



Children and adult volunteers portray Jesus and other biblical characters during a Good Friday drive-thru experience held in the parking lot of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Ten different stations depicted the events that unfolded from Palm Sunday leading up to the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. The service has typically been held inside the church, but it was forced outside this year because of COVID-19 concerns. See page B1 for more details on Trinity's holy drive-thru.

BP company wins excavation contract for new high school

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

Increased activity at the new Owatonna High School site will soon be visible to motorists traveling on Highways 14 and 218 in Owatonna. Dan Niles, vice president of JJD Companies in rural Blooming Prairie, said he expects his crew to begin site preparation yet this month. The official ground-breaking ceremony is slated for May.

Last week, the Owatonna School Board approved contract awards to 29 firms totaling \$36.5 million for work on the new high school. The second round of contract awards is expected to be approved later this month. JJD Companies received a \$6.95 million contract to handle the excavation and underground utility work on the new school's property. The firm is

See BP on A7 ►

Waseca woman faces attempted murder charges

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A woman is accused of attempting to kill the father of her children as they watched during an early morning stabbing on March 30 in Owatonna.

Tierah Vachon Lee Wells, 34, of Waseca, has been charged with second-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault causing

great bodily harm in Steele County District Court. Both counts carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. Police responded to 1120 School St. E. around 3:47 a.m. March 30 for a report of a stabbing. When officers arrived, they found the victim, Charles Ellis, 42, on the dining room floor with two stab wounds to the chest. Their father, Eric, has been the leader for BSA Troop 253.

See WOMAN on A6 ►

Smiles Abound



The Easter Bunny shares a little bit of love with youngsters during an Easter parade in Blooming Prairie on Saturday, April 3. Two-year-old Mila Lu Peterson of Blooming Prairie, lower left, appears enthralled with the bunny and the candy she was able to collect. And 3-month-olds Lila and Ariel Smitty, of Blooming Prairie, didn't seem to mind getting their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DEB FLEMMING



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Charlie Tucker earned his Eagle Scout Award after completing a landscaping project at Benedictine Living in Owatonna. He is the third member of his family to obtain the Boy Scouts' highest honor.

Eagle Scout carries on family tradition

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

When it comes to the Tucker family of Owatonna and Eagle Scout awards, they are in Three's Company. Charlie Tucker has joined his brothers, Trent and Reed, in the family's tradition of achieving the Eagle Scout distinction. Their father, Eric, has been the leader for BSA Troop 253. "It's a great achievement for our family," said Charlie Tucker,

a sophomore at Owatonna High School. "It will help us in all of our future endeavors."

For his Eagle Scout project, Charlie chose to update the landscaping at Benedictine Living, formerly KODA Living, in Owatonna. Charlie selected plants that attract butterflies and offer color to the residents.

Charlie organized a group of volunteers to help him with the project, which included removing shrubbery, installing new edging to

match existing edging, planting new perennials and spreading mulch.

The project took about 125 hours to complete, with as many as 10 volunteers joining Charlie to finish the work.

Charlie said his mother, Kris, noticed a Facebook posting from Benedictine seeking volunteers to help with projects. "When I saw that, I thought it would be a great project for me," he said, adding he began developing a plan for the project.

"I'm very pleased with the way the project turned out," Charlie said. "It's a huge change from the horrible bushes around the building, and it blends into the rest of the landscaping better."

Lisa Kern, executive director of Benedictine, said it was a wonderful experience to work with Charlie on this project. "He was responsible and organized with his plan and communicated his schedule with me several times during the project."

See EAGLE on A8 ►

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INSIDE

Options.....	A2	Faith.....	A9	Public Notices.....	B9
Coronavirus Coverage.....	A5	Homestead Living.....	91	Classifieds.....	B9
Public Safety.....	A4	Calendar.....	B3	Owatonna School Page.....	B10
History.....	A5	Sports.....	B4-B5		
Community.....	A8	Farm.....	B7		

AREA DEATHS

Claire Todahl, 92, Owatonna
Lori Arthaud, 61, Blooming Prairie

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Stay alert and share the roads

Around here, spring is synonymous with slow-moving farm vehicles. That's why the Minnesota Department of Transportation urges motorists to be prepared to slow down and be patient while waiting for a safe place to pass when meeting farm equipment on the roads. The size and weight of farm equipment makes it hard for operators to accelerate, slow down and stop. The equipment makes wide turns and can create large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles.

That's why it's so important for motorists to heed MnDOT's advice. According to the state Department of Transportation, there were 532 crashes reported in Minnesota from 2016 to 2020 involving farm equipment in Minnesota, resulting in 242 injuries and 11 deaths. Inattentive driving and speed were the biggest contributing factors in these crashes. Equipment operators need to do their part as well. To keep the roads safe, they should use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible and use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.

Driving smart and focusing 100% of your attention on the road can help avoid tragedy for everyone sharing the road.

As we all know, distracted driving is responsible for too many injuries and deaths on our roadways – not just rural roads.

Between 2016 and 2020, distracted driving contributed to 39,000 crashes – or one in nine crashes in Minnesota. Last year alone, distracted driving contributed to 2,612 injuries and 29 deaths.

Tractors aside, there's simply no room on our roadways for distracted driving. And we aren't just talking about cell phone use.

Maybe Minnesota law enforcement agencies can get that message across in their latest distracted driving extra enforcement and awareness campaign that runs through April 30.

We hope so.

YOUR VIEW

Impressed with the newspaper

To-the-Editor:

When reading your paper at the breakfast table this morning, my wife and I were very impressed with the quality of your paper.

It is so interesting and informative. You and your staff do a thorough job! Great photos also. Continued success.

Bud Peka
Owatonna

Letters to the Editor

We encourage readers to share their views on issues of community interest. Letters must be signed, no longer than 275 words and type-written or clearly printed. Writers must include their address and a daytime phone number for verification. Phone numbers and street addresses will not be published; your name and city of residence will be published. Letters will be edited for clarity, grammar and length and may be published in print and electronic forms. Submit a letter by email to scletters@gmail.com; or by mail to the Steele County Times, attn. Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

GUEST COLUMN

Free At Last

They drive into our town with drugs and guns, then pollute the bodies, minds, and souls, of our precious, daughters and sons. They start them out on weed, then crack, it is hard for these kids, to ever stop, to get that monkey off their back. Thank God for our Drug Court, 18 months is the minimal treatment plan, it takes much effort, it's a joy to see the happy smiles, on those graduates' beaming faces, for now is their time to reconcile. They receive from good Judge Bueltel, words of wisdom and sage advice, but he doesn't yell or give them Hell. Those lives are saved, and returned again, Into general society, as they were, before starting on drugs, way back then. They have stories to tell how it had begun, how they first got hooked by that pusher, who ruined the lives of our daughters and sons. Let us pray that they always remain clean, please, God, help them to stay clean and dry, so the courts will never again, have to intervene.

Bud Peka
Owatonna

Don't shoot the Easter bunny



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Pop, pop, pop. Easter produced something a little out of the ordinary for our family this year. In between going to the various church services and the great holiday meals my mother always prepares, we took a little target practice. No, we weren't aiming to shoot the Easter bunny hopping around with a bunch of goodies. Instead, my 12-year-old nephew lured us out to the back 40 on my parents' farm to show us

his latest venture. He is participating in trap shooting at his school in western Wisconsin.

He is learning the proper way of handling firearms while blasting flying orange discs out of the sky. In trap shooting, a machine known as the trap launches a clay target or pigeon into the air as the shooter blasts away with a 12-gauge shotgun. More and more schools are including competitive shooting as part of high school life. Even as mass shootings have inspired protests and walkouts in many schools, a growing number are sanctioning shooting squads as an extracurricular activity.

It's apparently one of the fastest-growing high school sports in the U.S.

The Minnesota State High School Clay

Target League championship claims to be the largest shooting sports event in the world. The stars are teenage boys and girls.

As for safety, more than 70,000 students across the U.S. have fired 42 million shots since 2008. No one has reported a single injury, according to the published reports.

Trap shooting is an individual sport, much like wrestling, that also offers the bonding and interdependence of a team. As I saw from my nephew, hand-eye coordination and focus matter more than physical conditioning.

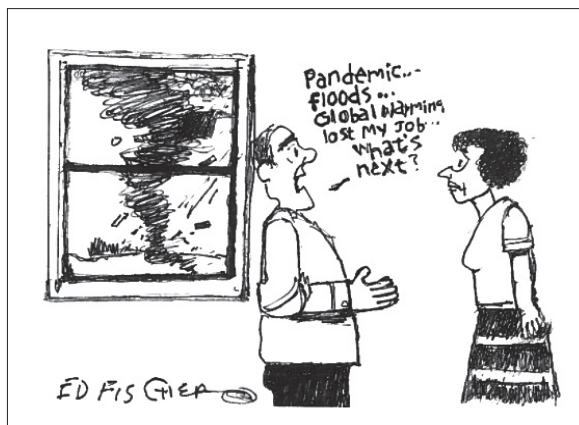
This provides an important lesson for youth all over that safe and responsible handling of firearms and ammunition is the first priority. There's no better way to ensure kids grow up

with a safe and secure knowledge of correct firearm usage than well-organized youth shooting programs. I can see where such a program helps take the fear and mystery out of children's natural curiosity and replace it with understand and respect.

Trap shooting also promotes fun in a chemically free environment, participation as a privilege rather than a right and adults must serve as a positive role model to students.

Through the school programs, teens also learn how to compete against others. Competition is healthy at all age levels.

And it looks like our family has a new ritual to go in hot pursuit of for Easter and perhaps other holidays. I just request that no one shoots the Easter bunny.



GUEST COLUMN

Exchange members remember Rev. Rudolf

BY GAIL BUCKINGHAM

There comes a time when you meet a person and that person impacts your life forever. Such is Russell Rudolf. Russ was a member of the Exchange Club of Owatonna for 52 years, as of March 1, 2021. Russ had a colorful soul. He impacted our lives in ways no one else could. I will share my memories of Russ, but first, let's hear from the current members of the Exchange Club of Owatonna of their memories.

Russ was a fighter; he fought for what he believed in. Russ was an advocate. He wanted you to know to understand the facts, issues, concerns and not be complacent. Russ was a champion, he was devoted to the underdog, the disadvantaged and the abused. Russ was an Exchangeite, through and through to the very end. Russ was a devoted husband and father! Russ was a friend. He was true and loyal and genuinely

cared about you. We all have grown, altered our thoughts and are better because of him! What better legacy can a man leave, than a changed life. —Sandra McCann Halla

Memories of Russ Rudolf: I was in the Owatonna Exchange Club with Russ for 30 years. I liked Russ for his friendship, his dry sense of humor, and his knowledge and love of history and culture. When he was the "judge" for our meetings, he always made us think when he posed questions for us to answer about history, current events, or the arts. He often urged us to check out an upcoming tv documentary, a book, or a local event. His love of children and the mission of Exchange—that of preventing child abuse—was always evident. I many times chose to sit at Russ's table for our weekly meeting because I knew I would be humored, educated, enlightened—or all of the above. He was

a remarkable man, and I am glad God crossed our paths. —Judy Meister

To me, Russ was a very unique individual. He was never quiet about sharing his feelings, good or bad. If he didn't like something or disagreed with a person, he was not afraid to tell you so. I remember the first time I met him, he scared me to death, and there are many that probably felt that way, until you really got to know him. He was always the most considerate husband to Jane, taking her part of his meal everytime we met. She was his first concern, always. Russ was very special to me in that he and my dad shared the same birthday, July 4th. He believed very strongly in Exchange and everything it stood for, especially the child abuse prevention program and anything that was involved with Americanism. He will be missed by each of us in a different way.

Russ will definitely be missed. —Sharon Klein

I am so saddened of Russ's passing. He is leaving us a big hole in our Exchange family. I last met with Russ at our Exchange meeting the 3rd Thursday February 2020. I have had the "Honor & Privilege" as Russ would have said to meet, Exchange ideas, hear his many invocations, tremendous introductions of students, guests, & speakers over my 42 years in Exchange. He always showed concern, praise, conviction and love for what our Club achieved for our community Owatonna. There was never any doubt where Russ stood on issues involving our Exchange Club. He inspired all of us to give of ourselves, learn by giving and growing through our projects. Yes, Russ you will be deeply missed by the mark you left on all of us who knew you. Remembered as a faithful Exchangeite.

—Tom Partridge
See EXCHANGE on A10 ►

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2014-3 state and 2 national awards
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(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association)

Supply of vaccine frustrates Caron

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

As the push continues to get more people vaccinated, Steele County keeps running into roadblocks with getting the vaccine.

Public Health Director Amy Caron was not pleased Monday after finding out late last week that the county received "significantly less" vaccine for this week than what it expected. Steele County received only 100 doses of Moderna and, for

the first time, 100 doses of the newest vaccine, Johnson and Johnson. The county received 400 doses of Moderna for the previous week.

"That's half of what we asked for," said Caron. "That's our frustration."

To date, Steele County has administered 3,104 first-time vaccinations and 1,801 second doses, according to Caron. That total does not represent what pharmacies and clinics in the county have administered, she said.

Despite the delays with getting the vaccine, 41% of residents in Steele County have received at least one dose, Caron said, adding that the percentage includes people who have traveled outside the county to get vaccinated.

Caron said she is happy with the number of residents who have been vaccinated. "I thought it might be June before we got to that mark," she said. Steele County lost another resident to the

COVID-19 battle in late March, bringing the county's death toll to 12 since the pandemic began a year ago. The most recent death was a 65-year-old man not living in long-term care, Caron said.

The county recorded 77 new cases over the past week. There have been 3,398 cases over the past year.

While the number of new cases is down significantly from November, Caron cautions people that the case total is still way too

high. "A year ago, these numbers would have been raising a lot of red flags," she said. "We're still not doing the best. It seems like we are getting comfortable with a new baseline."

In Dodge County, there were 44 new cases over the past week, pushing that county's

total to 1,655 with four deaths.

Caron reminds people to sign up for the vaccine by accessing Public Health's website at www.co.steele.mn.us. Officials update the site on Friday afternoon and it usually fills up for the next week within two hours.

COVID-19 VACCINE WATCH

	First Doses	Second Doses
Steele:	3,104	1,801
Dodge:	1,927	1,284

Source: Steele County Public Health



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Vaccines to curb the impact of COVID-19 have saved many lives and protected the earth of the world.

Memory reminds me that vaccines of many varieties have been part of our family heritage. From the polio vaccine to the COVID-19 vaccine, we have learned that vaccines will protect our lives.

I remember clearly being vaccinated for polio while I was attending Magnuson School, now the home of the Newry Town Hall. I also remember getting the smallpox vaccine and as Judy and I began to raise a family, the chicken pox, Swine Flu, regular flu vaccines, H1N1 and the COVID vaccines were chosen to protect our health.

Looking on the Internet to learn more about vaccines, we see from Wikipedia research that polio vaccines are vaccines used to prevent poliomyelitis (polio).

I vividly remember getting the polio shot and also getting an oral polio vaccine through a sugar cube developed by Albert Sabian.

The first successful demonstration of a polio vaccine was by Hilary Koprowski in 1950, with a live attenuated virus which people drank. The vaccine was not approved for use in the United States but was used successfully elsewhere.

An inactivated polio vaccine, developed a few years later by Jonas Salk, came into use in 1955.

During this time of worry and concern over the coronavirus COVID-19, polio victim Linda Christianson of Blooming Prairie has some words of encouragement.

She believes that things will only get better when we "stay positive and hopeful," and when we follow the guidance given to us about social distancing, about washing our hands and about wearing protective masks.

Linda was an infant, 6 1/2 months old, when

she became sick with polio.

Polio was quite devastating in the early 1950s. Linda recalls "getting in line" with her sister and many others to get her polio vaccine in 1955.

Interviewed at the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020, Linda said she thought it was important that a vaccine or vaccines be developed to tackle the coronavirus.

Americans have been getting three different varieties of COVID vaccine starting late last year: Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

Wikipedia says that the smallpox vaccine was the first vaccine to be developed against a contagious disease. In 1796, the smallpox vaccine was the first vaccine to be developed against a contagious disease. In 1796, the British doctor Edward Jenner demonstrated that an infection with the relatively mild cowpox virus conferred immunity against the deadly smallpox virus.

