



Steele County proposes 50-50 partnership on jail

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Steele County Commissioners met in a special session Monday to hammer out details of a jail collaboration proposal they called a "once in a lifetime opportunity" for both Rice and Steele counties.

A week earlier, the two boards met, and Rice County officials said they needed specifics to determine whether it's better to move forward with plans to construct a new jail. Built in 2003, Steele County's Detention

Center is valued at a little more than \$14 million. During Monday's meeting, Steele County commissioners said they are prepared to sell half of the detention center's assets to Rice County and enter into a Joint Powers Agreement to form a regional jail authority. That would allow the two

counties to own and operate the regional jail on a 50-50 basis, including transportation costs. The bottom line is that a shared regional jail operation would save taxpayers in both Rice and Steele counties, several commissioners said. Last year, it cost Steele County taxpayers

\$3.6 million to run the detention center. Steele County's jail population is expected to remain flat through 2045. A recent study projected that the county will need just under half of its 138-bed operational capacity established by the Department of Corrections.

The Steele County Board authorized Commissioner Jim Abbe and County Administrator Scott Golberg to present the proposal as a starting point to Rice County commissioners on Tuesday. The cost of building a new jail in Rice County is projected to be a little more than \$49 million.

COVID-19 case causes about 50 BP students to quarantine

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

A family-related positive COVID-19 case the weekend of April 17-18 and subsequent contact tracing caused about 50 Bloomington High School students to quarantine for 14 days and the varsity and junior varsity baseball teams to shut down their seasons through Friday, April 30.

"Any time you go back two days and they were in classrooms, you have to account for that. So, when our students are spaced 3-feet apart, you're looking at those kids who are sitting right around them and having to quarantine them," said Superintendent Chris Staloch. "I will tell you that that's the worst decision that we have to make because you're putting kids on distance learning and it's unfortunate. We debated it back and forth for a long time

about how to handle it. We did contact MDH [Minnesota Department of Health], and they really were very forceful about you need to do this."

Despite the health department being firm in its determination, Activities Director Alison Mach said it was still hard to inform students that they had to quarantine and return to distance learning.

"We obviously want our students to be able to participate in our activities and be in our school building each day. It is our responsibility to make the best possible decisions for the health and safety of all our students. These decisions are not made without a tremendous amount of thought and discussion," she said.

Even if the quarantining students got tested for COVID-19 and the results came back negative, Staloch said that they'd all still need to engage in See COVID-19 on A11 ▶



Two molding machines are expected to be moved from Minimizer's Bloomington building later this week or early next week, completing the company's move to Owatonna. Above, workers move one of Minimizer's manufacturing machines to the new building earlier this month.

Minimizer's move to Owatonna nearly complete

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Two employees, two molding machines and one robot.

That's all that currently remains at Minimizer's three buildings in Bloomington, home to the company since its inception in 1984. Eighteen months after breaking ground in Owatonna, the High

Bar Brands company is operational and just about fully moved into its new facility. The remaining equipment and employees will be moved to Owatonna the week of May 3.

Minimizer began shipping products from its new facility in early March.

When Minimizer CEO Christopher Thorpe announced plans to move from Bloomington

Prairie to Owatonna in 2019, he said: "We are simply out of room in Bloomington and need more efficient space."

Owatonna, Thorpe said, was the best choice for Minimizer as a business-friendly area with room for current requirements and future growth.

Bloomington, which is land-locked See MINIMIZER on A11 ▶



Jim Richards

Fleeing suspect crashes stolen car

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A man suspected of stealing a car in Owatonna led police on a high-speed pursuit into the metro area before crashing head-on into another vehicle in Bloomington Sunday afternoon.

Police identified the driver of the alleged stolen vehicle as Dylan Edward Jackson, 27, of New Hope. He was seriously injured in the crash and taken to a Twin Cities hospital.

According to the Rice County Sheriff's Office, the State Patrol tried to stop a stolen white Ford Fusion out of Owatonna in Rice County around 5:07 p.m. The vehicle fled northbound on Interstate 35, with the State Patrol and Rice County deputies chasing it. After the State Patrol dropped out presumably for safety reasons, deputies took over and continued the pursuit in Lakeville.

Deputies eventually terminated the pursuit at 102nd Street in Bloomington after the vehicle entered the interstate See FLEEING on A3 ▶



Ross Pollard creates bronze plaques, also called medallions, and donates them to communities in Southern Minnesota.

Blue Earth artist donates plaque to Little Theater

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Blue Earth sculptor Ross Pollard blends his passion for art and interest in history into bronze plaques and gives them away.

Last week, he bestowed his latest work, a bronze plaque of E.G. Marshall, to the Little Theater of Owatonna (LTO).

Marshall, who was born in Owatonna in 1914, co-starred in "The Gin Game" on Broadway in 1978. LTO's production of the Pulitzer-prize winning play opened

in Owatonna on Friday, April 23.

When Pollard contacted the city of Owatonna about his plaque of Marshall, he said he wasn't aware that LTO was performing the play.

"I look for famous people in Southern Minnesota and he was one of them," Pollard said. Marshall was born in Owatonna and spent part of his childhood in the community.

The inscription below Pollard's bronzed likeness of Marshall, in part, reads: "It is believed that he left Owatonna when he was around

8 years old. During his life, he chose not to reveal what 'E.G.' stood for, telling most people it stood for 'Everybody's Guess,' but it can be over the initials match Everitt (or Eugene) Grunz."

Grunz was Marshall's father's last name.

Pollard described Marshall as a great actor and an actor in one of his favorite movies, "12 Angry Men."

To date, Pollard has created about a dozen plaques or medallions.

"I have one of Walter Mondale that I'll probably be See BLUE on A3 ▶

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AREA DEATHS

James Rosenfeld, 88, Owatonna
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Marilyn Jones, 85, Owatonna
Nevan Knutson, 88, formerly of BP
John Larson, 78, A. Ellendale
Richard MacLean, 81, Owatonna
Gerald Rigney, 81, Claremont

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OUR VIEW

Online program good for both students, district

Like working from home for adults, online learning for students became the norm earlier this school year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As educators soon learned, some students thrive in the online learning environment.

So, it shouldn't surprise anyone that when students returned to the classroom in-person, either part-time or full-time, many families chose to keep their children at home - continuing their education online.

Of the Owatonna School District's nearly 5,000 students, 500 remain online-only learners.

That's just one reason Owatonna decided to seek state approval for an online school program. It was a wise choice.

Now that the state has approved its program, students from other districts throughout the state also have the option of enrolling in Owatonna's Online too.

That's a win for students. Fact is: While some students thrive in the online learning environment, others are simply finding it a better fit - allowing them to learn when it works for them.

For the district, online learning is an efficient and effective way to reach and teach students.

And like a traditional school, Owatonna Online's curriculum varies depending on the grade level.

For grades K-5, Owatonna Online provides live, online interaction paired with independent online activities through an Owatonna educator each day.

For grades 6-8, the online program offers a blended model of live teaching and independent work that provides greater student flexibility the older they are.

And at the secondary level, grades 9-12, Owatonna Online moves to a self-paced, flexible learning approach with goal setting and timelines to ensure successful completion of course requirements.

Students who chose to enroll in Owatonna Online will have access to support services (including social workers, counselors, English language learners and special education teachers) to meet individualized student needs.

Participation in sports or other extracurricular activities - within the Owatonna School District or the student's home district - will be determined by Minnesota State High School League rules.

To date, Owatonna Online is one of 40 online programs to get the state's stamp of approval. No doubt, other districts will follow suit. But for now, Owatonna's program is the only one approved by the state in this area.

Kudos to Owatonna schools for taking steps to ensure that an approved online program will be available to students and their families in the district for years to come.

In pursuit of happiness and fun for this BP cop



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

He's back at it again. While officer Dan Peach is known to make arrests while patrolling the streets of Blooming Prairie, he's also got a soft side to him that has never shown more than in the past nine months.

First it was a pumpkin patch, then it was Clark Griswold and the Christmas holidays, followed by a lover's corner for Valentine's Day. Now flowers are being thrown into the mix.

Yep, Peach unveils his latest venture this week at the old Bakery corner in downtown Blooming Prairie. This time it's called "Blossoms in the Prairie."

How appropriate for a community widely known for being the Awesome Blossoms. "We need a flow-

er theme to go with spring," Peach said. "I did not want it to be an empty lot for the spring and summer."

Peach's father, Jeff, who owns B to Z Hardware, purchased the empty lot next to his store after the Bakery burned down in January 2020. Since then, it has given the younger Peach a chance to flourish with his creative side.

"I want to brighten up the downtown area," said Peach, who moved to Blooming Prairie about five years ago. "I want to make the downtown blossom."

Even though Peach grew up in Owatonna, he said he has always felt like Blooming Prairie is his hometown. He often came to the hardware store as a kid to help out his father.

B to Z has offered flowers in a small greenhouse next to the lot for several years. This year will be no exception. There will be spring flowers, vegetables and plants. A long-time family friend, Bill Souba, of Souba's Greenhouse in Owatonna, has been supplying the flowers for years.

But Peach has taken things one step further by sprucing up the empty lot with more flowers and offering games for kids to play while their parents shop.

Some of the offerings include Bounce House, Gnome Ring Toss, Connect Four, Checkers, Tic Tac Toe and flower-themed cut-outs to take photographs.

Peach admits his latest venture isn't quite as interactive as the Christmas display was. He hopes it will still capture the hearts of area children looking to do something in a world that COVID-19 has shut down.

While the display is open, folks will get their first big chance to see Peach's creation on Saturday, May 8 for a special event, Mother's Day on Main Street. The event is geared toward women and guys buying items for Mother's Day.

Asked about his long-range plans for the

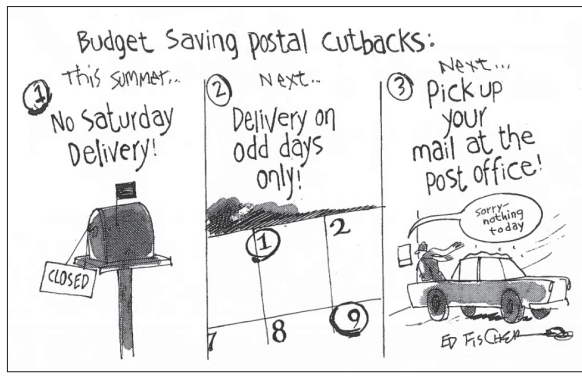


Dan Peach of Blooming Prairie has converted the empty Bakery lot into a flower bed for adults to purchase flowers and kids to play games this spring.

empty lot, Peach said he wants to expand by building a 30-by-96-foot greenhouse next to the hardware store.

It's anybody's guess what Peach will come up with next. It's encouraging to see someone with young blood trying to keep the community moving in a positive direction.

Peach is showing how life doesn't have to be solely focused on going in hot pursuit of criminals. He is a shining example of someone in hot pursuit of happiness and fun as well.



Mondale walked in the shadow of Hubert Humphrey



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Minnesota lost another major icon when former Vice President Walter (Fritz) Mondale passed away last week at age 93. I am privileged to say that I met Mondale on a number of occasions during his political career. It was safe to say that Mondale walked in the shadow of his predecessor Hubert H. Humphrey.

Humphrey served as Minnesota senator and ran successfully as President Lyndon B. Johnson's vice president in 1964. He served as vice

president from 1964-1968. He carried the banner as the DFL's nominee for president in 1968. He lost to Richard M. Nixon in the 1968 election.

Mondale has similar credentials to Humphrey as he served as a U.S. senator, was elected vice president in 1976 as President Jimmy Carter's running mate and ran as the DFL's presidential nominee in 1984. Mondale chose a woman as his running mate, Geraldine Ferraro.

Mondale and Ferraro lost in a landslide to President Ronald Reagan in the 1984 presidential election. Mondale carried only one state, his home state of Minnesota.

Mondale was born in southwestern Minnesota, close to the Iowa border. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1951 after attending Macalester College.

Mondale served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War before earning a law degree in 1956.

Mondale was appointed Minnesota Attorney General in 1960 by Minnesota Gov. Orville Freeman. He was elected to a full term as attorney general in 1962 with 60% of the vote.

That's when I first met Mondale. I was a cub reporter with the Albert Lea Tribune and was assigned to cover a state plowing contest in Waseca in September of 1965.

As I entered the contest grounds, I met up with Mondale, dressed in a suit and tall boots. Waseca was a muddy mess due to torrential rains. "Can I get a picture of you?" I asked Mondale. He agreed and showed that political smile that stayed with him during his political career. U.S. Congressman Gerald Ford and actor

James Nabors (Gomer Pyle) was also guests on this day of the monsoon rains.

My second encounter with Mondale came in 1976 when the American Freedom Train visited Minnesota to celebrate America's Bicentennial. Former Vice President Humphrey was given the honor of being the train engineer on this date. The media and Mondale were placed in the caboose. I recall Mondale telling us: "We'll let the kid (Vice President Humphrey) have the glory."

My son Troy and I actually sat in Vice President Mondale's office chair in 1979 in Washington, D.C. while he was serving under President Carter.

A fellow Forest Lake Times editor Cliff Buchanan asked me to attend a rally for Vice President Mondale in 1984, the day before the November election won handily by

President Reagan. My daughter Tammi attended with us.

Mondale's plane was delayed, and he didn't arrive at a Minneapolis St. Paul hangar until nearly midnight.

I re-introduced myself to Mondale in 2004, seeing him at my boss Elmer L. Andersen's funeral. He graciously shook my hand and said how much he admired former Minnesota Gov. Andersen.

While attending a Minnesota Twins baseball game several years ago at Target Field, I sat near a man who I'm sure was Walter Mondale. I chose not to interrupt his privacy.

Mondale was an eloquent speaker and an effective statesman. He was instrumental in helping pass civil rights legislation while he served as a U.S. Senator.

He tossed his hat into the ring for U.S. Senate in 2002, replacing Sen.



This is the official portrait of Walter (Fritz) Mondale in 1977 as he was serving as the 42nd Vice President of the United States under President Jimmy Carter. He also became ambassador to Japan under President Bill Clinton.

Paul Wellstone, (D), who was killed in an airplane crash just days before the 2002 election.

Minnesota can lay claim to having two vice presidents in Humphrey and Mondale. I am also proud to say that I have met both of them.

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COVID-19 masks turn patriotic

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They're everywhere and patriotic at that! The Blooming Prairie Honor Guard, representing American Legion Post 52 and VFW Post 878, had a different look during last year's Memorial Day.

All 19 participants and their spouses wore patriotic masks to follow CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommendations. Two dozen masks carried a red, white and blue pattern, resembling the American flag.

thought of the idea. He gave the idea his immediate approval.

Kubiock even wore the mask as he led the social distanced attendees at a Memorial Day salute to those veterans who have passed before us. "I had a little difficulty understanding him because of the mask, but that's OK," smiled a veteran's spouse.

making masks at the Litomysl Parish Center starting in mid-March 2020 when the coronavirus outbreak began to spread.

"We cut out the mask fabrics and a liner for each mask," Prokopec explained. She says one of her fellow volunteers, Alice Spinler, has sewn most of the masks.

locally as well as out of state." Prokopec said. The masks were shipped to Wisconsin, Louisiana, California, to New York and to places in between.

The local mask makers also relied on their husbands' expertise of cutting elastic for the women working on the mask project.

Prokopec said her group did not charge for the masks but did receive donations which were used to buy more fabrics for more masks.

The mask manufacturing in the little community of Litomysl began when Gov. Tim Walz asked people to stay home.

"We knew we had some fabric in stock at the church (Holy Trinity Catholic Church) and just felt it was the right thing to do," Prokopec said. "We were meeting weekly to make quilts for missions, and then decided this was just as important as a mission project," she remarked.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Carol Prokopec of Litomysl has been busy over the past year making patriotic masks for the Blooming Prairie Honor Guard as well as other organizations throughout the area.

A church member was able to obtain some boxes of elastic from a factory out east. The project was on hold for a short time until more elastic was obtained. Some elastic went to Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and to other parts of Minnesota.

Holy Trinity and St. Columbanus Catholic Church or Blooming Prairie used the homemade masks upon re-opening in May 2020.

Prokopec said their fabric patterns came from many sources. The patriotic fabric was given to Prokopec and her group by a man who was left with much fabric following the death of his wife.

Prokopec and her volunteer friends have been buying fabric online but she and her fellow volunteers like to feel the fabric and see the content. Much See COVID-19 on A5 >

"Stand for something, or you will fall for anything."

Carol Prokopec
Mask Maker

Prokopec and her husband Bob are well known in the Blooming Prairie area because of their volunteer work. Both have been named Steele County's outstanding volunteer senior citizen on different years.

Carol said she and Janet Miller have been

Some of the masks went to Blooming Prairie EMT volunteers and also to the fire department, the Prairie Manor Care Center, Steele County Nursing Service and to local and county businesses.

"Word spread fast and we were receiving requests for masks

Blue Earth artist donates plaque to Little Theater

BLUE from A1 putting up this summer," said Pollard. And like most of his other plaques, he expects the Mondale plaque to reside outdoors.

His first historical medalion, bearing the likeness of Donald Deskey, a Blue Earth native and an industrial designer credited with creating the interior designs of Radio City Music Hall and the lampposts in New York City, is displayed in a park in Blue Earth.

"I really enjoy the sculpting process and I really enjoy being able to share my work with local communities," said the 38-year-old.

Pollard owns Blue Earth Pastels with his father, James. The company makes high-end art materials sold in the United States, England and Australia. Pollard describes the company's products as fancy, artist-drawing chalks that come in 336 colors.

As for the cost of his plaque projects, Pollard said he prob-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is what Pollard's plaster sculpture looked like before being bronzed.

ably spent \$100 on the Marshall plaque, which is typical for his creations. While he does most of the work himself, he uses a foundry for bronze casting.

"It's no more expensive than other hobbies," Pollard said.

LTO's production of "The Gin Game" continues this weekend, with performances at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and 2 p.m. on Sunday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sculptor Ross Pollard and Victoria Bartkowiak, executive secretary of Little Theater of Owatonna, stand in front of the E.G. Marshall plaque that Pollard donated to LTO.

Fleeing suspect crashes stolen car

FLEEING from A1 going northbound in the southbound lanes.

A short time later, Bloomington Police and the State Patrol received a report of a crash at 82nd Street involving the stolen vehicle. Deputies responded to the area and rendered first aid until Bloomington Fire and paramedics arrived on the scene.

