and having the season cut short by COVID-19. It makes all my hard work worthwhile."

In addition to his hard work, Blooming Prairie Head Coach Chad Gimbel mentioned that these honors also validate the way he competes on the field.

"For him, I think it's a testament to the way he plays



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Blooming Prairie tight end Mitchell Fiebigler breaks loose for some yards after the catch during the Awesome Blossoms' 49-6 win over Randolph in the Section 1A Championship. For his play on the field, both offensively and defensively as a linebacker, Fiebigler was chosen as one of the 31 players from the state nominated for the Mr. Football Award. He was selected to participate in the Minnesota Vikings Showcase Game.

"He (Mitch Fiebigler) is ultra-competitive, he is determined, he plays the game with passion and he stands out."

Chad Gimbel
Blossoms Coach

the game. He is ultra-competitive, he is determined, he plays the game with passion and he stands out. There's no doubt when he's on the football field people notice him for the good things that he does on the football field. He's a great athlete, but he's relentless too. He plays hard and he brings it every single play," he said.

Fiebigler said that playing style has been ingrained in him after years of playing with his two older brothers.

"They toughened me up from a young age and the players from last year's team also helped me become the player I am today," he said. Thanks to his relentless, constant effort and the help of his brothers and teammates, Fiebigler becomes the first Blossom to be nominated for the Mr. Football Award since John Rumpza in 2014.

Gabe Hagen was chosen for the Minnesota Vikings Showcase Game last year. He noted that having Blossoms chosen for the Minnesota Vikings Showcase

Game in back-to-back years speaks highly of the Blooming Prairie coaches.

"That's definitely a shoutout to how good the coaches are to get us to this level and make us the athletes that we are today," he said.

For Fiebigler, being chosen for the Minnesota Vikings Showcase Game just like Hagen made it an even more meaningful honor.

"Knowing that he was so good and got nominated for this award means that I'm that good because I also got nominated for this award," he said.

It was also significant to him because there's only a select number of players from nine-man to 6A who are chosen to participate.

"It's definitely an achievement to be compared to a 6A kid," he said.

What Fiebigler is most looking forward to about the showcase game is competing with and against the best high school football players from around the state.

He also wants to prove that Class 1A players can compete

with the top players from larger schools.

"I'm definitely hoping to make a few big plays out there and put Blooming Prairie on the map," he said.

Gimbel noted that Fiebigler made a lot of big plays on offense and defense throughout the season.

"Offensively, he played a huge role for us. We put another package into our offense just because of the player that he was. He was a physical kid who can block but also so athletic that

linebackers couldn't cover him so he made a lot of huge plays for us. He allowed us to change the way we do things and put more emphasis on the run game and all of that was because of his skill set.

"Defensively, we wanted him to see ball, get ball. He was a sideline-to-sideline player and he was physical; when he hit guys that's where they stopped, they didn't fall forward for those extra one or two yards. Other teams were intimidated by the way he played the game because he hit so hard," he said.

"He's going to be sorely missed because for four years we knew we had this thumper in the middle."

On top of his play on the field, Gimbel said Fiebigler's Blossom legacy will include his role as a leader and role model.

"A lot of kids followed him and for Mitchell it wasn't just about Mitchell doing well, he wanted to see the team do well. He got equally excited when other

players made big plays too. For him, it was about Blossoms football and Blossoms winning," he said. "I think the biggest thing that kids younger than him saw was how to play with so much passion and determination and compete every single play."

Fiebigler plans to continue to play football, preferably linebacker, and major in business at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

WRESTLING



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

NRHEG's Ben Hagen tries to lift Medford's Brennan Hoffman off the mat during the 220-pound match on Thursday, Feb. 18. Hoffman won by fall and Medford won the dual 57-18.

Eagles soar past Panthers

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

After an up and down regular season, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) wrestling team was hoping for another up in its first-round playoff dual against Maple River, but the Eagles, winners of three of their last four matches, seized an early lead and never relinquished it, winning 57-18 on March 8.

Maple River won the first match by first-period fall to take an early 6-0.

NRHEG's Parker Bunn got the Panthers on the scoreboard by winning the next match by major decision 10-2.

However, the Eagles then won five straight matches, three by fall and two by forfeit to take a commanding 36-4 lead.

At 152 pounds, NRHEG's Thor Routh won by major decision 15-6 to help the Panthers inch closer, but Maple

River shut the door on any possible comeback by winning the next two matches, one by forfeit and one by fall to give itself an insurmountable 48-8 lead.

The Panthers' Ralph Roesler won by decision 6-5 at 182 pounds, but he was docked a point for an unsportsmanlike penalty, so NRHEG had a net gain of two points.

The Eagles won the next two matches, one by decision and one by first-period fall, to increase their lead to 57-10.

NRHEG heavyweight Makota Misen ended the match on a high note for the Panthers by winning his match by fall in the first period, but Maple River still won 57-16 and advanced to the SuperSection 2&3 quarterfinals.

The Panthers will hope for better results when they participate in the section individual wrestling tournament on March 16 at Blue Earth Area High School.

SCOREBOOK

Big Nine Standings Boys Hockey

Mankato East	14-4
Northfield	12-5-1
Owatonna	12-4-1
Mankato West	11-4-2
Rochester Mayo	12-4-1

Owatonna Boys Hockey Results

March 8 - vs. Rochester Mayo - 4-2
March 10 - vs. Red Wing - 9-1
March 11 - at Rochester, MN - CANCELLED
March 18 - vs. TBD (Section Tournament)

Big Nine Standings Girls Hockey

Northfield	15-0
Owatonna	15-3
Mankato East	11-4-1
Albert Lea	10-6
Austin	7-9-1

Owatonna Girls Hockey

March 8 - at Austin - 7-0
March 10 - at Albert Lea - 6-2
March 11 - at New Prague - 0-2
March 15 - vs. TBD (Section Tournament)

Big Nine Standings Boys Basketball

Austin	15-2
Mankato East	13-3
Owatonna	13-4
Mankato West	13-4
Rochester Century	12-5

Owatonna Boys Basketball

March 8 - at Northfield - 77-65
March 11 - at Red Wing - 58-46
March 18 - vs. TBD (Section Tournament)

Big Nine Standings Girls Basketball

Rochester Mayo	13-3
Mankato West	13-3
Mankato East	13-5
Northfield	10-5
Red Wing	10-5
Owatonna	7-10

Owatonna Girls Basketball

March 8 - vs. Northfield - 52-59
March 11 - vs. Red Wing - 38-52
March 13 - at Mankato East - 64-56

Gopher Standings Boys Basketball

Maple River	16-1
Hayfield	14-4
WEM	8-8
United South Central	5-8
Blooming Prairie	6-10
NRHEG	5-12
Medford	5-14

Blooming Prairie Boys Basketball

March 8 - at WEM - 40-63
March 12 - vs. Maple River - 25-51
March 18 - TBD (Section Tournament)

NRHEG Boys Basketball

March 8 - vs. Hayfield - 45-81
March 12 - vs. WEM - 59-67
March 18 - 7 p.m. - Maple River (Section Tournament)

Medford Boys Basketball

March 8 - vs. Maple River - 44-64
March 12 - at BA - 58-59
March 18 - 7 p.m. - at Blue Earth

Gopher Standings Girls Basketball

WEM	15-3
Blooming Prairie	14-1
Medford	9-4
Hayfield	12-6
Maple River	6-9
NRHEG	5-13

Blooming Prairie Girls Basketball

March 8 - at Medford - 51-60
March 9 - at Medford - 53-55
March 18 - vs. TBD (Section Tournament)

NRHEG Girls Basketball

March 8 - at Hayfield - 58-65
March 11 - vs. Waseca - 45-69
March 12 - vs. WEM - 48-86
March 17 - at Fairmont - 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

State tourney dreams on hold for Huskies

BY MITCHELL BREUER
SPORTS WRITER

The Owatonna wrestling team's state tournament dreams will have to wait another year after the team saw an early elimination in the section tournament. Momentum seemed to be on Owatonna's side as sections began with the Huskies handily defeating Winona, 63-10, to begin its post-season run.

Like the regular season matchup between the two, Winona did not have much of a fight to put up, handing Owatonna nine wins by forfeit.