Vaccines over time have protected our health



Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is one of three approved in the U.S. Clinical trials continued into November with the vaccine having an efficacy of 91.3 percent.

by the United States National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD). On Dec. 18, 2020, an emergency use authorization was given to Moderna by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was developed by Janssen Vaccines, Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Johnson & Johnson.

The vaccine started clinical trials in June 2020, with Phase III trials involving around 43,000 people. In late

January, Janssen announced that 28 days after a completed vaccination, the vaccine was 66% effective in a one-dose regimen in preventing symptomatic COVID-19, with an 85% efficacy in preventing severe COVID-19 and 100% efficacy in preventing hospitalization or death caused by COVID-19.

More COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be developed. If you have a chance to get a COVID vaccination, don't even hesitate, get it.

Thousands need to renew driver's license

More than 110,000 Minnesotans are driving without valid driver's licenses, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

During the early days of COVID-19,

Minnesota lawmakers extended the expiration date on all Minnesota driver's license or ID cards that would have expired between March 15, 2020, and Feb. 28, 2021. Current legislation does not allow

further extensions.

No testing is required as long as a driver's license is expired less than one year and was in good standing before expiring.

Minnesotans have options to renew and

should renew as soon as possible.

The quickest and easiest renewal option is to renew online at drive.mn.gov. This option is available for standard driver's license or ID card renewals that

do not require name, address, signature or driver's license number changes. A person's record is updated as soon as the online application is complete. Minnesotans must renew in-person to

make changes to their driver's license or ID card or apply for a REAL ID or enhanced driver's license or ID card. Pre-applying online at drive.mn.gov will reduce the time spent in the office.

State gets \$2M COVID-19 grant

Gov. Tim Walz recently announced that the state has received a \$2 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support mental health care in Minnesota. The funding will be used for health care providers, first responders, and those with serious mental illness and substance use disorders who have been impacted by COVID-19 and are unable to pay for behavioral health services.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taken an incredible toll on Minnesotans, including our mental health and well-being," said Walz.

"I am grateful for this funding from the federal government, which will go directly to Minnesotans in need of mental health care, including our health care and first responder heroes, as well as those with serious mental health needs who are unable to pay for their care due to the hardships of the pandemic."

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) will issue money to seven Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) across the state, anticipating that CCBHCs will assess and provide behavioral health care to approximately 6,000 Minnesotans.

"This grant will help the State support health

care providers and first responders who have experienced tremendous stress since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. "It also will allow us to provide services to individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorders who have been impacted by COVID-19 and people at risk of developing a mental health condition because of the pandemic."

With 40 locations across the state serving 27 counties and adjacent to or neighboring seven Tribal Nations, CCBHCs provide integrated mental health and substance use disorder services and

coordinate with physical health care and social services. They are designed to serve individuals of all ages, regardless of where they live or their ability to pay.

DHS anticipates that 70% of the grants will be used to provide behavioral health services to individuals with severe mental illness or substance use disorders due to their high vulnerability.

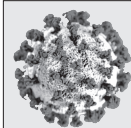
Removing barriers to behavioral health services while reducing exposure to COVID-19 is DHS's top priority in administering this grant, so some of the funding will be used to expand telephone and video access to services at the CCBHCs.

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STEELE COUNTY **Times**



World.....	131,000,000
Deaths	2,850,000
Recovered.....	74,500,000
U.S.	30,800,000
Deaths	555,000
Recovered.....	22,265,000

COVID-19 UPDATE

MN	528,000
Deaths	6,963
Recovered.....	480,000

Steele.....	3,398
Deaths	12
Recovered.....	3,228

Dodge	1,655
Deaths	4
Recovered.....	1,621

Freeborn.....	3,121
Deaths	27
Recovered.....	4,407
Mower	32
Deaths	32
Recovered.....	

AS OF APRIL 5, 2021

**BLOTTER
SPOTLIGHT**

Domestic: On March 26, Owatonna police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of 22nd St. NW at 7:48 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Owatonna Police to crack down on distracted drivers

Most Minnesotans know that using phones behind the wheel is distracting and can lead to severe consequences on the road. But that's not the only thing that is diverting attention away from driving.

Shaving. Putting on makeup. Fiddling with the touchscreen on your car stereo system. And even changing clothes. All of these can take your eyes off the road and ultimately cause you to crash.

With distracted driving still claiming lives and causing life-changing injuries in Minnesota, everyone needs a reminder about the dangers of not paying attention behind the wheel. That's why Minnesota law enforcement agencies and traffic safety partners across the state will be participating in a four-week distracted driving extra enforcement and awareness campaign, which started Monday.

The Owatonna Police Department will take part

in extra enforcement that runs through April 30 and is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS). Driving smart and focusing 100% of your attention on the road can help avoid tragedy for everyone sharing the road. Distracted driving contributes to an average of 31 deaths and 192 life-changing injuries a year (2016-2020).

Dangerous Driving • More than 39,000 crashes were distracted driving-related from 2016-2020, contributing to one in nine crashes in Minnesota.

Hands-free is the Law • In 2020, distracted driving contributed to 2,612 injuries and 29 deaths.

• Distracted driving contributes to 11 percent of crashes in Minnesota.

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Hands-free is the Law • In 2020, distracted driving contributed to 2,612 injuries and 29 deaths.

• Distracted driving contributes to 11 percent of crashes in Minnesota.

in their hand. Accessing or posting on social media, streaming videos, checking that box score or Googling information on a device while driving are all still against the law in Minnesota, even in hands-free mode.

Law enforcement cited 19,778 drivers for failing to comply with the hands-free law in 2020.

Consequences • **HANDS-FREE CELL PHONE LAW:** The new law allows a driver to use their cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone. Remember, hands-free is not necessarily distraction-free.

• \$100 or more including court fees for a first offense.

• \$300 or more including court fees for a second and/or subsequent offense.

• If you injure or kill someone while violating

the hands-free law, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide.

Drive Distracted-Free • Cell phones – Park the phone by putting it down, turning it off, placing it out of reach or going hands-free.

• Music and other controls – Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.

• Navigation – Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.

• Eating and drinking – Avoid messy foods and second drinks.

• Children – Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.

• Passengers – Speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with anything that takes the driver's attention off the road.

CRIME BRIEF

Man accused of assault with a walking stick

A man faces multiple felony charges in connection with an aggravated assault in Owatonna.



Lorenzo Cook

Lorenzo Cook, 30, of Owatonna has been charged with two counts of second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and third-degree assault.

Police responded to the Pillsbury Apartments at 359 East Main St. for an assault on March 30. The victim, who is an employee at the facility, reported that Cook had been evicted from his apartment and he tried to prevent Cook from entering the building, police said.

According to police, the victim was carrying a walking stick at the time, and Cook allegedly jabbed the end of the stick into the victim's face.

Officers arrested Cook at the scene and jailed him.

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

1. Deon Grunwald – warrant – no bail
2. Steven Gustafson – warrant – \$2,000 bail
3. Jennifer Gutierrez – theft by check – \$500 bail
4. Ricio Guvira – theft – \$300 bail
5. Shannon Guy – stalking – no bail
6. Mark Hage – indecent exposure – \$1,000 bail
7. Kenaniah Handie-Davis, speeding – \$1,000 bail

8. Chloe Hanson – DWI – no bail
9. Lori Hanson – DWI – \$3,000 bail
10. Terrell Harris – domestic assault – no bail
11. Anthony Hatter – DWI – \$500 bail
12. Brandon Hendrickson – drugs – no bail
13. Alfred Hernandez – toxic substance – no bail
14. Juan Hernandez – warrant – \$1,000 bail

15. Faithful Hill – damage to property – no bail
16. Laquan Hillard – weapon without permit – \$3,000 bail
17. Fahad Hlowile – DWI – \$12,000 bail
18. Dmario Holmes – financial card fraud – \$10,000 bail
19. Jason Homer – drugs – \$20,000 bail
20. Dominic Hosteller – disorderly conduct – no bail

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

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 22 with Judge Joseph A. Buellet presiding:

Juan R. Carrasco, 43, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of firearm. He was sentenced to \$206 and 60 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Brandon A. Hendrickson, 22, Minneapolis, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Hendrickson was sentenced to \$200, 44 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to

leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

Tristan J. Klemmer, 24, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault by strangulation and misdemeanor violation of no contact order. The defendant was sentenced to \$75, 44 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, chemical assessment and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 22 – 28:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jorge A. Carías-Ortega, 41, Austin, invalid license and no license in possession, \$195; Clifford Chornzy, 49, Austin, canceled license, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Louise R. Heimsness,

29, Minneapolis, expired tabs, \$105; Travis E. King, 41, Minneapolis, expired tabs, \$105; Tamika M. Ruth, 40, Maywood, IL, invalid license and no insurance, \$375; Miguel D. Santiago, 34, Austin, suspended license, \$275; Hau L. Suantak, 56, Austin, speeding, no insurance and expired tabs, \$345; Scott R. Thorpe, 41, Hayfield, revoked license, \$275.

MIN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Faisal A. Ahmed, 34, Des Moines, IA, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Joselyn M. Becker, 25, Owatonna, no insurance, \$275; Marjamo M. Bille, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Amanda C. Jaquinto, 54, Austin, speeding, \$135; Michael W. Johnson, 47, Eden Prairie, revoked license, \$275; Matthew T. Kimble, 40, Wellsville, OH,

Kacie A. Delaske, 22, Fairbault, speeding, \$115; Lonesha D. Elmore, 33, Minneapolis, revoked license and speeding, \$335; Jacqueline S. Espinoza, 40, Andover, speeding, \$125; Desiree D. Farr, 37, Waldorf, seat belt, \$100; Scott K. Fredin, 52, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Thomas Haberman, 46, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$275; Mai Z. Hang, 21, St. Paul, seat belt, \$100; Stephan R. Hanna, 57, Rochester, speeding, \$125; Sally J. Hart, 65, Fort Dodge, IA, speeding, \$125; Adam X. Heu, 30, St. Paul, speeding and revoked license, \$335; Fred C. Holland, 70, Lexington, speeding, \$115; Justin A. Hruby, 27, Sarasota, FL, speeding, \$115; Amanda C. Jaquinto, 54, Austin, speeding, \$135; Michael W. Johnson, 47, Eden Prairie, revoked license, \$275; Matthew T. Kimble, 40, Wellsville, OH,

speeding, \$115; Zachary C. Klaehn, 34, Austin, speeding, \$125; Gabriel E. Kutz, 19, Minnesota Lake, speeding, \$115; Jason R. Lamers, 57, Maplewood, speeding, \$115; Estella M. Lopez, 40, Claremont, speeding, \$135; Donovan J. Lyons, 22, Hampton, IA, speeding, \$125; Sara K. McCulloch, 29, Belle Plaine, hands free violation, \$125; Stephanie A. McLaughlin, 44, Zimmerman, speeding, \$125; Fowzia A. Mohyadin, 25, Savage, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Brenda L. Newell, 50, Dodge Center, illegal u-turn, \$125; Tyler J. Norgel, 22, Cedar Falls, IA, speeding, \$135; Lah S. Paw, 23, St. Paul, permit violation, \$125; Claire E. Peterson, 24, Lanesboro, revoked license, \$275; Caden J. Pfeiffer, 20, Orono, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Logan M. Pleaschout, 16, Medford, speeding, \$135; Dylan M. Richards, 20, Maple Grove, speeding, \$125; Siddharth Sandhu, 22, following vehicle too closely, \$125; Aristeo Sandoval Jr., 35, San Antonio, TX, speeding and no license, \$225; Matthew A. Schneider, 36, Zumbro Falls, suspended license and speeding, \$325; Samantha R. Schulze, 21, Maple Grove, speeding, \$115; Ernest A. Schutt, 22, Farmington, speeding, \$135; Valerie R. Sims, 46, St. Louis Park, speeding, \$215; Luis A. Soltero, 17, Fairbault, speeding, \$115; Theophilus N. Somporn, 50, Des Moines, IA, no license, \$175; Heather C. Somvang, 24, Rochester, speeding and revoked license, \$325; Darrin L. Stadheim, 42, Ellendale, speeding, \$125; Scarlett S. Tanner, 23, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Daron L. Taylor, 51, New Richland, speeding, \$115; Fenghejy Vue, 22, Orono Rapids, no

See **BLOTTER** on A7 ►

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How to help your elderly parents with their finances



Dear Savvy Senior,
What tips can you offer on helping an elderly parent with their finances? My 84-year-old father is having trouble keeping up with his bills and insurance, and I just found out that he's been making contributions to a suspicious charity.

Reluctant Daughter

Dear Reluctant,

Many adult children serve as financial helpers to their elderly or ill parents. They provide services like paying bills, handling deposits and investments, filing insurance claims, preparing taxes and more. Here are some tips and resources that can help you help your dad.

Start with a Conversation

Taking on the task of helping an elderly parent with their finances can be a sensitive and difficult topic. The first step in helping your dad is to have a respectful talk with him expressing your concerns, as you stated in your question, and offering to help him with his financial chores. If you have siblings, it can be a good idea to get them involved too. This can help you head off any possible hard feelings, plus, with others involved, your dad will know everyone is concerned.

Get Organized

If your dad is willing to let you help manage, monitor or take over his financial affairs your first order of business is to get organized by making a list of his financial accounts and other important information. Your list should include his:

- Contact list: Names and numbers of key contacts like insurance agents, financial advisor, tax preparer, family attorney, etc.
- Monthly bills: Phone, cable, water and trash, gas, electric, credit card accounts, etc.
- Financial accounts: Including bank accounts, brokerage and mutual fund accounts, safe-deposit boxes and any other financial assets he has. Also get usernames and passwords for financial accounts that are set up online.
- Company benefits: Any retirement plans, pensions or health benefits from his current or former employer.
- Insurance policies: Life, home, auto, long-term care, Medicare, etc.
- Taxes: Copies of your dad's income tax returns over the past few years.

Locate Important Documents

This is also the ideal time to find out if your dad has the following essential legal documents: A will; an advance directive that includes a living will and health-care proxy, which allows you or another family member or friend to make medical decisions on his behalf if he becomes incapacitated; and a durable power of attorney, which gives you or a designated person similar legal authority for financial decisions, if needed.

If he doesn't have these important documents prepared, now is the time to do it. And if they are prepared, make sure they're updated, and you know where they're located.

Simplify Financial Tasks

The quickest way to help your dad simplify his monthly financial chores is to set up automatic payments for his utilities and other routine bills and arrange for direct deposit of his income sources.

If your dad has savings and investments scattered in many different accounts, you should consider consolidating them. You can also set up your dad's bank system and investment accounts online, so you can pay bills and monitor his accounts anytime.

Set Up Protections

To guard against scams and risky financial behaviors, consider getting your dad a True Link Visa Prepaid Card (TrueLinkFinancial.com/card). Designed for older adults with cognitive issues this card would provide your dad access to his money but with restrictions that you set on how funds can be spent. Or check out EverSafe.com, a web-based service that will automatically monitor your dad's accounts, track suspicious activity and alert you when a problem is detected.

Seek Help

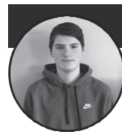
If you need help or live far away, consider hiring a daily money manager (see AADMM.com) who can come in once or twice a month to pay bills, make deposits, decipher health insurance statements and balance his checkbook. Fees range between \$60 and \$150 per hour.

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.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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Students of the Week



Zach 8TH GRADE

It has been so awesome to watch ZACH shine as a responsible and conscientious student this year. He takes his time on all of his work, making sure he learns from his mistakes and asking questions when needed. Even though he is busy with many activities outside of school, he maintains exemplary grades and makes learning a priority. Where I saw Zach really step up this year was during the times where he was forced to quarantine. I always knew he would be on the class Google Meets when he was expected to be, and all of his work was done promptly, with attention to detail. Thank you for always working hard, Zach!

Parents are Mike & Lori | Zach was nominated by Mrs. Nylund

Ean 7TH GRADE

EAN is a hard working student who challenges himself both inside and outside of school. Whether it is in the classroom or on the ice, Ean puts forth his best effort and is always willing to learn new things. His quiet form of leadership shows other students what it means to do the right thing and lead by example. Furthermore, he is always welcoming, polite and pleasant to students, teachers and staff. Congratulations to Ean on this well-deserved award.