The occupants of the other vehicle were reportedly not injured. The stolen vehicle was totaled in the crash. Authorities said the Ford Fusion was taken from the Holiday store in Owatonna.

Criminal charges are pending out of Steele, Rice and Hennepin counties for this incident.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, There's smoke coming from near my steering wheel at times right out of the column. It's not a lot of smoke but I can see it and smell it and it scares me. All my vehicle systems seem to be working fine now but a few months ago my turn signals were acting up. The car is a 2007 Buick Regal. Is this something I should be concerned about or can I let it go?

Robert in Sheldon Iowa

Dear Robert, Your car is smoking... There is no way we would let that go without a thorough check out for safety. Without seeing the car hands-on it's hard to say but we have seen smoke generated in this way due to failing turn signal switches. The switch can fail simply because it is old or it can be stressed by things like shorted wiring, failed bulbs or adding an extra load to the system such as a trailer which has an added load of extra lighting that has to be carried by the cars wiring. The first step will be verifying where the smoke is coming from. That will require someone experienced with the system to open it up and inspect the parts. If any parts are found to be burnt they will need to be repaired then the rest of the effected system will need to be diagnosed to make sure that what caused the first failure does not happen again.

Take care, the Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, I listen to your Under The Hood radio show here in Branson almost every week and you guys have some of the most useful car advice I have ever found, and it's free which is the best kind in my book. I read your column each week too and a while back you had talked about readers car that had a fueling issue. When the car was being filled with gasoline it would not fill quickly, it would fill for a few seconds then click off the pump and it would do this over and over again. My 2008 Impala is doing this now. What was it and could it be the same thing with my car?

Doug in Branson Missouri

Dear Doug, It's common on many cars especially GM cars and trucks to have this happen and it is often caused by a failure in what is called the evaporative emissions system. The fuel system is a closed system which prevents fuel from evaporating into the atmosphere which would cause pollution and also be a waste of your money as your fuel would simply disappear over time. The system does need to vent at times for things like filling the tank and also when fuel is being consumed by the engine or it would back up like yours does. Also, in the case of the engine using fuel the tank would eventually collapse. This is just one possible problem.

Take care, the Motor Medics

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COVID-19 UPDATE					
World.....	147,200,000	Deaths.....	3,100,000	Recovered.....	80,400,000
U.S.....	31,700,000	Deaths.....	567,000	Recovered.....	22,265,000
MN.....	568,000	Deaths.....	7,157	Recovered.....	480,000
Steele.....	3,710	Deaths.....	14	Recovered.....	3,525
Dodge.....	1,752	Deaths.....	4	Recovered.....	1,666
Freeborn.....	3,333	Deaths.....	29	Recovered.....	4,544
Mower.....	4,544	Deaths.....	32	Recovered.....	

AS OF APRIL 26, 2021

**BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT**

Arrest: On April 17, Blooming Prairie Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Highway Ave. N. and Center Ave. N. at 4:46 p.m.

Man charged after package with drugs found

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A suspicious package sent to a residence in Owatonna has landed a Texas man in jail facing felony drug charges.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Roberto Rocha, 35, of Odessa, Texas with first-degree possession of cocaine and fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance. Both counts are felonies with the cocaine charge carrying a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

On April 20, MSP Airport Police contacted the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) regarding a suspicious package that was being sent to Owatonna. Airport Police said

a K-9 alerted on the package. Detectives opened the package to find 54.5 grams of cocaine and 139.3 grams of marijuana inside of what appeared to be a birthday present.

Detectives with Airport Police teamed up with agents from SCDIU to deliver the package to 224 Linden Ave. A detective drove a UPS truck to the residence and dropped off the package at the front door. A short time later, a man came out of the house to retrieve the box.

After the package was delivered, a man in a Lincoln drove into the driveway and went into the house.

Police executed a search warrant at the house. When officers announced, "police search warrant," no-

body responded from inside the house. Officers noted there was an "overwhelming odor of marijuana" coming from the house.

Records said they entered after announcing several times with no luck in getting anyone to respond.

A man came out of an upstairs bedroom and identified himself as Randy Robert Rocha, police said. However, officers were aware that Randy Rocha was in custody for narcotics crimes in Olmsted County and knew the

man they were speaking to wasn't who he said he was.

Police eventually determined the man was Roberto Rocha, who had a federal arrest warrant out of Texas. The warrant was a detainer for failure to comply with federal probation for a weapons conviction.

During the search warrant, agents found several large bags of what appeared to be marijuana on the bed, according to the complaint. Police also noticed the box that had been delivered was opened and the marijuana was on the bed.

The complaint stated the package of cocaine that had been delivered was found under the mattress in a bedroom. Rocha is being held in the Steele County Detention Center.



Roberto Rocha

CRIME BRIEF

Police: Drunk woman crashed car with small child inside

A woman who was operating a vehicle with a small child inside is suspected of driving drunk.

Owatonna Police arrested Krystal Laroque, 29, of Owatonna, after a personal injury crash during the early morning hours of April 17. The crash happened when a vehicle left the roadway at 3rd Avenue N.W. and 21st Street N.W. and ended up on top of a small tree.

Police said the vehicle matched the description of a car that was driving erratically in the McDonald's parking lot about 10 minutes earlier.



Krystal Laroque

Officers found Laroque was showing signs of intoxication, and she became agitated as officers removed the child from its car seat, according to police. Laroque refused to exit the vehicle and began to forcefully resist officers, police said.

After she was arrested, police transported Laroque to the Owatonna hospital where a search warrant was obtained for a blood sample to determine her blood alcohol level. Laroque has been charged with three-degree DWI and obstructing the legal process.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 12 with Judge Joseph A. Buellet presiding:

John C. Eppel, 53, Austin, previously appeared and was convicted of felony predatory offender registration violation. He was sentenced to \$125, 6 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, predatory offender registration violation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, attend sex offender program, no contact with minors, submit to polygraph exams as directed and 3 years of supervised probation. The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 12 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jonathan M. Miller, 33, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana and felony possession of cocaine or methamphetamine. Miller was sentenced to 125, 192 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation,

cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, complete Drug Court and 2 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty crimes were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 12 - 18:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Abass H. Ahmed, 21, Minneapolis, revoked license, \$275; Ana R. Arias Mojica, 32, Austin, revoked license, \$275; Jacob J. Crozier, 29, Dexter, hands free violation, \$125; Edward F. Dupree, 36, St. Paul, revoked license and expired tabs, \$305; Chelsey G. Howard, 25, Mt. Sterling, KY, invalid license, \$175; Isako Julios, 46, Austin, invalid license, \$175; Obba C. Phaniel, 20, Mankato, possession of marijuana and no insurance, \$325; Brianna K. Rogers, 24, Minneapolis, revoked license, speeding, no insurance and possession of marijuana, \$575; Dean E. Rowe, 42, Hagfield, expired tabs, \$105; Karter W. Schaub, 22, Austin, possession of paraphernalia, \$125; Terica L. Shepard, 28, Minneapolis, child passenger restraint system violations and no insurance, \$425; Danielle I. Steidl, 46, Austin, expired tabs, \$105.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTE

Joseph N. Adamson, 45, Rosemont, speeding, \$125; Kylie P. Anderson, 18, Mound, speeding, \$215; Besale B. Battin, 35, CR, seat belt, \$100; Stephani A. Beatty, 27, St. Paul, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Britny R. Bergland, 31, Albert Lea, hands free violation, \$125; Matthew R. Bloomberg, 27, Chippewa Falls, WI, speeding, \$115; Lauren A. Boujes, 22, Elk Horn, NE, speeding, \$125; Matthew D. Buzalowski, 21, Minneapolis, speeding, \$155; Jesus Dominguez III, 27, Owatonna, no license, \$175; Kobbie L. Eriksson, 20, Faribault, speeding, \$155; Ethan T. Evjen, 20, Forter, speeding, \$115; Charnell L. Floate, 44, Albert Lea, hands free violation, \$125; Andrew S. Fritz, 22, Maple Grove, speeding, \$115; Ricardo M. Garcia Gonzalez, 40, Pasadena, TX, speeding and no license, \$315; Chad J. Gilbertson, 44, Waseca, seat belt, \$100; Dustin J. Hachfeld, 37, Medford, speeding, \$75; Tori S. Hambrook, 42, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Jeffrey A. Hirschman, 61, Dallas, TX, speeding, \$125; Lamonica R. Howard, 51, Independence, MO, speeding, \$135; Amari J. Johnson, 20, Aberdeen, MS, speeding and no license, \$315; Antwan J. Kimmons, 20, Lino Lakes, speeding, \$275; Tabitha J. Kramer, 35, Dundas, speeding, \$155; Rhannon L. Ladue, 42, Bloomington, speeding and revoked license, \$415; Monika Maciejewka,

74, Mason City, IA, unsafe lane usage, \$125; Kathleen M. Mallon, 28, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Erick Martinez Reyes, 24, Northfield, speeding, \$115; Dalia C. Martinez, 33, Edinburg, TX, speeding, \$125; Enrique F. Martinez, 22, Madison Lake, speeding, \$135; Jorge I. Meraz Garcia, 21, Houston, TX, no license, \$175; Lukes K. Michniewicz, 25, Waconia, speeding, \$125; Rachel M. Miller, 45, Albert Lea, suspended license, \$175; Justus T. Mitchell, 35, Kansas City, MO, speeding, \$215; Lucinda L. Mitchell, 57, Ellendale, ND, speeding, \$275; Katra A. Mohamed, 35, Johnston, IA, speeding, \$115; Sergio M. Munoz, 19, Maplewood, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Hunter F. O'Brien, 20, Blooming Prairie, window tint violation, \$175; Rafael M. Ocampo, 29, Minneapolis, speeding and no license, \$315; Ever M. Olivares Morales, 41, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$125; Adniras A. Osman, 29, Minneapolis, speeding, \$215; Donna M. Poczowski, 55, West Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$125; Samuel J. Pietsch, 34, Blooming Prairie, revoked license and no license, \$375; Pitman, 44, St. Louis, MO, no license, \$175; Quincey I. Price, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Oudhmane Raghunath, 46, Richfield, speeding, \$135; Brian J. Reese, 49, Albert Lea, seat belt, \$100; Luke J. Risius, 21, Brownsdale, speeding, \$115; Danielle A. Sabin, 30, Frost,

revoked license, \$275; Ashanta L. Sampson, 20, Minneapolis, speeding and permit violation, \$325; Marj Jane E. Schermerhorn, 22, Aloha, OR, speeding, \$135; Christina Segbee, 23, New Hope, no license and child passenger restraint system violation, \$225; Marjan O. Shariff Hassan, 21, Minneapolis, speeding, \$215; CharMerial C. Sims, 22, Minneapolis, speeding, \$215; Suzanne V. Slanga, 45, Fridley, speeding, \$135; Michael M. Smith, 54, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$125; Alexandria B. Spencer, 21, Ham Lake, hands free violation, \$125; Natasha K. Taylor, 22, Hastings, speeding, \$215; Ka Y. Vang, 36, St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Briana V. Villafraico, 29, Albert Lea, suspended license, \$275; Curtis M. Walker, 50, St. Paul, speeding and revoked license, \$415; Tony L. Walker, 49, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$115; Wayne A. Washington, 28, New Brighton, speeding, \$135; Jamie R. Williams, 38, Terri, IA, revoked license, \$275; Jeremy M. Williams, 20, Brooklyn Park, speeding and suspended license, \$415; Lacherie T. Williams, 29, St. Peter, seat belt, \$100.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jeremiah K. Billings, 32, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Lui M. Brown, 23, Lewisville, NC, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$125; Mark A. Burialaga, 33, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Francisco A. Caoberes Pagano, 35, Winona, no insurance, \$275; Marissa C. Chase, 39, White Bear

Lake, speeding, \$125; Susana Cortes Perez, 39, Medford, permit violation, \$125; Jesus Dominguez, 27, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Paul G. Dvorak, 62, Blooming Prairie, speeding and invalid license, \$215; Angel A. Gonzales, 32, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$200 and 48 days in county jail; Martin A. Gonzalez, 20, St. Cloud, speeding, \$215; Lindsey M. Halvorsen, 37, Minneapolis, expired license and window tint violation, \$225; Kajuia L. Henden, 18, Rochester, invalid license, \$175; Juliana M. Iannaccone, 43, Dodge Center, financial transaction card fraud, \$414.59, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Bertha M. Jackson, 35, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Jade H. Kullish, 23, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Hunter P. Madala, 21, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Brian J. Maestre-Reavis, 33, assault, \$125, 90 days in county jail; Alexis A. Murillo Mata, 24, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Altaaf J. Persaud, 22, Columbia Heights, DWI, \$125, 90 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, 208 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Rhonda L. Powell, 44, Owatonna,

See BLOTTER on A9 >



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Simplified Technology Solutions has been in business since 2009 and a Chamber member since 2015. We appreciate Anthony, Blake, Paxtin, Kristin & Justin for their continued support of the Chamber and the Blooming Prairie area community.

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Congratulations to Simplified Technology Solutions, LLC for being recognized as the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Week!

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Should you prepay your funeral?



Dear Savvy Senior, My wife and I have been thinking about preplanning our funerals now so our kids won't have to later, but we would like to find out if it's a good idea to prepay. What can you tell us?

Living on a Budget

Dear Living,
Planning your funerals in advance is definitely a smart move. Not only does it give you and your wife time to make a thoughtful decision on the type of service you want, it also allows you to shop around to find a good funeral provider, and it will spare your family members the burden of making these decisions at an emotional time.

But preplanning a funeral doesn't mean you have to prepay too. In fact, the Funeral Consumer Alliance, a national nonprofit funeral consumer protection organization, doesn't recommend it unless you need to spend down your financial resources so you can qualify for Medicaid. Here's what you should know.

Preneed Arrangements

Most funeral homes today offer what is known as "preneed plans," which allow you to prearrange for the type of funeral services you want and prepay with a lump sum or through installments. The funeral home either puts your money in a trust fund with the payout triggered by your death or buys an insurance policy naming itself as the beneficiary.

If you're interested in this route, make sure you're

being guaranteed the services you specify at the contracted price. Some contracts call for additional payments for final expense funding, which means that if the funeral home's charges increase between the time you sign up and the time you sign off, somebody will have to pay the difference. Here are some additional questions you should ask before committing:

- Can you cancel the contract and get a full refund if you change your mind?

- Will your money earn interest? If so, how much? Who gets it?

- If there is an insurance policy involved, is there a waiting period before it takes effect? How long?

- Are the prices locked in or will an additional payment be required at the time of death?

- Are you protected if the funeral home goes out of business or if it's bought out by another company?

- What happens if you move? Can the plan be transferred to another funeral home in a different state?

- If there's money left over after your funeral, will your heirs get it, or does the home keep it?

- If you decide to prepay, be sure to get all the details of the agreement in writing and give copies to your family so they know what's expected. If your family isn't aware that you've made plans, your wishes may not be carried out. And if family members don't know that you've prepaid the funeral costs, they could end up paying for the same arrangements.

Other Payment Option

While prepaying your funerals may seem like a convenient way to go, from a financial point of view, there are better options available.

For example, if you have a life insurance policy, many policies will pay a lump sum when you die to your beneficiaries to be used for your funeral expenses. The payment is made soon after you die and doesn't have to go through probate.

Or you could set up a payable-on-death (or POD) account at your bank or credit union, naming the person you want to handle your arrangements as the beneficiary. POD accounts also are called Totten Trusts. With this type of account, you maintain control of your money, so you can tap the funds in an emergency, collect the interest and change the beneficiary. When you die, your beneficiary collects the balance without the delay of probate.

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

Always local, all the time.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago April 26, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Braving the damp and cold weather, Kindergarten through fifth grade planted about trees in the south side of the rural Litomysl school on Tuesday. Helping the students plant oak trees, honeysuckle trees and dogwood trees were representatives from the Steele County Soil and Water District and the USDA. The purpose of the tree planting is to promote Earth Day, get knowledge about various trees and while they are beneficial to the environment.

After long, successful careers, Speech coaches, Mary Malherek and Frank Vorlicek have decided to retire. Between the two of them, they have almost 60 years of experience. Vorlicek started coaching Speech in 1970 and coached till his retirement in 2001. He took a few years off and resumed coaching in 2005. Malherek started in 1992 and has coached every year since. With careers like that they have seen many successes. The two of them coached state champions and have taken 28 students to state. The Speech program will continue but will certainly the expertise these two bring to it.

20 Years Ago April 26, 2001

ELSIE SUNLGER, EDITOR

April 21 marked the day for the March of Dimes Walk. This day many came together for the same reason - babies. Sue Crabtree and Naomi Smith of the Blooming Prairie Women of Today were walkers for the event.

It took a while, but finally Joe Wacek received his just reward. Joe received his Bronze Star, earned over 55 years ago during World War II, on April 16th, from U.S. Representative Gil Gütkecht. The medal was presented to Joe at his home here in Blooming Prairie. It was a complete surprise to Joe, as he didn't know anything about the award ceremony or the 57 family members who attended.

50 Years Ago April 28, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

High School Principal LeMar Nelson submitted his resignation to the Blooming Prairie School Board at the meeting Monday night, April 26th. Superintendent M. McFarlin reported. Mr. Nelson, principal for the past five years, and a member of the Blooming Prairie school staff for 14 years, in submitting his resignation requested

that the board reassign him to a classroom position for the 1971-72 school term. In accepting his resignation, with regret, strongly indicated that they desired that he remained in the system.

Paul Brakke, son of Mrs. Rose Ann Brakke, was selected as one of six Eagle Scouts and two leaders to attend this year's John A. Buxton memorial scout encampment. The encampment is at the Buxton family cabin on beautiful Lac La Croix in the boundary waters in northern Minnesota.

75 Years Ago April 25, 1946

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie lost a thriving industry Tuesday morning when the Frank Zwiener sawmill was completely destroyed by fire. The blaze was noticed by Jerry Lehy, a neighbor of the Zwieners. It had made rapid headway before the fire department arrived on the scene. The firemen were able to confine the destruction to the mill building. The machinery, saws and tools, are a total loss. The loss is estimated between \$3000 and \$4000. A pile of finished lumber was saved without serious damage. Mr. Zwiener has plans to rebuild his plant if he can obtain sawmill machinery.

The Highway No. 218 will be re-routed in the near future through Blooming Prairie is a certainty. The new road would eliminate passing the public-school buildings, the dangerous Catholic Church corner and pull the heavy traffic off Main Street. Supporters of the change in the road feel it would be more advantageous to the town's business interest to have the highway skirt the west side of the railroad tracks than miss the village entirely.