While the team win was already locked up, this did not stop the Huskies from putting on good performances with the team's biggest highlight of this matchup coming at 182, with Matt Seykora picking up a pinfall victory.

Owatonna then turned its attention to Albert Lea. The Huskies seemed to be the favorite, coming in as the third seed facing a team



STAFF PHOTO BY MITCHELL BREUER

Michael Bobo fights for possession during a match against Winona on March 10.

that was the sixth seed that they had defeated less than a month ago in the regular season. However, Albert Lea was able to turn the tables quickly.

The Huskies started the matchup off with two tough defeats, with Albert Lea scoring a pinfall victory at 106, and a tech fall 113.

Owatonna responded with a Cael Robb tech fall win at 120, and Jake Gronli grabbing a win by decision at 126.

However, the Huskies were still down on the scoreboard heading into a stretch that would knock them out of the team tournament.

Albert Lea won by pinfall at 132 and then, took the next three weight classes with wins via forfeit.

Owatonna proved to have a lot of fight left in the upper weight classes, winning five of the next six matches with Landen Johnson

(160), Drew Kretlow (220), and Abe Stockwell (285) scoring pins. This was not enough though to dig themselves out of the hole.

Albert Lea went on to lose to Northfield in the section championship held on Saturday.

The Huskies now turn their attention to individual competition, with the individual section tournament beginning this Thursday.

WRESTLING

Season ends for Tigers in quarterfinals

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Having won six out of its last seven duals heading into the playoffs, the Medford wrestling team seemed to be peaking at the right time.

The Tigers momentum carried over into the first round of the playoffs as they trounced Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Area 56-12 on March 8, but they faced much stiffer competition in the second round and lost a close one, 33-27, to Blue Earth Area on March 10, to end their team season.

"Coming into the postseason, we were finally able to get a full lineup and have everyone healthy. That really showed against Lake Crystal. We started fast and never looked back," said Medford Coach Dennis Whitman.

The Tigers' fast start against the Knights included two wins by forfeit, Evan Schweisthal winning by decision 8-1 and Jack Meyer winning by decision 9-4.

At 132 pounds, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Area got on the scoreboard with a win by decision, but Medford's Charley Elwood followed with a win by major decision 9-0, which increased the Tigers' lead to 22-3.

The Knights won by fall at 145 pounds, but the Tigers' Garron Hoffman got those

points right back by winning by fall in the first period.

Lake Crystal-Wellcome won by decision at 160 pounds to trim their deficit to 28-12.

However, that's as close as the dual would get because Medford won the final five matches. Tate Hermes began the Tigers' run with a win by forfeit, Josiah Hedensten then won by major decision 12-2. Dylan Heiderscheidt won by second-period fall and Brennon Hoffman and Gavin Hermes each won by fall within the first 35 seconds of their respective matches.

Taking those five wins into account, the Tigers won their first-round playoff dual by a score of 56-12.

In the next round, the 14-7 Medford Tigers faced the then 20-5 Blue Earth Area Buccaneers.

"We did go into the Blue Earth dual as an underdog, but fought them to the very end," Whitman said.

Tommy Elwood got the Tigers off to a great start with a win by fall in the first minute of his match.

The Buccaneers responded with back-to-back wins by decision to tie the score at 6-6.

At 126 pounds, Medford's Alex Helgeson won by decision 5-3 and Derek Bartosch followed with a win by major decision 18-6 to give the Tigers' a 13-6 lead.

However, Blue Earth Area kept the close by winning the 138-pound match by fall.

Leading by just one point, the Tigers got a win by technical fall from Charley Elwood and a win by decision 7-1 from Garron Hoffman to boost their lead up to 21-12.

Unfortunately for Medford, the Buccaneers won by fall in the first period of the 160-pound match and won the following match by decision to tie the score at 21-21.

At 182 pounds, Josiah Hedensten won by decision 9-4, but Blue Earth Area won the next match by fall to claim its first lead of the dual, 27-24.

That lead didn't last long as the Tigers' Brennon Hoffman won by decision 5-1 to tie the game at 27-27.

It all came down to the heavyweight match and the Buccaneers' big man won by fall in the final seconds of the first period to give Blue Earth Area a 33-27 win and advance the Bucs to the SuperSection 2&3 semifinals.

Whitman said his team was disappointed to see its season come to an end in the section quarterfinals.

"Our goal was to get farther than that and the kids are using it as fuel heading into next week," he said.

Section 2A individual wrestling will take place at Blue Earth Area High School.



Medford sophomore Kael Neumann scores a takedown against NRHEG's Ethan Thompson during the Feb. 18 dual between the two Steele County teams. Neumann won by fall to increase the Tigers' lead to 30-0.

BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH

Dawson Sorenson • 11th Grade

The senior high student of the month is **DAWSON SORENSON**, who is a junior. His favorite class is welding. "It's something I will be using in my future, and I enjoy it," he says.

"Dawson is a positive, hard working student," said one of his teachers. "I can always count on him to try and do his best."

Other teachers commented about Dawson:

"Dawson always shows up to class happy to greet everyone and with a positive attitude. He is a joy to have in class."

"Dawson is a positive presence in the classroom. He checks in with me regularly to stay on track and stay up to date on what is happening in class that day. He takes feedback well and is coachable."

"Dawson is a kind and courteous student who always says hello, gets right to work, works very hard and is eager to help his classmates too."

His special interests are football, baseball and farming.

Dawson's siblings are Dustin and Madison, 14. He also has two pet cats, Milo and Luca.

Derek Kubicek • 9th Grade

The junior high student of the month is **DEREK KUBICEK**, who is in ninth grade. His favorite class is Spanish I. "Mrs. Reinke makes it fun," he said.

Some comments shared by Derek's teachers include:

"Derek always comes to class prepared and ready to learn. He is always willing to participate and asks great questions. I appreciate his joy for learning."

"Derek has a strong work ethic and helps others succeed in class. He excels at drawing conclusions from a variety of sources."

"Derek always does his best in class, even if it is challenging for him. He has a great sense of humor and unique personality that finds a way to put a smile on your face every day."

"Derek is a quiet leader but yet willing to share his ideas with others. Derek wants to succeed and he knows the effort needed to do so."

His special interests are playing sports and video games. Derek's siblings are Rachel, 21 and Emily, 18. He has a dog, Owen, and five cats, Alan, Dot, Thing, Two and Raven.



Blossoms of the Month is sponsored by this community booster!



CONGRATULATIONS

State DECA qualifiers from Owatonna



Students from Owatonna High School took part last week in state competition for DECA. They included, front row from left: Maria Mollenhauer, Leone Jacobson, Greta Korbel, Jenna Spatenka, Kiara Gentz, Logan Norrid, Madison Jeno, Becca Nielsen, Mariah Cuellar, Taylor Radsek and Lileigh Nguyen; second row: Abdi Asad, Evan Buck, Damian Boubin, Carl Dowling, Connor Ginsky, Claire Heyne, Olivia Shaw, Hillary Haarstad, Ezra Dien, Avery Becker, Audrey Simon and Haley Meiners; third row: Ibra Roble, Jonny Clubb, Jonny Wall, Lane Versteeg, Ashton Jensen, Jacob Meiners, Lexi Ringhofer, Sabella Maas, Kennedy Wilker, Alex Huemoeller, Lauren Thamert and Madelyn Wilker.

PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS!

DECA is a student group that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for the future business world! It prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

We are proud to support DECA, our future business leaders!



Congratulations to the OHS DECA Team from all of us at CDI!

www.cdihvac.com/careers | careers@cdihvac.com



Way to go Owatonna DECA members on your accomplishments at state!

We are a proud sponsor of the DECA club at OHS!



2400 W. Bridge • Owatonna • 507-451-3798
www.hometowncu.coop

STEELE COUNTY DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE 2020

NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAXES

State of Minnesota County of Steele
District Court 3rd Judicial District

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT TAX LIST

A list of real property in Steele County on which delinquent real property taxes and penalties are due has been filed with the District Court Administrator of Steele County. This list is published to inform all persons that the listed property is subject to forfeiture because of delinquent taxes.

The property owner, taxpayer, or other interested persons must either pay the tax and penalty plus interest and costs or file a written objection with the District Court Administrator. The objection must be filed by April 19, 2021, stating the reason why the tax or penalty is not due on the property. If no objection is filed, a court judgment will be entered against the property for the unpaid tax, penalty, interest and cost.