Parents are Andy & Anne | Ean was nominated by Mrs. Sotsve

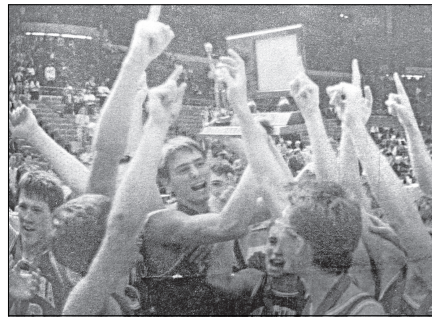


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History from the News Archives

A second consecutive state title



Members of the Owatonna Indians celebrated as they captured the state basketball championship for the second straight year in March 1990. Joining in the celebration were, from left: Mike Broich, Thad Johnson, Mark Randall, Chad Kolander, Pat McDermott, Scott Armstrong, Dan Malakowsky, Kyle Paulson and Jeff Hanson. The Indians defeated Minneapolis North 72-26 for the second most lopsided title game victory in the 78-year history of the Minnesota tournament.

10 Years Ago April 5, 2011

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Family is the essence of life. And big sister, Presley, 4, couldn't be prouder of her sisters, Hattie, Raegan, Lia and brother, Shay. They are not just ordinary siblings, they are quadruplets. Born to Travis and Ashley Broskoff of Geneva and they celebrated their 6-month birthday on March 28. All of the babies are extremely well natured, and Travis and Ashley know they are very blessed to have five healthy and perfect children.

A sixth grade traveling volleyball team sponsored by BFR captured a 10-team State Tournament in Austin on March 12. After winning in the pool play, they advanced to the finals where they defeated another Blossoms team and Hayfield to take the championship. The girls on the team are Mackenzie Fairbairn, Allison Pryor, Kaci Gwilt, Alyssa Mitchell, Jenna Smith, Marissa Larson, Leah Schiefert, Courtney Wobshall, the girls are coached by Janice Sherva and Jelaine Gwilt.

20 Years Ago April 3, 2001

ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

Blooming Prairie Schools Superintendent Irving Peterson will tender his resignation at the next school board meeting in April, as he has accepted a similar position at Thief River Falls. Peterson has been the local superintendent for eight years, taking over for Darwin Bostic in the 1993-1994 school year. He came from Comfrey School District where he oversaw the school for seven years. He is a Frost, Minn. native.

Several BPHS students will be advancing to the region speech competition as they placed in the top at sub-sections last week. Lisi Ingvalson was the only first place for Blooming in the poetry division. Going on in competition with Ingvalson are Misty Smith, Sara Wondrich, Joauna Iacovino, Amanda Herdina, Gary Tashima, Allison Trom, Phil Iacovino and Jeff Isenor.

50 Years Ago April 7, 1971

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCIC, PUBLISHERS

Prairie Manor Nursing Home in Blooming Prairie has several V.I.P.s, Volunteers in Personal Service, it was announced this week. These are high school students in their sophomore, junior and senior years who volunteer their services to help the residents.

At the present time the VIP's are: Debbie Anderson, Diane Brainerd, Cindy Braaten, Ronald Christianson, Vicki Frey, Mary Herdina, Lu Anne Pogones, Judy Thimsen, Carol Wagner and Vicki Wickle. Their services are much appreciated by the staff and residents of Prairie Manor, it was announced by Mrs. Edith Wanous, administrator.

75 Years Ago April 4, 1946

FRANK KREJCIC, PUBLISHER

Bernard "Buddy" Coufal, well-known Blooming Prairie business man and bowler, scored 715 to win first place and \$75 in the singles of the bowling tournament held at Waterville. Gordon Christenson was another Blooming Prairie bowler that came in the money, winning third place with 662 for \$30.

John M. Johnson has resigned from his job as janitor at the First Lutheran Church, a position he held for 23 years. In all these years he has enjoyed on vacation of three weeks, spent mostly with relatives in central Minnesota. For the last 21 years he has kept a record of the funerals that were held from the Lutheran Church. They number 175, mostly members. One year there were none, one year 3 and another year 13. Mr. Johnson's successor is N. C. Nelson, who recently retired from farming and moved to the village.

Owatonna Photo News

31 Years Ago April 5, 1990

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Four area residents fared well at in recent archery competition at the state level, held at Mankato State University. Winners were Karl Schlichter, Faribault, freestyle unlimited adult division; Jeremiah Federly, 13, Medford, in the youth freestyle unlimited division; Tom Federly, Medford, in the bearbow division; Rod Maurer, Medford, in the freestyle limited adult. The four archers qualified in regional competition in Blooming Prairie earning the right to advance to state.

Mary Gruenhagen of Owatonna will receive the Owatonna Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds award on April 9. The award is given annually to a person who has assisted others and has done so in such a way as to attract "no notoriety for his or her deeds." For 25 years, Mary has served as chairman of the Clothesline, a clothing shop for the needy run by the Women's Club. In addition, she has been involved in a number of other volunteer activities.

TURN OFF the television...



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STEELE COUNTY
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Woman faces attempted murder charges

◀ **WOMAN** from A1 According to police reports, an officer saw Ellis stop breathing, did not find a pulse, and found his pupils did not react to light stimulus. Officers performed CPR on Ellis.

Witnesses told police that Ellis had been stabbed with a kitchen knife. They also told officers that his girlfriend, whom they met for the first time, had stabbed him. Officers discovered Ellis had an Order for Protection against Wells.

Mayo Ambulance took Ellis to the airport in Owatonna where North Memorial Air Care airlifted him to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. He was last reported to be in critical condition with life-threatening injuries.

The investigation revealed that Ellis and Wells had been arguing about their relationship earlier the previous day. They also had been drinking throughout the day. At one point, a witness saw Wells with a knife during the argument

and turned around to find Ellis holding his chest.

Another witness said the two had been fighting for a bit and things just escalated from there. During the argument, Wells allegedly went into the kitchen to grab a knife. Ellis tried to keep Wells from leaving because she had been drinking. The witness said the couple's young children saw the entire event unfold before Wells fled with them from the apartment, the complaint said.

Waseca Police found Wells during a traffic stop in Waseca around 11 a.m. on March 30. The young children, ages 5 and 4, were with her in the vehicle. Officers took Wells and the two children into custody.

Police, along with a social worker from MN Prairie, conducted interviews with the children. The youngest child told authorities that "his dad was bleeding because mom poked him with a knife," the complaint said. When given a body diagram,



Tierrah Wells

the child circled the chest area and torso area.

The oldest child did not make any disclosures during his statement.

In an interview with police, Wells initially denied any involvement in the stabbing. She gave investigators as to her whereabouts

the previous day. When confronted with witness statements, Wells changed her story and admitted she had been with Ellis. She said the two argued because he wanted to use her truck and he had been drinking.

When investigators asked Wells what she thought her children would tell officers during a forensic interview, she became upset and indicated she did not want her children interviewed, police said.

Wells has no prior convictions in Minnesota. She is currently locked up at the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna with bail set at \$500,000. She will appear in court again on Thursday.

It's unknown who has custody of the two children.

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Tax Guide 2021

Here's how to get answers to tax questions

IRS.gov is always available and has tools to help people file and pay taxes, find information about their account, and get answers to tax questions.

Here are a few things that people can do with a visit to IRS.gov.

File a tax return

Taxpayers who earned \$72,000 or less in 2020 can file free using brand-name tax software with IRS Free File. People who earned more and want to do their own taxes can use Free File Fillable Forms. These are the electronic versions of IRS paper forms. Either way, everyone has a free electronic filing option.

The IRS has extended the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021. Individual taxpayers have until May 17 to file and pay 2020 federal income taxes. If individual taxpayers need more time to file, they can use IRS Free File through May 17 to electronically request an extension to file until October 15. Taxpayers should remember that an extension of time to file is not an extension of time to pay. Penalties and interest may apply to taxes not paid by May 17.

Individual taxpayers can get an extension by paying all or part of their estimated income tax due using Direct Pay, the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System or a credit or debit card, and indicating that the payment is for an extension. This way they won't have to file a separate extension form and will receive a confirmation

number for their records.

Pay taxes online

Individual taxpayers can file now and schedule their federal tax payments through the May 17 due date. They can pay online, by phone or with their mobile device and the IRS2GoApp. Electronic payment options are the optimal way to make a tax payment to support social distancing and speed the processing of payments. This includes IRS Direct Pay, electronic funds withdrawal and payment by debit or credit card.

View federal tax information online

Taxpayers can visit IRS.gov to securely access information about their federal taxes. They can access their tax records, review their payment history, and view tax return information for the current year's tax return as originally filed.

Get answers to tax questions

Taxpayers can find reliable answers to their tax questions using the Interactive Tax Assistant. This tool asks a series of questions and provides immediate answers on a variety of tax topics.

Learn more about the recovery rebate credit and the third round of Economic Impact Payment. There is a special section of IRS.gov where taxpayers can find information about their latest Economic Impact Payment and claiming the 2020 recovery rebate credit.

Source: IRS.gov

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Will investors change behavior after the pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic may end up changing our lives in some significant ways. To cite one example, it's likely we'll see a lot more people continue to work remotely, now that they've seen the effectiveness of tools such as videoconferencing. Education, too, may be forever changed in some ways. Perhaps just as important, though, is how many people may now think more about the future – including how they invest.

If you work with a financial professional, you may have connected with this individual over the past several months through a videoconferencing platform, rather than in person. Some people like this arrangement because it offers more scheduling flexibility and eliminates the time and effort of traveling to and from an appointment. Others, however, still prefer face-to-face contact and look forward to when such arrangements will again be practical and safe for everyone involved. But if you're in the first group – that is, you prefer videoconferencing – you may now wish to use this communication method in the future, at least some of the time.

But beyond the physical aspects of your investing experience, you may now be looking at some changes in your investment strategy brought on, or at least suggested, by your reactions to the pandemic.

For example, many people – especially, but not exclusively, those whose employment was affected by the pandemic – found that they were coming up short in the area of liquidity. They didn't have enough easily accessible savings to provide them with the cash they needed to meet their expenses until their employment situations stabilized. Consequently, some individuals were forced to dip into their long-term investments, such as their 401(k)s and IRAs. Generally speaking, this type of move is not ideal – these accounts are designed for retirement, so, the more you tap into them early, the less you'll have available when you do retire. Furthermore, your withdrawals will likely be taxable, and, depending on your age, may also be subject to penalties.

If you were affected by this liquidity crunch, you can take steps now to avoid its recurrence. Your best move may be to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the funds held in a separate, highly accessible account of cash or cash equivalents. Of course, given your regular expenses, it may take some time to build such an amount, but if you can commit yourself to putting away a certain amount of money each month, you will make progress. Even having a few hundred dollars in an emergency fund can help create more financial stability.

Apart from this new appreciation for short-term liquidity, though, the foundation for your overall financial future should remain essentially the same. In addition to building your emergency fund, you should still contribute what you can afford to your IRA, 401(k) and other retirement plans. If you have children you want to send to college, you might still explore college funding vehicles such as a 529 plan. Higher education will still be expensive, even with an expansion in online learning programs.

Post-pandemic life may contain some differences, along with many similarities to life before. But it will always be a smart move to create a long-term financial strategy tailored to your individual needs, goals and risk tolerance.

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

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BP firm wins excavation contract for Owatonna's new high school

BP from A1 one of two local companies awarded contracts on the project last week. The board also approved a \$2.1 million contract for Mohs Contracting, Inc. of Owatonna for finishing carpentry and an exterior outbuilding. "People will begin to see earthmoving equipment," said Niles. Initially, the firm will be doing some exploratory tile work on the site. Once all permits are approved, the firm will begin setting up erosion control and

start grading the site, constructing temporary haul roads and doing prep work for the underground water and sewer lines. "Our team has a vested interest in a project like this anywhere in Steele County," said Beth Winterfeld, JDD's operations manager. "Many of our team members are from the Owatonna area and have kids or family in the district. And being a 2-plus year project, it keeps much of our team right here in the area."

Winterfeld said JDD Companies employs 40-45 people, most of whom are seasonal workers. While most of the company's work takes place within a 60-mile radius of Owatonna, the firm works with a few general contractors with projects outside of Minnesota. Beyond the five-state area, JDD Companies has worked in Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and North Carolina. "We want our name attached to a high-quality project, like the school — one that the

community and our team can be proud of for years to come," said Winterfeld. In addition to its excavation, grading and underground utilities work, JDD Companies has grown to be one of the area's leading aggregate material suppliers. Niles said the firm, established in 2010, owns two gravel pits and leases another four in Steele County. According to Winterfeld, the majority of the aggregate material used for the project will come from the firm's

own gravel sources. And that benefits the coffers of area townships and Steele County. Niles said the firm pays a 15-cent tax on each ton of aggregate taken from the gravel pits located in Steele County. Last year, he said, JJC Companies sold about 265,000 tons of aggregates from their pits, which accounted for roughly \$40,000 in aggregate taxes paid. The taxes help townships and the county fund roads,

according to Niles. In addition to providing aggregate for the new Highway 14 project, JDD Companies larger Owatonna projects in 2020 included site work at the new Minimizer facility, the underground utilities at the new Bosch Warehouse and site work and utilities at the Baymont Hotel. In addition to its construction work, the firm sells sand, gravel, washed rock, top soil and boulders to residential and commercial customers.

PUBLIC SAFETY

BLITTER from A4
insurance, \$275; Joseph J. Wallin, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Joe M. Wimbush, 20, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Sage T. Winter, 28, Waseca, speeding, \$115.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Juana Y. Anderson, 26, expired tabs and expired license, \$325; Bailey A. Bolzer, 34, Owatonna, school bus stop sign, stay of adjudication, \$75, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Tyler S. Britt, 25, St. Cloud, financial transaction card fraud, \$75 and 180 days in county jail; Tyler D. Burke, 26, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Evangelina Castro, 31, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$50, 12 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; Nancy A. Duncan, 57, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Nathan A. Fries, 35, Waseca, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Saffi F. Gabri, 24, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$225; Michael A. Gerber, 40, Northfield, hands free violation, \$350; Rome C. Hayes, 37, Waseca, revoked license, \$275; Robert E. Hrdlicka, 62, Owatonna, parking violation, \$37; Hassan Y. Ibrahim, 26, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; Chase S. Johnson, 32, Kasson, DWI, \$375, 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Luciano R. Maja, 51, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Sabrina R. Meyer-Wyosung, 23, Waterville, speeding, \$135; Tingo A. Nela, 35, Rochester, speeding, \$125; Taylor D. Padilla-Ades, 19, Lonsdale, speeding, \$135; Pavan A. Patel, 21, N. Bellmore, NY, speeding, \$135; Claire E. Peterson, 24, Lanesboro, speeding and revoked license, \$335; Jon R. Quamme, 55, Faribault, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$80 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Benjamin S. Richard, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Thor D. Routh, 18, Hartland, minor consumption, \$175; Nicole A. Schaub, 41, Owatonna, speeding and suspended license, \$325; Ann M. Schuenke, 56, West Concord, speeding, \$135; Molly B. Slechta, 47, Waterville, speeding, \$135; Angeli Tiburcio Lara, 34, Wanamingo, revoked license, \$275; Carrie A. Toot, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$125.

inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Korey E. Adams, 18, Highland, N., underage possession of alcohol and minor consumption, \$275; Cody J. Altepeter, 27, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; William L. Conley, 34, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$225 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Grace M. Cummins, 19, New Richland, speeding, \$215; Robbin J. Delaiske, 50, Waterville, speeding, \$115; Karl D. Dexheimer, 48, Edina, speeding, \$135; Karen L. Fank, 51, Austin, speeding, \$115; Douglas J. Fitterer, 54, Eagan, speeding, \$135; Olson A. Flores, 33, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, do not enter liquor establishments, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Bradley J. Gerster, 36, Brandon, revoked license and no insurance, \$475; Elaine M. Hencke, 36, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$115; Hassan Y. Ibrahim, 26, Faribault, revoked license, \$275; Holly A. Larson, 22, Medford, speeding, \$215; Christopher C. Lewis, 20, Ellendale, DWI, \$375, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel and 2 years of supervised probation; Rebecca B. Maas, 38, Owatonna, DWI, \$125, 2 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; Luciano R. Maja, 51, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Sabrina R. Meyer-Wyosung, 23, Waterville, speeding, \$135; Tingo A. Nela, 35, Rochester, speeding, \$125; Taylor D. Padilla-Ades, 19, Lonsdale, speeding, \$135; Pavan A. Patel, 21, N. Bellmore, NY, speeding, \$135; Claire E. Peterson, 24, Lanesboro, speeding and revoked license, \$335; Jon R. Quamme, 55, Faribault, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$80 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Benjamin S. Richard, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Thor D. Routh, 18, Hartland, minor consumption, \$175; Nicole A. Schaub, 41, Owatonna, speeding and suspended license, \$325; Ann M. Schuenke, 56, West Concord, speeding, \$135; Molly B. Slechta, 47, Waterville, speeding, \$135; Angeli Tiburcio Lara, 34, Wanamingo, revoked license, \$275; Carrie A. Toot, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$125.