Owatonna Photo News

31 Years Ago April 26, 1990

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Do you love strawberries? They will be ready for picking at the Medford Berry Farm in about 45 days and I understand the first picking of those sweet provide berries about the size of a plum. Francis and Donna Brown come from a long line of strawberry farmers in Iowa and know what they are doing when it comes to strawberries. They bought the farm over two years ago and they have made lots changes. They planted 3rd acres of strawberries and next year there will be another 2nd acres ready for picking. We are pleased to see this new business in Medford and wish them much success.

COVID-19 masks turn patriotic

4 COVID-19 from A3 of their fabric comes from JoAnn Fabrics and the Kasson Variety Store. These stores were shuttered because of the coronavirus. This pandemic has been a new adventure for Carol and Bob and others at their church. "We feel it is important we follow guidelines for each person's safety," she said. "It is wise to listen to our leaders and medical personnel


who do research for our safety," she added. Prokopec said it has been a proud feeling for her to wear a patriotic mask and to see others wearing the masks. "When I handed out the masks on Memorial Day (2020), many thanked me," Prokopec said. "This was then a time when I could say 'Thank you for your service to us and to our country,'" she continued.

"Our time is one of our most valuable gifts and we find enjoyment in helping others," Prokopec commented. "We miss helping at Prairie Manor in Blooming Prairie and at other places during the pandemic," she said. Her motivation for making the medical masks comes from a favorite quote she cherishes: "Stand for something, or you will fall for anything."

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

HOME OF THE SHINING KNIGHTS


Students of the Week



Tegan 6TH GRADE

TEGAN has really shined over the last few months of 6th grade. All year she has consistently put in the time to do her best work and really gave thoughtful responses to assignments across all subject areas, but all of the 6th grade teachers have noticed Tegan really working on adding more focus to her daily class work and increasing her participation in class discussions. We are so proud of these areas of growth and are excited to see where the next years at SMS will take Tegan. Tegan - you have some wonderful leadership abilities and an awesome work ethic. Keep it up!


Parents are Greg & Kinzie | Tegan was nominated by Mrs. Seykora



Leighton 5TH GRADE

LEIGHTON is a St. Mary's Shining Knight for many reasons by the way he lives out our core values: Love, Learn, Lead, Give, Pray. He always volunteers with a happy heart to help his fellow students and teachers! He works hard each and every day, strives to do his best, and is diligent in everything he does. He is the true definition of a leader, friend, student, and disciple. Thank you, Leighton, for being a shining knight at St. Mary's! You are inspiring!

Parent is Bridget | Leighton was nominated by Mrs. Shaner



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ZED secures 'huge savings' on new facility

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

Initial site work on the new Zumbro Education District (ZED) facility will begin in May and a groundbreaking event will be scheduled for the middle or end of June.

The Blooming Prairie board's ZED representative Melissa Stoen said the construction bids for the new facility took place on April 1.

"We got 180 bids, which is incredible, and resulted in us coming \$500,000 under budget. Then, we locked in the interest rate on the building at 2.46%, which is also great because the rate was over 4% when the project was pitched in 2018, so that's a huge saving as well," she said.

Stoen also said the district office is currently for sale and there are several interested parties.

"They're looking at a few different options to see if they can lease it for a year so they can stay there so they don't have to relocate. That's in the works right now," she said.

More information about the building project can be found on the ZED website at <https://www.zumbroed.org/Page/1> on the New Construction tab.

Stoen also said the Summer Academy is planned for the week of June 14 in Kasson.

School board member Pam Hameister said that a parent had approached her with a concern about the dangers of the pick-up and drop-off situation at the elementary school.

stressful situation down there," she said.

Superintendent Chris Staloch said the issue has been discussed and they're looking at addressing it.

Earlier, the school board unanimously approved a motion to move forward with a facility study by hiring two firms to deliver information regarding the status of the district's facilities. One firm, Wold Architects, would provide facility analysis and long-range planning study. Another firm, Hazel Reinhardt Consulting Service, would provide a demographic study so the school board can have a better idea of the district's future enrollment.

"Hazel Reinhardt used to be the demographer for the state of Minnesota, and she provided some really quality information. I

think if we are looking at doing anything in the future, that information is going to be very valuable to us as we make decisions for our community and our students," Staloch said.

He also said he expects the facilities study to be complete by the end of May and the plan for moving forward ready by early June.

A few upcoming dates for the Blooming Prairie School District are: Minnesota Honors Society recognition on Wednesday, April 28, prom on Saturday, May 1, senior awards on Wednesday, May 12, high school choir and band concert on Friday, May 19, and graduation on Friday, June 4.

The school board's next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on Monday, May 17.

Medford to offer summer school program

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Medford School is offering a summer school program for qualifying students this July. It is the first year that Medford has offered a summer school program for its students.

"The goal is to help regression that often occurs over the summer," Medford Elementary Principal Josh Carlson said. "Lessons will focus on foundational reading and math skills through a variety of hands-on learning activities."

The program is being offered to kindergarten through grade six. According to Carlson, the hope is to have three cohorts, one for See MEDFORD on A13 ▶

Four Huskies compete in state speech tournament

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

While this academic year has been anything but normal, it's been a standout year for four Owatonna High School students for an entirely different reason: they all advanced to the 2021 state speech tournament. And two of the four team members placed in the state competition.

Advancing to the state speech tournament were senior Megan Copeland and juniors Julia Christenson, Farouza Farah and Jackson Hemann. Christenson earned sixth place in humorous interpretation and Farah came in seventh place in discussion.

To reach the state tournament, each student had to place in the top three of their individual event at the section tournament. Copeland earned second place in extemporaneous reading. Christenson took home second place in humorous interpretation, Farah finished in third place in discussion and Hemann earned third place in serious drama.

Speech team Head Coach Marcia Anderson said having four students reach the state tournament is a lot for the Owatonna team.

"I don't remember, at least when I've been coach, that we've had this many [students advance to the state tournament]," she said. See FOUR on A18 ▶

Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Look at your financial situation holistically

What's the biggest financial mistake you can make? Choosing the wrong investments? Waiting too long to save for retirement? Underestimating the costs of retirement? All these are reasonable answers, but the biggest mistake you might make is not looking at your financial picture holistically — that is, not bringing into the picture all the elements of yourself.

Let's consider some of them:

• Your views on helping your family — Your decisions about helping your family are clearly going to be a major part of your financial strategy — and this is true at virtually all stages of your life. When your children are young, you'll need to decide if you're going to put away money for their college education, and, if so, how much, and in what investment vehicles. When they're young adults, you may also need to decide how much financial support you're willing to provide for things such as the down payment on a new home. And when you're drawing up your estate plans, you'll need to consider how to distribute assets to your children, grandchildren or other family members.

• Your personal beliefs — As someone with civic, ethical and moral concerns, you want to positively affect the world around you. And that's why you may feel compelled to make charitable gifts throughout your life and then make philanthropy part of your legacy. To accomplish these objectives, you'll want to include gifting techniques in your financial strategy today and your estate plans for tomorrow. Of course, for the estate planning component, you'll need to work with your tax and legal advisors.

• Your purpose in life when you retire — When you retire, you may be stepping off a career path, but you're also entering a world of possibilities. How will you define, and live out, your new sense of purpose at this stage of your life? Do you seek to broaden your horizons by traveling around the world? Do you want to give back more to the community by volunteering? Can you spend more time pursuing the hobbies you enjoy? Each of these choices will carry different financial implications for how much you'll need to accumulate for retirement and how much you will need to take out each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k).

• Your health — Your physical and mental health can play big roles in your financial plans and outlook. On the most basic level, the healthier you are, and the better you take care of yourself, the lower your health care bills will likely be during retirement, which will affect the amount you need to put away for health care. And you also may need to prepare for the costs of long-term care, which can be enormous — in fact, a private room in a nursing home can easily cost \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth.

It can be challenging to weave all these elements into a single, unified vision, so you may want to get some help from a financial professional. But, in any case, be prepared to look at your situation holistically — because, when putting together a lifetime's financial strategy, every part of your life matters.

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

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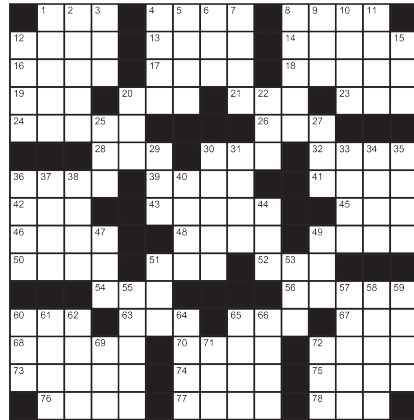
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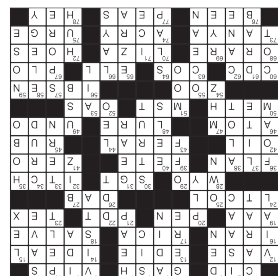
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK



- ACROSS**
- 1 Spanish hero El ...
 - 4 Deep cut
 - 8 Big cheeses
 - 12 Flower jar
 - 13 --- Falco, Nurse Jackie
 - 14 Paragon
 - 16 Formerly Persia
 - 17 Rich, in Spain
 - 18 Snoothing element
 - 19 Small cell
 - 20 Author
 - 21 Oregon summer clock setting
 - 23 Lone Star State (Abbr.)
 - 24 One over a major
 - 26 Small amount
 - 28 Neighbor of Mex.
 - 30 Noncom
 - 32 Irritate
 - 36 Open pastry dessert
 - 39 Carnival
 - 41 Nothing
 - 42 Lubricate
 - 43 Untamed
 - 45 Chafe
 - 46 Speck
 - 48 Enticement
 - 49 Software menu option
 - 50 Crystal ---
 - 51 Tucson time
 - 52 West Atlantic international grp.
 - 54 Menagerie
 - 56 "A Doll's House" dramatist
 - 60 Atlanta-based health grp.
 - 63 Lettuce variety
 - 65 Building extension at a right angle
 - 67 Gaza Strip grp.
 - 68 Pray in Latin
 - 70 Minnelli with a zee
 - 72 Western tools
 - 73 Country music's --- Tucker
 - 74 "--- in the Dark" (Streep movie)
 - 75 Appetite
 - 76 "--- there, done that"
 - 77 Podded vegetables
 - 78 "--- Porter" (Johnny Cash song)
- DOWN**
- 1 Diamond weight unit
 - 2 Writer --- Asimov
 - 3 Room for relaxing
 - 4 Buddhist actor Richard ---
 - 5 Tennis server's edge
 - 6 Attack command
 - 7 Abundance
 - 8 Grand view
 - 9 Actress/director/producer --- Lupino
 - 10 Bombard
 - 11 Preserve
 - 12 Pharmacist's container
 - 15 Latin law
 - 20 Provide
 - 22 Banned insecticide
 - 25 Possess
 - 27 Show --- (entertainment industry)
 - 29 Rancid
 - 30 Support column
 - 31 Apparatus
 - 33 Slender fork-tailed gull
 - 34 Bank
 - 35 Difter
 - 36 Floating bubbles
 - 37 Low calorie variety
 - 38 Loads
 - 40 Long slippery fish
 - 44 Fifth sign of the zodiac
 - 47 Frog, unit
 - 49 Type of computer connection
 - 51 Low
 - 53 Suffer
 - 55 Huge amount
 - 57 Poison grain
 - 58 Lament
 - 59 Small winning margin
 - 60 Military bed
 - 61 Dingy
 - 62 Malacca
 - 64 Strike with an open hand
 - 65 Wither --- Pound
 - 66 Sung poems
 - 69 Whiskey variety
 - 71 Diamonds
 - 72 Bewildered response



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OWATONNA PROUD

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021 | A7

OHS raises nearly \$4K to Rachel's Light

BY HAYLEE MULLENBACH OHS MAGNET WRITER

OHS holds an annual Cash Drive event where an organization is honored and funds are raised in support.

Some of the activities that raised money included movie night, basketball extravaganza, lunch events and the NHS talent show. This event is something the student body looks forward to each year.

This year the event was run by the OHS Student Council and National Honor Society with assistance from the advisers Ms. Sandra Justice, Ms. Elizabeth Fink and Ms. Gail Tratz. Although COVID-19 made some activities look different this year, the outcome was still another great success.

This year's Cash Drive results went to Rachel's Light. Rachel's Light is a non-profit organization in Owatonna

that provides basic needs such as food, shelter, toiletries and bedding to women and children in the community. The Cash Drive, hosted by OHS Student Council, worked together to raise awareness about Rachel's Light. The total money raised was \$3,971.04 not including Venmo, PayPal, or Facebook donations. Money that was raised from the events was enough to pay for 88 days of hosting a family.

Ms. Justice said, "The ability of both student council and National Honor Society to work together helped amplify this event and we hope to include more student activities in the future." Basketball Extravaganza One of the favored events was the basketball extravaganza. The team winner this year was named "Pichies Babies." Team members included seniors Ashton Jensen, Emma Dahmert, Jacob

Meiners, Wendell Relation, Jonathan Wall, Cade Woltman, Zach Stransky, Mason Saufferer and junior Eli Knutson. The team was led by coaches Sarah Kingland, Lincoln Maher, Nic Pilcher and Lane Versteeg. Overall, the team had a lot of fun playing the game as well as raising money for a good cause. Wall said, "The team had elite chemistry, worked hard, and took home the win. Pichies

Babies had a fun night and were glad we got to raise the money too." NHS Talent Show Through these events, OHS students, staff and members of the community, raised money to support Rachel's Light. This event ended at the NHS talent show with the announcement of 2021 Snow Week King and Queen: Emily Hagen and Nic Pilcher. The winner of the 2021 talent show was senior Wilo Omot.

Groundbreaking set for new high school

Owatonna Public Schools is hosting a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new high school on Thursday, May 6 at 3:30 p.m. (rain or shine) at the new site located at 1945 18th St. S.E., Owatonna. The event will include a few remarks by staff and students as well as a shovel ceremony involving community partners and planning committee members.

The community of Owatonna showed its support for a new high school in a big way, with local businesses offering generous financial support. Each local business expressed its commitment to Owatonna and the need to attract and retain quality employees through its combined financial gifts of \$22 million plus in-kind donations. The tax impact for the Owatonna community was reduced by 20% thanks to the generosity of business donations from Federated Insurance, Mayo Clinic Health System, Virason, Wenger Corporation, Wenger Foundation, and Gopher Sport.

After the community approved the construction of a new high school, other organizations stepped forward offering support. The ISD 761 Foundation and Owatonna Foundation each donated \$250,000 to Owatonna Public Schools to construct a large community room within the new high school. And Cyhex/Life Fitness has offered support for the weight and fitness room.

Community members assisted with the concept and final design of the new high school. Renderings of the new high school can be found on the school district's website: www.isd761.org.

Staff and students of Owatonna Public Schools continue to be grateful for the community's partnership and support for the school district and the new high school facility and look forward to this groundbreaking event.

A hysterical return to the stage

BY LOGAN MCGAHERAN OHS MAGNET EDITOR

After over a year of inactivity, the OHS auditorium opened its doors for the 2021 Spring Play: One Man, Two Guvnors. The play is about a man named Francis Henshall who ends up working for two people at the same time while trying to keep the two bosses, or guvnors as they are called in the play, from interacting with each other.

It may seem hard to produce a play during a global pandemic, but the OHS Theatre Department found a way to do it. Director Mr. Erik Eitheim said, "Doc [Grauberger] had the idea of using a commedia dell'arte piece this year because of its use of masks." This play not only makes it possible to have a staged performance, but it is also loved by the production company. Junior Julia Christenson, who plays Rachel Crabbe, said, "This show is absolutely hilarious and I love how everyone collaborates together to really bring out the humor." Due to the COVID-19



OHS Play: Emma Wolff talks to the audience while Hank Bell watches during the recent spring play. The performances were held April 22-25.

pandemic, this production had to take many precautions and make some changes in order to make this show a reality. Mr. Eitheim said, "Actors have been masked the entire time and have been encouraged to keep six feet apart." Instead of using a face shield or a medical mask to stop the spread of COVID-19 among the members of the production, commedia dell'arte masks are used. These masks cover the whole face and have certain designs to help the audience identify which actor is playing which

character. Senior Samuel Buegler, who plays Francis Henshall, said, "Because we don't have facial expressions for this show, I've been spending a lot of time working on my body and physical reactions and also using my voice to heighten that to the next level." In a show where the focus is on the individuality of character, how an actor creates their character becomes a lot more important. Buegler said, "I focus on a character and what their base motivations are and then build from there." Christenson

also said, "I look at how my character developed throughout the play as well as her background to really create the character I imagine." One Man, Two Guvnors is an excellent show to mark the return of staged productions at OHS. Mr. Eitheim said, "It is going to be hysterical, it is a really funny show and I think it will be fun." Buegler also said, "People should watch it because it's good and we've performed it very well. The show is really funny and you'll laugh a lot."



Showing off career aspirations

Submitted photos: Owatonna elementary students answer "What do you want to be when you grow up?" by showing off their career aspirations recently. They certainly have some great careers in their future as they displayed what they want to be when they grow up for dress up day!



Owatonna Students of the Week

Elementary



Garrett Zufall Kindergarten Parents: Brian and Karla Zufall Congratulations to Garrett Zufall as Student of the Week! Garrett is a kind friend to everyone in our class. When we are having a class discussion, he has so much to add with his thinking and the questions he asks. Garrett leads by example. Keep up the great work, Garrett! We enjoy having you in class!



Henry Knutson Fifth Grade Parents: Shelly and Joseph Knutson Henry Knutson is positive and friendly with a desire to learn, grow, and be at his best every day. Math is his passion and concepts come together effortlessly because he makes connections and predictions with patterns, numbers, and shapes. Henry is a thinker who is wise beyond his years. He has a kind heart, which makes him a great student and friend to all.

High School



Ter Chan Sophomore Parents: Bidit and Nyabiel Chan



Bruce Romero Sophomore Parents: Jose and Cassie Romero

Ter and Bruce have been partners in the Power and Technology class. They are always in class on time, if not early. Both of them work hard and are always willing to try new things. Over the past week they have built a planter that will be sold at the Greenhouse plant sale. This project was a first for them and they worked so well together!

Advertisement for Brick-Meger Funeral Home and Medford Funeral Home, featuring photos of staff members and contact information.