For property under court judgment, the period of redemption begins on May 10, 2021. The period of redemption means the time within which taxes must be paid to avoid losing the property through forfeiture. The period of redemption is three years, with a handful of exceptions. The redemption period is one year for most properties located in a targeted neighborhood, as defined in the Minnesota laws, and for municipal solid waste disposal facilities. The redemption period is five-weeks for certain abandoned or vacant properties.

You may also enter into a Confession of Judgment as an alternative method of paying off the delinquent tax amount and avoiding forfeiture. This allows you to pay the delinquent balance in equal annual installments with a down payment due at the time you confess judgment. The length of the installment plan varies: 5 years for commercial-industrial/public utility property; 10 years for all other properties.

If you have homesteaded property, you may be eligible for a Senior Citizen's Property Tax Deferral, which enables seniors to pay just 3% of their total household income and allow remaining amounts to become a lien on the property that may be deferred for later payment (perhaps upon eventual sale of the property).

It should also be noted by property homesteaders that you are ineligible to receive the Property Tax Refund while you owe delinquent property tax.

TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH INTEREST AND COSTS MUST BE ADDED TO PAY THE TAX IN FULL, CONTACT THE STEELE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE, STEELE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 630 FLORENCE AVE., OWATONNA, MINNESOTA 55060. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 507-444-7410.