POLICE BLITTER Steele County

March 31
Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 600 block of 3rd St. NE at 9:18 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

March 26
Arrests: Police arrested subjects during traffic stops in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 6:07 p.m. and at State Ave. NW and Sylvan St. NW at 6:55 p.m. **Assault:** Officers responded to an assault in the 100 block of Oak Ave. S. at 7:08 p.m.

March 29
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:05 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene. **Theft:** At 12:15 p.m., identity theft was reported in the 800 block of 22nd St. NE at 12:15 p.m. **Intoxication:** Officers responded to an intoxicated subject in the 200 block of Rice St. E. at 2:54 p.m. **Arrest:** Police arrested a subject during a traffic stop at Park St. SE and Cedar Ave. S. at 5:20 p.m. **March 30**
Stabbing: Officers responded to a stabbing in the 1100 block of School St. E. at 3:47 a.m. **Fraud:** Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 12:28 p.m. **Assault:** Police responded to an assault in the 300 block of Main St. E. at 5:11 p.m. They took a subject into custody. **Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest at the law enforcement center at 5:41 p.m. **March 31**
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:39 a.m. **Theft:** At 7:03 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

March 26
Fraud: Deputy took fraud reports in the 8300 block of 103rd St. SE in Aurora Township at 11:04 a.m., the 3900 block of 52nd Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 11:57 a.m. and the 2300 block of Austin Road in Owatonna Township at 1:33 p.m. **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 2:33 p.m. **Suspicion:** Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 3900 block of Highway 30 W. in Ellendale at 7:14 p.m. **Animal:** At 8:10 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 1800 block of 44th Ave. SE in Havana Township. **March 27**
Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Sunrise Dr. in Medford at 5:18 a.m. **Domestic:** At 11:09 a.m., a domestic disturbance

occurred in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township. **Restraining Order:** Deputies responded to a restraining order violation in the 2400 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 5:38 p.m. **DWI:** Deputy made a DWI arrest at Highway 218 and 123rd St. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 8:56 p.m. **March 29**
Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 7400 block of 72nd Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 8:47 a.m. and the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford at 10:25 p.m. **Child Protection:** Deputies received a child protection report from the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 7:58 p.m. **March 30**
Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 9100 block of 76th St. NW in Deerfield Township at 12:41 p.m. **March 31**
Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 5:29 a.m. **Suspicion:** Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 8900 block of 57th Ave. SW in Somerset Township at 7:23 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Tierah Vachon Lee Wells, 34, arrested at 3:08 p.m. March 30, felony assault, held for court. Casey Amos Adams, 41, arrested at 4:44 p.m. March 30, warrant arrest, held for court. Lorenzo Markey Cook, 30, arrested at 5:45 p.m. March 30, felony assault, held for court. Hector Delgado, 64, arrested at 10:52 a.m. March 31, warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 14 — 21:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Moustafa H. Abdelaziz, 21, Mankato, speeding,

\$140; Mark D. Berg, 28, Pine Island, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$130 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Johnny Cantu, 36, Gonzales, TX, parking violation, \$32; Byron A. Collier, 71, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$52; Ethan K. Dollinghorst, 29, Windom, parking violation, \$32; Robert S. Huber, 36, Lakeville, suspended license, \$280; Kimberly M. Kindworth, 46, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Gerald B. Lee III, 31, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Matthew A. Luther, 19, Rochester, invalid license, \$180; Christopher J. Marcks, 28, Brownsdale, no insurance, \$280; Jesse L. Morland, 21, Dodge Center, fleeing peace officer, \$180; Eric J. Ogren, 45, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Cara E. Patnode, 41, West Concord, revoked license, \$280; Trahern D. Pollard Jr., 32, Claremont, revoked license and speeding, \$340; Michael T. Renk, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$140; Greg L. Robillard, 56, parking violation, \$32; Scott L. Roles, 38, West Concord, speeding, \$120; Larry E. Schaaf, 53, Faribault, revoked license, \$280; Samuel D. Sonnek, 19, North Mankato, controlled substance, stay of adjudication, \$400, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Cole D. Stadler, 45, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Randy L. Starkson, 60, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Nicole M. Thomas, 33, Dodge Center, parking violation and expired tabs, \$130; Trevor E. Tomlinson, 29, North Mankato, careless driving, \$180; Jerrod L. Vandal, 37, Kasson, careless driving and speeding, \$480; Melanie S. Waldner, 50, Hayfield, parking violation, \$52.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nathan A. Fate, 35, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Abel Garcia, 50, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Casey L. Hamilton, 38, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Malik L. Hilton, 24, Rochester, invalid license, \$180; Benjamin J. McKee, 46, Kasson, registration violation, no insurance, no license in possession, failure to signal and revoked

license, \$650; Brady D. Seitz, 26, Owatonna, seat belt, \$105.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Michael W. Brandts, 61, St. James, speeding, \$120; Jonathan M. Dallager, 37, Spring Valley, DWI, \$255, 1 day in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, mental health evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; James V. Lueth, 37, North Mankato, speeding, \$140; Monica M. Maciel, 36, Waltham, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$180; Abdikadir Mohamed Ali, 36, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Brandon Nelson, 30, Austin, speeding, \$220; Brian E. Rhudy, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Jason A. Wilker, 43, Byron, expired tabs, \$110.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Russell A. Amiot, 45, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Dean R. Gresheth, 39, Kenyon, speeding, \$140; Devon L. Henriksen, 19, West Concord, receiving stolen property, stay of adjudication, \$275, 20 hours of community service and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Dieu M. Masabo, 24, Louisville, KY, speeding, \$280; Joel L. Nordrum, 62, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Alejandro Ortiz Sanchez, 54, West Concord, parking violation, \$32.

OWATONNA FIRE

March 19
Crash: 10:40 a.m., fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Bridge St. W. and Interstate 35. **March 21**
Assist: Fire personnel assisted police in the 600 block of 58th St. NE at 3:12 p.m. **March 24**
Smoke: 12:10 p.m., steam, vapor, fog or dust was thought to be smoke in the 1200 block of 18th St. SW. **March 25**
Fire: Firefighters responded to a passenger vehicle fire at Interstate 35 and 46th St. at 11:25 a.m. **Heat:** Fire personnel responded to an incident involving heat from short circuit wiring in the 100 block of 24th Place NW at 7:49 p.m.



Aidan Ruiz
He is the son of Jennifer Ruiz and Juan Carlos Ruiz Montiel. He is currently working at Mills Fleet Farm. He is a very hard working person. He considers himself to be independent and he is able to stand on his own two feet to the get the job done. Aidan has three siblings, a sister and two brothers. He attends to study computer science and is deciding between the U of M, Twin Cities, U of M Moorhead, or Northeast University of Saint Lake City and Computer Science.



Annika Andrix
She is the daughter of Kristin and Todd Andrix. She participates in many school activities including Marching Band, SHOC, Winter Musical, RFB, Cross Country, and Ice Truck. She is also very involved in the community by volunteering at Teen Night, helping at the Food Shelf and Feed My Starving Children. She has also worked at church events and has taught Religious Ed at Trinity Church and also works at Fareway. She is the oldest of four siblings and she is a runner, musician, hard worker and very compassionate toward others. She plans studying Education at Augustana University or UW Superior.



Abigail Munns
She is the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Munns. Abby has been involved in a number of school activities including Orchestra, Girls Soccer & Dive, Choir and Girls Hockey. She has been an Athletic Training Student Assistant throughout school as well. She enjoys volunteering with 4-H, 88BS and Feed My Starving Children. She currently works at the Owatonna County Jail as a Mogaard. She plans to attend St. Scholastica & Duluth and major in Exercise Physiology with a Pre-Physical Therapy track.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Exchange Club of Owatonna recognizes hard-working high school students who attain high levels of scholastic achievement, community involvement, and leadership or who have faced adversity in their lives and have overcome it through using their personal skills.

The Exchange Club of Owatonna congratulates: Aidan, Annika and Abigail for their achievements!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With shovels in hand, Charlie Tucker leads a group of teenagers in a landscaping project at Benedictine Living in Owatonna. Helping with the project include, from left: Tucker, Dalton Levy, Dawson Levy, Eli Knutson and Grayson Slotsve.

Eagle Scout carries on family tradition

◀ EAGLE from A1 project," she said. "I knew exactly what to expect and what the outcome was going to be."

Charlie transformed the landscaping into something beautiful, Kern said. "Many of our customers enjoyed watching them work, and their flowers and landscaping will be enjoyed by many for years to come."

Kern also said it is wonderful to have community members like Charlie support

Benedictine's mission by sharing their talents and skills.

In addition to the service project, Charlie earned 13 required and 21 additional badges to become an Eagle Scout. Charlie has been involved with the program since first grade when he joined as a Cub Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank carries special significance and is considered favorable when applying for colleges, jobs and especially the military.

Only 4% of scouts achieve the honor.

A court of honor to recognize Charlie's achievement will take place this summer.

Boy Scouts isn't the only activity that keeps Charlie busy. He is a member of the high school concert band, the jazz band, concert choir, the carolers and the tennis team. He is also a member of the Pratt Commandoes 4-H Club, where he enjoys rabbits, photography and geology.

Asked which of the three had the better Eagle Scout project, Charlie didn't hesitate to say his oldest brother, Trent, who put together a large landscaping maze out of rocks and wood chips. "His [project] was definitely the most interesting," Charlie said.

Charlie is just thrilled that he has been able to follow in the footsteps of his older siblings with becoming an Eagle Scout.

BOOK NOOK

Welcome to 'your' library



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

This is National Library Week, a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support. Promoted by the American Library Association (ALA), the theme for National Library Week 2021 is "Welcome to Your Library."

At the Blooming Prairie Branch Library we are eager to welcome you and help you find whatever you need. Whether you are new to town or just have not found the courage to walk into a new place, we hope that you will drop by the library soon. We are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. During that time you are

invited to come in to browse for items, pick up requests, and use our public access computers. We ask that you limit the time spent in the library to no more than 30 minutes. Children under the age of 16 need to be accompanied by an adult. If those hours do not fit your schedule, give us a call at 507-583-7750 and we will work out other options. Masks are required!

But library services go beyond bricks and mortar. The pandemic has led libraries to adapt and find new ways to provide materials and services. These include book deliveries, curbside delivery, virtual programming, Take & Make bags, Storywalks, and Hot Spots.

At the Blooming Prairie Branch Library, we try to go above and beyond to provide all community members, and our rural neighbors, with equal access to library services. We do that every week of the year, not just during National Library Week. Welcome to Your Library!

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BLOOMING PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY

April 8- Sloppy Joe, Chicken bacon ranch melt, baked beans, broccoli florets, fruit
April 9- Crispy chicken nuggets, dinner roll, turkey BLT salad, roasted broccoli, baby carrots, fruit
April 12- Meatballs and gravy, Salisbury steak, dinner roll, mashed potatoes, baby carrots, fruit
April 13- Chicken alfredo with pasta, garlic breadstick, ham and cheese flatbread, Caesar salad, celery sticks, fruit
April 14- Hotdog on bun, hot ham & cheese sandwich, spicy pinto beans, baby carrots, fruit

BLOOMING PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

April 8- Cheese pizza, steamed corn, leafy green salad, fruit, beef hotdog
April 9- Toasted cheese sandwich, homemade tomato soup, steamed green beans, baby carrots, fruit, corn dog
April 12- BBQ meatball sub, dill seasoned potato wedges, baby carrots, fruit, cheesy Italian flatbread
April 13- Beefy nachos with cheese, roasted broccoli, cauliflower floret, fruit, BBQ chicken sandwich
April 14- On-line Learning

OBITUARIES

Obituaries Sponsor:
LEGACY MONUMENT SALES
Leon & Lori Bohman 507-456-7864 or 507-456-3735
landbo@gmail.com

Lori Arthaud, 61, Blooming Prairie



Lori Arthaud

Lori Ramee Arthaud, 61, of Blooming Prairie, formerly of Austin, Lori lost her short battle with cancer and was called home on March 31, 2021, her dad's birthday. She was surrounded by her loving family and best friends.

She was born Oct. 1, 1959 to Lloyd and Helen Rieken of Austin. Lori attended schools in Austin, as well as church and Sunday School at Crane Community Chapel. Lori married Greg on Aug. 28, 1999 at Crane Chapel in Austin.

Lori worked various jobs in Austin and after moving to Blooming Prairie, she worked at Prairie Manor and Vanda's Grocery. Most recently she worked from home for Ex-

change Club Center for Family Unity, but her first and favorite job was being a mother. Lori loved the holidays, especially Christmas with the kids. Lori loved to decorate the house, and everyone who entered felt the spirit of Christmas. She also loved Easter and hosting Easter egg hunts for her grandchildren. Lori was a great cook and was always making cookies and bars. For family gatherings, she would prepare enough food to feed an Army.

Lori will be greatly missed by her husband, Greg of Blooming Prairie; mother, Helen Rieken of Austin; children, Donovan (Liah) Rieken of Faribault, Heather Rieken of Blooming Prairie, Matt Miller (Pam) of Austin and Brianna Arthaud of Owatonna; beloved grandchildren, Preston, Brody, Kaleb, Dylan, Teryn, Jon, Aidan, and Gavin; siblings, Linda (Dan) Kretzer of Red Wing, Randy (Julie) Rieken of Rochester and Brenda Bahner of North Carolina; bestie, Cherri Rasmussen of Austin; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles who loved her dearly.

Lori is preceded in death by her father, Lloyd and her brother Larry.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2021 at Crane Community Chapel in Austin. Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. at Crane Community Chapel on Friday, April 9, 2021 and will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Private family graveside service at Greenwood Cemetery in Brownsdale.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials in Lori's name to the American Cancer Society, Exchange Club Center for Family Unity or charity of your choice.

Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Worlein
FUNERAL HOMES
BLOOMING PRAIRIE
AUSTIN



Claire Todahl

Claire V. Todahl, 92, of Owatonna, died Thursday, April 1, 2021 at Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna.

She was born March 16, 1929, in Fargo, N.D., the daughter of Samuel and Esther (Danielson) Clemenson. On July 13, 1946, she married Arlyn O. Todahl. They lived in Fargo, St. Paul and Bakersfield, Calif., and they made their home in Owatonna.

Claire was a homemaker and took care of her six children. She also worked at Truth, the Owatonna Canning Company and cleaned homes for her family and friends. Claire took great pride in caring for others especially her grandchildren and neighborhood kids throughout the years.

She enjoyed cooking and baking, making sure everything was well done. Claire had a great sense of humor and quick wit.

In her younger years, she enjoyed watching softball, which led her to her passion for baseball especially the Minnesota Twins. Claire was very talented in crocheting and embroidery which she received several ribbons for at the Steele County Free Fair. She was a lifetime member of the Owatonna VFW Auxiliary where she volunteered for many events.

Claire Todahl, 92, Owatonna

Claire is survived by her children: Gerald (Vicki) Todahl of Des Moines, Jean (Stephen) Chadwick of Owatonna, James Todahl of Ridgeland, Wis., Jon Todahl of Ridgeland and Janita (Brian) Paulson of Medford; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; sister, Doris Armistead of Westaco, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arlyn Todahl who died on March 4, 1993; son, Jay Todahl; siblings, Evelyn Pederson, Marion Uness, Shirley Fugere and Alard Clemenson.

Visitation will be at Michaelson Funeral

Home on Friday, April 9, 2021, from 1-2 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, April 9, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Michaelson Funeral Home with Pastor Jacie Richmond officiating. Interment will be in the Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Memorials are preferred to the Children's Miracle Network. The Family would like to convey a special appreciation for the staff at Benedictine Living Community who cared for Claire at the end of life and to her family at Birchwood Cottages North Building who have loved and cared for her over the last few years. Especially the COVID Year.