Buzzsaw Stork keeps NRHEG unbeaten

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Giving up a combined four runs in its first three games of the season, the 3-0 New Richland-Ellendale-Hartland-Geneva (NRHEG) softball team extended its winning streak to four games with an 8-3 road win over Medford on Thursday, April 22.

The Panthers' offense got off to a fast, scoring three runs in the first inning before the Tigers even got a chance to bat.

When the Tigers did get to bat, they faced a buzzsaw in NRHEG starting pitcher Sophie Stork who hadn't given any runs in the past two games. She continued her scoreless inning streak through the first four innings giving her teammates time to add on to their 3-0 lead.

Her teammates did

just that, tacking on one run in the third inning and scoring two more in the fourth inning on a two-run triple by Sidney Schultz to extend their lead to 6-0.

Finally, in the fifth inning, the Tigers were able to string some hits together against Stork and got on the scoreboard thanks to an RBI double by Lily Roehrick followed a two-run single to cut Medford's deficit in half, 6-3.

However, in the seventh, NRHEG's defense, specifically shortstop Ava Kylo, stepped up to seal the win.

Ava played very well both offensively and defensively. She had 5 put outs and 1 assist. She ended the game with a double play by making a



NRHEG pitcher Sophie Stork throws home during the fifth inning. Medford scored three runs that inning, but Stork didn't surrender any more runs the rest of the game. She struck out 11 Tigers and helped the Panthers win their fourth straight game and remain undefeated.

tough catch at shortstop and a great throw to first base," said NRHEG Head Coach Wendy Schultz.

The win improved the Panthers' record to 4-0, while the Tigers' record dropped to 0-5. Schultz mentioned that it was a good team win.

early this season are due to lack of consistency in their lineup.

"Thursday was the first time we had the starting line up since our first game. We are happy with how the girls looked but always have room for improvement," she said.

After a win over Martin Luther/GHEC/Truman last Friday, Medford's next opportunity to show signs of improvement is when they host Bethlehem Academy at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

NRHEG will try to keep its winning streak alive when they host Blooming Prairie at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

NRHEG batting stats: Ava Kylo - 3 hits, 2 runs scored and 2 stolen bases, Hallie Schultz - 3 hits, 1 run scored, 2 RBI and 1 stolen base, Sidney

Schultz - 2 hits, 1 run scored and 2 RBI, Sophie Stork - 2 hits, 2 runs scored, 1 RBI and 1 stolen base, Grace Tufte - 1 hit and 2 RBI, Faith Nielsen - 1 hit and 1 stolen base and Cloie Arndt - 1 run scored and 1 RBI.

NRHEG pitching stats: Stork - 11 strikeouts, 7 hits, 5 walks and 3 earned runs in 7 innings pitched.

Medford batting stats: Lily Roehrick - 2 hits and 1 RBI, Grace Keller - 2 hits and 1 run scored, Lydia Krense - 2 hits and 1 run scored, Julia Niles - 1 hit and 1 run scored, Emily Chadwick - 1 hit and 1 walk, Jen McGuire - 1 hit, Josie Shell - 1 hit, Josie Witter - 2 walks and Mack Velishek - 1 walk. Medford pitching stats: Velishek - 1 strikeout, 10 hits, 0 walks and 7 earned runs in 7 innings pitched.

Blossoms eke out win in extra innings

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

It took two extra innings, but the Blooming Prairie softball team scored two runs in the top of the ninth inning and retired three consecutive Triton batters to beat the Cobras 16-14 on Tuesday, April 20.

The Blossoms got off to a strong start, scoring three runs, including a two-run home run by Maren Forystek, in the top of the first inning to take an early 3-0 lead.

However, the Cobras responded with six runs in the bottom half of the first inning, including a two-run home run and two-run double off Blooming Prairie starter Allison Krohnberg.

After a scoreless top half of the inning, Triton threatened to score multiple runs again in the second inning, but a Cobra runner was called for interfering with Blooming Prairie's shortstop so the runner was called out for the final out of the inning. Triton did manage to score one run that inning so they took a 7-3 lead into the third inning.

In the third inning, the Blossom's bats came alive. Lauren Schammel got the scoring going by smacking a two-run single, which trimmed Blooming Prairie's deficit to two runs, 7-5. Then, Krohnberg smashed a grand

slam to give the Blossoms a 9-7 lead.

Unfortunately, the Cobras responded with four runs, a two-run single and two runs scoring a wild pitch, to re-take their two-run lead, this time 11-9.

Later, in the top of the fifth inning, Blooming Prairie answered with its own four-run inning. Krohnberg started it with an RBI double, Forystek followed with an RBI single for her third RBI of the game and Rachel Winzenburg belted a two-run double to give the Blossoms a 13-11 lead.

Triton scored one run in the bottom of the fifth inning, but Blooming Prairie still led 13-12 at the start of the sixth inning.

The Blossoms maintained that lead until the bottom of the seventh inning when Triton got a lead-off double and then two fielder's choices scored the runner.

With the score tied at 13-13, the game went into extra innings. In the top of the eighth inning, Bobbie Brun hit an RBI single to give Blooming Prairie 14-13 lead, but the Cobras also scored one run and the game went into the ninth inning.

In the top of the ninth inning, Krohnberg hit an RBI single and Brun hit her second consecutive RBI single to extend the Blossoms' lead to 16-14.

Then, less than four minutes later, she continued her hot start to the season by scoring another goal to increase Owatonna's lead to 2-0.

Later, about midway through the first half, the Huskies tacked on another goal, but this time it was senior Allie Keller who scored the goal.

Moran recorded her second consecutive hat trick by scoring her third goal of the game with about nine minutes left in the first half.

Meanwhile, the Owatonna defense



In addition to scoring six goals, Annie Moran also played some in-your-face defense that helped Owatonna limit Northfield to just one goal.

Overpowering Huskies roll on in lacrosse

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

After a 10-point win over Mankato in its season-opener, the Owatonna girls lacrosse team proved that was no fluke by winning its second consecutive game by 10 goals or more, this time beating the Northfield Raiders 12-1 on Thursday, April 22.

The Huskies got to a quick start. In fact, sophomore Annika "Annie" Moran got scored the first goal of the game less than two minutes into the game.

Then, less than four minutes later, she continued her hot start to the season by scoring another goal to increase Owatonna's lead to 2-0.

Later, about midway through the first half, the Huskies tacked on another goal, but this time it was senior Allie Keller who scored the goal.

Moran recorded her second consecutive hat trick by scoring her third goal of the game with about nine minutes left in the first half.

Meanwhile, the Owatonna defense

limited the Raiders to just a couple shots in the first half, with the majority of them off target.

Thanks to its strong defense, the Huskies led 4-0 at halftime.

In the second half, Northfield's defense was closely defending Moran so other Owatonna players had to step up and senior Elizabeth Harder did just that by scoring her first goal of the game to give the Huskies a 5-0 lead with about 20 minutes left in the game.

Junior Audrey Simon scored her first goal of the game to extend Owatonna's lead to 6-0 with about 15 minutes left in the game.

Less than a minute later, she scored again to give the Huskies a 7-0 lead.

After not scoring since the first half, Moran collected her fourth goal of the game to make the score 8-0 with about 12 and a half minutes left in the game.

Then, almost exactly two minutes later, Simon became the second Husky to score a hat trick when she

scored her third goal of the game.

Moran and Harder each scored another goal to increase Owatonna's lead to 11-0 with about six minutes left in the game before Northfield scored its first and only goal of the game.

For good measure, Moran scored one more goal with about three minutes left in the game to give her six on the night and her second consecutive six-goal game.

Simon and Harder

also each had a strong game. Simon scored three goals and tallied three assists, while Harder scored two goals and one assist.

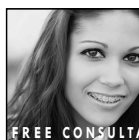
Meanwhile, Husky goalie Zoe Anderson stopped four of the five shots she faced.

The win improves Owatonna's record to 2-0.

The Huskies will try to keep their winning streak alive when they host Rochester John Marshall/Lourdes at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday.



Blooming Prairie second baseman Melanie Winzenburg flips the ball to first baseman Lauren Schammel for the force out.



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SPRING SPORTS ROUNDUP

Huskies win 5 straight in baseball

BASEBALL
Owatonna 7, Reed Wing 0

After opening the season with a loss, the Huskies have now won five straight games capped off by last Thursday's 7-0 win over the Wings.

Owatonna was led by pitcher Matt Seykora who threw a complete game shutout.

Head Coach Tate Cummins said Seykora had a good day at the plate too, collecting a few hits.

He mentioned that Nick Williams and Brayden Truelson also came up with key hits. "A stellar barehand by Grant Achterkirch was the play of the day," Cummins said.

The win improves Owatonna's record to 5-1. **Waseca 8, NRHEG 7** The NRHEG baseball team fell behind early, nearly completed the comeback, but lost in walk-off fashion on Friday, April 23.

In the first two innings, the Bluejays collected five hits and took advantage of two NRHEG errors to jump out to a 5-0 lead.

In the third and fourth inning, the Panthers followed Waseca's lead by taking advantage of two Bluejays errors to trim their deficit to 5-2.

NRHEG had finally tied the game by the end of the top of the seventh inning, but the Bluejays hit a walk-off single to give Waseca the win.

The Panthers' record is now 2-4.

Medford 10, W.E.M.O After a tough one-run loss to NRHEG the day before, the Medford got its first win of the season in dominant fashion on Friday, April 23.

"The bats came alive and we had a fantastic pitching performance from Reed Cumberland," said Head Coach Joe Mellis.

In fact, combined Cumberland and starter Jack Paulson gave up just two hits in six innings.

Meanwhile, AJ Vandervele led Medford's offense, going 4-4 and tallying 5 RBI. The Tigers' record improves to 1-3.

SOFTBALL

Owatonna 20, Rochester Century 2 Despite being a cold day, the Huskies' bats were on fire throughout their rout of the Panthers on Saturday, April 24.

Rochester Century scored the first two runs of the game, but Owatonna's batters got off to an even better start, scoring eight runs in the bottom of the first inning.

The Huskies added five more runs in the second inning and seven runs in the third inning.

Owatonna's offense was led by Katelyn Bentz and Parris Hovden who each recorded 4 RBI.

Hovden was also the winning pitcher. She struck out seven batters



Owatonna freshman Thomas Herzog gets ready to hit the ball back onto Rochester Century's side of the court during the #2 doubles match on Thursday, April 22. Unfortunately, Herzog and his partner, Aiden Engel, lost to Rochester Century's #2 doubles team by a score of 6-1, 5-7, 6-3.

and gave up just three hits and two earned runs in four innings. Hayfield 7, Blooming Prairie 2

The Blooming Prairie softball team was gunning for their third straight road win, but Hayfield starting pitcher Caitlyn Hendrickson had other plans. She struck out 14 Awesome Blossoms to propel the Vikings to a win on Thursday, April 22.

Blooming Prairie tied the game at 1-1 in the top of the third inning. However, Hayfield responded with three runs in the bottom half of the inning.

The Awesome Blossoms' offense was led by Macy Lembke who went 1-for-3 and scored both runs and Bobbie Bruns and Maren Forystek who each went 1-for-4 with an RBI.

Blooming Prairie's record is now 4-2. **NRHEG 17, Waseca 2** The NRHEG soft-

ball stayed undefeated thanks to a dominant win over the Bluejays on Friday, April 23.

"We were able to take advantage of Waseca's pitching struggles and drew 14 walks, while getting some timely hits," said NRHEG Head Coach Wendy Schultz.

Some of the Panthers' top batters were Sidney Schultz who hit 3 RBIs and scored 3 runs and Ava Kylo who hit 2 RBIs, scored 4 runs and stole 3 bases.

NRHEG starting pitcher Sophie Stortz struck out three Waseca batters and surrendered just three hits and one earned run in four innings.

The Panthers' record improves to 6-0. **Medford 18, Martin Luther/GHEC/Truman 8**

The Medford softball team was held scoreless in the first inning, but after that the Tigers

scored multiple runs each inning as they romped to a ten-run win on Friday, April 23.

In the second inning, Medford took a commanding lead by scoring eight runs.

Josie Wittes led Medford's offense with 4 hits and 3 RBI.

Tiger starting pitcher Makenzie Velshke gave up just one hit in one and two-thirds innings; Julia Niles came in in relief and was tagged with Martin Luther's eight runs, but only two were earned.

Medford's record is now 1-5.

TENNIS

Rochester Century 5, Owatonna 2 The Rochester Century tennis beat Owatonna convincingly on Thursday, April 22.

At #1 singles, Owatonna's Lincoln Maher lost 6-0, 6-2. The Huskies' #2 singles player Mac Plicher and #3 singles player Caleb Schuler each lost 6-3, 7-5.

Owatonna's lone singles win came via its #4 singles player Liam Smith who won 6-0, 6-0. The Panthers put up a better fight in the doubles matches. The #1 doubles team, Charlie Tucker and Connor Whalen, lost 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Thomas Herzog and Aiden Engel, the #2 doubles team, lost 6-1, 5-7, 6-3. Meanwhile, Nils Ganter and John Pfeifer, the #3 doubles team, got the Huskies' lone doubles win by winning 6-4, 7-6.

Blossoms eke out win in extra innings

◀ BLOSSOMS from A8

Then, Blooming Prairie stepped up by recording a 1-2-3 inning to close out the game.

The 16-14 win improved the Blossoms' record to 4-1, but the next day they lost to Hayfield so their record is now 4-2.

Blooming Prairie's next opportunity to improve its record is when it goes on the road to face 5-0 NRHEG at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

The Blossoms' next home game is against United South Central at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 3.

BP hitting stats: Macy Lembke - 2 hits, 3 runs, 2 walks and a stolen base; Bobbie Bruns - 1 hit, 2 runs, stolen base and 3 RBIs; Krohnberg - 3 hits, home run, 5 RBIs, 2 runs, 2 walks and a stolen base; Rachel Winzenberg - 1 hit, double, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Lexi Steckelberg - 1 hit, double and 1 run; Melanie Winzenberg - 2 hits, 2 runs and a walk; Aliva Schneider - 1 hit, run and a walk; Maren Forystek - 2 hits, home run, 3 RBIs and 3 runs; Lauren Schammel - 1 hit, double, 2 runs, 2 walks and 2 RBIs.

BP pitching stats: Allison Krohnberg - 4 strikeouts, 4 walks, 16 hits, 14 runs and 9 earned runs in 9 innings pitched.

PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ BLOTTER from A4

failure to obey traffic control device, \$125; Amanda K. Preble, 25, Ellendale, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Pamela K. Renchin, 56, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Abram Rodriguez Jr., 20, Owatonna, violation of no contact order, \$200, 10 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Courtney L. Schmitz, 23, Rice, theft, \$791.98, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no contact with victim and 2 years of supervised probation; Alyssa M. Schroeder, 30, Fairbault, abandoned vehicle, \$125; Amber M. Scott, 35, Minneapolis, invalid license, \$175; Jorge L. Trevino-Lopez, 51, Owatonna, give peace officer false information, \$175 and 1 day in county jail; Alex J. Vasquez, 20, Owatonna, no insurance, invalid license and failure to yield, \$425; Jahneah S. Warren, 24, Mora, restraining order violation, \$200, 19 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; William R. Wheeler, 33, Waseca, revoked license, \$275; Robert A. Winckelmann Jr., 49, Hauppauge, NY, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rocio G. Alvarez, 23, Waseca, speeding and revoked license, \$415;

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Laurie K. Bernard, 59, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Ethan W. Brandt, 50, Paul, speeding, \$125; Keton C. Brown, 23, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Joan M. Donelan-Webster, 53, Waseca, speeding, \$215; Kafumba M. Donzo, 40, Austin, speeding, \$115; Madison D. Dowhanik, 18, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia and invalid license, \$300; Ricardo Garcia, 25, Albert Lea, registration violation, \$75; Caleb G. Geary, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Dogle J. Hoyer, 58, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Than Htay, 36, Austin, speeding, \$115; Eric S. Knudson, 48, Ellendale, DWI, \$500, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, ignition interlock, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Jesse R. Lien, 42, East Bethel, no insurance and expired tabs, \$305; Tyler J. McNamara, 26, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Peter K. Paul, 36, Saco, ME, speeding, \$135; Andrew D. Ryan, 22, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Richard L. Shaw, 47, Fairbault, revoked license, \$275; Benjamin H. Sosa, 43, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Moses A. Suleiman, 21, Austin, invalid license, \$175; Brian J. Sumner, 40, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Christiana L. Thompson, 25, Mankato, speeding and revoked license, \$475; Janna D. VonRuden, 21, New Richland, speeding, \$115.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Alexis Alejandro Murillo Mata, 24, arrested at 11:15 p.m. April 16, warrant arrest \$1,000 bail. Krystal Rae Lorango, 30, arrested at 2:01 a.m. April 17, DWI, endangerment of child and reckless driving, \$12,000 bail. Andrew James Eggeneschutz, 39, arrested at 12:05 a.m. April 20, felony domestic assault, domestic assault with strangulation and failure to register, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Craig James Williams, 31, arrested at 10:15 p.m. April 18, felony possession of stolen vehicle, held for court. Richard Allan Miller Jr., 44, arrested at 6:48 a.m. April 19, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court. Jesse Gutierrez, 25, arrested at 6:35 p.m. April 22, probation warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 4 - 11:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Shane J. Anderson, 29, Hayfield, tamper with motor vehicle, 18 days in county jail; Christian J. Batalden, 40, Austin, speeding, \$120; Jeffrey T. Braun, 21, Plainview, revoked license, \$280; Jeremy A. Gorman, 26, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Jesus Gutierrez, 35, Dodge Center, suspended license and no insurance, \$480; Damarcus D. Holkweg, 24, Mankato, revoked license and speeding, \$420; Ronnie D. Nightingale, 40, LeRoy, parking violation, \$32; Joy L. Peterson, 37, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; Melissa R. Pflaum, 51, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Karen L. Rustin, 72, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; Jacob L. Schultz, 34, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Dennis L. Sharpe, 29, Hayfield, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; John T. Thomford, 41, Stewartville, cancelled license, \$280; Noah J. Timmons, 24, Hayfield, stop sign, \$130; Gregory F. Trost, 73, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; Courtney A. Vondrahit, 20, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Christian D. Waldner, 19, Hayfield, exhibition driving, \$120; Bruce A. Winter, 34, Pine Island, parking violation, \$32; Marj X. Yang, 49, Rochester, speeding, \$280.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Alek D. Bell, 25, Rochester, theft of motor fuel from retailer, \$82; Joseph D. Bruce, 54, Pine Island, parking violations, \$52; Shawn E. Clement, 36, Dodge Center, registration violation, no insurance and license plates violation, \$340; Phoebe H. DeCook, 44, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Rebekah R. Flatness, 43, Kasson, DWI, \$230, 29 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Steven M. Lamotta, 37, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Kog J. Malith, 27, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; Logan J. Oniz, 29, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Kylie E. Paulson, 38, Winona, revoked license, \$280; Dustin H. Rogge, 28, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Danielle A. Roche, 33, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Cody J. Rongve, 31, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; Thurman W. Roush Jr., 52, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; James A. Rydman, 55, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Raymond L. Sheldon, 54, Winona, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Katrina A. Sorenson, 31, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Noah S. Sprunger, 19, Rochester, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$280; Tanner R. Swarthout, 20, Pine Island, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$280; Justin W. White, 40, Rochester, no insurance, \$280.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Steven L. Baugs, 51, Gahanna, OH, speeding, \$280; James J. Calvert-Robinson, 30, Preston, speeding, \$140; Charles L. Dappen, 27, Hayfield, seat belt, \$105; Courtney M. Dohrmann, 22, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Shawn S. Dufrene, 29, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Zachary M. Edling, 31, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Abdelk H. Hassan, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Michael King, 21, St. Paul, speeding, \$140; Cassandra M. Latwesen, 24, Rochester,