Robin Huskey
Robin Huskey
District Court Administrator
3rd Judicial District

District Court Seal

Date: 1.22.2021

NAME OF OWNER	DESCRIPTION	TAX PENALTY INTEREST TOTAL
BLOOMING PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP		
CHARLES ALLEN EMBEL 12622 SE 84TH AVE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	01-011-2202 SECT- 11 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 CON SE COR OF SW1/4 N1/22 S97E43' 188+37' 01" W88D' TO TPOB BLK22 S97E43' 188+37' 01" W88D' S1/22 S97E43' 188+37' 01" W88D' TO TPOB	175.57 15.89 4.76 196.22
PAUL M NICHOLS 12855 SE 64TH AVE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	01-015-4402 SECT- 15 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 CON SW COR NW1/4 TH N1738.73' TO TPOB TH E175.94' N22E-20' S90.08' BELT 100.20' ON TAMP CURVE TH S58.57' E182.12' BELT 100.20' S88.74' TOPOB	3,514.00 316.69 95.22 3,925.91
HOAR T & DEORA S BURKE 417 SE 3RD STREET BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	01-021-2302 SECT- 21 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 CON SE COR NW1/2 SW1/4 N610.88' PT BEG W502' N1188' E502' N1188' TO BEG	144.00 38.00 4.05 186.05
SUMMIT TOWNSHIP		
TODD L LARSON 1444 SE 126TH ST BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	02-014-3401 SECT- 14 TWP- 105 RNG- 20 E1/2 OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4	2,408.00 67.73 2,796.73
BERLIN TOWNSHIP		
MICHAEL O JOHNSON 11376 SW 62ND AVE ELLENDALE MN 56026	01-003-2100 SECT- 03 TWP- 105 RNG- 21 ALL THAT PT OF NW1/4 SEC14 DESC AS: BEG AS BEG COR OF SW1/4 TH N141.55' W897.15' N1158.17' S897.13' TO POB	2,546.00 223.69 56.74 2,826.42
NORMAN L & LINDSEY N BRAGGIER 13925 52ND AVE SW ELLENDALE MN 56026	01-024-4403 SECT- 24 TWP- 105 RNG- 21 CON NW COR NW1/4 S440' TO PT OF BEG E511' S299' W511' N299'	792.00 119.00 22.28 933.28
BALLY BOOTH 29 N BEVERLY LAKE RD NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	01-100-0113 SECT- 16 TWP- 105 RNG- 21 LAKE SHORE LOT 16 & 14 BEVERLY LAKE NORTH SHORE COTTAGE GROUNDS	2,302.00 181.14 61.58 2,544.72
AURORA TOWNSHIP		
MARK A KEVIN FREESTGARD 5905 AUDWIN ROAD OWATONNA MN 55060	04-009-4000 SECT- 09 TWP- 106 RNG- 19 N1/2 OF NW1/4 & NW1/4 OF NW1/4 & N1/2 OF N1/2 OF NW1/4 & NW1/4 COR 100' W OF NW COR TH N637.41' S478.37' S637.41' NORTH TH WEST 41' S478.37' S637.41' N478.37' TO BEG	3,492.00 229.52 92.54 3,814.06
BRIAN R & SARAH M CREZANO 8589 HWY 218 BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	04-021-2401 SECT- 21 TWP- 106 RNG- 19 ALL TH PT OF SW1/4 AND NW1/4 SEC14 DESC BE CON SW COR SW1/4 TH N1130.13' TO SE COR OF NW1/4 SW1/4 ADJ POB TH W27.29' TO RELY ROAD LN RS TH UNCLD 505.07' ON RELY ROAD LN RHS TH E1121.30' S718.28' W676.70' TO PT CON ELY ROAD LN RS TH HWY 201 BE	2,690.66 241.43 14.80 3,004.89
SOMERSET TOWNSHIP		
PHILLIP H & SIDNIE I BRAKE 9653 CHANE CREEK ROAD WASECA MN 56093	05-011-2207 SECT- 16 TWP- 106 RNG- 20 ALL THAT PART OF SW1/4 SEC14 COR AT SW COR OF SW1/4 TH E57.08' TO POB TH S475.70' N144.64' BELT970.38' N724.92' N137.07' BELT984.49' TH SW1458.40' ON HOFFMANS CURVE TH S218.58' SW1/2 SEC14 ON CONTING	386.00 59.88 10.42 447.30
JOHN L & LISA L TUCKER 6969 SW 22ND AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	05-016-4100 SECT- 16 TWP- 106 RNG- 20 E 60 ACRES OF N1/2 OF NW1/4 EXCEPT COR 120.5' W & 37.8' OF NW COR N1/2 OF NW1/4 S244.5' W242' N124.5' S242' TO COR PT	1,598.00 147.84 43.15 1,788.99
JOHN L TUCKER 6969 SW 22ND AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	05-016-4402 SECT- 16 TWP- 106 RNG- 20 CON S28' W AND 165' E OF SW COR N1/2 OF NW1/4 TH E200' E200' N200' W200' TO BEG	1,400.00 132.00 57.80 1,589.80
JOHN L TUCKER 6969 SW 22ND AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	05-016-4404 SECT- 16 TWP- 106 RNG- 20 N1/2 OF NW1/4 EXCEPT E 60 ACRES EXCEPT CON SW COR TH W528' S365' S200' W200' S322' S165' TO BEG EXCEPT CON NW COR TH S330' S265' W330' N265' TO BEG	490.00 51.91 13.23 562.43
LEMOND TOWNSHIP		
JANET VANDENHEMEL 5303 NW 48TH ST OWATONNA MN 55060	06-002-1101 SECT- 16 TWP- 106 RNG- 21 CON AT PT ON N LN OF SEC AT TWP WTH CORN LN OF LEMOND NW TH UNCLD 40' CUTE LN OF LEMOND RD 200' W214' HELY & PAR WWW.GOE.CM TO BEG	1,882.00 179.97 61.01 2,112.02
NORMAN W BOHRA 8333 SW 62ND AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	06-011-3102 SECT- 11 TWP- 106 RNG- 20 CON AT THE NW COR OF SW1/4 TH S266.58' TO POB S373.63' N182.63' TO CUP LN SW 62ND AVE HELY 330.73' E311.04' S226.58' E817' TO POB	2,664.00 231.12 73.93 2,969.05
J-LARRY BOHRA ST AL 6333 SW 62ND AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	06-024-4301 SECT- 24 TWP- 106 RNG- 21 ALL THAT PART OF NW1/4 SEC14 DESC ADJ COR AS BEG COR OF NW1/4 TH E713.38' TO POB TH S482.97' E217.36' BELT9280.46' W58.43' S398.15' N141.87' TO POB	779.00 74.53 25.84 874.37
OWATONNA TOWNSHIP		
DEWILL J WANDREY 505 CHURCH STREET DETAHL TX 75559	08-013-1301 SECT- 13 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 ALL TH PT OF THE SW1/4 DESCRIBED BY BEG AS BEG COR OF NW1/4 TH N713.51' E1037.99' E713.51' W1037.99' TO BEG	2,732.00 361.90 21.17 3,170.34
JOHN O JOHNSON 49279 SPORTSMAN LANE HATFIELD MN 56096	08-034-3402 SECT- 34 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 S1/2 OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4 EX W. 600'	756.00 110.72 21.17 887.89
MEDFORD TOWNSHIP		
COMPLEX 4079 SPORTSMAN LANE HATFIELD MN 56096	11-005-1103 SECT- 05 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 S 709.9' E OF N1/2 OF NW1/4 SEC. 5 LYING E OF STEELE COUNTY HWY # 45 & W OF CHIC., HEL., ST. PAUL RR R/W.	2,426.00 322.25 68.23 2,817.48
DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP		
BENJAMIN P HUNT 6844 NW 46TH ST OWATONNA MN 55060	13-022-3200 SECT- 22 TWP- 108 RNG- 21 S1/2 OF SW1/4	1,908.00 172.44 63.62 2,132.16
BLOOMING PRAIRIE CITY		
R MARK & KARRI EROWN 204 WALSH ST E BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-025-1108 SECT- 25 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 CON AT SE COR OF NW1/4 TH N1585.75' N450.17' TO POB TH W124.70' S105.9' W174.18' TO RS TH UNCLD 9.18' N1585.75' BELT 115.28' E100.36' S30' TO POB	456.00 77.00 22.83 545.83
R MARK & KARRI EROWN 204 WALSH ST E BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-025-1187 SECT- 25 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 CON AT SE COR OF NW1/4 TH N1585.75' N450.16' TO POB TH W124.70' S105.9' W174.18' TO RS TH UNCLD 9.18' N1585.75' BELT 115.28' E100.36' S30' TO POB	170.00 41.28 4.78 216.06
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 814 CENTER AVE W BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-025-4023 SECT- 25 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 CON 314' W OF INT OF E SIDE 3RD ST NW & W SIDE 2ND AVE NW TH N90' N180' E90' S90' TO PT OF BEG & ALSO CON 140' E OF SW COR L 23 HAUSEN S ADJ N360' S80' W360' S90' TO PT OF VACATED A PORTION OF 2ND AVE NW	248.00 51.00 6.98 305.98
COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH 814 CENTER AVE W BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-025-4024 SECT- 25 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 CON 170' W OF INT OF E SIDE 3RD ST NW & W SIDE OF 2ND AVE NW TH N TO PT 150' E OF 4TH ST NW TH MEMORIAL DR E TO PT 170' W OF INT OF 3RD ST NW & MEMORIAL DR TH E VACATED A PORTION OF 2ND AVE NW	422.00 32.75 11.87 506.62
COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH 814 CENTER AVE W BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-025-4025 SECT- 25 TWP- 105 RNG- 19 CON 120' E OF PT WHERE E SIDE OF 4TH ST CROSSESS W SIDE MEMORIAL DR TH E440' N170' W440' S170' TO PT OF BEG AND ALSO VACATED VACATED A PORTION OF 2ND AVE NW	506.00 43.25 14.23 603.46
NATHAN T BARLF 71164 220TH AVE HATFIELD MN 55940	14-103-0201 BLK 2 LOTS 1 & 2 EXCEPT THE S80' BRAINERS ADJ	154.00 36.94 4.27 195.21
WENDEY TO GLENN 335 1ST AVE SE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-103-0103 BLK 3 LOT 2 SUBDIV BLK 3 BRAINERS	4.91 1.51 1.13 8.57
DEANAH KASHOUSER 13 N 1ST STREET PO BOX 486 BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-103-0509 BLK 5 BRAINERS ADD. LOTS 9 & 10	400.00 48.00 10.70 458.70
BRUCE ERATH 413 5TH AVE SE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-103-0912 BRAINERS BLK 9 BRAINERS ADD. LOT 12 BL PAR VILL	656.00 15.16 17.79 749.55
GREGORY M & JENNIFER F NIRE 340 1ST AVE NW BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-104-0102 BELL & MEERANS BLK 1 N1/2 OF L 1 & N1/2 OF L 2 BELL & MEERANS	713.00 59.91 19.97 801.98
JEFFREY R PETERSON 318 2ND ST SE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-105-0116 OLSON BLK-1 OLSON LOT 16	770.00 85.45 15.89 871.34
ERICA M BOEYER 134 1ST STREET SW BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-107-0108 VIRTUES BLK-1 VIRTUES LOT 8	471.00 52.87 12.60 536.57
PATSY ANDREE 120 1ST ST SW BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	14-107-0110 VIRTUES BLK-1 VIRTUES LOT 10	529.00 78.19 14.48 621.67
MAGIC MEDIA REAL ESTATE, LLC PO BOX 743 DUNCAN SC 29334	14-109-0711 CLARE BLK 7 LOT 11 & LOT 12 EX STATE OF MN HWY #218 CLARE S ADDJ	444.00 75.80 12.49 531.99
ELLENDALE CITY		
PETER HERNANDEZ JR 11114 AVE ELLENDALE MN 56026	15-101-1404 CON AT NW ADDITION BLK 14 LOT 4 & 5 PERRY RAILWAY ADDJ	1,076.00 90.11 29.19 1,216.65
MEDFORD CITY		
AGRICULTURE PO BOX 350 MEDFORD MN 55049	16-008-2012 SECT- 08 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 CON SE COR S 141.74' E 103' S 264.17' TO PT ON CNTR LN PRAG, ST BELT EXTEN. SEIM, TH UNCLD. TH S 40.8' E 14.74' TO BEG	2,877.44 369.41 40.87 3,387.72
DEAN D & VALERIE J KLEIN 116 NW 1ST STREET MEDFORD MN 55049	16-101-0805 JOHNSON & COMPANY BLK 9 JOHNSON & CO. ADD. LOTS 5-6-7-8-9-10	1,600.00 160.25 146.76 1,856.01
SCOTT W & BRENDA A AHLGREN C/O LUCAS AHLGREN 124 NW 1ST STREET MEDFORD MN 55049	16-101-0811 JOHNSON & COMPANY BLK 8 W37' OF LOTS 11 & 12 JOHNSON AND COMPANY S ADDJ	1,412.00 136.50 19.71 1,648.21
OWATONNA CITY		
STEVEN R & TAMRA L ARNOLD 1675 WOODCREST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-002-2104 SECT- 02 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 CON AT PT N1038.42' E & 390' S OF NW COR OF S1/2 OF SW1/4 & TH E314' N110' W204' N110' TO BEG OWATONNA TOWNSHIP	1,489.00 124.23 39.83 1,653.06
JOSHUA JERO 934 MINERAL OP RD NE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-002-3304 SECT- 02 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 CON INT W SIDE RD AND LN SEC 2, HELY AGL RD 12N, UNCLD 145' TO W LN SEC 2, & ALSO SEC LN 18.58' TO BEG EX CON INT E LN SEC 3 AND W LN EXH UNCLD RD. H ALSO SEC LN 218, NW 8, AND LN NW 818 RD SEC LN 218, NW 8, ... STATION NW 818 RD, UNCLD 145' TO BEG	667.00 93.37 18.51 778.88
CAROLE R BOYLES 728 N OAK OWATONNA MN 55060	17-009-1206 SECT- 09 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 CON PT ON N LN OF SW1/4 OF NW1/4 WHERE INTERS W LN OF SW1/4 OF NW1/4 TH E & W R/W LN BELT CROOKER & PARKER SEC ADDJ S ALSO W LN OF OAK OF S7.25' TO BEG S44.75' W 50' STR NW ALD RV TO PT W OF PL OF BEG TH E TOW OF BEG	508.00 55.56 13.58 577.15
MACHELLE DRIVDAHL 546 E MAIN STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	17-010-2307 SECT- 10 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 CON. 2 R. S. & 308 E. OF SW1/4 OF SW1/4 & & E 61/28 X E & W 4 R.	1,866.00 178.61 50.62 2,095.23
GEFFY FEFFER & TAMMY GUN 2107 1ST AVE SE AUSTIN MN 55912	17-010-4202 SECT- 10 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 CON AT PT 187' E OF SW COR OF DUBOIS' 2 LOT 5 & 8 TH SW1/4 OF NW1/4 TH E & W R/W LN HELY AGL R/W TO PT 102.36' W OF PT 227.54' W OF SW COR OF NW1/4 TH S102.36' TH W TO TRUE PT OF BEG	1,764.00 240.80 18.51 2,024.11
KURT ANDERSON 416 PHELPS ST E OWATONNA MN 55060	17-015-4107 SECT- 15 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 W 80' OF S.108. OF N.208. OF W1/2 OF E1/4 OF NW1/4	61.80 24.33 1.65 74.78
JOSHUA J BRANDS & CHRISTOPHER HERRER 800 SW PAULINE AVE FAIRBANKS MN 55021	17-019-4409 SECT- 19 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 TH W1/2 OF THE FOLLOWING CON AT THE NW COR OF S242 1/2' OF S213 SW1/4 ADJ PT BEING IN CTR OF OAK ST TH E329.5' TO PT 20 RODS W OF E LN OF SAID LOT S60' W329.5' TO CTR OF OAK ST TH TO BEG	4,476.00 332.00 70.20 2,898.20