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 14

- Jackie Wagner
- Linda Wolf
- Jayden Schewe
- Jacqueline Werks
- Taylor Klemmensen
- Waco Vandal

APRIL 15

- Pat Inoulsen (Mrs. Steve)
- Asher Miller
- Margo White
- Anna Thorson

APRIL 16

- Richard Schwartz

APRIL 17

- Angie Avery
- Jesse Christiansen
- Kathryn Piller
- Timothy Adam Greene
- Matt Braaten
- Mary Beth Swenson

APRIL 18

- Ty Forystek
- Brian Wencl
- Marc Braaten
- Rachel Pirkil
- Dale Underwood

APRIL 19

- Grady Steckerberg
- Hazel Iron
- Rachel Winzenburg
- Pam Doerhoefer

APRIL 20

- Rosa Rivera-Escondon

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL 14

- Joe & Kaylee Farr
- Teresa & Luke Swenson

APRIL 18

- Kurt & Terri Underwood



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Dornink & Sons Carpentry
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Mike



Scott



Mike

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PROUDLY SERVING STEELE COUNTY

Unity can prevail



Pastor Paul Hauschild
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAYFIELD

"When God measures a person, He puts the tape around the heart instead of the head," someone once said. Very true! In Scripture we read something similar: "...they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b). I believe UNITY is a desire the Lord puts in our hearts. Disunity comes from the ego. On that first EASTER long ago, Jesus rose from the dead to set us free from the bondage to this world and to reveal the promise of

eternal life. His goal: to let humanity know the kingdom of God was so very near. Yet, instead of unity that first Holy Week, there was disunity and doubt between the Jewish leaders, the Roman leaders and the common people who had followed Jesus. Their fear and judgement of each other caused the death of God's only Son. But God made it for good... for any who would believe! This Easter week, I wonder if we can put our egos aside... this

learned behavior of rejecting each other with closed minds and hearts? It's okay to disagree, but it doesn't need to lead our world into hatred. I share this story about unity: As he was returning home from the Capitol one evening, Sen. John Stennis was robbed at gunpoint. Even though Stennis turned over what little of value he was carrying, the robbers shot him twice, hitting him in the stomach and leg. The surgeons at Walter Reed Medical Center labored

for more than six hours to repair the damage and save his life. Also on his way home that evening was Sen. Mark Hatfield, who had clashed often and sharply with Stennis. The two were at virtually opposite ends of the political spectrum. However, when Hatfield heard on his car radio what had happened, he immediately drove to the hospital. There he quickly discerned that the switchboard staff was overwhelmed with the many incoming

calls from Stennis' fellow senators, reporters, and friends. He said to an operator: "I know how to work one of these; let me help you out." He helped answer phones until daylight when the calls subsided. The without fanfare, he quietly introduced himself as he was leaving, "My name is Hatfield... happy to help out on behalf of a man I deeply respect." In this season of Easter let us have new life... forgiveness... grace... and unity!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN
AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Interim Pastor:
Rev. Dale Svendsen
507-251-2819
office@auroralutheran.org
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
106 Third St. SE, Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 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 Hergartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Wolkstein
507-583-6621
firstlutheranpb.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - LCMC
8955 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed:
10:15 a.m. Sun.

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

MOLAND LUTHERAN - ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
507-789-6681
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN - LCMC
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna

Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN - ELCA
30456 Mower-Freiborn Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.rdgolutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN- ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jackie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m. Thursday & Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Vicar Jackie Short
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tloowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler; Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Sundays 9:30 a.m. - online at facebook.com/tloowatonna and tloowatonna.org/ worshiplive
Watch the video of our full service on Spectrum (channel 181) and jaguar TV (channel 900) (Tuesday 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday 6 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.) and at owatonnaonline.com.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
104 First St. SE, Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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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

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

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.org
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
507-451-4945
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 fab required after hours or weekends

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

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

METHODIST
BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors J. & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Oksanen
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
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
P.O. Box 66, Claremont
507-528-2320
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.

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST (OWATONNA'S OLDEST CHURCH)
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Carrie 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.

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Exchange Club members remember Rev. Russ Rudolf

◀ **EXCHANGE** from A2
I am so sad at the passing of such a wonderful man. It made that last time we saw him even more special.
— **Clark G.**

Russ was our local historian. His knowledge of not only the calendar but the meaning of the day and what it represented. He would give us the day of the day of Exchange Club relevance, community, religious or equinox significance and then give a little background on the meaning. I will miss those bits of knowledge as people are quick to tell you it is a significant day but the understanding of the day is truly the thing to take with you. The knowledge he presented clearly showed he was a good reader but the knowledge he passed to us meant he was a good leader. — **Steve Carroll**

I first met Russ at the Owatonna Country Club at one of the earlier Exchange Club Center for Family Unity Golfing to Prevent Child Abuse charity events. I soon learned that golfing and child abuse prevention were two of his passions. It didn't take long through Exchange Club to learn that he was a most unforgettable character with many other passions as well: education (Wartburg and Owatonna Public Schools), classical music, history, travel, family, and his Christian faith. God put him on this earth to live life to its fullest. It was his mission to experience and learn all that he could about his passions and advocate through any medium possible in front of anyone who would listen. Russ was a disciple of Christ who touched innumerable

lives with his unforgettable thoughts that left us all as better persons.
— **Wendell Engelstad**
And now, I conclude this editorial with my thoughts of Russ.

Russ had a quick, stern smile. He related stories so well to others. His wife

Jane would set out his clothing for the day, especially Exchange Club Day. He always looked "dapper." Russ was stoic, but yet soft. Knowledge played a role in his life but what good was knowledge if you did not share with others? He had many of

our students laughing as he introduced them to Club members as he had researched the student! A quick call from "Russ Rudolf" always had meaning. It might have been a compliment, or it might have been a suggestion on how to do something

better. Either way, a call from Russ was not just a "whim." It was a well thought out conversation before the conversation even happened.
— **And, oh yes, he had a**

great collection of ties! Signing off.

Gail Buckingham
is the president of the Exchange Club of Owatonna.

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Verna Busho is turning 90 on April 20th, 2021!!
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Tip of the Week

Spring Gardening

- Delay raking the yard until the ground has firmed up and dried out.
- If cleaning up perennial beds, leave some of the debris for our native pollinators, nesting in the winter debris.
- Place order for seeds, select your seeds off the racks in stores now for best selection.
- Remove early growing perennial weeds like dandelions from your gardens.
- Get a soil test for your vegetable garden.
- Remove mulch from plants starting to grow. Keep an eye on the forecast for a deep freeze to blanket new sprouts, if necessary.
- Trim broken branches on trees and shrubs.
- If starting a new garden, start SMALL!

Tips provided by Julie Wamnos of Steele County Master Gardening.

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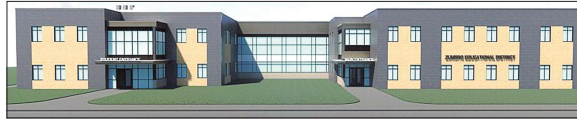
'A win for students, staff and parents' ZED's new building will bring everything under one roof

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

It's been a long time coming, but the Zumbro Education District's (ZED) new facility is finally on the home stretch.

ZED Executive Director Patrick Gordon said the district is currently finalizing the new facilities' construction timeline and gathering contractor bids.

"We're working on fi-



An artist's rendering of the new ZED building scheduled to open in the fall of 2022.

nances in April so funds are available in May," he said.

He said he anticipates construction will start early this summer.

"We are on track to open in Fall 2022," he said.

One of the major benefits of the new facility, Gordon said, is

it allows ZED to have all its resources under one roof rather than separating everyone into three different schools.

"Having all staff un-

der one roof enables ZED to be better prepared for teacher shortages, staff absences and we also can have better collaboration amongst staff

because we're physically occupying the same space and seeing each other every day. That collaboration amongst staff helps to offer better programming for our students," he said.

In addition to providing better programming for students and thus benefiting the parents by giving their children a better education, Gordon said having a central hub where everything is

See ZED on B2 ►

Trinity offers a drive-thru Easter message

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

For people wanting to get the real story of the suffering of Jesus Christ dying on the cross, a drive-thru experience made all the difference in the world.

About 80 adult and children volunteers at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna presented the Easter story in 10 stations scattered throughout Trinity's parking lot on Good Friday.

"We were trying to think outside the box," said Sheri Berg, director of children's ministry at Trinity. "With COVID, we still wanted to do something meaningful."

Trinity has done a Good Friday program for years, but typically it is held indoors. Last year as the pandemic had just begun, the church offered the program only online.

Using the same themes, Trinity had the extra twist of working with them outdoors.

One of the greatest challenges was finding nine people to play the role of Jesus for the various scenes. In the past, a single character would play Jesus in all the scenes.

Berg said families enjoyed coming together in person for this year's drive-thru. "It's an intergenerational event, so everyone can enjoy it," she said.

Gail and Mark Zollner, along with their See TRINITY on B3 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Nearly 100 vehicles containing almost 300 people drove through the Good Friday service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. There were 10 stations revealing the story of Easter with volunteers portraying Jesus Christ and other biblical characters.

Parks benefit communities



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE KIBLER

The community as a whole—residents, kids, businesses and local government—benefit from having parks, trails and play space. The Ellendale Parks and Trails Committee (EPTC) has been working diligently for the last few years to ensure there is a safe place to play and to walk.

Often parks serve as the heart of a community. There is more to park design than adding green space. Recreational and play areas help to promote community wellness, provides a free space for people—young and old—to connect, offers a safe gathering place, improves property values, and reduces crime.

To reap the benefits of parks and recreation areas fully, the space should have attractive designs and include play areas for everyone. The EPTC has submitted to the City Council plans for the City Park and the Crown Ridge Park. This plan includes landscape, play equipment, and safe walking to and from the park areas.

The landscape portion of the plan has been designed to offer shade as well as beautification of the park areas. Landscaping has begun with the removal of unhealthy See STEELE TALKIN' on B7 ►

Church collects food for Community Pathways

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Area residents pulled alongside the front doors of United Methodist Church in Owatonna on Monday, March 29, to drop off groceries and donations for the local food shelf.

The food drive was a unique spin on the church's coffee and a blessing held every Monday. All of the proceeds and donations were later delivered to Community Pathways in Owatonna.

"We had some friends and some neighbors and some older members of our parish that are not yet comfortable going to mass stop by," the Rev. Lisa Vick said. Vick was

'Hopefully, this will grow into a bigger ministry.'

The Rev. Lisa Vick
United Methodist Church

aided by Paula Johnson and Sally Kos.

The nice weather aided turnout, with many cars arriving around 10 a.m. "We thought it would be nice for people to be able to drive up and bring some stuff," Vick said. "Some people even brought a bag of groceries and gave some money."

The food drive was held in commemoration of food share month. "I thought it was a good turnout," said Kos of the

day's donations.

The drive lasted from 7 a.m. until noon, with groceries and food items filling two tables. "I think we could do other things with coffee and a blessing, for instance we could do a coat drive and maybe something for the hospitality house," Vick said of possible future charity endeavors.

"Hopefully this will grow into a bigger ministry."

While the drive received plenty of outside See CHURCH on B2 ►



Paula Johnson drops off some groceries to the Rev. Lisa Vick of United Methodist Church in Owatonna. The church recently held a drive-up food drive to commemorate food share month.

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Local 'Bigs of the Year' win state honors

Winners of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota (BBBS) "Bigs of the Year" recently took first place honors at the state level.

Earning top honors were Todd Egbert - the Big Brother of the Year, Lisa Eide - Big Sister of the Year, the Tjon Family of Owatonna - Big Family of the Year, and Pam Roberts - School Site Big of the Year.

Each year, a Big Brother, Big Sister, Big Couple, and School Site Big are selected to represent Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota as Bigs of the Year. For the first time, all four Bigs of the Year went on to win at the state level.

BIG BROTHER

Egbert was matched with his Little Brother, Nate, in 2016. After learning about BBBS through his job at Federated Insurance and attending the Federated Challenge Gala, Egbert decided to become a Big. During his first outing with his Little, Egbert quickly realized that Nate had a passion for sports. Since then, the two have enjoyed watching sporting events, visiting stadiums, talking stats, but most of all, just spending quality time together. Now with Nate in high school, Egbert has been talking with Nate a lot about his future and what

opportunities are ahead of him. Even when Nate heads off to college, they both know they will remain close.

BIG SISTER

Eide became a Big Sister to her Little, Max, in 2008. The two have formed a close bond over their 11 years together. One of their favorite activities is going thrift shopping—they are both great at finding hidden, inexpensive gems. When Max came out as transgender in 2016, Lisa was one of the first people he confided in. Eide supported Max throughout his transition and continues to support him today. Eide and Max attended the Pride Festival Parade in Minneapolis together, a first for them both, and made great memories there. Max is nearing graduation, and Eide knows she will remain a close friend and mentor to Max for years to come.

BIG FAMILY

After Nichole Tjon helped with the Federated Challenge Gala as a Federated Insurance employee, she asked her husband, Bill, about becoming Bigs. Their only child, Jaedynn, was also excited about the possibility of having a Little Brother through BBBS, so they decided to become a Big Family. They quickly bonded with their



Big Brother of the Year Todd Egbert and his Little, Nate, enjoy sports together.



Big Family of the Year, Nichole, Bill and Jaedynn Tjon, include their Little, Ray Ray, in the many everyday family things.

Little, Ray Ray, after being matched in 2016. The Tjons include Ray Ray in many everyday family things, from a day on the lake to grocery shopping. The Tjons have helped Ray Ray with his transition to middle school and distance learning over the past year, but what they love most of all is just the quality time they spend together.

SCHOOL SITE BIG

Roberts became a Big to her Little Sister, Kayleigh, through the Owatonna Middle-School REACH Program's partnership with BBBS. The program matches adult professionals with students enrolled in the REACH program, which focuses on creating positive relationships, achieving academic



Big Sister of the Year Lisa Eide and her Little, Kayleigh, enjoy finding hidden gems while thrift shopping.



School Site Big Pam Roberts and her Little, Kayleigh, plan to keep in touch after Kayleigh completes the REACH program.

success, and supporting mental health. When matched in 2018, Roberts and Kayleigh met during Kayleigh's REACH class at school, but over the past year, they have met strictly virtually. They quickly realized that virtually, their conversations deepened, and they often talked beyond their 30-minute time limit. While Kayleigh will finish the REACH

program at the middle school soon, she and Roberts plan to keep in touch. Every match's story is different, but they are all worth telling. If you'd like to be a part of one of those stories as a Big to a local child, call Megan Horton, BBBS Community Outreach Director, at 507-414-0308 or visit www.bbbsof-southernmn.org/beabig.

County Board expands its strategic plan

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Steele County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted a new five-year strategic plan last week.

The 2021-2025 strategic plan expands on the core values and primary goals from the past

five-year plan. As per the board's mission statement, the core values are teamwork, positivity, forward-thinking, respect, accountability and integrity.

As part of adopting the new strategic plan, the board also updated its vision statement, replacing value with

stewardship. The new statement reads: "First in service. First in stewardship. The county of choice... today and tomorrow."

According to County Administrator Scott Goldberg, several comments during work sessions as part of the planning process were the inspiration for this change.

"Stewardship is really connected to the foundation of what we do," Goldberg said. "I think we're stewards of taxpayer dollars, so it really fits in the context of what we do."

Under the strategic plan, collaboration and partnerships will be the first of four primary goals for the board moving forward. The

board hopes to explore opportunities to coordinate resources with other local government agencies, entities, and counties to save money and increase services.

Another goal set forth by the board is technology. Under this banner, the board will review and prioritize technology initiatives for each county department. It will also review and assess technology resources and develop and implement a new technologies-decision process.

The third primary goal is under workforce and workplace, whereby the board hopes to attract and retain employees and promote departmental collaborations. The board will

also assess and continue the 2020 pandemic response practices and protocols that improve service delivery to county residents.

Lastly, the board will seek to support the changing demographics within Steele County by developing an action plan to address these changing demographics. The board also wants to further educate area youth about county government.

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"Stewardship is really connected to the foundation of what we do," Goldberg said. "I think we're stewards of taxpayer dollars, so it really fits in the context of what we do."

"I think it connects back to the mission statement as well as the values," Goldberg told the board. "If you look at stewardship, it means careful responsible management of something entrusted to one's care and that's sort of what we do."

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PANTHER OF THE WEEK

NOAH RIEDL

This week's Panther of the Week is NOAH RIEDL. He is the son of Bailey Riedl and they reside in New Richland. Noah is in Mr. Beynon's third grade class.