speeding, \$140; Amliah M. Motzko, 19, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$150; Mason R. Ogilvie, 24, Lansing, speeding, \$220; David M. Packer, 39, Kasson, speeding, \$150; Gerald D. Smith, 70, Rochester, no insurance, \$280; Zachary D. Sommer, 21, Claremont, speeding, \$150; Joseph J. Wallin, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, \$280.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joel J. Gangl, 19, Mantorville, registration violation, \$180; Autumn K. McKee, 19, Dodge Center, suspended license, \$280; Jessica F. Randolph, 24, New Prague, speeding, \$120; John B. Richey, 33, West Concord, parking violation, \$32. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 11 - 18:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jaime B. Beck, 41, Le Sueur, expired tabs, \$110; Keshawn A. Butler, 22, no insurance, \$280; Adam L. Bufford, 31, West Concord, DWI, \$1,010, chemical dependency evaluation, ignition interlock and 2 years of supervised probation; Joseph Estrada, 29, Kenyon, revoked license and stop sign, \$330; Octavio Gurola Silos, 46, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Tanner J. Hellekson, 21, Lake Crystal, speeding, \$120; Jessica A. Hotovec, 34, Dodge Center, operate ATV in careless manner and speeding, \$160; Michael D. Jackson, 47, Hayfield, DWI, \$430, 64 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, 22 days of home electronic monitor and 2 years of supervised probation; Jordan T. Jensen, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$220; Izel D. Kocur, 25, Minneapolis, speeding, \$220; Jacob R. Larson, 18, Dodge Center, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; Kerry J. Melcher II, 44, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Joshua D. Peterson, 59, Hayfield, trespassing, \$205; Nathaniel B. Wallin,

26, Rochester, speeding, \$380.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Keith A. Bowers, 38, St. Peter, revoked license, no insurance and license plate impoundment, \$780; Jonathan D. Buck, 38, Rochester, hands free violation, \$130; Phoebe H. DeCook, 44, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Todd J. Egglar, 55, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Mackenzie K. Fabian, 21, Spring Valley, disorderly conduct, \$255; Shawna R. Garcia, 18, Kasson, hands free violation, \$130; Craig H. Holes, 61, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Matthew J. Marquette, 29, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Cody J. Ness, 17, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Jonathan R. Smith, 42, St. Louis Park, stop sign, \$130; Tanner R. Swarthout, 20, Pine Island, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$280.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Steven L. Baugs, 51, Gahanna, OH, speeding, \$280; Joshua D. Biergum, 35, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Lesley A. Bode, 54, Shakopee, speeding, \$130; Quatarzous M. Dunlap, 28, Port Charlotte, FL, no license and possession of marijuana, \$230; Megan E. Furr, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Laura K. Hager, 33, Mapleton, speeding, \$140; Anthony J. Lamotte, 31, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Burton A. Nelson, 27, Kasson, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, \$180; Tiffany N. Palmer, 33, Kasson, speeding and possession of paraphernalia, \$180; Louis J. Robinson, 50, Rochester, suspended license, \$280; Zachary D. Sommer, 21, Claremont, speeding, \$130; Elizabeth J. Sorg, 51, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Joshua N. Tamez, 33, Dodge Center, speeding, \$280; Xuaiping Y. Timmons, 59, Fairbault, speeding, \$120.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mario A. Leon Gonzalez, 30, Dodge Center, invalid license, \$180; Jessica F. Randolph, 24, New Prague, speeding, \$120.



Senior Focus

Health & Fitness
Retirement
Money/Investment
Activities & Hobbies

WEST HILLS NEWS

Limited programs offered at West Hills

DANI BAKKEN

West Hills Social Commons is open! Our hours are Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. We are providing a limited amount of programs right now, but as restrictions are lifted, we will add more programs to the schedule.

Below you will find an example of what our weekly programming schedule looks like. To find which games will be played and when please go to the West Hills Social Commons Website at West Hills Social Commons | Owatonna, MN or check out our most current newsletter!

Monday
9 a.m. - Peer Lead weight Training
11 a.m. - Rotating Dice Game
1:30 p.m. - Bunco

Wednesday
9 a.m. - Peer Lead weight Training
1 p.m. - Billiards
1:30 p.m. - Rotating Dice Game

Friday
9 a.m. - Peer Lead Weight Training
11 a.m. - Rotating Dice Game
1 p.m. - Billiards
1:30 p.m. - Bingo

Book Club

This activity is held the third Monday of the month at 1 p.m. Calling all avid readers.

Adult Leisure Pursuits has a book club. Join the Book Worms at West Hills Social Commons to discuss the monthly books.

• **May 15** - Tamarack County - William Kent Krueger

• **June 21** - The Locutter's Daughter - Tracie Peterson

• **July 19** - The Secret of Pembroke Park - Julia Klassen

• **Aug. 16** - The Book of Lost Friends - Lisa Wingate

• **Sept. 20** - This Tender Land - Will Kent Krueger

• **Oct. 18** - Where the Crawdads Sing - Delia Owens

• **Nov. 15** - The Winter Sister - Megan Collins

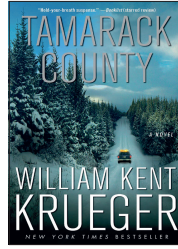
• **Dec. 20** - Skipping Christmas - John Grisham

AARP Safe Driving

AARP Safe Driving Classes are cancelled through the end of August 2021. AARP classes can be taken online at <https://www.aarpdriversafety.org>. Use the code Drivingskills for a discount.

Volunteer of the year

Nomination forms are now



The Book Worms will discuss William Kent Krueger's book, "Tamarack County," at its May 15 meeting.

available for the 2021 Steele County Citizen Volunteer of the Year. The award is sponsored by the Steele County Exchange Club in cooperation with the Steele County Free Fair. The award recognizes outstanding male and female senior citizens who have contributed time and talent to benefit their community. A Steele County male and female senior citizen aged 70 and over will be selected and honored on senior day (Aug. 19) at the Steele County Free Fair. Nomination forms are available at West Hills Social Commons, the fair office, the fair website and the City of Owatonna website. Deadline for nominations is May 1.

4 risks that could undermine planning

BY JIM BRAUN

Few things feel better than to - finally - arrive at retirement confident about all the planning and saving you did to cause it to happen. It was decades in the making, but now it's here.

Unfortunately, you may not be out of the financial woods yet. A number of risks to your retirement strategy can still lurk even as you appear to have safely arrived at your post-work destination. Some of the most common ones include:

• **A significant market drop shortly before or early in your retirement.** We all know that what the market gives, the market can take away. But a sudden market drop right when you are reaching retirement can be especially devastating. You have less time to make a come-

back, especially when you are starting to withdraw from those accounts at the same time the market is giving you fits. Think of it this way. If you have \$1 million, and take a 10 percent loss, that's a \$100,000 drop, taking you to \$900,000. Now let's say the market rebounds 10 percent. That means you recover only \$90,000 of the \$100,000. And if you had withdrawn some of the money to live on, you will recover even less. One way to at least partially avert this risk is to begin moving some of your portfolio into more conservative investments as you near retirement age. When you were relatively young and in the accumulation phase of investing, you could afford to take some risks. But now your investment strategy needs to focus more on keeping what you have.

See RISKS on A11 ►

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4 risks that could undermine planning

◀ **RISKS** from A10
 • **Inflation that reduces your spending power over time.** Even when it seems like you have enough money in retirement, it's possible you don't if you failed to factor in for inflation. Let's take a look at that \$1 million again and say that each year you plan to withdraw 4 percent, or \$40,000, for living expenses. That \$400,000 won't have the same spending power in year 10 of retirement as it did in year one. That's why it's important to account for inflation as you are creating your financial plan and trying to determine how much money you need

for retirement.
 • **Unexpected medical and/or long-term care expenses.** As you age, health problems can emerge that could quickly drain your money as you pay for hospitalizations, expensive prescriptions, and numerous visits to specialists. At some point, you could require long-term care, which comes with a staggering price tag. The average cost of a semi-private room in a nursing home is \$7,756 a month, according to the Genworth annual cost of care survey. Genworth also reports that seven out of 10 people will require long-term care in their lifetimes. One option

for planning for this is to purchase long-term care insurance, but there are other routes to explore as well.
 • **Outliving your assets.** People are living longer than ever, which is great, but longevity increases the odds that you could outlive your money. If you are calculating that you just need enough money for a 10 or 20-year retirement, you could be in for a surprise. For example, more than one in three 65-year-old women will live to be 90. For 65-year-old men, it's more than one in five. Of course, many will live beyond 90. It's best to expect a long life and plan your finances

accordingly.
 While all of these factors pose a significant risk to your retirement, a financial professional should be able to help you create a plan that will reduce some of your exposure. Retirement should be a time of enjoyment, not a time to fret over every dollar and how tomorrow could bring unpleasant surprises.

Jim Braun is president of Tri-State Retirement. He helps clients optimize Social Security, reduce Medicare costs, and create retirement income strategies that will last the rest of their lives.

Nomination for senior award due May 1

Nomination forms are now available for the 2021 Steele County Citizen Volunteer of the Year. The award is sponsored by the Steele County Exchange Club in Cooperation with the Steele County Free Fair.
 A Steele County male and female senior citizen aged 70 and over will be selected and honored on Senior Day at the 2021 Steele County Free Fair. The award recognizes outstanding male and female senior citizens who have contributed time

and talent to benefit their community and its citizens after reaching the age of 65. Nominees must be 70 by June 1, 2020.
 The recognition program at the SCFF will take place in Fair Square Park on Senior Day, Thursday, August 19th beginning at 11:30 a.m. Nomination forms are available at West Hills Social Commons in Owatonna, the SCFF office, Steele County Free Fair website and from Bruce Kubicek at 451-6616. Deadline for nominations is May 1, 2021.

Minimizer's move to Owatonna nearly complete

◀ **MINIMIZER** from A1 in respect to industrial development, could not accommodate the company's needs.
 "The entire team effort involved with making this a success is impressive and could not have happened without the commitment from everyone in all departments," High Bar Brands Vice President of Operations Jim Richards said.
 "I think the most impressive thing about the whole move is that we

set sales and shipping records throughout the course of it," Richards said. "That's amazing, and it's a testament to the team we have in place, from sales, to operations, to administration, to customer service."
 The new facility brings Minimizer under one roof.
 "Having everyone in one facility really benefits the efficiency of product flow," Richards said. "This new set-up drastically reduces the

time and space that product travels from raw material to order shipped."
 Richards also believes the move will considerably improve company communication.
 "Communication flow in all areas - from daily work distribution to company vision communication - is significantly impacted in a positive way," Richards said. "Employees now have better access to their supervisor,

HR, and other departments."
 Twenty-one, or nearly 30%, of Minimizer's 74 employees still live in Blooming Prairie.
 While located in Blooming Prairie, Minimizer was one of the Blooming Prairie Utilities' largest customers.
 Minimizer is now located on 13 acres in Owatonna's Industrial Park, just west of the Cybex campus on SW 18th Street, close to the intersection of Interstate 35 and Highway 14.

COVID-19 case causes about 50 BP students to quarantine

◀ **COVID-19** from A1 distance learning for the full 14 days.
 "You have to be able to maintain 6-feet of social distancing if you test out of COVID-19. Our classrooms now because we brought everybody back are not set up for 6-feet social distancing," he said.
 In addition to the roughly 50 students quarantining, another consequence of the

COVID-19 contact tracing was the Awesome Blossom varsity and junior varsity baseball teams' seasons being put on pause through this Friday since the majority of its players are quarantining.
 "The entire varsity and junior varsity teams are on quarantine, with the exception of a few athletes and coaches who either have already had

COVID-19 or have had the vaccine," said Mach said, adding that those athletes and coaches who are not in quarantine can practice.
 Mach said the team will be able to make up all but two of the games that had been scheduled between Tuesday, April 20, and Friday, April 30.
 "Due to the tight schedule and the need to rest arms, it is nearly

impossible to make up all the games," she said.
 Fortunately, she said, that the last team Blooming Prairie played, Mankato Loyola, won't have to make up any games because they were not exposed.
 The baseball team will resume its season when they go on the road to face Gopher Conference foe United South Central at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 3.

GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK



Spring gardening tips for April

- April is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. Try to plant different varieties of trees, so as not to have all the same trees in your yard.
- Finish perennial bed clean up. It's still a good idea to leave a bundle of hollow tubed stemmed debris in the garden for our native pollinators.
- While cleaning up the perennial beds, take note if a perennial has died out in the center, or pushed out of the area you would like it in, it's time to divide and replant it.
- April is a great time to plant an asparagus bed.
- Cool season vegetables enjoy spring days. Plant beans, carrots, lettuce, spinach, kohlrabi, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, onion, potatoes, parsnips, radishes to name a few.

Happy Gardening!
Provided by Julie Wanous of the Steele County Master Gardeners

This gardening section sponsored by:
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United Way of Steele County

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MAY 4 10:30 a.m. - Online Storjtime, BP Library Facebook

ELLEDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

APRIL 30 11 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building 7 p.m. - Ellendale Fire Department Meeting, Community Building

MAY 3 11 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building MAY 5 11 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

APRIL 30 7:30 p.m. - The Gin Game, Little Theatre of Owatonna County Planning Commission Meeting, County Admin Building

MAY 1 7 a.m. - Farmer's Market, Central Park 7:30 p.m. - The Gin Game, Little Theatre of Owatonna MAY 4 10 a.m. - Genealogy Club, History Center

MAY 2 2 p.m. - The Gin Game, Little Theatre of Owatonna 7 p.m. - Steele County Board of Adjustments Meeting, County Admin Building

MAY 3 6 p.m. - Owatonna Firefighters Relief Association Meeting, Fire Station 7 p.m. - Steele County's - Owatonna Torey's - Owatonna

PARKINSON'S? Are you suffering with Parkinson's after exposure to Paraquat Herbicide? Medical studies show a possible link between the common herbicide Paraquat and Parkinson Disease.

J & H LIQUOR'S 340 E MAIN BLOOMING PRAIRIE 507-583-7557 OWNERS: Harvey & Nancy Farr BARN & OFF-SALE HOURS Monday-Wednesday-Friday, 11:30 AM - Close

Sudoku Corner A group devoted to helping women is turning to a new event to help raise funds. Rachel's Light is hosting a brunch, "Celebrating Women Everywhere," on Saturday, May 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Torey's Restaurant in Owatonna.

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Answers 9 8 1 8 9 2 6 7 6 2 7 9 8 1 2 9 8 8 2 9 6 2 9 8 1 8 9 8 2 9 1 6 7 9 2 1 6 8 9 8 2 1 2 6 8 2 7 8 1 9 9 1 7 9 9 2 6 8 2 8 9 8 8 2 1 9 6 7 2

Volunteers are rays of light in community



Steele Talkin' TRACY IGNASZEWSKI

Did you know that April is National Volunteer Month? Yes, National Volunteer month in the U.S. takes place in the month of April. This month is dedicated to honoring all the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month.

So, thank you to all of those who VOLUNTEER! But this also gives me a great opportunity to express my appreciation to all Steele County 4-H Volunteers. You are rays of light in the community, and I am thankful for each one of you. You keep me focused on the collective impact you have on the program and the lives of 4-Hers and their families. Thank you!

In Steele County, we have 556 community club 4-H members in 10 4-H Clubs. We also have 446 site-based club 4-H members. Each of these club members engage in experiential hands-on learning led by screened volunteers. These volunteers are dedicated caring adults known as our 4-H Club Leaders. Thank you! The 4-H Pledge brings me to our youth member volunteers. As 4-H members, you recite the pledge at meetings and gatherings. "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my family, my club, my community, my country, and my world."

who volunteered with their children and now their grandchildren. 4-H alumni who find their way back as in that special role or project volunteer, as you have a special project talent. Past parents who saw the benefits their children gained from 4-H and want to pass this on to other young people. I believe you bring tremendous capacity to the program and allow other volunteers to remain focused on their impact area. You bring us energy and keep us connected. You are our hands in action. Thank you! We also have a special set of volunteers that invite us into their lives, homes, farms, and businesses. You provide real life learning. 4-H members' lives are enriched because of you and the experience you provide for them. Thank you. We can provide so many different opportunities for youth because of our volunteers! So, for you 4-H volunteers, you may never know the profound effect that you may have made on

a young person's life. A kind word, a listening ear, giving of your time can mean so much to a young person. You generously give your gift of time and talents to make an impact, provide support and encouragement to a young person's life learning. Thank you! Please know that we genuinely appreciate and value your commitment of time to volunteering with our organization and for this we Thank you. The work of 4-H volunteers is continuous. Every day volunteers lend a helping hand to make 4-H programs more beneficial to the residents of Steele County. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities with Steele County 4-H Youth Development, please contact me directly.