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tough stretch for NRHEG as it drops 2

BY ALEX NUEHRING

SPORTS WRITER

After a close 65-56 loss to Hayfield, one of the best teams in the Gopher Conference, the schedule didn't get any easier for the new Richland-Hartland-Elkdale-Geneva girls basketball team as they faced the 8-7 Waseca Bluejays and the 14-3 Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (W-E-M) Buccaneers. Despite their best efforts, the Panthers were unable to pull off an upset in either game, losing 69-45 to Waseca on Thursday, March 11, and 86-48 to W-E-M on Friday, March 12.

Against Waseca, NRHEG Head Coach Onika Peterson was very happy with how the

Panthers played in the first half.

"We played one of our best halves of basketball in our first half. We competed on one of the top teams in the sub-section," she said.

Thanks to their strong first half, the Panthers trailed by just four points, 32-28, at halftime.

However, neither NRHEG's offense nor its defense was able to play as well in the second half as it did in the first half.

"Second half we struggled spreading out offense and making a basket. Waseca has a couple of tough and tall inside players. The goal was to keep them from dominating inside but Waseca had a couple

girls hit some big outside shots," Peterson said.

With the help of its shooters and post players, the Bluejays scored 37 points in the second half.

Meanwhile, Waseca's defense plus NRHEG's offensive struggles limited the Panthers to just 17 second-half points so the Bluejays ended up winning 69-45.

With this loss, the Panthers' overall record falls to 5-12.

NRHEG statistics: Faith Nielsen - 17 points, 3 rebounds and 1 steal, Erin Jacobson - 13 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal and 3 assists, Rhys Martin - 6 points and 1 rebound, Sidney Schultz - 5 points, 6 rebounds and 2 steals, Kendall Johnson

- 3 points, 7 rebounds and 1 steal and Hallie Schultz - 1 point, 2 rebounds and 1 steal.

Even tougher The next night, the Panthers got another chance to right the ship before the playoffs started, but this opponent, the 14-5 WEM Buccaneers, was even tougher than Waseca.

Peterson mentioned that the Buccaneers are as good as advertised.

"There is a reason why WEM won the Gopher Conference - they are a great, athletic team. They attacked the basket well and hit 12 three-pointers on us," she said.

In addition to the Buccaneers' strong offense, she noted that the Pan-

thers struggled on both ends of the court.

"We struggled with communicating on defense and moving the ball effectively on offense," she said.

At halftime, the Buccaneers led 48-24.

WEM didn't score as many points in the second half, but it was still more than enough to beat NRHEG.

The Buccaneers ended up winning 86-43.

With this loss, the Panthers' regular season overall record is 5-13.

Peterson is grateful the Panthers get a few practice days before their first playoff game.

"We get a couple days to prepare for our rematch with Fairmont on Wednesday," she said.

The Panthers go on the road to face Fairmont in the first round of the playoffs at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Earlier this season, the Fairmont Cardinals beat NRHEG 59-47.

NRHEG statistics: Sidney Schultz - 11 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal and 2 assists.

Sophie Stork - 10 points, 5 rebounds and 2 assists, Erin Jacobson - 5 points, 9 rebounds and 1 steal, Hallie Schultz - 5 points, 8 rebounds and 2 steals, Faith Nielsen - 5 points and 1 rebound, Kendall Johnson - 4 points and 4 rebounds, Andy Briggs - 3 points, 1 rebound and 3 steals, Sarah George - 1 rebound, Rhys Martin - 1 rebound and Cassidy Martin - 1 rebound.