Noah has shown a lot of growth in class due to his hard work. Noah's not afraid to ask questions in class. He's also very protective of his classmates. Noah can always be counted on to do the right thing.

Noah loves football, NHL video games, hanging out with friends and family, and his favorite food is ice cream. Keep up the great work Noah!

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Congratulations to Bishop Excavating for being recognized as the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Week!

A win for students, staff and parents

◀ ZED from B1 in one spot also fiscally benefits member districts because they will no longer have to bus students to multiple sites. "Some districts will deploy one vehicle for ZED South and another vehicle for the Area Learning Center so they can streamline their route by just busing students to just one location," he said. "It's

a win for students, staff and parents."

Gordon also said the new facility will also give ZED enough space to house its Transition 2 Success program and its Area Learning Center after its lease with Byron Public Schools is up on June 30, 2022.

ZED currently occupies 50% of Byron Public Schools' District Administration and Communi-

ty Services building.

"Byron's leadership said they would need that space back because they are growing very rapidly in their enrollment. Like with any lease, when it ends, we'd have to find a place where those students and staff could go," he said. "Leasing and renting would be a Band-Aid solution, which is not always the most effective learning environment for our ZED students."

Gordon said that leasing or renting isn't the most effective learning environment because you're just given the space that's available and you have to make it work.

"[On the other hand,] owning our own space enables ZED to customize the learning environment for the specific needs of our students," he said. "Also, we can change and adapt that space, whereas we couldn't do that at Byron without landlord approval."

Gordon also said ZED's current main office is located for sale, while the ZED South campus will be for sale sometime next year.

"ZED is very grateful for the support from our member districts, our families and staff to make this new building happen," he said.

Church collects food

◀ CHURCH from B1 donations, Administrative Assistant Paula Johnson did some last-minute shopping to help pitch in on UMC's behalf. "I was shopping till you drop at Walmart as fast as I could," Johnson said as she rummaged through the groceries.

In addition to all of the groceries that were dropped off at UMC,

the trio also raised \$660 from local residents who stopped by the church to help give a little extra.

Coffee and a blessing are held each Monday morning at the United Methodist Church in Owatonna. Monday's food drive was a special extension of the usual service. All of the donations and proceeds will go to Community Pathways in Owatonna.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

APRIL 13
10:30 a.m. – Online
Storytime, BP Library
Facebook

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

APRIL 9
11 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building
8 p.m. – Berlin
Township Meeting,
Community Building

APRIL 12
11 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building
APRIL 14
11 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

APRIL 12
4:30 p.m. –
Owatonna Park Board
Meeting, City Hall
5:30 p.m. –
Moonlighters
Exchange Club of
Owatonna, Owatonna
VFW
7 p.m. – Medford
Park Board Meeting,
City Hall

APRIL 13
10:30 a.m. – Online
Storytime, Owatonna
Library Facebook
Owatonna Planning

Commission Meeting,
City Hall
5 p.m. – Steele
County Board Meeting,
County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. –
Owatonna Human
Rights Commission
Meeting, City Hall

APRIL 14
5:30 p.m. – Medford
EDA Meeting, City Hall

APRIL 15
4 p.m. – Owatonna
Charter Commission
Meeting, City Hall

Red Cross sets
April schedule

The American Red Cross is calling for donors of all blood types, especially those with type O blood, to help refuel its blood supply.

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.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Steele County include:

ELLENDALE

April 9: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Ellendale Community Center, 507 2nd St.

MEDFORD

April 9: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Medford School, 750 2nd Ave. SE

OWATONNA

April 14: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 Lincoln Ave. S

Those who give blood or platelets April 1-15 will automatically be entered to win a VIP trip for four to the 2022 Indianapolis 500®. The Red Cross will also automatically enter all who come to give in April for a chance to win one of five \$1,000 e-gift cards to a merchant of choice. Additional details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Indy500. 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.

Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

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

Purse Bingo returns to Blooming Prairie

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

The BP Cancer Group helps community members who are dealing with cancer and gives money to cancer research and one of its most successful fundraisers, Purse Bingo, is right around the corner. Cheri Krejci, secretary/treasurer of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, said this is the third year the BP Cancer Group has held this fundraiser after last year's was canceled due to COVID-19.

To make up for not having the fundraiser last year, she said they made this one bigger than normal by dividing it into two sessions, one begins at 11 a.m. and another at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, with a back-up date of Saturday, April 24, outside the Servicemen's Club. Back in 2019, she said Purse Bingo raised around \$15,000.

"We're hoping to meet or break that this year," she said.

Krejci said there are a handful of tickets still available for each session. Tickets are \$30 for ten games of bingo. Each person gets 10 bingo cards per game. Call or text 507-438-6895 to purchase a ticket(s). Most tickets have already been sold because



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Some of the members of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group pose for a photo behind a table of purses that were given to the winners of Purse Bingo back when the fundraiser was last held in 2019.

people who bought their tickets last year before it was canceled are able to use them this year.

However, before they show up to Purse Bingo, they're urged to RSVP. To RSVP, call or text 507-438-6895. "If there's people with tickets from last year's event who haven't confirmed their attendance at this year's events, it's necessary that they do that because due to COVID-19 restrictions it's important that we have everyone's name," Krejci said.

Another COVID-19 precaution that is being taken, she said, is the event, which is normally held inside the Servicemen's Club, will be held under a big top tent in the parking lot so we

can make room for all the people. Additionally, tables will be kept 6 feet apart with a maximum of six people per table and masks will be required upon entry so they'll be following all COVID-19 guidelines. "We can have up to 250 people there, but we're going to be right at 200 for each session," she said. "It's a whole bunch of people having a good time."

Krejci hopes as many people as possible show up because there is a greater need this year because they didn't get to raise nearly the funds that they normally do. To further encourage people to buy the remaining tickets, she mentioned that bingo winners win a designer

purse. The purse brands that are available to the winners are Coach, Michael Kors and Kate Spade.

In addition to the purses, Krejci said there is also a mystery prize that guests could win by purchasing raffle tickets.

Doors open at 10 a.m. for 11 a.m. session and following the first three-hour session and an hour of clearing, the doors will re-open at 3 p.m. for the 4 p.m. session.

When asked how they'll determine if the fundraiser was a success, she said, "If as many people who signed up, show up, it will be successful. We just want them to come, have fun and we'll raise as much money as we can."

Owatonna Hospital ranks in top 100

Owatonna Hospital, part of Allina Health, has been recognized as a 2021 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital. Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, this program honors outstanding performance among the nation's rural hospitals based on the results of the Hospital Strength

INDEX®.

"We are incredibly honored to be recognized as a 2021 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital," said David Albrecht, president of Owatonna Hospital. "This award validates the dedication and hard work of our team to deliver outstanding care and high value to our patients. Our high

ranking demonstrates our physicians, nurses, and staff's deep commitment to caring for those we serve."

Owatonna Hospital is one of just three hospitals from Minnesota to rank as Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals in 2021.

"The Top 100 program continues to illuminate

strategies and innovation for delivering higher quality care and better outcomes within rural communities," said Michael Topchik, National Leader, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. "We are delighted to be able to spotlight the efforts of these facilities through the INDEX® framework."

Freeborn County museum to host educators

The Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village (FCHM) will host an Educator's Evening on Thursday, April 22, 4:30

p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Designed for educators of all grade levels and subjects, this free event will connect them to FCHM educational

opportunities, and FCHM staff and volunteers. Educators are invited to join FCHM for refreshments while exploring the Museum's offerings: updated exhibits, developing educational tools, interactive tours, visit the Research Library. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide guided tours and answer questions. You can even sign up on-

site for school tours.

Enjoy prize drawings, refreshments, the company of fellow educators and retired educators, visit exhibits, hear what lies ahead, and get a behind the scenes tour.

This event is free and open to K-12 educators of all disciplines. RSVP by Friday, April 16. Bring your school ID and your educator friends.

Trinity offers a drive-thru

◀ TRINITY from B3 daughter, Lilly, volunteered to help with the Palm Sunday display featuring a toy donkey. They handed out palm branches to those who came through in their vehicles.

"This was a great opportunity to make it work for a service experience during COVID," said Gail Zollner, adding it takes a lot of work

to put the program together.

The program ended with the blessing of the vehicles and a prayer offered by one of Trinity's three pastors. They also provided pre-packaged communion cups with wine and wafers.

Rev. Todd Buegler said the experience was emotional for some people. "This drive-thru was done in a world we didn't expect," he said. "It almost was more personal for people going to each scene."

Buegler said Trinity has always tried to tell the Easter story in different ways to help people understand it better. "It's visual... there is a lot of meaning behind it," he said.

Trinity has found the Good Friday service to be volunteer intensive. "People love to be a part of telling the story," said Buegler.

Berg said the event brought people together in a way they haven't been able to do for more than a year.

"We are just happy to see each other," she said. "It's fun to see people that we haven't for a long time."

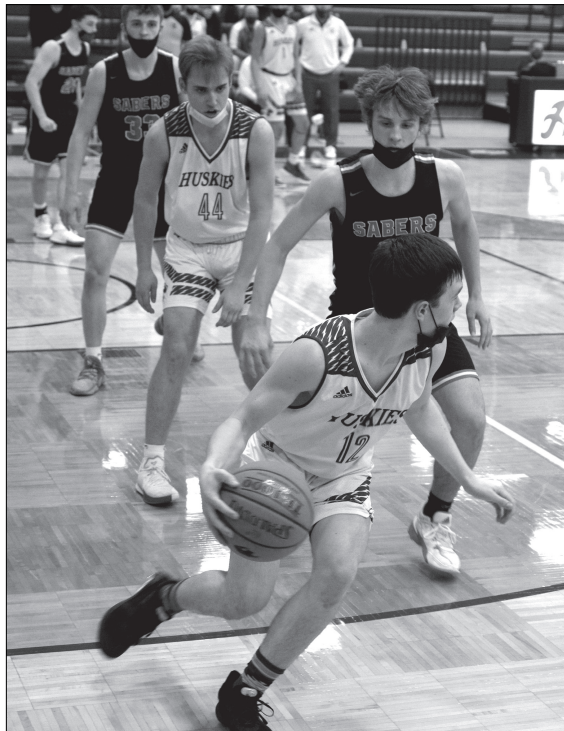
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KSMQ TV
The Better Choice



Lincoln Maher (44) watches as Blake Burmeister (12) looks for an open teammate while keeping the ball away from his defender.

Title hopes end as Huskies fall at state

Shakopee snuffs out Owatonna in quarterfinals

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

For the first time since 2011, the Owatonna boys basketball team made the state tournament, and while playing on such a big stage is the thrill of a lifetime, it can also cause some nerves. Head Coach Josh Williams believes that's one of the reasons why the Huskies ended up losing 62-49 to the Shakopee Sabres in the Class AAAA quarterfinals.

"I thought the start to the game was little tight for both teams," he said.

He said both teams struggled offensively, but played pretty good defensively.

"I was very pleased with our effort and how we competed very hard against a talented, strong and physical metro team. We forced a lot of tough shots, but they killed us on the glass, outrebounding us by 18, and they converted those second chances. At least half of their points were second-chance points," he said.

Owatonna's defense was able to keep them in the game by forcing Shakopee into turnovers.

"We forced 18 turnovers [throughout the game] and we only committed eight. That says a lot about the pressure we can put on. We also did a good

"To have a season, make it through with little to no COVID-19 issues and go 17-4 makes this a hugely successful season."

Josh Williams
Huskies Coach

job taking away the interior," he said.

However, on the other end of the court, the Huskies' offensive struggles continued throughout the first half.

"The unfortunate part that we didn't do was make shots. Especially the last 10 minutes of the first half, shots that went down against Lakeville South didn't against

Shakopee," he said. In fact, he believes Owatonna didn't make a single three-pointer in the first half, going 0-for-8, despite just one of those attempts being contested. "Had we hit a couple of those we would have been leading at half-time instead of being down by four, but in general, I was pleased with how the first half went," he said.

The Huskies trailed 30-26 at halftime.

During halftime, Williams told his team that executing its offense would be critical in the second half.

"We didn't have a good half offensively so if we can get some of our shots to fall, we'll get ourselves back in the game and be in a good position to still win the game," he said. See OWATONNA on B5 ▶



Owatonna guard Ty Greger drives around his Shakopee defender during the Huskies' 62-49 loss to the Sabres in the Class AAAA quarterfinal on March 31.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Bloomington point guard Bobbie Bruns gets ready to pass the ball to an open Megan Oswald during the opening minutes of the Awesome Blossoms' Section 1A semifinal game against Kingsland.

Rewriting the record books

Blossoms point guard shatters record, achieves state honor

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Before the Bloomington girls basketball season concluded, junior point guard Bobbie Bruns had already achieved a pair of distinguished honors.

She'd broken the girls career assists record and she was one of only 17 girls basketball players from around the state to be named Class A Honorable Mention. Bobbie said it was exciting to know she'd broken the record and that she was amongst some elite and familiar company.

"It's a pretty cool record to break, especially because my mom was on the list and Maddi Worke, my old babysitter, was on that list so just knowing I was up there with them and looking up to both of them my whole life so that made it cool," she said.

While she's happy to be the record holder, she's more concerned with her team succeeding.

"It's a cool record, but there's other things that I feel like are more important like the team and winning games. I would rather win however many games than beat any record," she said.

While Bobbie broke the record, she said it wouldn't have been possible without her teammates.

"The way that some of my teammates can run the floor in the transition has really helped me get some quick, easy assists and the way they finish it has helped a lot. I would give most of the credit to my teammates because without them making the basket obviously it's not an assist," she said.

Coch John Bruns, who also happens to be Bobbie's father, agreed that the career assists record, along with other records, is a byproduct of team success.

"Any of these records we always talk about it's a product of having a good team around them,

whether it's a scoring record, rebounding, steals or assists. It's just neat for our whole program to have these records getting broken like that," he said. "It's fun to see that the hard work that they're putting out there in the summers and during the season is paying off."

In addition to hard work in the offseason, Bobbie, who has been the Blossoms' main point guard for the past three seasons, said she's become a better passer over the years through gained confidence and varsity experience against varsity-quality opponents.

John added that she's become a better point guard and facilitator by becoming stronger.

"She's always seen the floor really well and I think the last couple years, especially this last year, her strength has come along and that's been a big difference. We look at some of the pictures when she was playing a lot as an eighth-grader and ninth-grader and she looked like a little kid out there playing with all the big kids. Now, she really is one of the big kids and is able to withstand some of the physicality that comes with the position and still make the right pass and still make the right play," he said.

Her ability to make the right passes and right plays is also what led her to being named Class A Honorable Mention.

"I wasn't really expecting that, but it was cool to see my name up there with a list of some good players in the area so that was cool," Bobbie said.

John explained that all the Class A coaches vote and the top 10 vote-getters are the Class A All-State team and the next 15 to 20 are Honorable Mention.

Just a junior, Bobbie will have one more year to potentially break even more career records and make her way onto the Class A All-State team.

"It's a pretty cool record to break, especially because my mom (Lisa Wiener) was on the list."

Bobbie Bruns
Blossom Point Guard



Dr. Deborah J. Lien
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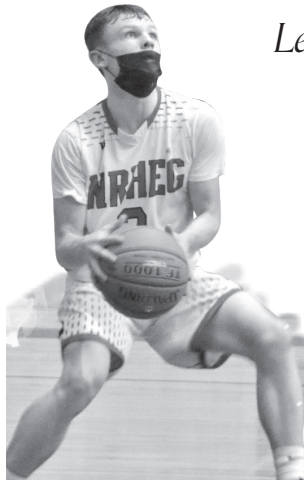
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A freshman rarity

Lea looks ahead to bright future

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Even though he's guarded by two Blooming Prairie defenders, Lee made his offensive penetration count by scoring, which tied the game at 38-38. Despite going 5-13 this season, he and Coach Lundberg believe the Panthers' future is bright due to the play of Lee, who led the team with an average of about 15 points per game, and most of their varsity team is coming back next season.

New Richland-Hartland-Elmhurst (NRHEG) boys basketball Head Coach Isaiah Lundberg believes his team can be a top three team in its subsection next season.

A big reason for his optimism is the play of freshman guard Daxter Lee, who was the Panthers' leading scorer with an average of approximately 15 points per game this past season.

Lundberg noted that it's rare to have someone that young be the team's leading scorer.