Tracy Ignaszewski is the 4-H youth extension educator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

United Way can help those in need find services

BY ANNETTE DUNCAN April showers bring May flowers, while a beautiful sentiment, for many in Steele County, showers have a completely different meaning... unpaid bills, needed home repairs, and a car that you just cannot afford to fix. When you feel overwhelmed United Way of Steele County can help turn those showers into flowers. Pick up your phone and dial 2-1-1, go online to www.211unitedway.org, or text your zip code to 898-211. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, this line is available to connect you

with the resources you need, when you need them most! If you are struggling, you may not know where to start. This is where we can help. By calling 2-1-1 we can listen to your situation, help identify the services that you need and then connect you with those resources. We are fortunate in Steele County to have an array of services available, but if you have never had to use services before it can be difficult figuring out where to start. We are now taking applications for Rent-

MN. If you are a renter, live in Minnesota, owe back rent, and meet the income limits, you may qualify for up to 15 months of total assistance. Landlords, do you have tenants that are behind on rent? You may also call and start the process to help get these back due rents paid. This amazing program offers rent payments for past-due rent since March 13, 2020, utility payments, and additional housing related costs such as fees charged or eviction-related costs. Don't wait, call or go online today to start the appli-

cation process and turn those daunting showers into flowers. United Way of Steele County believes everyone should have access to the support they need. Together, with amazing community partners, we are eliminating obstacles, and creating solutions. This is what it means to LIVE UNITED. Annette Duncan is President of United Way of Steele County. She can be reached at 507-455-1180 or via email by president@unitedwaysteelecounty.org

Shelter plans to celebrate women at fundraiser

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER er will also feature speakers who will share testimony from their experience of staying at Rachel's Light. "We are trying to look for different ways to fundraise," said Deanna Ripka, board chair. "We want to celebrate women and recognize people that have been influential in their lives." The largest fundraiser for Rachel's Light is typically a soup dinner in the fall, Ripka said. Last year, the group hosted a drive-thru event where people picked up soups. Rachel's Light began serving Steele County in September 2019 after

Lily's Sparrow House closed down in 2017. Rachel's is based out of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Meriden. From 2019 to the end of 2020, Rachel's has served 22 women and 24 children, according to Ripka. Most of the people are homeless and usually need temporary, emergency housing. The shelter serves women from surround-

RACHEL'S LIGHT FUNDRAISER • Saturday, May 8 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Torey's Restaurant - Owatonna • For tickets, go to www.rachelslight.com

PANTHER OF THE WEEK This week's Panther of the Week is BLAKE BRAATEN. He is the son of Andrew and Lindsey Bratten and they reside in Ellendale. Blake is in Mrs. Larso's second grade class. Blake is a standout student who is always thinking of others. If he sees a classmate who needs a hand, he's the first one to be there to help. He is a leader that takes pride in being a helper in school. Blake even helps his teacher by making sure the room is nice and tidy before he leaves for the day. Thanks for being so helpful and kind, Blake!

Owatonna Art Center honors 3 students The Owatonna Arts Center recently recognized three area high school seniors with its Fine Arts Award. Winning the award this year were Wyatt Voss from Blooming Prairie High School, Miya Weber from Med-

Farm connections Thursday Evenings, 7:30 AgVantage Dan Hoffmayer Minnesota State Minnesota Corn KSMQ-TV The Better Choice Public Television Southeastern MN / Northeastern IA

Sign up for garage sales in BP



Chamber Buzz
EMILY GLASER

Home Floral or online at www.bloomingprairiechamber.com.

The cost is \$20, which will allow you to have your name on the garage sale map, official garage sale sign and advertising. You will also receive balloons.

Monday, May 3 is the last day to sign up for the city wide garage sale.

Folks interested in signing up for the city wide garage sale may do so by stopping at Prairie

Upcoming Events

- May 8: Mother's Day on Main
- May 15: City Wide Garage Sale
- May 22: BP Education Foundation Auction
- July 3-4: Fourth of July Celebration
- July 14: Hawaiian Golf Fun Day

Emily Glaser is the executive director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. Her office is located in the City Center.

Allina names Johnston president of Owatonna hospital

Allina Health recently named Michael Johnston as its new South Market President. Johnston will have direct leadership and operational responsibility for District One Hospital, Faribault, Owatonna Hospital, and future growth opportunities in the I-35 corridor. He will assume his new role on May 10.

Johnston comes to Allina Health from McLaren Health Care in Michigan, where he served as president and CEO of the McLaren Thumb Region. In his role, he oversaw hospitals located in Bad Axe and Caro, Mich. Throughout his career, Johnston has led many successful initiatives to improve safety, quality, patient satisfaction,

and market share. He has also designed and implemented a nationally accredited lean management system. He previously served in executive operations roles at Atrium Health - Charlotte, North Carolina and Trinity Health - Mason City, Iowa.

"My wife, Sarah, and I are extremely excited and humbled to be joining the Allina Health family," Johnston said. "We are very happy to be coming back to the area. I very much look forward to working with the people and communities we serve to continue to deliver world-class healthcare and population health that Allina Health is known for to our patients."

Johnston holds a



Michael Johnston

bachelor's degree from Purdue University, an MBA from Thomas More College, and a Doctorate of Management from the University of Phoenix. The Johnstons have three children: Kirsten, who is a nurse in Orlando, Fla., Thomas, a computer engineer in Tampa, Fla., and Evie, a junior at Michigan State University.

Ellendale terminates firefighter for conduct

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A volunteer firefighter has been terminated from service after city officials uncovered what they considered to be unprofessional conduct mostly off duty.

Ellendale city officials confirmed last week they have parted ways with Jack Skalicky, who had been a firefighter for about five years. The action was taken during a closed city council meeting on April 18.

In a statement about the termination, the city said: "The City Council and Fire Department do not condone this behavior. We want to make it clear to the public, of our commitment to serve you with the highest standards and ethics expected from our department."

Skalicky, 23, was charged in January 2019 in Waseca County District Court with felony stalking,

second or subsequent violation within 10 years. According to court records, he was accused of harassing a girlfriend by reaching out to a friend of hers trying to obtain information about her. He allegedly broke up with the girlfriend in the spring of 2018, but sent Facebook messages to the victim's friend. The victim notified police of Skalicky's "stalking tendencies," court documents said.

In May 2019, Skalicky entered a guilty plea and was later sentenced by Judge Carol Hanks. As part of the sentence, Skalicky received 30 days in the county jail, 30 days of work release and a \$375 fine. The judge ordered Skalicky to refrain from threats of violence, not to use alcohol or drugs, to submit to random testing, to have no contact with the victim, to maintain employment, to receive cognitive skill training, to follow all laws, to provide a DNA sample when directed and not to use or possess firearms. He also cannot vote until discharged from probation.

He previously had been convicted of a gross misdemeanor count of stalking in August 2018, which triggered the most recent incident to be charged as a felony.

Successful completion of probation will result in the felony being reduced to a misdemeanor. Ellendale firefighters are strictly volunteer and do not receive any compensation for their services from the city. However, they receive benefits from the Fire Relief Association upon retirement, according to Steve Engel, deputy clerk for Ellendale. Engel did not know how much someone with only a few years of service would be entitled to, though he said it wouldn't be much.

Engel said this particular incident will likely force the city to update its policies regarding behavior of employees. Though firefighters are volunteers, they are considered city employees for worker's compensation, he said.

The Times was unable to reach Skalicky for comment.

Red Cross blood drives set May 1-5

As COVID-19 vaccines become more available and people resume some of their favorite activities, the American Red Cross is reminding the public that the need for blood remains. Healthy individuals are encouraged to make a blood donation appointment now.

Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Schedule a donation appointment by downloading the Red

Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities from May 1-5 in the Steele County area include:
Dodge County Claremont 5/12/2021: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 East St. N
Kasson 5/7/2021: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Anytime Fitness, 110 W. Main St.
Freeborn County Albert Lea 5/6/2021: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Bridge Community

Church, 2016 Bridge Ave. 5/14/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., YMCA, 2021 W. Main St.
Allen 5/7/2021: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Alden Conger High School, 215 N. Broadway
Geneva 5/10/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Geneva Community Center, 314 1st Ave. SE
Steele County Owatonna 5/5/2021: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Owatonna VFW, 135 Oakdale St.
5/6/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Owatonna VFW, 135 Oakdale St.
5/10/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Associated Church, 800 Havana Road

Medford to offer summer school program

◀ MEDFORD from A6 kindergarten and first grade, another for second and third grade, and the last for grades four through six.

Classes will be held from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Monday through Thursday from July 6 to July 29. Students who attend will be provided with breakfast and lunch.

Carlson is worked with teachers to come up with a process to find out which students qualify for the program by reviewing students' math and reading scores from the FastBridge assessment. "The list was then shared with teachers to garner their input and see if they thought particular students should be added or removed from

the recommended list," he said.

"We want to make sure the lessons are specifically focused on foundational reading and math skills and high-level power standards," Carlson explained. "Program registration forms will be sent out the week of April 26 to give us an idea of participation numbers and interest."

While the ins and outs of the program as slowly falling into place, this is still the issue of getting students to the school. "The tricky part will be figuring out transportation," Carlson said. "We're not sure how many families feel that transportation would be a necessity before they could commit to the program."

"We have added a piece to the registration regarding the transportation so we can gather the numbers and then decide if transportation would even be an option," he continued. With some issues such as transportation slowly being hammered out, Medford Elementary will likely use this first go around as a foundation for future programs.

"We will learn and adapt from our first year of implementation for the possibility of continuing to offer the summer program in the future," Carlson said. "Medford Elementary staff are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to support our students and families."

Virtual open house on roundabout set

Steele County and the City of Owatonna will be constructing a roundabout at the intersection of 26th Street (County Highway 34) and State Avenue (County Highway 45). A virtual open house will be held until May 9

at the following weblink: https://www.steellemn.us/divisions/public-works/transportation/csh_34_at_csh_45_roundabout.php

The purpose of the open house is to share the project design and gather feedback from the public.

The roundabout is scheduled to be constructed beginning this summer. The duration of the project is anticipated to be approximately two months.

Steele County advises motorists to drive with caution and slow

down through work zones for their safety and for the safety of the construction crews.

For updates on this or other Steele County Highway construction projects, visit www.co.steellemn.us/highway-construction.

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Sherry Buscovick, 69, Owatonna



Sherry Buscovick

Sherry-Lyn Buscovick passed away peacefully at her home Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at the age of 69.

Sherry was a "New Year's Baby" born in Owatonna on Jan. 1, 1952 to Norman and Ruth Buscovick. God gave her so many talents. She was a real artist and loved doing her crafts as well as loving up on her pets.

She is survived by her daughter Shannon Weberg and two granddaughters Avery and Oni; one brother, Roger (Linda) Buscovick; one sister, Linda (Tom) Stockwell and many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by her son Aaron Schocker; parents, Norman and Ruth Buscovick and brother, James Buscovick.

Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, April 30, 2021 at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home.

For more information or to leave an online condolence visit www.megercares.com.

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Kenneth Casperon, 85, Owatonna



Kenneth Casperon

Kenneth Casperon of Owatonna died April 17, 2021 at Birchwood Cottages in Owatonna.

A private family Celebration of Life is planned for July 2021.

Ken was born July 21, 1935 in Owatonna, son of Albert and Minnie (Brocker) Casperon. He went to Owatonna High School, Class of 1954.

Ken married Mavis Miller on Sept. 11, 1954, in Waseca. They raised five children. When first married, Ken owned and operated Ken's Standard station, his motto being, "Even if you don't need anything, stop in and say hello."

He later worked at Harland's Tire Service, as the farm/truck guy for several years, and then worked at Mr. D's Owatonna Ford as a mechanic. His last job was at Deutsch Construction in New Prague, where he sandblasted and painted trucks and heavy equipment, retiring in 2010.

He played Men's League Hockey for several years. He was a member of the Owatonna Hockey Club, coaching for 15 years. His players called him "Mr. C." Many parents wrote glowing letters to Dad expressing how much they appreciated him being a great coach and role model for their boys.

Dad's interests included: all sports, especially hockey and the Vikings, but mostly he loved cars and pickups, driving them, fixing and painting them, and restoring classics. His favorite was his red '66 Ford Mustang convertible. Dad and Mom enjoyed going to the cities, dining out and shopping

together, appreciating the finer things in life.

Preceding him in death were his parents, wife, Mavis, brother, 'Cap', and sister, Nadine Burke.

His family will miss him dearly: Robin (Dennis) McNamee, Jill (John Stewart) Casperon, Sunny (Elliot) Jenkins, Amy (Steve) Musman and K.C. (Tanya) Casperon, also 14 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Dad was a great husband, making sure anything Mom needed got done. He really enjoyed spending time with his family, especially celebrating birthdays and holidays. He was a kind, caring, giving and loving man, and a fantastic dad! Though his memory will always be cherished, his death has left a huge hole in our hearts. We love you Dad!

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Richard McCann, 91, Owatonna



Richard McCann

Richard "Dick" J. McCann, age 91 passed away peacefully at the Owatonna Hospital on Saturday, April 17, 2021, with his family by his side.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Dick's life at the Brick Meger Funeral Home on Saturday, May 1, 2021, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. A military burial will take place at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, the week of June 7, 2021.

Dick was born Nov. 10, 1929 the youngest of eight children, to Archie and Mary (Brandley) McCann in St. Cloud. As a youth, Dick worked at the family fuel oil company and ice refrigeration business. He graduated from Saint Cloud Tech where he participated in football, basketball,

and baseball. Dick was a Korean War veteran who enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1951 and received an honorable discharge in 1954.

Dick married Millie Boyer on Sept. 17, 1955, at Saint Paul's Catholic Church in St. Cloud.

Dick had a 30-year career with the Piggly Wiggly Grocery and in 1968, with the opportunity to manage the store in Owatonna, the family relocated from Willmar. Dick and Millie raised their two sons in Owatonna through high school graduation. Another opportunity with Piggly Wiggly relocated Dick and Millie back to Willmar in 1978. Dick is a lifetime member of the American Legion and served as Legion commander while living in Willmar. He also belonged to the Eagles and Elk's clubs in various cities he and Millie lived.

Dick finished his career in the grocery business with Lund's Foods in Hopkins. After 16 years, he retired from his part-time position at age 75.

In his free time, Dick was an avid sports participant as a fast pitch softball pitcher, and also participated in slow

pitch softball, bowling leagues, pool leagues, and trap shooting leagues. He was a committed fan of his sons youth, high school, and college sports teams. He also enjoyed watching his grandchildren in all their sport activities.

Dick and his family are entering their 54th year as Viking season ticket holders. He was also a huge Twins and U of M Gophers fan. In addition, Dick never missed an opportunity to celebrate his Irish heritage.

Dick is survived by his wife of 65 years, Millie; sons, Ron (Gaye) and Don (Tara); four grandchildren, Nathan, Nicole (Matthew), Kelly, and Sarah; and two great grandchildren, Addison and Aidan. Dick was preceded in death by his parents; his six brothers, John, Jim, Howie, Ken "Bud", Aussie, Donnie, and his one sister, Bunny.

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

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Marie Jones, 93, Owatonna



Marie Jones

Marie Amelia Jones, age 93, of Owatonna passed away April 8, 2021.

Friends may greet the family from 1-3 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021, at the Brick Meger Funeral Home. A Catholic Daughters of America Rosary will be recited at 12:45 p.m. before the visitation at the funeral home. Interment will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Owatonna.

Marie was born to John and Thekla Kotten on Jan. 5, 1928 in

Sleepy Eye. She attended St. Mary's Church and St. Mary's School. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1945. She attended a business school in Mankato and found work in Owatonna.

Marie married Robert Jones on Sept. 29, 1951 at St. Hyacinth's Church in Owatonna. They farmed on a farm near Rice Lake before moving to Owatonna. Marie enjoyed participation in the VFW, American Legion, Goldentones, Catholic Daughters and Legion of Mary.

Marie resided at Ecumen Countryside Home for the last 14 years where she was well known by residents and staff.

She is preceded in death by her husband Robert (Bob) Jones, her parents, sisters Iona and Berniece, brother Sylvester (Vesty) and

son-in-law Walter Batts.

Marie is survived by daughters Vivian Batts, Lois Jones, Gail (Larry) Nuckolls, and Phyllis (Gene) Eddy and sister, Viola Watkins, brother Ivan Kotten, five grandchildren, three great grandchildren, sister-in-law Marjorie Jones and cousins, nieces and nephews.

Family appreciates the generous care of Countryside staff and nurses at the Owatonna Hospital. Memorials are preferred to Ecumen Countryside, St. Joseph Church, Owatonna, or a charity activity of the Catholic Daughters.

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

BRICK-MEGER & MEDFORD
 FUNERAL HOME

Gerald Rysavy, 65, Claremont



Gerald Rysavy

Gerald "Bucky" E. Rysavy Jr., age 65, of Claremont, died Dec. 23, 2020, at his home surrounded by his family after a 6-months battle with ALS.

Bucky was born on June 25, 1955, in Owatonna, the son of Gerald "Bud" Sr. and Ruth (Dalland) Rysavy. He graduated from Claremont High School in 1974. Bucky moved to Dalhart,

Texas where he made his home for over 31 years. He worked for Lawrence Transportation, Ryan Transportation and Bennett Truck Transport.

He was an avid NASCAR fan. Bucky was always on the road taking trips and traveling throughout the east and west coast. He enjoyed dining at restaurants, visiting casinos especially in Las Vegas, riding motorcycle and raising Texas Longhorn Cattle.

Bucky is survived by his children, Gerald "Buddy" III (and Mandy) Rysavy of Dalhart, Texas and Nicole (and Jody) Stevenson of Lake McQueney, Texas; two grandchildren, Gerald "Brody" IV, Mason, Lillian and Cole; parents, Gerald "Bud"

Sr. and Ruth Rysavy of Claremont; sisters, Cindy (Goe) St. John of Claremont and Jody (Randy) Christianson of Claremont; many nieces and nephews.

Bucky was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents.

A celebration of life will be at Michaelson Funeral Home on Saturday, May 1, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Family requests that everyone attending to come as you are, casual attire is preferred.

Memorials are preferred to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Ecumen Hospice in Owatonna and The ALS Association. Bucky's last gift was donating his body to science at the Mayo Clinic.

Judy Larson, 61, Owatonna



Judy Larson

Judy Lynn Larson, age 61, passed away peacefully at home on April 8, 2021 with her loving family by her side.

She was born in Owatonna on Aug. 21, 1959, the daughter of Stan and Grace Larson. She will be greatly missed by her sisters Arlene (Ron) Myers, Mary Bahl and Pamela Spindler, brothers John and Jeff Larson, sister-in-law Judy Huper-Bennetts and step-daughter

Tammy (John) Morawitz and their sons Hunter and Mason.