STEELE COUNTY DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE 2020

NAME OF OWNER	DESCRIPTION	TAX PENALTY INTEREST TOTAL	NAME OF OWNER	DESCRIPTION	TAX PENALTY INTEREST TOTAL
OWATONNA CITY			OWATONNA CITY		
VYMAN D JENSEN 149 W HOLLY ST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-016-0034 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RUG- 20 REG TWP 16 HOLLY ST & S OAK AVE, E88', S 150' FROM CTR HOLLY, N TO E LN OAK, NE1/4 E LN OAK TO REG	1,392.00 138.32 37.76 1,568.08	CURTIS L CHRISTIANSON & SHELIA A 535 ARLAN AVENUE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-317-0319 RADEL'S COUNTRY CLUB BLK 3 LOT 9 TORRENS PROPERTY	1,181.00 102.67 31.59 1,315.26
MARY K KAPLAN 222 W HOLINBY OWATONNA MN 55060	17-016-0054 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RUG- 20 CON. LIR. W. OF INTER. N. LINE SCHIELE ST. & N. LINE OAK ST. N. SE- N. 48- S. 18- E. 48 TO REG.	844.00 79.78 22.58 946.36	PERRY J HERMANDEZ 815 NE 22ND ST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-319-0102 BURSH # 2 BLK 1 LOT 2 HURSH ADDN #2	2,280.00 212.80 61.85 2,554.65
CAREY G CONNOR 1250 SUNNYDALE PL SE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-100-1505 ORIGINAL TOWN BLK 10 E26' OF L3 & W23' 9" OF LOT 4	1,332.00 166.52 36.96 1,535.48	TIFFANY M VAN RIVER 1420 N CEDAR AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-302-0101 ELANCHER E120 LOT 1 BLK 1 ELANCHER ADDITION	1,280.00 243.00 56.86 2,079.86
SCOTT & HANCI STODARD 12240 180TH ST W LAKESVILLE MN 55044	17-100-2117 ORIGINAL TOWN BLK 21 ALL THAT PART OF LOTS 15 & 16 REG AT THE NE COR LOT 15 THENCE N77.40' S156.76' E77.98' TO E LINE OF LOT 15 THENCE N 56.78' TO REG ORIGINAL TOWN	129.50 33.81 3.48 162.79	JAMES L WARHUS 1805 ARDITH RD OWATONNA MN 55060	17-438-0101 LANHAM BLK 1 LOT 1 LANAM ADDN	1,246.00 107.22 31.33 1,384.55
FREDERIK NOLLESTROM 215 ROSE ST E OWATONNA MN 55060	17-100-2118 ORIGINAL TOWN BLK 20 E26' OF L3 & W23' 9" OF LOT 4	854.00 113.94 23.70 991.64	SACHARY K STEIN & CHERIE LYNN VAMOUILLER 320 JENNY LAKE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-448-0101 FURNER # 2 BLK 1 LOT 1 AND UNDIVIDED 1/4 INTEREST IN OUTLOT A & B	2,484.00 231.14 67.38 2,782.52
JOSHUA J KENKE & CHRISTINE HENNE 800 ST PAUL AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-100-2310 ORIGINAL TOWN BLK 21 E26' OF L3 & W23' 9" OF LOT 4	2,358.00 314.75 66.32 2,739.07	RICHARD D & DEBORAH K CULVER 219 ARLAN AVE SW OWATONNA MN 55060	17-461-0103 BLK 1 LOT 3 WESTWOOD ADDITION	1,123.00 98.61 30.04 1,251.65
KIRSTEN BERGQUIST 222 PHILIPS ST E OWATONNA MN 55060	17-101-0020 PHILIPS ADDITION BLK 2 N 58' OF LOT 8 & E 38' OF LOT 9 PHILIPS	948.00 24.28 16.56 1,088.59	OWATONNA HOSPITALITY, LLC C/O HOLLYMAN INN OWATONNA 220 SOUTH BROADWAY ROCHESTER MN 55904	17-509-0102 SECT- 29 TWP- 108 RUG- 20 THREE CORNERS ADDN #2	238,454.00 9,856.75 6,106.52 254,367.27
KEHLE KUBERSH & JAN LEE HAN 725 CEDAR AVE E OWATONNA MN 55060	17-101-0518 PHILIPS ADDITION BLK 5 N 58' OF LOT 10 PHILIPS	3.77 10 4.45	DINESHVARAN PATEL & REKHADEV PATEL & VISHAL & RITAL PATEL RT 1 BOX 38AA TYRONNE OK 73951	17-509-0103 SECT- 29 TWP- 108 RUG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 3 THREE CORNERS ADDN #2	2,502.00 332.75 2,905.12
SORENSEN SOLUTIONS LLC 1713 NE 45TH ST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-101-0802 PHILIPS ADDITION BLK 8 N 58' OF LOT 1 PHILIPS	2,816.00 24.28 78.50 2,918.78	DINESHVARAN PATEL & REKHADEV PATEL & VISHAL & RITAL PATEL RT 1 BOX 38AA TYRONNE OK 73951	17-509-0104 SECT- 29 TWP- 108 RUG- 20 BLK 1 LOT 4 THREE CORNERS ADDN #2	658.00 102.25 18.51 778.76
J-DELCHERBORER PROPERTIES LLC 15580 DAILE AVE PAINESVILLE MN 55021	17-101-1011 PHILIPS ADDITION BLK 10 CON 158 W OF NE COR BLK 10 W 48', S 88', E 48', N 88', TO REG CON 158 W SE COR LOT 2, S 48', W 48', E 48', TO REG	2,390.00 223.15 64.63 2,677.78	EILEEN M FINDLAY 101 21ST ST SE - STE 1 AUSTIN MN 55912	17-511-0018 SECT-11 TWP-107 RUG-20 UNIT 8 CARRIAGE HOMES OF WALNUT CREEK	1,055.00 53.85 1.58 1,110.43
DALE J KOTRZE 127 SOUTH STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	17-101-1011 PHILIPS ADDITION BLK 10 CON 158 W OF NE COR BLK 10 W 48', S 88', E 48', N 88', TO REG CON 158 W SE COR LOT 2, S 48', W 48', E 48', TO REG	2,390.00 223.15 64.63 2,677.78	JEFFREY DOUGLAS BURETT 1219 BAVARIA ROAD OWATONNA MN 55060	17-544-0106 SECT-14 TWP-107 RUG-20 BLOCK 1 LOT 6 & 1/2 OF LOT 5 HAMMATT ADDITION	93.26 7.69 2.49 103.44
BROCKE G BULVER 441 E BOWEN ST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-101-1213 PHILIPS ADDITION BLK 12 N 58' OF N 1/2 OF LOT 2 EX E S 1/2 PHILIPS	1,680.00 230.00 47.25 1,957.25	CAREY G CONNOR 1250 SUNNYDALE PL SE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-602-0102 SECT-14 TWP-107 RUG-20 BLK 1 LOT 2 MEADOWLANDS NO 9	2,082.45 55.71 2,303.93
CAREY G CONNOR 1250 SUNNYDALE PL SE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-104-0327 BLK 3 LOTS 27-28-29-30 PETTITS	1,172.42 148.97 32.53 1,353.92			
SAIROS LLC 11255 LAKWOOD CIRCLE DOER FRANKIE MN 55344	17-104-0401 PETTITS BLK 4 LOT 1 & THE W23' OF LOT 2 EX THE S56.50' OF LOT 1 & EX NW S56.50' OF THE W23' OF LOT 2 PETTITS ADDN	2,698.00 357.25 70.88 3,131.13			
JEFF PEPPER & DANIEL 1107 15TH AVE SE OWATONNA MN 55912	17-104-0404 PETTITS BLK 4 LOT 4 EX E 19' & E 2/3 OF LOT 3 PETTITS	2,122.00 286.25 59.68 2,466.93			
JAMES A & RITA A BERHING 135 N FINE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-122-0509 DARTS BLK 5 LOT 8 & N 1/2 ROD LOT 9 DARTS	1,874.00 153.19 42.49 1,779.68			
TIMOTHY N RILEY 414 CHESTNUT AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-123-4103 BIGELOW BLK 1 LOT 3 BIGELOW	865.00 80.55 25.16 968.69			
JOSHUA J KENKE & CHRISTINE HENNE 800 ST PAUL AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-125-0402 KNEELAND & SUBDIVISION OF BLK 2 BLK 4 E1/2 OF LOT 1 KNEELAND	1,632.00 224.00 45.90 1,901.90			
SENE B & TANNY J NERAD 560 MOHND STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	17-127-0113 O'BRIEN BLK 1 S 8 3/4' OF W 82 1/2' OF LOTS 10411	1,837.06 170.40 48.73 2,057.39			
HERBERT J & DARLENE M KURKE 639 LARCH OWATONNA MN 55060	17-128-0704 DARTS # 2 BLK 7 LOT 4 DARTS 2ND	978.00 88.46 26.14 1,092.62			
JOE KROGOSKI 146 VIA CRESTA HERNDON PARK CA 91320	17-132-0404 BELMONT BLK 4 LOT 4 BELMONT	835.00 111.85 23.17 970.02			
SYDNEY BERNIE & MARTIN STONE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-132-0523 BELMONT BLK 5 LOTS 23 & 24 BELMONT	682.00 57.74 18.24 767.98			
VERLE K & ADELA SPONGS 254 LARCH ST OWATONNA MN 55060	17-132-0615 BELMONT BLK 6 LOT 15 BELMONT	580.00 69.30 15.13 665.03			
O-SHRELEY N SCHLEIF ET AL 10450 241ST STREET CHICAGO CITY MO 65013	17-172-0103 HANN BLK 1 LOT 3 HANN	574.00 60.18 15.35 649.53			
ASHLEY N VON RUDEN & RICHARD VON RUDEN 724 NE 17TH STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	17-175-0110 NORTHERN'S SUNRISE BLK 1 LOT 10 NORTHERN'S SUNRISE	2,040.00 193.40 55.44 2,288.74			
JOEL L KUCK & HARVEY J PHILLIPS 710 12TH ST SE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-175-0208 NORTHERN'S SUNRISE BLK 2 LOT 8 TORRENS PROPERTY	2,342.00 219.07 53.53 2,614.60			
SHELIA A SMITH FLEMING C/O DAVID B SCHLOBOHM 4864 DE 14TH AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-193-0110 BLK 1 LOT 10 HARVYN HEIDE ADD TORRENS PROPERTY	1,242.00 156.42 34.47 1,432.89			
O-DAVID B SCHLOBOHM 4864 DE 14TH AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-265-0002 RADEL'S COUNTRY CLUB BLK 3 LOT 9 TORRENS PROPERTY	48.00 24.38 73.38			
ANDREW R & JULIA A FORTI 472 GLENDALE STREET OWATONNA MN 55060	17-285-0407 WERNER # 3 BLK 4 LOT 7 TORRENS PROPERTY	1,714.00 139.98 45.85 1,899.83			
STUART W & DIANE M BORLEMAN 2200 W 3RD AVE OWATONNA MN 55060	17-285-0407 WERNER # 3 BLK 4 LOT 7 TORRENS PROPERTY	1,714.00 139.98 45.85 1,899.83			
STUART W & DIANE M BORLEMAN 2200 W 3RD AVE FAIRMONT MN 56031	17-285-0407 WERNER # 3 BLK 4 LOT 7 TORRENS PROPERTY	1,714.00 139.98 45.85 1,899.83			

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

COUNTY OF STEELE) ss

Laura Ihke, being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says that she is the

Auditor for the County of Steele, that she has examined the foregoing list, and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is a correct list of taxes delinquent for the year 2020 upon real estate in said County.

Laura Ihke
Laura Ihke
County Auditor

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 22nd day of January, 2021.