"This is my third year as head coach, and I've never (before) had a freshman be the leading scorer. Even back when we had Oakley Baker, he wasn't even our leading scorer as a freshman," he said. "Granted we don't score a lot, but still, it's not something that's very common at least in our boys' program. It's very uncommon actually for

an eighth-grader or ninth-grader to even play on varsity in our boys' program."

Lee said being the youngest player on the varsity team is kind of cool, but he tries not to think about the age difference.

"I kind of think that we're all the same age. He's the same grade as me and I just want to be better than him," he said.

He added that becoming the NRHEG's leading scorer was never one of his goals. He just wants to do whatever he can to get some wins for the Panthers.

And when he says he wants to do whatever he can to get some wins, he means it. Lundberg once saw Lee in the gym working on his shooting after a game he'd just played in.

"I've never had a kid work that hard after a game or stay after practice as much as he does to shoot and work on his game," he said.

When asked how long he practiced after the game, Lee said he doesn't go by time.

"I go by shots made. Normally, I'll get roughly 150 to 170 shots made after practice or after the game," he said.

Lee explained that what motivates him to put up that many shots, even after a long game, is knowing that that hard work will help himself and his team in the long run.

"If I want to better than somebody else, then I try to outwork them," he said. "You might be more athletic than me, but I can't let them outwork me."

For Lee, it doesn't matter when that hard work happens.

"It's whenever I feel like I can do more. If I can do more, then I want to do more. When I feel like I can get better at any time of the day then I just want to do that," he said. "I just want to

be the best player I can be. I think if I just work hard every day, day in and day out, then I can do it."

That hard work is already paying dividends.

"My shooting and decision-making have improved. I'm so much less eager to try to force things and do everything right. I try to play loose, but still play focused and hard," he said.

Lundberg noted that Lee could further elevate his game this offseason by getting stronger so he can take more contact getting to the rim and finish through it, developing his left hand and working on defending without fouling.

Lee agreed, adding that he wants to commit less turnovers, dish out more assists and improve his shooting percentages next season.

"I definitely think that I can be 40% three-point shooter and an 80% free throw shooter," he said.

In addition to improving his shooting percentages, Lundberg hopes to see Lee

step up and be one of the Panthers' leaders next season.

"He'll have obviously enough experience. He'll have the same amount of experience as everybody else playing varsity," he said. "He's got that opportunity to be a leader and let people follow him."

Lee mentioned that he'll try to be more of a leader by looking on the positive side more, being more vocal and giving advice to the younger players so when they join varsity, they're ready to go.

With the benefit of taking on more of a leadership role and continuing to work on his game, Lee agrees with Lundberg's prediction that the Panthers can be a top team in their conference and subsection.

"Isaiah (Lundberg) tells us every day that we can probably be one of the best teams right now and I believe everything he says," he said. "If we just play hard and keep working hard, then I think it can happen."



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Lee leads a NRHEG fastbreak. As a freshman, he scored 30 points against Medford, but there were also games where he scored four or six points because he got into foul trouble so defending without fouling is something he'll work on this offseason.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

NRHEG freshman guard Daxter Lee (3) tries to drive past Blooming Prairie forward Mitchell Fiebigler. Lee led the Panthers with 16 points, but it wasn't enough; the Awesome Blossoms won 63-60.

Title hopes end as Huskies fall at state

◀ OWATONNA from B4
However, he also re-emphasized some things the Huskies had to do well in order to be successful in the second half.

"It was continued emphasis on defensive rebounding, forced them into tough shots but had to do much better job boxing out and preventing second-chance points," he said.

Unfortunately, the Huskies' second half didn't go according to Williams' plan.

"I thought we started

pressing and forcing some quicker shots than we should have. I think the magnitude of the game got to our nerves and we started rushing things. We didn't get quality shots, committed some turnovers and our leading scorer Brayden Williams, who averages 23 points per game, didn't have a shot attempt for about a seven-minute stretch in the second half. That's when they made their run," he said.

After that run, the Sabres led by 18 points with about nine min-

utes left in the game. Despite trailing by that much midway through the second half, Williams said the Huskies didn't throw in the towel, instead they responded really well.

"We called a timeout and my assistant coach suggested we switch to a matchup zone; we did that and we went on an 8-0 run to cut it to 10-point game with about seven minutes to go. I think our mental focus and determination to get back in the game was outstanding," he said.

However, after that run got them back in the game, he noted that the pressure of the game seemed to get to the Huskies a little bit as they went back to attempting some tough shots and committing some turnovers.

Despite its momentum waning, Owatonna trimmed its deficit down to 8 points with five minutes left in the game, but couldn't get any closer.

"The game got late enough that we had to fouling and hoping they missed free throws and while they missed some,

HUSKIES PLAYOFF STATS

- Brayden Williams – 14 points, 5 rebounds and 1 assist
- Peyton Beyer – 12 points, 13 rebounds and 2 assists
- Ty Greger – 7 points and 1 assist
- Evan Dushak – 6 points and 4 rebounds
- Lincoln Maher – 5 points and 2 rebounds
- Blake Burmeister – 3 points and 1 assist
- Abdi Isman – 2 points and 2 rebounds

they made enough to maintain a double-digit lead," he said.

The 62-49 loss was the last game of the high school careers of the Huskies' eight seniors, including six who got significant playing time this season. Owatonna's eight seniors are: Peyton Beyer, Nolan Burmeister, Lincoln Maher,

Mason Kunkel, Lane Versteeg, Jack Titchenal, Eman Ojulu and Abdi Isman.

"They're a special group of kids all the way throughout their time in our program. They're a tight-knit group of great kids, great student-athletes, good basketball players and really good leaders to all the underclassmen throughout our program. It was a very special privilege to coach these guys," he said.

Including his seniors, he's proud of how his whole team competed this season despite the adversity they faced. "To have a season, make it through with little to no COVID-19 issues and go 17-4 makes this a hugely successful season," he said. "It's tough to lose a game I thought we could have won, but regardless I was very proud of our guys and the season we had."



Husky junior Brayden Williams shoots a three-pointer. He led Owatonna with 14 points.

PHOTO COURTESY GAVIN REIN OF THE OHS MAGNET

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Safety while handling anhydrous ammonia



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

Farmers and applicators will soon be applying anhydrous ammonia (NH₃) ahead of the planting season. Anhydrous ammonia is a gaseous form of ammonia that is used as a nitrogen source. It can be dangerous and deadly when not handled properly. Even though we want to take advantage of good weather and can feel rushed in the spring, it is important to keep safety at the top of your priority list as you handle anhydrous ammonia.

A few characteristics make anhydrous ammonia particularly hazardous. The main safety hazard is that it is extremely corrosive to the skin, eyes, and respiratory tract. The "anhydrous" part of its name means that it does not contain water, and because of this, it will absorb moisture from any source. This means it can cause severe burns. These burns can be fatal, especially if they affect the lungs and respiratory tract.

Another factor that

increases the hazardous nature of anhydrous ammonia is the pressurization. To remain liquid, it has to be kept at low temperatures and high pressure (approximately 200 psi). When a leak or release develops, it may expand very quickly and can spray operators or others in the area. The fact that it's gaseous also makes it risky to handle, because when ammonia changes from a liquid to a gas, it expands in volume by 700 times. The high volume of gas makes it more likely to be inhaled and cause injury to the respiratory tract and lungs.

When handling anhydrous ammonia, be sure to always wear tight-fitting, splash-proof goggles and chemical-resistant gloves. A face shield is strongly recommended in addition to goggles, and you should never wear contact lenses. Also, you'll want to have an adequate emergency supply of at least 5 gallons of clean water in the event of an exposure. You'll want to immediately drench any affected parts of the body with large amounts of clean water if there is a chemical splash or other exposure.

Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections as if lines contain anhydrous ammonia. Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH₃.

Also, close, bleed, disconnect, and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle hose end valves by the valve body. Be sure to position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock.

When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehicle emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin or clip.

Keep in mind that any exposure to anhydrous ammonia requires immediate medical treatment, no matter how minor it appears to be. If an accident or spill occurs, immediately call 911 and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0736 or 651-649-5451.

You can find more safety, storage, and transportation information on the MDA's website at www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3 or www.mn.edu/AnhydrousAmmonia.

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

Parks benefit communities

STEELE TALKIN' from B1 trees and the addition of a variety of new trees. By planting a variety of trees the city will eliminate the possibility of trees being wiped out by disease. Over the next few years, residents will continue to see landscape projects in both park areas.

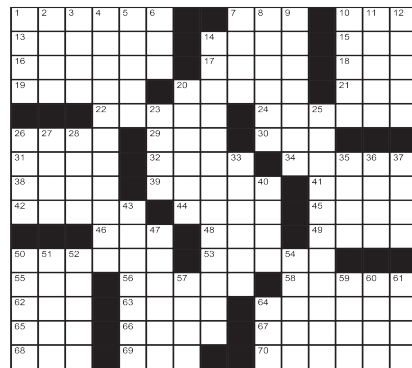
Park playgrounds offer more than a structure for kids to jump, climb and slide on. The equipment helps with social interactions between kids, it is easy to lose inhibitions while on a playground. Playgrounds also encourage families to participate in activities together. Families may even gather at a park for a birthday party or graduation celebration as a location that offers activities for everyone without the high cost of indoor venues. These opportunities offer families a place to strengthen bonds. EPTCs goal is to provide a variety of play options for kids of all ages.

EPTC with the City Council has secured the playground equipment for the Crown Ridge Park. The equipment is to be installed this spring. There are also plans underway for a sand volleyball court as well as improvements to the play equipment at the City Park.

If you are interested in contributing funding to the EPTC for landscape, memorial benches, or playground equipment, please contact Keith Langley at 407-314-3103.

Stephanie Kibler is a member of the Ellendale City Council and also serves as the director of the Freeborn County Historical Society in Albert Lea. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK



ACROSS

- 1 Statue of Liberty material
- 7 Got together
- 10 Buddy
- 13 Dry gulch
- 14 Cab
- 15 Lawyers' grp.
- 16 Flower of Rhode Island
- 17 Rends
- 18 Affirmative signal
- 19 Call the whole thing off
- 20 Very strong winds
- 21 First lady
- 22 Stand-up guy
- 24 "Thanatopsis" poet
- 26 Large handbag
- 29 Nautic's boat
- 30 Dumped in Boston harbor
- 31 Homeless child
- 32 Thick slice
- 34 First light
- 38 Bart Simpson's driver
- 39 Cheryl --- of "Suburgatory"
- 41 Wine valley
- 42 Terse
- 44 Attitude

- 45 Operation Overlord
- 46 Half a Latin dance
- 48 Wetland
- 49 Snitches
- 50 "Mamma Mia" mamma
- 53 Fidgety
- 55 Pursue ardently
- 56 Ascends
- 58 Worn out
- 62 Limb
- 63 Repeat
- 64 Medical prioritization
- 65 National boys' gp.
- 66 Corrosive
- 67 Conter
- 68 Male offspring
- 69 Directed
- 70 Fall flowers

- 11 Aloft
- 12 Burdened
- 14 Heptathlete's specialty
- 20 Little lady
- 23 Pulverize
- 25 Lots of things to do
- 26 Pairs
- 27 Guss
- 28 Former Yugoslav dictator
- 33 Sires
- 35 Zilch
- 36 --- the crack of dawn
- 37 Is profitable
- 40 Coordinate
- 43 Rising current of warm air
- 47 Each
- 50 Gun-barrel cleaners
- 51 Trunk
- 52 One of the old empire builders
- 54 Fast rabbit relatives
- 57 Stated
- 59 Deceased
- 60 "Prince ---", Borodin
- 61 Tidings
- 64 Uninformative schedule info.



FOR SALE

Jennifer Walsh
REAL ESTATE
Powered by **KW** REALTY
763-438-6676
jenwalsh@kw.com
jenwalsh.kw.com

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS

By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, My 2008 Ford Explorer has a humming noise coming from the rear of the vehicle but also a little from the front. I took it to the shop to find the cause and they said it is the rear wheel bearings that have failed. The cost for the replacement was almost \$1K. I had wheel bearings replaced on the front of my other Explorer which is a year older just a year ago and it was less than half the price. Cost aside, I still have the noise from both front and rear, but it is much less noticeable. Could the bearings have been installed wrong?

Casey in Reno Nevada

There could be more than one thing going on here. Let's start with the cost. Rear wheel bearings often are a pressed-in type in the rear and require much more labor to replace so that can double the cost. As for the noise still being there after the repair but much less pronounced, you likely have two issues. It could be that one of the bearings in the rear is defective, but it could also be that one of the fronts are also out or possibly a tire issue. Cupped tires will mimic the sound of failed wheel bearings. Look for tire cupping and consult with your local shop and see what their opinion is. When dealing with noise it is important to look at all the factors that could cause them.

Take care, The Motor Medics.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 2013 Chevrolet Impala that has a throttle body problem. I have had to replace two of them in 100k miles. There was no warranty on either one and they are expensive. The dealership that replaced them said that the ethanol in the fuel causes soot deposits on them and that is what is destroying the throttle bodies. Since I live in Minnesota all the fuel, I can find contains ethanol. What can I do so it will not wreck my parts?

Charles in Canby Minnesota

Lets start off with truth backed up by some facts. Hard to find in today's world but its always there. We have replaced many of these throttle bodies in our own shop, they can be problematic. The problem is with the design of the part, not the fuel. Just look at how many other millions of vehicles on the road that do not have a problem with the throttle body. Look at ethanol too. When you go into a buffet and see those ethanol candles burning under the food trays, do they give off smoke, they do not, gasoline would. Ethanol is a clean burning fuel. In over 30 years of using it in our own shop we have never seen damage caused by it when used properly. Ask your mechanic why ethanol caused the damage, they probably won't be able to answer, and Chevrolets own answer is that it is not the cause.

Take care, The Motor Medics.

Schaeffer's

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(507)273-9110
bruce@schaefferslube.com

L&D Recycling, Inc.

Scrap Iron & Metals
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65570 STATE HWY 55, West Concord, MN

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kappysauto@gmail.com

Boe Auto Center

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507-527-2241
www.boeautocenter.com

Hoff's

Auto Repair
704 7th St Circle Se • 634-4633

Honest-1's

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Owatonna, MN 55960-3701
507-451-5990
www.Honest1Owatonna.com

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BEFORE REPAIRS.
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Motor Medic® online at underthehoodshow.com

NOTICE

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGIN 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, f.s.b. a federally chartered savings bank, as Mortgagee(s), and filed for record April 13, 2010, in the Office of the County Recorder, 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 Recorder, 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 Recorder, 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 at public auction on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 E. Pearl Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption by the Mortgagor, the Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is 6 months after the date of sale.