She was preceded in death by her parents Stan and Grace Larson, husband John Huper, brother James Larson, brother-in-law Russ Bahl, sister-in-law Gail Larson, brother-in-law Gary Huper, sister-in-law Pat Huper and brother-in-law Roger Bennetts.

Judy is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She graduated from Owatonna High School in 1977. Later she received a degree in computer technology from Riverland Community College, which was valuable in her later employment at Viracon, Slidell Inc., OTC, and Power Team in Owatonna and most recently at Tru Vue Inc. in Faribault, retiring in July 2020.

Judy lived on her hobby farm for about 40 years where she and John raised yellow labs and grew many vegetables, which they generously shared with family and friends.

Judy provided a warm loving home for her cats, which were like her children. They provided much companionship and joy. She also welcomed her brother James for retreats at her home. He loved the opportunity to be in the country with family.

Judy and John enjoyed fishing locally for bullheads and vacationing and fishing for northern and walleye in northern Minnesota.

A Celebration of Life will be held at her home, 5003 Lemond Road, Owatonna, on Saturday, May 1 at 2 p.m.

Richard Lassahn, Sr., 74, Ellendale



Richard Lassahn, Sr.

Richard "Dick" Allen Lassahn, Sr., 74, of Ellendale, died Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

He was born April 3, 1947 in Owatonna, the son of Arthur and Alice (Olson) Lassahn. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1965.

On July 8, 1963, Dick

married Rebecca David (Albert Lea). Dick has been a truck driver all of his life, logging well over one million miles over the years.

When not driving truck, he enjoyed spending time with his family, attending the sporting events of his children, watching sports on TV, visiting with people and attending church every Sunday at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Lassahn of Ellendale; children, Richard Lassahn, Jr. of Burnsville, Greg (and Sheri) Lassahn of Verona, Wis., David (and Kiley) Lassahn of Ellendale, Sean Lassahn of Ellendale, Lonnie Wilson of Ellen-

dale, Tyrone Wilson of Ellendale and Malena Wilson of Ellendale; grandchildren, Blake Lassahn and Landon Lassahn; siblings, Paul (and Loretta) Lassahn of Montgomery, Gerald (and Barbara) Lassahn of Mount Pleasant, Texas, Lloyd Lassahn of Hurst, Texas and Harold Lassahn of Blooming Prairie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Alice Lassahn and a sister, Judy Valentine.

A Celebration of Life Gathering was held at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Interment will be at a later date in the Blooming Prairie Cemetery.

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Patrons coming into the Blooming Prairie Branch Library regularly inquire what new movies have arrived. For months there were no new movies. The Covid-19 pandemic severely

New movies at the library

affected the film industry. In fact, box office revenues in North America hit a 40 year low in 2020. According to Variety, box office totals for 2020 were \$2.2 billion compared to \$11.39 billion in 2019. That is an 80% drop in revenue in one year's time! Movie studios took different approaches as movies were completed — streaming online to homes, postponing openings indefinitely, or releasing films

straight to DVD. The situation is improving somewhat. When you visit the library and ask what new movies we have, we can show you a list of which movies were released in 2020 and 2021. These more recent movies will have their own special location so you can find them more easily. Just ask to see the new movies. The newer movies include "Greenland,"

"Our Friend," "The War with Grandpa," "Croods 2," "News of the World," "Soul," and "Mulan." We have also added some new TV series such as "Yellowstone," "All Creatures Great & Small," and "The Mandalorian." You can log into your library account online and reserve your favorites, or give us a call at 507-583-7750 and we will request them for you. See you at the library!

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Blooming Prairie Elementary

April 29- Sloppy Joe, chicken bacon ranch melt, baked beans, broccoli florets, fruit
April 30- Mac & Cheese, fish nuggets, dinner roll, radish, steamed carrots, fruit

Blooming Prairie High School

April 29- Spaghetti, garlic breadstick, Caesar side salad, cucumber slices, fruit, BBQ rib sandwich
April 30- Chicken alfredo with pasta, garlic toast, garlic & herb broccoli, baby carrots, fruit, cheesy ham melt
May 5- On-line learning

OBITUARIES

Naven Knutson, 89, formerly of BP



Naven Knutson

Naven Judine Knutson, 89, of Clarksville, Tennessee, formerly of Blooming Prairie and the Leland/Lake Mills area in Iowa, died Thursday, April 8, 2021 at the Vanderbilt Medical Care Center in Nashville.

A graveside committal service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 6, 2021 at Elk Creek Lutheran Cemetery, 4108 Kildeer Ave., Kensett, Iowa with Rev. Tom Martin officiating.

A Celebration of Life gathering will be held immediately following the graveside in the fellowship hall of Elk Creek Lutheran Church

until around 2:30 p.m. Naven Judine Knutson was born on Aug. 6, 1931, in Mason City, Iowa, the son of Eddie and Myrtle (Brudvig) Knutson. Naven graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1948, and graduated from San Francisco State University, in San Francisco, California. He was united on Sept. 2, 1956 in marriage to Doris Elaine Johnson (deceased), in Blooming Prairie. They lived in California from 1956 to 1975 and in Alaska from 1975 until 1992. They settled in Clarksville, Tennessee in 1992.

Naven was a noted athlete in high school; served his country during the Korean War; was a recognized expert in his field of accounting; a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather; and a friend to everyone he met.

Left to cherish his memory are his two sons, Naven John Knutson and his wife Janey of Arab, Ala., and Paul Edward Knutson

and his wife Trudy of Frankfort, Ky.; four grandchildren; Elaine Knutson Wanstreet and her husband Gavin of West Lafayette, Ind.; Mary Knutson Lawlor and her husband Lucas and daughters Lydia, Cora, and Emma of Huntsville, Ala.; Anna Knutson and her son Matthias of Arab, Ala.; Naven E. Knutson, his wife Carmen and son Naven L. of Frankfort, Ky.; his brother David Knutson and wife Ethel of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and sister Elnor Dalchow and husband LeRoy of Milaca.

Naven was preceded by his sister Marilyn Thomas and brother Robert Knutson. The family would like to give a special thanks to John Wallace, a special friend and neighbor for his companionship and help during Naven's final years.

Arrangements are being handled by Corner Colonial Chapel in Northwood, Iowa; www.colonialchapel.com.

VFW Auxiliary chooses democracy winner



Chloe McCarthy of Blooming Prairie has been named the Voice of Democracy winner by the Blooming Prairie VFW Auxiliary. McCarthy earned first place on the local level and came in runner-up in district competition.

The Blooming Prairie VFW Auxiliary has chosen Chloe McCarthy of Blooming Prairie as its Voice of Democracy winner for 2021. McCarthy earned the top award with an essay and audio recording featuring the theme, "Is this the Country the Founders Envisioned?" Besides earning first place at the local level, McCarthy also finished runner-up for District 1, which includes Owatonna, Rochester and much of southern Minnesota. She has been awarded \$300 between the two competitions.

"She really worked for it," said Diane Nelson of the VFW. Nelson said the winner who edged out McCarthy at districts captured the top award at the national level. Erin Stoeking of Rochester won a \$30,000 scholarship. McCarthy will be presenting her winning essay during the Memorial Day service at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Monday, May 31.

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4 BP students win top FFA award

Four Blooming Prairie FFA members were among 264 agricultural education students from across the state awarded the State FFA Degree at the organization's recent convention.

Winning the award from Blooming Prairie were Boone Carlson, Cole Christianson, Ethan Grant and Erin O'Brien. The State FFA Degree is given to the top members of a State FFA Association, and nearly

2% of Minnesota FFA members earned this degree.

This degree demonstrates the student has put an exceptional amount of time into their SAE, local chapter and community. To be eligible, members must earn and invest at least \$2,000 into their SAE. Candidates must complete a minimum of two years of classroom instruction in an agricultural, food and natural resources education program.

Members are required to have contributed more than 25 community service hours to their communities and participate in at least 10 FFA activities beyond the chapter level.



Cole Christianson



Boone Carlson



Erin O'Brien



Ethan Grant

TIGERS OF THE MONTH

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Top left
Kindergarten: Lenyx Jensen
1st Grade: Paisley Schmidt
2nd Grade: Noah Gils
3rd Grade: Claire Wildgrube
4th Grade: Noah Herron
5th Grade: Mason Kolling
6th Grade: Zeah Weise

HIGH SCHOOL

Top left
7th Grade: Mylie Born
8th Grade: German Vasquez
9th Grade: Jonathan Finke
10th Grade: Anah Zuniga
11th Grade: Anna Sobrack
12th Grade: Peyton Sailer

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BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 28
- Patrick Trotman

APRIL 29
- Wendy Hines
- Kayde Bush
- Sondra Hanenberger

APRIL 30
- Cash Kruckeberg
- Linda Christianson
- Charlie Wallace
- Lori Krejci Schultz
- April Smith

MAY 1
- Kari Olsen Bodurtha
- Barbie Johnson
- Paul Smith
- Anthony Noble
- Brynn Thompson
- Hunter Wollenburg

MAY 2
- Brian Hoveland
- Virgene Doocy
- Tyler Kruckeberg
- Trevor Kruckeberg
- Matthew Farr
- Micheanna Kline

MAY 3
- Haley Tollefson
- Stacie Toquam

MAY 4
- Rodney Krell
- Robert Ingvalson

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL 28
- Ron & Diane Nelson
- Dale & Mary Ramsey
- Greg & Betty Johnson
- Christopher & Rena Anderson

MAY 2
- Joshua & Jenny Winn

MAY 5
- Ryan & Heather Weber

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Signs direct us to what's next



Rev. Todd Buegler
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
OWATONNA

As I write this, leaves have appeared on our trees, the grass is turning green and growing and the crocus plants are in full bloom in front of our home. It's a sign of spring. As I write this, our young people are all back together in the school building, all back together, after a year of distance or hybrid learning. It's a sign... hopefully a sign that we are "turning the corner" on the pandemic. As I write this, our congregation is in the

season Easter, the celebration of the resurrection. There are bright flowers in church...and we sing songs of hope and joy. It's a sign. A sign that Easter is coming. We look for signs. Signs point us towards what is next. Signs give direction. Signs can teach us. Sometimes signs give warning. Easter is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and of Christ's victory over sin and death. It is a day when we are reminded that death does not have the last word. No, in fact,

we are reminded that all of God's people are the inheritors of the gift of eternal life. But beyond this, Easter is a sign. It points us in a new direction. So, *if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!* — 2 Corinthians 5:17 The gift of the resurrection for God's people is restoration and renewal. The promises of God literally make us new creations. Every single day, we receive the gifts of new life and

hope. And because of that, we have the opportunity. I'd even say the responsibility, to be the hands and feet of God, helping to restore and renew the world. Because of the resurrection, we have the opportunity to feed the hungry, to care for those who have been marginalized or oppressed. We get to do these things. It is not an obligation, but it is a holy responsibility. It is a call.

The resurrection miracle changes us and through it, Jesus calls us to change the world. Easter is a sign that directs us to what is next. It points us on the path of servanthood. It directs us. Follow the sign. Celebrate the resurrection, but always remember that it is more than a single day, or a family event. It is a call, and a responsibility to follow on Christ's path, and to love our neighbor with the love of God. Christ is risen indeed!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Yenne
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: 6:15-7 p.m. followed by Youth Group - 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Wolkstein
507-583-6621
firstlutheranpb.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 a.m. Online Worship: Sundays 9 a.m. or anytime on website

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
3045E Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2058 or 507-437-3000
www.redoakgrove.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 830th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN – ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klaviter and Jackie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 9 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: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Interim: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
507-451-2165
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

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

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Interim: Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m.

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

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-4845
Father James Starasich
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 Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.org
Sunday Mass at 8:15 a.m. Litomysl Finance Council: 2nd Thursday Litomysl Pastoral Council: 2nd Thursday every other month

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.stolumbanuschurch.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 Starasich
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday Adoration Chapel available Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Key job required after hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday Connectors: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43069 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors: J. Stefan Jorgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Lisa J. Vick Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2855
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

MENNONITE PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13658 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 Bremser
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
P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
Pastor Douglas Walters
10 a.m. Worship

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

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Interim Pastor Wendell Anderson
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Kids Church: 9 a.m.

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

FIRST BAPTIST (OWATONNA'S OLDEST CHURCH)
125 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
1811 Hemlock Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Michael Simmerman
507-451-6548
www.bethelowatonna.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

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

Monuments LEGACY MONUMENT SALES
Leon's Call 507-456-7864
Lori's Call 507-456-3735
landlibe@gmail.com
Call for a catalog to view in the comfort of your home. We are here to help you create your monument by email or phone.
LEON & LORI BOHLMAN

LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER & CAR WASH
118 5th Ave., Ellendale
507-684-2471

CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER
Service Center: 507-528-2233
After Hours Towing: 507-456-4158
111 Front Street P.O. Box 282, Claremont, MN

Johnson, Dierhoefer & Mitter P.A.
914 E. Main Street, Blooming Prairie
507-583-7528
685 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
507-451-9136
133 N. Broadway, New Richland
507-465-3810

Dandals FAMILY MARKET
Locally Owned & Operated
237 Hwy. Ave. S., Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671

Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENTS
"Creating Your Story in Stone"
1180 Frontage Rd E., Owatonna
507-451-9551
www.owatonnagr granite.com

FLOOR TECH
322 East Main St., Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

FARMERS INSURANCE Mike Bishman
121 W. Broadway St., Owatonna
507-451-0193

REALIFE COOPERATIVE
Vibrant Living For Individuals 55 & Older at a Reasonable Price
Call Jon Amett @ 455-3735 for a tour
238 22nd St. SE - Owatonna

VALLEY VIEW OF OWATONNA
1212 W. Frontage Rd. Owatonna, MN
507-451-0722
valleyviewowatonna.com

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: July 19, 2005

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$65,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jay W. Logan and Elizabeth A. Logan, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 22, 2005 as Document Number A000333790 in the Office of the County

Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the West half of Southeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 106 North, Range 21 West, Steele County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 32; thence North 90°00'00" East a distance of 497.42 feet,

on an assumed bearing on the south line of said West Half of Southeast Quarter, to the point of beginning; thence North 00°29'25" West a distance of 1640.79 feet; thence North 75°41'33" West a distance of 106.89 feet; thence North 48°55'11" West a distance of 218.82 feet; thence North 00°45'26" West a distance of 237.90 feet; thence South 87°58'01" East a distance of 429.83 feet; thence South 02°55'15" East a distance of 268.03 feet; thence South 80°35'09" West a distance of

134.24 feet; thence South 00°29'25" East a distance of 1744.00 feet, to a point on the south line of said Southeast Quarter; thence North 90°00'00" West a distance of 40.00 feet, on the south line of said Southeast Quarter, to the point of beginning.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 8618 SW 108TH STREET, NEW RICHLAND, MN 56072

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$6,374.12

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 06-032-2401

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 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: June 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 56060.

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 twelve (12) 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 June 22, 2022.

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 DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: April 22, 2021

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

*N. Kibongni

Fondungallah, Esq., Samuel R. Coleman, Esq., Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(21-0145-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of the mortgage dated April 6, 2010, executed by Kevin E. Prestegard, a single person, as Mortgagor(s), to Wells Federal Bank, fsb a federally chartered savings bank, as Mortgagee(s), and filed for record April 13, 2010, in the Office of the County Recorders, Steele County, Minnesota as document number A000370492 as amended by that certain Extension of Mortgage dated April 30, 2015, and filed for record May 4, 2015, in the office of the County Recorders, Steele County, Minnesota as document number A000401956 as amended by that certain Extension of Mortgage dated May 27, 2020, and filed for record June 26, 2020, in the office of the County Recorders, Steele County, Minnesota as document number A000429898.

2. The Mortgage has been assigned as follows: n/a.

3. The maximum principal amount secured by the Mortgage was: \$20,000.00.

4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof.

5. The holder of the Mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the Mortgage and foreclosure of the Mortgage, and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.

6. At the date of this notice, the amount due on the Mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage is: \$19,732.85.

7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the land located in Steele County, Minnesota and described as follows:

All that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 107 North, Range 20 West, Steele County, Minnesota, described by: Beginning at the Southwest Corner of Lot 4, Alexander, Buxton, and Schoeneman Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota; thence North 0 degrees 02 minutes West, assumed bearing, 66 feet along the West line of said Lot 4; thence North 89 degrees 45.5 minutes West 188 feet along a boundary line of said Lot 4 and its extension to the centerline of Austin Road; thence South 31 degrees 39.25 minutes East 77.74 feet along said centerline to the Northwest corner of Kast's Addition to City of Owatonna, Minnesota; thence South 89 degrees 45.5 minutes East 147.24 feet along the North line of said Kast's Addition to beginning; Subject to a public street easement along the Westerly 33 feet thereof.

will be sold by the sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota.

Steele County Detention Center - Detention Center Integrator Upgrades

Project # S20030C

SECTION 00 03 00
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TITLE: Steele County Detention Center Detention Center Integrator Upgrades

LOCATION OF WORK: Steele County Detention Center
2500 Alexander Street SW
Owatonna, MN 56060

OWNER: Steele County
630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 56060
(507) 444-7400

OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE: ICS
1331 Tyler Street NE Suite 101
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(763) 354-2670

ARCHITECT: Dewberry
401 SW Water Street #701
Peota, IL 61802
(309) 282-8000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Work will consist of replacement of the existing cabling and security system, cameras, card access system and associated server equipment and programming to support new system. Work to include replacing selected doors and security control connections including high volume doors from intake-to-intake corridor and intake corridor to main corridor. Modifications to master control room and alternates that will include renovation at professional visitation and medical areas.

BID DATE AND LOCATION:

Sealed bids will be received at Steele County Administration Building, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN 56060 then publicly opened and read aloud. Base Bids will be received and stamped-in prior to 2 PM local time on Thursday May 13, 2021.

EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENTS:

Bidders may view drawings and specifications for the project by contacting the office of the Owners Rep. For Electronic access to the bidding documents, please contact the Owner's Representative at (763) 354-2670. The Owner's Representative can also provide locations of Builders Exchange's holding plans for contractors to access. Bidders are responsible for any and all costs associated with the production of plans and specifications for their use.

BIDDING REQUIREMENTS:

Each bidder must comply with the following requirements to reassure acknowledgment recognition of their bids:

Bids must be accompanied by bid security in form of certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond in amount of 5% of base bid submitted, made payable to owner, as guarantee that bidder will, if awarded, enter into contract in accordance with contract documents and submitted bid.

Completely fill in all blank spaces on the Bid Form, in ink or typewriter, in both words and figures.