Kathleen Miller
Kathleen Miller
Notary Public



STATE OF MINNESOTA)

COUNTY OF STEELE) ss

Laura Ihke, being the County Auditor of Steele County, being duly sworn on

oath, deposes and says that on the 1st day of February, 2021, she mailed the notice and the pertinent portion of the list of real estate remaining delinquent in Steele County on the first Monday of January, 2021, to those parties named in the pertinent portion of the list by placing a true and correct copy of the pertinent portion of the list in an envelope addressed to them as shown in said list and depositing the same with postage prepaid, in the U.S. Mails at Owatonna, Minnesota.

Laura Ihke
Laura Ihke
County Auditor

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 15th day of February, 2021.

Kathleen Miller
Kathleen Miller
Notary Public



NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 12, 2002

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$75,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin P. Johnson and Kimberly K. Harpel, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Sterling State Bank, Corporation DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 17, 2002 as Document Number A298416, as modified of record by document recorded on May 11, 2016 as Document Number A000407508 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to Ohio Savings Bank by assignment recorded on April 17, 2002 as Document Number A298417 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on February 13, 2006 as Document Number A000339087 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 3 in Dart's Second Addition to the City of Owatonna including any and lying west of the west line of said Lot 13 and east of the east line of the above mentioned land conveyed to the City of Owatonna for a street. Together with the North 24.75 feet of Rice Lake Street that accrued thereto by reason of vacation thereof as contained in Book 125 of Deeds, Pages 483-484, Steele County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 603 E. BROADWAY, OWATONNA, MN 55060-2507

COUNTY IN WHICH

PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$72,652.44

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Sterling State Bank, Corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-129-0313
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt, then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 06, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 6, 2021.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR

ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DIVING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RE-LEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: February 03, 2021

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

"/N. Kibongni Fondungalah, Esq.,
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.,
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-1083-F003)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/10/18

NOTICE

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 2/23/2021

Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website: Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Gnem/Krueger to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
2. Abbe/Krueger to approve the following Consent Agenda items. Ayes all.
- A. Approve the minutes of February 9, 2021
- B. Approve Bills and Journal Entries
- C. Approve Personnel Report
- D. Approve Resolution accepting K-9 Donation of \$250.00
- E. Approve Resolution accepting Public Health Donations
- F. Approve the renewal of the DNR Flood Gauge Maintenance Contract with the Commissioner of Natural Resources
- G. Approve a three-year Lawn Mowing Contract for Parks with BRN Lawn & Landscaping for 2021,

2022 and 2023

H. Approve out-of-state travel to the FBI-LEEDA Executive Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, FL in April for the Sheriff

I. Approve schedule change for November Public Works Committee Meeting to Thursday, November 18 at 7:30 a.m.

J. Approve Resolution of support for Aurora Township Project Grant applications to the Local Road Improvement Program and to Act as Project Sponsor

K. Approve Resolution of support for Havana Township Project Grant applications to the Local Road Improvement Program and to Act as Project Sponsor

L. Approve Resolution of Support for the Medford CSAH 45 Project Grant application to the Local Road Improvement Program

M. Approve Contract with SRF Consulting, Inc. for the Feasibility Study of CR 180 & Mineral Springs Road Railroad Bridges and Authorize a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Owatonna

N. Approve Cooperative Agreement with Waseca County for Shoulder Paving of Steele County CSAH 2 and Waseca County CSAH 14

O. Approve training for Land Records office employees with the use of the Compliance Funds providing up to \$3,000 towards the cost

P. Approve backfilling of a Human Resources Generalist Position

Q. Approve backfilling of a Maintenance Worker Position

3. Abbe/Gnem/Krueger to approve the ISG proposal for the Courthouse Boiler Replacement & the Air Handler Project Design in the amount of \$94,000. Ayes all.

4. Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Gnem/Krueger, to approve entering into a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Owatonna and ISD 761 (Owatonna School District) for the construction of a roundabout at Bixby Road (CSAH 48) and SE 18th Street and approve a contract with WSS for design of the roundabout in the amount of \$161,194. Ayes all.

5. Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Gnem/Krueger, to approve the Fish & Wildlife Fund Allocation in the amounts of \$2,220 to the ditch fund and \$53,280 to be restricted to the General Fund. Ayes all.
6. Regional Director Scott Roemhildt, Lands and Minerals Project Coordinator for SW MN Ben Schaefer and Regional Planner for SW MN Catherine Fouchi gave a DNR Presentation.

LISTING OF BILLS 02/23/2021

Cannon River Watershed Jt Powers Board	\$ 5,000.00
Cen Tec Cast Metal Products	2,567.82
Community Co-op Oil Assn	15,973.21
Compass Minerals America	30,183.75
Courties Providing Technology	4,191.00
CRK Properties LLC	6,755.01
Dash Medical Gloves	2,179.00
Freeborn County Auditor-Treas	3,466.39
Hillyard-Hutchinson	2,020.79
Howeell Inc	2,200.55
ICS Consulting Inc	125,739.00
JR's Advanced Recyclers Inc	7,031.50
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	2,633.18
Kronos Incorporated	3,779.22
Matrix Communications Inc	3,013.84
Moore Mid/Kellyanna J	3,536.33
Negen's Investigative Services	3,701.34
Owatonna Groundmasters Inc	19,603.70
Relias Learning LLC	5,990.03
Schwickert's Tecta America LLC	10,989.13
Steele County Treasurer	6,358.25
Summit Food Services LLC	7,542.11
Thomson Reuters - West	2,296.87
Waseca County Auditor - Treasurer	92,487.94
Waste Management of WI-Mn	52,379.73
WatchGuard Video	5,220.00
Wold Architects and Engineers	6,219.65
Ziegler, Inc	2,083.15
92 Payments Less than	\$2,000.35
92 Payments Less than	\$2,000.35
Final Total	\$ 470,701.81

7. Motion by Commissioner Gnem/Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Abbe to adjourn at 5:36 p.m. Ayes all.

NOTICE

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customer to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 4709 W 96th St Indianapolis IN 46268 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S): Dickinson Fleet Services, LLC
Address: 4709 W 96th St Indianapolis IN 46268 USA

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required steps, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: David Henchon, Chief Financial Officer
MAILING ADDRESS: None provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICE: dhenchon@dickinsonfleet-services.com

WORK ITEM 122169300022 ORIGINAL FILE NUMBER 122169300022 STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED 03/03/2021 11:59 PM /s/ Steve Simon Secretary of State

317,324

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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shanon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
We have had a lot of flooding in our area due to heavy rain after a record cold and snow. I drive a 2010 Chevy Cobalt and it is extremely low to the ground with the lowering kit I installed on it. Last week I was driving home, and I ran into a flooded area and since no one reading this will know it was me, hopefully, I thought I would be cool and see how fast I could go and make a huge spray of water up on the side of the road. Well, the car made it about 100 feet and suddenly died. The engine would not turn over. I had a buddy to it home and we found water in the air filter, so we drained it and had to pull the spark plugs and get the water out. Since then, the car has a mis on one plug that will not fire but it is sparking and is dry now. What is going on.

Greg in Kilgore Texas

Driving a car into water is never a good idea. Sometimes the road may be washed out underneath or it can get sucked up into the engine or maybe something is on the road you cannot see. Never a good idea. Never. So, your problem. When water gets into and engine it can bend rods. Since you have spark the next step is to check compression for loss.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
My car seems to be possessed. I have a 2015 Chevrolet Impala with over 200k miles, and it runs perfect other than that sometimes the doors will lock when I start the car without pushing any buttons and when the outside temp gets below 10 degrees it sometimes starts itself and runs for about 20 minutes then shuts off. I have had it at a local shop three times for the starting issue and they cannot find it but never have seen it. This has happened at least five times in the past year. My car does not have a remote start so it cannot be that. I have owned it for three years and this year is the first time it has done this.

Michelle in Fergus Falls Minnesota

Dear Michelle,

Yes, your car may be possessed, by the remote start ghost. The only way a car can start and run by itself for a predetermined amount of time like yours is doing is to be running on a remote start. Since you say that the car runs for twenty minutes, we can rule out the factory remote start because they are limited to ten minutes on a GM car. It must be an aftermarket unit. You may not have a remote for it but if a mechanic checks under the dash under the cover they will likely find one. Have it removed if it is malfunctioning or get it replaced.