9. 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 IM-

PROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, 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 is correct 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, f.s.b. 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, f.s.b. 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

NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to en-

able customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **royal lake weed harvesting**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **8100 NW 21st Ave., Medford MN 5049 USA**

NAMEHOLDERS:
Name: **St. Marc Materials, Inc.**

Address: **8100 NW 21st Ave., Medford MN 5049 USA**

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Chris Hanks**

ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **chanks3@gmail.com**

Work Item
1225243800027
Original File Number
1225243800027
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
03/18/2021

/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State

3/31/21

NOTICE

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council
Meeting Agenda
April 12, 2021
7:00 P.M.
6:30 P.M. - Board of Appeal & Equalization

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Public Hearing 7:00 - Ordinance #31: Emergency Services - Amendment

Public Hearing 7:05 - New Ordinance #114: Regulations and Fees for Mobile Food Units and Food Carts

Consent Agenda
1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2021 - Regular City Council Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2021 - Public Hearing - Conditional Use Permit
4. Approval of Road Closure - Blooming Prairie Education Foundation - May 21-23
5. Approval of Road Closure - July 3rd Street Dance & Fireworks
6. Approval of Temporary Liquor License - 4th of July Festivities - BP Chamber of Commerce
7. Approval of Gambling Permit - American Legion - 4th of July Raffle
8. Approve Transfer of Donation Funds from City Betterment and Beautification to the EDA
9. Establish Public Hearing for New Liquor License - May 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. B.P. Economic Development Authority
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Police Commission
6. B.P. Ambulance Commission

Business
1. Council Meeting Date Change - May 17, 2021
Approval of Amendment to Ordinance #31:

Emergency Services
3. Approval of Publishing Summary for Ordinance #31: Emergency Services
4. Approval of Proposed Ordinance #114: Regulations and Fees for Mobile Food Units and Food Carts
5. Approval of Publishing Summary for Ordinance #114: Regulations and Fees for Mobile Food Units and Food Carts
6. Proposed Ordinance #50: Garbage and Refuse: Dumpsters
7. Approve Resolution to Apply to MN Public Facilities Authority for a Loan
8. COVID-19 Updates

City Administrator's Report
1. 2020 Audit Completed
2. Training - International Institute for Municipal Clerks

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

Agenda is Subject to Change

4/7

NOTICE

IN PROCEEDINGS
SUBSEQUENT TO
INITIAL
REGISTRATION
OF LAND

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

IN DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT

In the Matter of the
Petition of Wells Fargo
Bank, N.A.

for a new Certificate
of Title After Mortgage
Foreclosure Sale

Court File Number:
74-CV-20-1102

ORDER TO
SHOW CAUSE

TO: **VIVIAN MUBARAK AND JACK EVANKOE**
Upon receiving and filing the Report of Examiner of Titles in the above entitled matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that you and all persons interested, appear before this Court on the 20th day of May, 2021, at 3:15 P.M., Steele County Courthouse, 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, and then, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be heard, show cause, if any there may be, why this Court should not enter an Order as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:
That the Registrar of Titles, upon the filing with him of a certified copy of this Order cancel Certificate of Title No. 17998 and enter a new Certificate of Title in favor of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. for:

EAST 5 FEET OF LOT 13; AND LOT 14; BLOCK 2, HEERS ADDITION, NO. 3, OWATONNA, MINNESOTA
Free of the memorial of the following documents:

#T000067768;
#T000049820;
#T000052438;
#T000052439;
#T000067769;
#T000067873;
#T000067866;
#T000077471;
#T000077489; and
#T000077803;

and free of the memorial of this Order, but subject to all other memorials and recitals appearing on Certificate of Title No. 17998.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order be served:

(a) at least 10 days prior to such hearing upon the above-named parties residing in this State in the manner provided by law for the service of Summons in a civil action; (b) it shall be served at least 14 days prior to such hearing upon any of the above-named non-residents by sending a copy of this Order to such non-residents their post office address, by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested;

(c) it shall be served upon any party who cannot be found by two weeks published notice and by sending a copy of this Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing by first class mail to their address as stated on the Certificate of Title if an address is so stated. (d) upon a dissolution, withdrawal, or revoked business entity governed by Minn. Stat., Chp. 302A, 303, 317A, 322A, 322B or 323 in the manner provided by Minn. Stat. 5.25. (Note: return date on the Order to Show Cause must be at least 30 days after the date of mailing by the Secretary of State).

YOU NEED NOT APPEAR IF YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED.

BY THE COURT,

Dated 3-19-2021

/s/ Terry M. Walters
Judge of District Court

Trott Law, P.C.
Attn: Samuel R. Coleman
(#389839)
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, Minnesota
55102

Approved as to Form:

/s/ David L. Einhaus
David L. Einhaus, Examiner of Titles
4/7/21

NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021
HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED
TENTATIVE AGENDA
6:00 a.m. Thursday,
April 15, 2021
*Regular School Board
Work Session
High School Media
Center 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 19, 2021
*Open Public Forum
High School
Media Center
7:15 p.m. Monday,
April 19, 2021
*Regular School Board
Meeting - High School
Media Center

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL - CLERK
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Consent Agenda Minutes
Bills Treasurer's Report
Resignation/Termination Donations
B. Employment
C. Volunteer Coaches
D. Resolution MSHSL Membership
E. Title I Resolution
F. Student Insurance Program
G. Budget Revision FY 21
H. Facility Study
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Class Sizes/Sections
B. Learning Models
C. Strategic Planning/Long Range Planning
D. Committee Report
E. Enrollment Data
F. Dates to Note
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
IX. ADJOURNMENT
*Agenda may be subject to changes

4/7

UNION CEMETERY NOTICE

The Union Cemetery Association of rural Blooming Prairie will hold their annual meeting on

Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gary Jacobson residence.

Gary Hansen, President

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF
TAX-FORFEITED LANDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Steele County Auditor in Owatonna, I shall sell to the highest bidder those parcels of land described in the list contained herein. This sale will be governed by the provisions of Sections 282.221 to 282.226 of the Minnesota Statutes and by the Resolution of the Steele County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale, which Resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the parcels of tax forfeited land listed below be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel, which is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S. 282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021 by the Steele County Auditor at the Steele County Auditor's Office in the Steele County Administration Center, for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of the sale shall be for CASH OR APPROVED CHECK and has been approved by the Steele County Board of Commissioners.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Steele County can be obtained at www.co.steele.mn.us or at the office of the County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060. Telephone (507) 444-7410.

Lands to be sold are as follows:

Township or City	Description of Property for Sale	Basic Sale Price*	Assessment Before Forfeiture
10242 Bixby Place Blooming Prairie, MN 55917	04-103-0907 Lot Seven (7), T.H. Kelly's Addition to the Village of Bixby	\$1,000.00	\$2,252.00
221 SW 2nd St Blooming Prairie, MN 55917	14-107-0803 Lot 3 and 1/2 of Lot 4, Block 8, Virtus Addition to the Village, now City of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, Steele County, Minnesota	\$15,000.00	\$1,343.76

*Minimum bid amount

Given under my hand and official seal at Steele County, Minnesota this 23rd day of March, 2021.

Laura Ihlke
Steele County Auditor
Steele County Administration Center
630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 444-7410

(County Seal)

5/31/21

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bptimes@frontiernet.net

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3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32

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TO PLACE AN AD

Dodge County Independent

Dodge County Advantage

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121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

FOR SALE

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. 4/17/21

ROCK PICKING 1.5 miles south of Kasson. Junior high to adults, flexible hours. If interested please call Joe at 507-273-9678. 4/17/21

HUGE 50% OFF SALE. 50% off all video games, CDs, DVDs and DVD sets. Blu-ray movies, vinyl (33s and 45s) Bibles and books. PLUS 25% off all video game systems. Lots! Dan's Consignment Store, 32 E. Main Street, Dodge Center (right next to Harold's Club). 4/17/21

FOR SALE: 600 vinyl records albums \$100. 20 sets of salt & pepper shakers \$20. Please call 507-256-4181. 3/31/21

BABY LOCK IMAGINE SERGER: Uses up to 4 threads. Instant Jet Air threading system. 6 accessory pressure feet, various tools. Excellent instruction books. 12 maxi lot thread cones. Carrying case/trolley with telescoping handle with 4 wheels. The machine is 10 years old, used very little, and was well cared for. Asking \$1500 OBO Call Linda 507-634-4742 3/28/21

FOR RENT

DODGE CENTER APARTMENT FOR RENT. Two bedrooms includes heat, water, trash, on-site laundry and off-street parking. Available March 1, 2021. \$650/month. Call Aaron at 507-398-6899 4/17/21

CLAREMONT MANOR, CLAREMONT: Open waiting list for 1 & 2 bd apts. Includes off-street parking w/plug-ins, on-site laundry, community room, water, trash removal & wheelchair accessible unit. 507-451-8524, www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 4/8

Greenfield Manor, Kasson: Open waiting list for 1 & 2 bd smoke free apts. Must be 62+ or disabled. Includes off-street parking, on-site laundry, community room, controlled entrances, heat, water, trash removal & wheelchair accessible unit. 507-451-8524, www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 4/8

Greenfield Village, Kasson: Open waiting list for 1, 2 & 3 bd smoke free apts. Includes off-street parking w/plug-ins, on-site laundry, playground, heat, water, trash removal

& wheelchair accessible unit. 507-451-8524, www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 4/8

2 BEDROOM DODGE CENTER Smoke free apts & townhomes! Open April & May. Two great locations. Minutes from Hwy 14 & Rochester. \$750 & \$1010 p/mo. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO 4/17/21

STORAGE FOR RENT: Storage-Indoor-Kasson. 10 by 20 ft. \$60 month. Voice/Text 651-272-7970. 3/18/21

HELP WANTED

PART TIME BARTENDERS needed. Hours are Mon-Thurs 3:30PM to close, Saturday Noon to close and Sunday 3PM-8PM. Will train. Send resume to Byron American

Legion, PO Box 687, Byron, MN 55920 or pickup application at 505 Frontage Rd NW, Byron, MN. 4/17/21

GARAGE SALE

PREPPING FOR RETIREMENT: Most items \$5 and under. CASH ONLY. April 10 & 11, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. OLD STUFF: kitchen cupboard, corner hutch, crocks, whiskey jugs, Fenton milk glass, and other old items. COLLECTIONS: swords, knives, Zippo's, Asian dragons + Harley. HOUSEHOLD: small freezer, appliances, glassware, wooden furniture, VHS (including Disney), books, arts/crafts, (Concord) 55304 201st Ave., West Concord. 4/17/21

GARAGE/MOVING SALE: THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 9 and 10. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 27494 County Highway 34, Kasson. Couch, loveseat, coffee

table, 2 end tables, kitchen table with 4 chairs and more. Lots of Christmas items. Antique dresser, mirror and rocker. 1958 12 place setting Eschenbach Bavarian china, Silver Arbor, from Dayton's. Comforters, pictures and picture frames, tools, and Zenith long play record stereo system in table high cabinet. 4/17/21

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507-634-7907. 3/30/21

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. 4/17/21

OWATONNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HELPING EXCELLENCE • EVERY LEARNER • EVERY DAY

Owatonna public schools is looking to hire Custodians who can perform semi-skilled work, cleaning and maintaining school building interiors and exteriors, as well as grounds and related work to ensure a safe and pleasant appearance of school district buildings and grounds.

Hours/Schedule:
2 positions: 8 hours per day / 3:00 PM - 11:30 PM / Monday - Friday
1 position: 8 hours per day / 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM / Monday - Friday
Payrange: \$15.22/hour-\$17.53/hour (depending on experience)

Grounds Custodian performs semi-skilled work mowing, fertilizing grounds, snow removal, performs a variety of landscaping and grounds maintenance activities, and maintaining equipment and buildings.

Daily Schedule:
2 positions: 8 hours per day / 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM / Monday - Friday
Winter Weather Snow Plowing Exception Start Time - 3:00 AM.
Payrange: \$15.22/hour-\$17.53/hour (depending on experience)

Apply at: <https://www.isd761.org/careers>

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

DODGE COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Advertising Sales Account Executive

The Dodge County Independent/ Advantage Shopper is seeking a highly motivated individual to help local businesses thrive. This individual will build relationships with our clients to provide innovative and creative advertising strategies and solutions.

In the role of Account Executive, you will:
Be responsible for prospecting leads, making calls and going on appointments to bring in new business, as well as growing existing accounts in Olmsted County/Rochester. The successful candidate will conduct a needs analysis and use market knowledge to bring campaign ideas to the client using the Dodge County Independent/Advantage range of products, including print newspaper, shopper, tabloid and online solutions.

Requirements:
• 2-3 years of outside sales experience.
• Ability to think both strategically and creatively
• Ability to multi-task and work in a fast-paced environment.
• Strong problem solving and analytical ability are essential.
• Knowledgeable of print and online media products.
• Strong skills in planning, communicating, organizing, and developing customer relationships.
• Ability to travel throughout the assigned territory area, valid driver's license, insurance requirements and a good driving record are a must.
• A proven track record of successful cold calling, exceeding sales goals and building lasting relationships is a plus.

DODGE COUNTY
Advantage INDEPENDENT

301 S. Mantorville Ave.,

Kasson, MN 55944

507-634-1486

GOT NEWS? //
EDITORDCI@KMTel.COM

HELP WANTED

DODGE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Vacancy for FT Truck/Equipment Operator.

Valid Class B MN Drivers License.

Operate and maintain light to heavy maintenance equipment.

Visit www.co.dodge.mn.us for the link to the application and supplement.

Initial Application Review: 4/16/21.

EOE 4/8

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

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Job opening at Farmers Independent, Bagley MN. For info contact Tom at farmpub@gvtel.com

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AUCTIONS

HUGE METAL TO MONEY AUCTION
Friday, April 9, 9 a.m., 1.5 miles west of Hoffman MN. Hanson Auctioneers. 320/760-5485. Complete listing at www.midwestauctions.com

HUNTING

GUARANTEED BUFFALO HUNTS:
Black Hills of South Dakota. Buffalo hunts: cows \$1850, bulls starting at \$3000. Fill your freezer with excellent meat! 605/391-4646 nrvbuffalo@gmail.com

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for 190 Channels! Blazing fast internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available). Switch & get a FREE \$100 Visa gift card. FREE voice remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE streaming on ALL devices. Call today! 855/562-4309

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Over \$50,000,000 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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truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 845/220-9501

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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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Owatonna sends three wrestlers to state

BY KADEN NELSON
OHS MAGNET WRITER

The Owatonna Wrestling team has put together a nice season so far, with a record of 20-8 and Big 9 co-champions.

The Huskies went into the team section tournament being a two seed in section 1AAA. The one seed was Northfield, the three seed was Fari-bault and the fourth seed was Albert Lea. The first round was on Wednesday, March 10 at OHS where the Huskies first faced Winona and then Albert Lea. Unfortunately for the Huskies, their season had come to an end after a close loss to Albert Lea, 33-38.

This is not how any team wants to end their season. With four starters and one back-up for COVID-19

protocols, the Huskies, unfortunately, had holes in their lineup on Wednesday. Albert Lea then went to the super section tournament on Saturday where they lost the first round to top-seeded Northfield. Northfield being the 1AAA section champs had to take on the section champs of 2AAA Shakopee Sabers. Northfield lost and Shakopee moved onto the state tournament.

Lucky with the sport of wrestling there are individual sections. Individual sections were March 18. The top four individuals get put into a bracket with section 2AAA to wrestle in super sections on March 20, where the top two individuals from each weight advance to the state tournament.

Junior captain Landon Johnson said, "With everything

going on and all of the changes it definitely makes it harder to get to state, but I am still excited to see how many individuals the team can send to the state tournament and place there."

At the section qualifying tournament on March 18, Trey Hiatt, Jack Sorenson, Cael Robb, Kanin Hable, Jacob Reinardy, Landon Johnson, Matt Seykora, Andrew Nirk, and Abe Stockwell qualified for the super section tournament. They moved on to the individual state qualifier on March 20.

After individual qualifying, Robb, Johnson, and Seykora all moved on to the state tournament. Johnson wrestling at 160 made his fourth individual state appearance. Robb wrestling at 120 returned to the



OHS MAGNET STAFF PHOTO

Three Husky wrestlers represented Owatonna at the Minnesota Individual State Wrestling Tournament. They are, from left: Cael Robb, Landon Johnson, and Matt Seykora.

individual mat for his second year. Seykora wrapped up his Huskie wrestling career with his first individual trip

to the state tournament at 182. Coach Adam Woi-talla said, "The big strength is that all

three of them worked extremely hard and have passion for the sport. It really paid off this year."



Showcasing digital art



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Behind their masks, first graders at Lincoln Elementary School in Owatonna show off their digital artwork of all colors on their iPads.

In person offered again for Coffee and Conversation with the superintendent

The community is invited to join Superintendent Jeff Elstad for "coffee and conversation" in person at the District Office on Friday, April 16 at 9 a.m. Hear an update on what's been happening within the school district and bring any questions you have.

Limited space is available, so please RSVP by emailing shoffman@isd761.org or calling 507-444-8610 by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14.

Students of the Week

Elementary School



Anjana Shankarraaj
E2 (3rd) Grade
Parents: Shankar Raj Durairaj and Pushpa Venkatagiri
Anjana is respectful, hardworking, and kind. She comes to class with high excitement and a big smile every day. She gives 100% effort in every skill unit. Her kindness is contagious, and everyone gravitates towards her because of it. She is the definition of a Washington Leader!

Middle School



Henry Skluzacek
Eighth Grade
Parents: Kara Pittman and Derek Skluzacek
Henry is a caring, respectful, and thoughtful student who consistently works hard. As our school year has continued to change, Henry has adapted to a wide variety of situations and learning modes. Keep up the great work, Henry!

High School



Ezra Oien
Sophomore
Parents: Marc and Kara Oien
Ezra has excelled in numerous business classes this year. In Interactive Multi-media she has completed a number of projects that have exceeded our expectations. She is very creative and innovative in her work. Congratulations, Ezra, on being OHS' student of the week!

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