Sign in longhand, executed by a principal duly authorized to enter into an agreement. If a bidder is a co-partnership, then signatures on the bid shall be by an authorized member of the firm, with names and addresses of each member of partnership.

Base bid and all alternate bids shall be stated both in writing and in figures. In all cases, written and numerical figures must agree; otherwise at Owner's option, it shall be cause for rejection of bid. Complete form without alteration.

Submit alternate prices (bid) for either increasing or decreasing the cost as called for on bid form and Description of Alternates. Submit a bid for all alternates.

Owner may make such investigations as he deems necessary to determine the ability and responsibility of the bidder to perform the work, and any bidder shall furnish to Owner all such information and data for this purpose, as the Owner may request. Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the Work contemplated therein. The competence and responsibility of bidder will be considered in making an award, including, but not limited to: (1) proof of financial responsibility, (2) quality of similar work, (3) amount of experience with similar projects, (4) facilities, personnel and equipment, (5) reputation for performance, and (6) ability to complete the work within specified time. Owner reserves the right to reject any Bid where there is reasonable doubt as to the qualifications of the bidder.

Owner reserves the right to (1) accept bidder's Base Bid only, (2) accept any one or more of bidder's Alternate Bids, in any order regardless of the order in which they were listed, (3) reject all Bids, (4) award contract based on his investigation of bidders, as well as acceptance of alternates, all of which Owner deems to be in his best interest, (5) waive informalities or minor irregularities in bids and waive minor irregularities or discrepancies in bidding procedure.

Upon award of Contract, Contractor shall provide AIA A312 Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of Contract Sum in accordance with General Conditions and Amendments to General Conditions.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS & SITE REVIEW:

Each bidder (including subcontract bidder where appropriate) is required to visit the site and to fully inform himself and record their own investigations as to the extent of the Work, the extent of the work performed by other contractors under other construction packages, conditions under which the Work is to be performed, existing buildings and streets, conditions of the area, existing utilities and other features, type of soil, available facilities and difficulties that may be encountered in connection therewith, and other relevant items which will affect their bid or the Work.

Prior to submitting a bid, each bidder is required to examine all of the bidding requirements, all Contract Documents, all drawings and specifications for the Project (including those primarily for other Subcontracts), become thoroughly familiar with the scope of the Project and all factors and items of work which will affect their bid or the Work, whether shown or specified in documents primarily for Work of others or Work of this Contract.

No extras will be allowed to the Contractor as a result of misunderstanding of the extent of scope of the Work as a result of his failure to study and record their own findings. Submission of a bid shall be proof that such examinations have been made and that bidder has recorded their own investigation and has become thoroughly familiar with all contract documents (including all addenda). The failure or omissions of any bidder to examine any form, instrument or document shall in no way relieve any bidder from any obligation in respect to his bid.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE:

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday April 22nd at Steele County Detention Center located at 2500 Alexander Street SW, Owatonna, MN 56060. Please enter at the main entry on the southeast side of the building for the pre-bid conference. No extras will be allowed because of the bidder's misinterpretation to the amount of work involved, bidder's own error, negligence, or failure to examine the site.

START DATE:

Work may begin after receipt of the signed contract from the Owner. Pre-construction and submittals work related to the project is to commence immediately after receipt of the signed contract. The work onsite is anticipated to begin July 18, 2021.

SUBSTANTIAL AND COMPLETION DATE:

Owner requires work to be substantially complete on or before milestone dates as listed in Summary of Work, Section 01 01 00. Bids shall reflect all costs necessary to meet this schedule requirement. Work is scheduled to be complete by July 1, 2022. Bids shall reflect all cost necessary to meet this schedule requirement. 42873

ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

10. Unless the mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, the mortgagor and/or its assigns must vacate the property by 11:59 p.m. on November 27, 2021, or the next business day if the foregoing date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

11. In order to comply with Minn. Stat. Section 580.025, the undersigned hereby states that the following information incorrect to the best of its knowledge:

(a) The street address and tax identification number of the mortgaged property:

1173 Austin Road
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060

Tax Identification Number: 17-015-3111

(b) Transaction agent and transaction agent's mortgage identification number: N/A

(c) Residential mortgage servicer, broker and/or originator: N/A

(d) Lender: Wells Federal Bank, fsb, a Federally chartered savings bank.

12. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Dated: March 24, 2021

Citizens Community Federal, N.A.
successor by merger with Wells Federal Bank, fsb, a Federally chartered savings bank

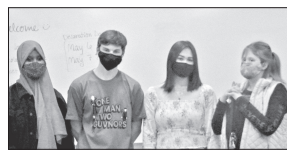
By: /s/ David A. Lutz
David A. Lutz
Attorney for Mortgagee
120 South 6th Street,
Suite 1550
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-424-2110
3/31/21

Four Huskies compete in state speech tournament

FOUR from A6 She said she believes what helped so many Huskies advance to the state tournament was the virtual format necessitated by COVID-19.

"The fact that that it was virtual I think helped them just be able to think outside the box in terms of how people could deliver their speech, and what they could bring to it. Some kids had a little more time to devote to their speech this year because nothing else was going on," Anderson said. "We really just focused in as a team this year in a better way than we have in past years and I think that also helped. I think they had that camaraderie and support from their teammates who cheered them on a little bit."

While the virtual format may have helped in some ways, it also was a challenge in other ways.



Owatonna speech team members, from left to right, Fardouza Farah, Jackson Hemann, Julia Christenson and Megan Copeland each advanced to this past weekend's state tournament. At the state meet, Christenson earned sixth place in humorous interpretation and Farah came in seventh place in discussion.

Anderson said the main challenge is the Huskies' teammates and their coaches can't see them perform in meets.

Despite that challenge, she mentioned that each of the four Huskies had specific characteristics that helped them become some of the top speech participants in the state.

"Megan puts more visual expression into words than any other student. To be able to make things visual but not be able to see it herself is amazing. I asked her about it one time and she said, 'Well, maybe I don't see it, but I can feel it,' and she puts a lot of feelings behind those words and a lot of thoughts and just the expressiveness in her words is just beautiful. To see her do that is amazing and magical."

"Julia's hilarious. She has amazing voices and great facial expressions. She uses the fact that it's virtual with a camera and doing different things with the camera that are really nice. She's really taking advantage of the situation."

"Fardouza [speech] I got to see in action the other day in practice and she was, especially in that round of discussion, like a Zen master."

She was just cool as a cucumber and she led the whole discussion in a lovely way that was not off-putting. To see her be able to formulate wonderful ideas and lead the other people in the discussion so they can accomplish their task is great.

"Jackson has a range of emotions that are lovely and scary and give you goosebumps in his serious piece. He's mature beyond his years to be able to talk about the death of a baby because that's not part of his reality right now."

Each of those four students competed in the state speech tournament this past weekend and two of them advanced to the final round. Christenson earned sixth place in humorous interpretations and Farah came in seventh place in discussion.

In addition to the Owatonna students, Steele County had one more student reach the state speech tournament. Blooming Prairie's Melanie Wenzauer advanced to the state tournament by earning third place in poetry reading at the section tournament. Unfortunately, she did not reach the final round of the state tournament.

COUNTY HIGHWAY PROJECT
Advertisement for Bids
Close Monday, May 10, 2021
Steele County, Minnesota

Sealed electronic bids for the contract listed below will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Steele County, Minnesota, until **10:00 AM on Monday, May 10, 2021**, through Steele County's online electronic bid system (bidVAULT). At that time, the bids will be electronically opened, read publicly at the Steele County Highway Department, Steele County Public Works Building, 3000 Hoffman Drive NW, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060, and results posted online at <https://im-co-steele.app.rivision.com/oneoffice/bidding>.

CONTRACT NO. 217075	State Aid Project Number	Project Title
088-070-075	CSAH 14 / CSAH 2 Shoulder Paving, Rumble Strip, & Pavement Markings	
074-070-006	CSAH 2 (Waseca Co Line to CSAH 7) Shoulder Paving	
081-070-001	Waseca County CSAH 14 (Waseca to County Line)	

TYPE OF WORK: SHOULDER PAVING

The major items of work are approximately:

Item Number	Item	Unit	Quantity
2138.509/00001	AGGREGATE SURFACING CLASS SPECIAL	TON	7,850
2232.603/00030	MILLED RUMBLE STRIPS-INTERMITTENT	LF	89,168
2360.509/22002	TYPED SP 12.5 WEARING COURSE MIX (2.8)	TON	8,881
2582.503/30104	4" SOLID LINE MULTI COMP	LF	37,990
2582.503/36106	6" SOLID LINE MULTI COMP GR IN	LF	100,682

ONLY REGISTERED PLANHOLDERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BID PROJECT. To become a registered plan holder and to bid electronically, you must create an account at <https://connex.uccs.com>. Complete digital project documents are available for download at <https://im-co-steele.app.rivision.com/oneoffice/bidding>. There is no cost to register or download the Project Plans and Proposal documents. Project bidding documents may be examined at the Steele County Highway Department, Steele County Public Works Building, 3000 Hoffman Drive NW, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED BY SUBMITTING AN ELECTRONIC BID USING BIDVAULT at <https://bidvault.mn.uccs.com>. NO HARD COPY BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Instructions on submitting a bid electronically can be found on the bidVAULT website. The cost to submit a bid is \$25.

Bids must be accompanied by a corporate surety bond made in favor of Steele County. Upon execution of the Contract, bid bonds will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders within 30 days of the opening of the bids.

Minimum wage rates to be paid by the Contractors have been predetermined and are subject to the Work Hours Act of 1962, P.L. 87-581 and implementing regulations.

READ CAREFULLY THE WAGE SCALES AND DIVISION A OF THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS AS THEY AFFECT THIS/THESE PROJECT/PROJECTS

The Minnesota Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders:

in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Act), as amended and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Subtitle A Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation, it will affirmatively assure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded maximum opportunity to participate and/or to submit bids in response to this invitation, and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, disability, age, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award;

in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 230 Subpart A-Employment Opportunity on Federal and Federal-Aid Construction Contracts (including supportive services), it will affirmatively assure increased participation of minority groups and disadvantaged persons and women in all phases of the highway construction industry, and that on any project constructed pursuant to this advertisement equal employment opportunity will be provided to all persons without regard to their race, color, disability, age, religion, sex or national origin;

in accordance with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statute 363A.08 Unfair discriminatory Practices, it will affirmatively assure that on any project constructed pursuant to this advertisement equal employment opportunity will be offered to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age;

in accordance with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statute 363A.36 Certificates of Compliance for Public Contracts, and 363A.37 Rules for Certificates of Compliance, it will assure that appropriate parties to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement possess valid Certificates of Compliance.

If you are not a current holder of a compliance certificate issued by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and intend to bid on any job in this advertisement you must contact the Department of Human Rights immediately for assistance in obtaining a certificate.

The following notice from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights applies to all contractors:

"It is hereby agreed between the parties that Minnesota Statute, section 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, parts 5000.3400 to 5000.3600 are incorporated into any contract between these parties based on this specification or any modification of it. A copy of Minnesota Statute 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, parts 5000.3400 to 5000.3600 is available upon request from the contracting agency."

"It is hereby agreed between the parties that this agency will require affirmative action requirements be met by contractors in relation to Minnesota Statute 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules 5000.3600. Failure by a contractor to implement an affirmative action plan or make a good faith effort shall result in revocation of its certificate or revocation of the contract (Minnesota Statute 363A.36, Subd. 2 and 3)."

A minimum goal of 3.3 % Good Faith Effort to be subcontracted to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

The Steele County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive defects.

For questions, contact Paul Sponholz, Assistant County Engineer, at 507-444-7672 or paul.sponholz@co.steele.mn.us.

Publish:
Steele County website: www.co.steele.mn.us
Minnesota Construction Advertising website: <https://advent.rivision.com/>
Steele County Times 4/14/2021, 4/21/2021, & 4/28/2021

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*Offer Expires 6.30.2021

*Installation and labor included. Offer good on all new installations. The installation must be installed with any other offer. Offer restrictions may apply. The offer expires June 30, 2021. Each company is responsible for its own content. Offer good on all new installations. See our website for details. ©2021 BCI America, Inc.

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TO PLACE AN AD

Steele County Times
507-583-4431
bptimes@frontiernet.net
411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32

BUY TWO WEEKS,
GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER

TO PLACE AN AD

Dodge County Independent
Dodge County Advantage
507-634-7503 • dci@kmtel.com
121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

FOR SALE

50% OFF ALL RECORDS & CDs: Music books and music DVDs. Starts Friday, April 30 to May 5. Over 500 records discounted to \$1 each. All kinds of music available from classical to rock 'n' roll! At Dan's Consignmet Store, 32 East Main Street, Dodge Center. Hours open M-F 1:43-4:30 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Right next to Harold's Club.) 4292d

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. 48182d

ROCK PICKING 1.5 miles south of Kasson. Junior high to adults. flexible hours. If interested please 9578. 48179d

FOR RENT

2 & 3 BD - DODGE CENTER: Smoke free two-story townhomes with garages! Open May & June. \$1010 & \$1050 p/mo + util. Minutes from Hwy 14 & Rochester. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO 42914

2 BD - CLAREMONT: Rent based on income! Open May. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 42912

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 Equal Housing Opportunity 42912

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 507-398-6899 48178d

STORAGE FOR RENT: Storage-Indoor-Kasson. 10 by 20 ft. \$90 month. 7 by 9 ft. \$60 month. Voice/Text 651-272-7970. 3181617M

HELP WANTED JANITOR needed approximately 2 hours a

day Tuesday thru Saturday. Hourly wage negotiable. Send resume to Byron American Legion, P.O. Box 687, Byron, MN 55920 or pickup application at 505 Frontage Rd NW, Byron, MN. 41913

SERVICES NICK'S LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING. Weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard clean-up, mowing and trimming, satisfaction guaranteed. FREE estimates. Please call 507-696-3849 and leave a message. 48176d

GARAGE SALE

2 FAMILY MOVING SALE 308 3rd St NW, Dodge Center. April 30, noon to 7 p.m., May 1, 7 a.m. to noon. Furniture including bedroom, kitchen. Small appliances, high end cookware, kitchen utensils, bakeware. Lots

of indoor and outdoor decorating items. Cleaning supplies, space heaters, fans. 42922d

4 FAMILY GARAGE SALE 2465 Austin Road, Owatonna (5th house south of Sette Sports Center), April 29, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., April 30, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 1 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 42912d

COME & SEE 2 FAMILY GARAGE SALE 800 Westfield Ct., Kasson. April 29, 9-6; April 30, 9-5 and May 1, 8-Noon. Lots of western, children books, misc. books, antique toys, jewelry, bells, assorted bottles, salt & pepper shakers, misc, knick-knacks, flower vases, Hot-wheel cars. Lots of miscellaneous. 42912d

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Dodge County vacancy for seasonal positions FT and PT (up to 4 months) at the Transfer Station. Daytime hours. Responsible for customer service and grounds maintenance. Valid Minnesota driver's license required. Wage range is \$15.14 - \$19.95. Visit our website at www.co.dodge.mn.us to apply or contact Employee Relations at 507-635-6239. EOE 42922

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Resident Assistant

- FT & PT 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- FT & PT 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.

Dining Assistant

- 7 a.m. - 2 p.m & 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Activities Assistant

- Part-Time

Cook

- Part-Time

JAYBIRD UNIVERSITY
Apply on Indeed or 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN - EOE
Professional Manager, 10 years Senior Living, formerly Senior Housing Management.

CAREGIVER WANTED

for disabled female, Every other weekend day or every other Saturday overnight. 9 to 12-hour shifts. Will train.

\$13.25 per hour;
\$14.25 after (short online course.)

NW Rochester.
507-289-2756

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Advocacy, information and assistance for victims/survivors of sexual assault and other crimes. Community and professional education and consultation. All services free and confidential. Located in Courthouse, Mantorville.
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
635-6266
or call collect 24 hours
289-0636

HELP WANTED
Part-time DCI Sports Reporter

Love sports? This is the job for you! Cover baseball, track and other spring sports. If you're passionate about sports and love to write we'd love to talk to you. (Retired English teacher, college student, high school student...we'll consider YOU).

Apply by sending an email of interest to: keithhdc@kmtel.com or stop at the DCI office: 301 South Mantorville Ave., Suite 200, Kasson. Call for an appointment - 507-634-1486

INDEPENDENT

City of Kasson JOB NOTICE

FULL TIME PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE
GENERAL • PARKS • STREETS DIVISION

Perform a variety of semi-skilled street and public works maintenance duties.

REQUIRED: High school graduate or equivalent, preferred post high school education; 2+ years experience in equipment operation and maintenance; 2+ years experience in the construction trades or general maintenance; MN Class B license within six months of hire. Grade 7; starting wage at \$22.19, plus benefits.

SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: City Clerk, 401 5th St. SE, Kasson, MN 55944 by 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 3, 2021. Call 507-634-7071 or visit the City's website at www.cityofkasson.com for an application.

The City of Kasson is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 42912

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Two great new offers! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464

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Over \$30,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 833/619-1117

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Performance Dates:
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April 25 & May 2 | 2:00pm

Presented in arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
Directed by **Jeffrey Jackson** Technical Director **Kathy Purdie**
Recommended for mature audience.

Online & Tri-M Box office for members opens on April 2.
Online general public ticket sales start April 16.
In-house box office opens April 16-May 2 (Mon-Weds 5-8:30
Thurs-Sat 5:30-7:30 Sun 12:30-2)

Little Theatre of Owatonna • 550 Dumlall Drive
LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org

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Garage Sale

MAY 15TH

SALE BEGINS
SATURDAY MAY 15TH AT 8:00AM

COST IS \$20

- NAME ON THE GARAGE SALE MAP
- OFFICIAL GARAGE SALE SIGN
- BALLONS & ADVERTISING

Sign up at **PRAIRIE HOME FLORAL** by May 1st
OR ONLINE
WWW.BLOOMINGPRAIRIECHAMBER.COM

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Open House

May 1st and 2nd

Check out our beautiful blooming flowers

Register to win **FREE** plants and gift cards

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May 1st • 8am-6pm
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Save the Date!

18th Annual
Blooming Prairie
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

AUCTION

Saturday,
May 22, 2021

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS... BUY NOW!

Tickets on sale for \$5 at The Cue Company in Blooming Prairie.
Only 200 will be sold.
Ticket will be needed to attend live auction.

Live
4 PM - 11 PM
Live auction is a 21+ event
Under the big tent at the BP Cue Company!

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1 PM - 3 PM
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