Take care, the Motor Medics

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brucefreerksen@gmail.com
West Concord, MN

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Barbie collectible Christmas doll, Angel of Joy 1998. Perfect condition \$50. In Owatonna. Call: 507-451-9391. 3/17/21

NOW OPEN! Dano's Consignment Store, 32 E. Main Street, Dodge Center. Open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Great gift ideas throughout the whole store. Along with vinyl, CDs, DVDs, video games, books, toys, clothes, shoes and more! Plus we carry **Scrupulous Home Beauty & Bath** candles and more. New Specials every week. (Right next to Harold's Club.) 3/17/21

FOR RENT

DODGE CENTER APARTMENT FOR RENT. Two bedrooms includes heat, water, trash, on-site laundry and off-street parking. Available March 1, 2021. \$650/month. Call Aaron at 507-386-6899 3/18/21

STORAGE FOR RENT: Storage-Indoor-Kasson, 10 by 20 ft. \$90 month. 7 by 9 ft. \$60 month. Voice/Text 651-272-7970. 3/18/21

DODGE CENTER RENTAL: Smoke free 2 bd apt open for April. Great location. Minutes from Hwy 14 & Rochester. \$750 p/m + elec. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO 3/18/21

BLOOMING PRAIRIE RENTALS: Smoke free 1 bd apt for 62+ or disabled persons. Rent based on income, all utilities included! 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO 3/18/21

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451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 3/17/21

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NEED CASH? I give free appraisals of your older coins from 1964 and older. I am also looking to buy older coins such as silver dollars, halves, quarters, dimes and Indianhead cents. Please call Ron from Hayfield at 507-477-2427 or 507-259-6460. 2/23/21

WANTED

WANTED: Female service cat or kitty for previous cat owner looking for companionship. Would prefer a kitten up to six-months of age. Must be an indoor kitten. Prefer free kitten, but willing to pay. Call 507-603-1195. 2/22/21

HELP WANTED

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EOE/AFV
3/17/21



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KMS PUBLIC SCHOOLS has FT elementary teaching position available August 2021. Apply online: www.kms.k12.mn.us; or send letter of interest, resume, transcripts, three letters of recommendation to: KMS, Box 168, Kerkhoven, MN 56252

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THE PODCAST SHERIFF



Rose aims to tell the rest of the story of fallen heroes

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

As a long-time public safety warrior, Scott Rose knows firsthand how losing police officers sends ripple effects through police agencies and the communities where they serve. Perhaps even more importantly, he has experienced how it leaves devastating emotional scars on the surviving families.

Rose has worked directly with fallen officers' families and agencies over the years. In dealing with those families, he often learned more details about the heroes tragically killed in the line of duty.

And he felt something was missing.

The rest of the story, Rose said, wasn't being told.

To allow people to get to know and learn about the fallen officers and the era in which they served, Rose created the Officer Down Memorial Podcast. He began producing audio podcasts last November in his home studio, which resembles a broadcast booth similar to what's found at radio stations.

"I felt there had to be a better way of sharing their stories," Rose said.

During each episode of Officer Down, Rose shares the stories of how men and women heroically lost their lives in the line of duty. The podcasts are produced in a storytelling format based on input from the men and women who served with them and the families left behind.

They range in length from as short as 8 minutes to 1 hour and 40 minutes. Rose said the older cases are usually shorter because they have limited information.

The former radio broadcaster turned sheriff sets the stage by sharing historical notes from the era, taking listeners back in time and placing them at the incident.

And the stories aren't pretty.

They come with a stern warning that they may contain strong language and violent content, which may not be suitable for children and may upset some listeners. But Rose said he feels compelled to share exactly what happened.

"The mission is to tell the real stories of these men and women and ensure their service and sacrifice are never forgotten," said Rose.

He compiles data from agency reports. Without using his authority as sheriff, Rose makes public data requests for the information just like any other citizen is allowed to do. Older stories dating back to the late 1800s are compiled with data from various history archives, newspapers and agency data.

"I've never done a project that combines both of my professions," said Rose, who began his career in broadcasting and currently moonlights doing voiceovers for commercials around the country.

The project is currently a one-man operation with Rose doing everything, including the research, audio production, editing and hosting. The stories are released every other Friday. He logs in as many as 90 hours into producing a single podcast.

Supporting Families
One of the recent releases involves fallen Police Chief Gregory Lange, who was gunned down during a violent

domestic disturbance near his Claremont home in 1988.

Lange's widow, Sue, has taken a special interest in the podcast and even learned something new after all these years. Rose revealed in the podcast what happened just before Lange took his final breath from Rollie Spriggle, a retired sheriff's investigator with Dodge County.

"The hardest was to learn over 32 years later that Greg had a few moments of consciousness and actually spoke (after being shot)," said Sue Lange. "We didn't know that. Greg's death profoundly affected Rollie."

Sue Lange is appreciative of Rose's efforts with the podcasts.

"Every officer has a story that should be told," she said. "They are more than just a name."

Other families are also enjoying the podcasts, Rose said. "Several families have told me it's no longer taboo to talk about death," he said. "For so long, they stopped talking about it, and now families are talking again about the loved ones they lost."

Historically, Rose said, law enforcement has not been very good in dealing with surviving families of fallen officers. He said the profession is generally good at celebrating the fallen officers when they die and burying them but falls short in the long-term care of surviving families.

"They don't want the sacrifices to be forgotten," Rose said of surviving families. "The biggest fear these families have is that their fallen loved ones will be forgotten. You have to support these families."

Honoring Heroes

The goal of the podcasts, Rose said, "is to honor the fallen heroes, help us remember their service, remind us that we must always support the families they left behind and to never forget their sacrifice."

Rose is intrigued by the stories he has uncovered by tracking fallen officers. Mostly, he is focused on showing how the officers were real people. "They are the same people you see in the grocery store or restaurant," he said. "They are ordinary people that wanted to do extraordinary things to make the community safe."

In Minnesota, the podcasts are being added to the state's memorial website allowing readers to hear the entire story.

There are about 300 Minnesota police officers who have died in the line of duty, including 32 in southeastern Minnesota and four in Dodge County. The Dodge County officers who have died while serving include: Lange, Capt. Loring Quenier of the sheriff's office and Douglas Claassen and Ole Havey of Hayfield Police.

Steele County's only officer killed in the line of duty is Blooming Prairie Police Chief Neil Johnson in 1951. Rose plans to release his podcast in May when fallen officers are remembered as part of National Police Week.

Rose's goal is to do podcasts of all of Minnesota's fallen heroes.

Besides Minnesota stories, Rose is currently working with agencies in Nebraska and Wisconsin. He has been tasked to put together 26 fallen officer stories for the Omaha Police Department.

Parole Assistance

Another mission of the podcasts is to help survivor families and agencies whose fallen officer's killer is up for parole. Rose shares their hero's story, which can be used to educate the entire community and region.

"The goal is education to encourage support of the family and agency," Rose said. And he hopes his podcasts will help encourage the community to get involved and send letters to the state corrections board in support of the fallen officer.

And it appears to be working.

The Robert Lawson story was recently used to help generate hundreds of letters to the Minnesota Department of Corrections to help encourage the board to keep the Itasca County deputy's killer in prison. In that hearing on Jan. 12, an additional 10 years was added to the killer's sentence.

Rose is careful in making sure everything is factual in the podcasts. He recently learned that Minnesota Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell listened to the Lawson podcast before the parole hearing.

Cop killers today are sentenced to life in prison without the opportunity of parole. However, cop killers before 1993 were sentenced under the old law in which they have a chance at parole.

Rose said he didn't know a thing about podcasts before November; "I don't listen to podcasts; I listen to music," he said with a smile.

But now he's producing podcasts and determined to make a difference by honoring the fallen heroes who died protecting others.

OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PODCASTS

Dodge County cases:

- The Greg Lange Story
- The Ole Havey Story
- The Douglas Claassen Story

Steele County case:

- The Neil Johnson Story (released in May)

More details: www.officerdowndownmemorialpodcast.com



ABOUT SHERIFF ROSE

- Grew up in Kasson
- Worked in radio before switching to law enforcement
- Second-term sheriff of Dodge County
- Board member of Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association and Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation of SE Minnesota.

"Every officer has a story that should be told. They are more than just a name."

Sue Lange
Fallen Officer's Widow