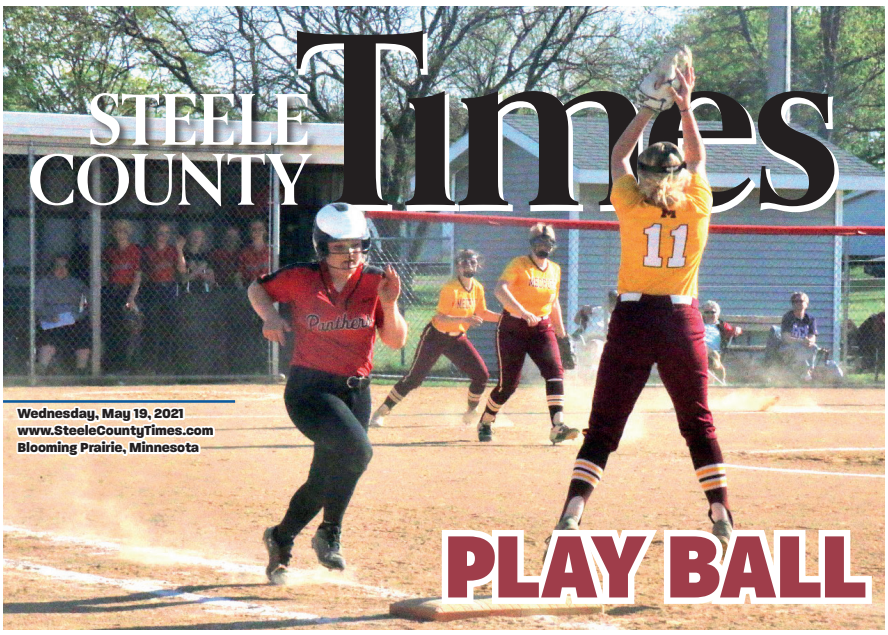
STEELE COUNTY Times

Wednesday, May 19, 2021
www.SteeleCountyTimes.com
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

With a little more than a week left in regular season play, NRHEG's girls softball team sits atop the Gopher Conference standings. In a recent game, Medford first baseman Josie Shell rises up to catch a throw from across the diamond as NRHEG's Preslie Nielsen runs toward first base. Nielsen was ruled out, but her groundout was good for an RBI, which gave the Panthers a 6-1 lead in the bottom of the fifth inning. The Panthers went on to win 8-2. For more high school game coverage, see Pages B5-B8.

BP community and visitors enjoy city-wide garage sale

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Kim Williams examines a ceramic pitcher during the Blooming Prairie city-wide garage sale last Saturday.

BY ALEX NUEHRING
NEWS WRITER

Last Saturday was great day weather-wise for Blooming Prairie's annual city-wide garage sale and everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to buy or sell items and interact with community members and visitors.

At First Baptist Church, youth leader Karrie Sherman reported that the city-wide garage sale provided a win-win opportunity for its church community.

"When we found out about this [the city-wide garage sale], we thought this would be a great way to raise the money a little quicker and for people in the church to clean out their stuff and not have to deal with the garage sale themselves," she said.

The money the church raised will be go toward sending the youth to camp this summer.

In addition to raising money, Sherman said the city-wide garage sale also gave her and the First Baptist Church youth the opportunity to see people that they hadn't caught up with in a while.

"We've really just enjoyed chatting with people. You miss that, you miss seeing how people are doing. Our teens have just been enjoying visiting with all the people," she said.

Likewise, fellow garage sale seller Stacy Magnus said the city-

See **COMMUNITY** on A11 ►

County seeking new jail partners

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

After Rice County opted not to enter into a partnership with Steele County on a joint jail operation, the county is weighing its options and looking for other neighboring counties that might want to jump on board.

Last week, the Steele County Board of Commissioners discussed the possibility of partnering with Waseca County because both counties would stand to benefit from such an agreement.

The Steele County Detention Center has been a financial burden for the county in recent years because the jail was built to house more inmates than needed because of the changing criminal justice landscape and the introduction of programs to reform and release low-level offenders.

Opened in 2003, the Steele County Detention Center ran a budget deficit of more than $3 million in 2020 and 2021. The county was hopeful that a deal with Rice would offset those expenses. However, Rice County decided to build its own facility rather than enter into a sharing agreement.

"Rice County went ahead on a 3-2 vote to go ahead and build a new jail on an undisclosed site," said Board Chair James Brady. "We've had a jail study and we know we've got way more space than we need. I would like to keep going down the path of looking for someone to be a partner with us."

With its size and capacity, the Steele County Detention Center could serve as a regional jail. "I would like to give (County Administrator Scott Golberg) direction to reach out to Dodge and Waseca counties that we're looking to partner up on our jail and

See **COUNTY** on A10 ►

Owatonna police update patrol cars with new dash camera system

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

The Owatonna Police Department recently outfitted its patrol cars with new dash cameras that sync to the body cameras worn by its officers.

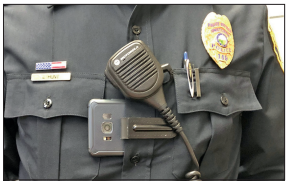
That means that when an officer turns on the patrol car's lights and siren to pull a vehicle over, the dash camera automatically turns on the officer's body camera. Previously, officers had to turn on the body cameras manually.

Jeff Mundale

"The old mobile video recorders [in the police cars] were at the end of their life and out of warranty," said Capt. Jeff Mundale of the Owatonna Police Department.

"This was the right time to replace it," said Mundale, adding that the cost of an extended warranty on the old recorders would have been $10,600 a year compared to the $6,750 cost of the new dash camera system.

See **OWATONNA** on A11 ►



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Policy requires Owatonna police to wear their body cameras above the beltline of the torso, facing forward in a location that will facilitate an optimum recording field of view.

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AREA DEATHS

Joanne Shaw, 83, Blooming Prairie

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

OUR VIEW

Vulgar flag needs to come down

Dismay is just one word we could use to describe our reaction to the expletive-laden, anti-Biden flag that can be seen along Highway 218 between Blooming Prairie and Owatonna. Others include unsightly, inappropriate, crude and vulgar.

Waving in the wind, the F*** Biden flag can't be missed.

Not by us, nor the multitude of school children who travel the road on their way to school or town each day.

A similar flag caused an uproar in Medford last month. But the flag was removed within hours because it was flying at the home of Steele County sheriff's deputy and a squad car was parked nearby. Workplace policies were cited as the reason the flag was removed.

The political divide in this nation is well-documented. And, whether you are a Republican, Democrat or Independent, it's troubling to say the least.

But our dismay with the expletive-laden flag goes far beyond the political divide or the candidates who were on the ballot in November. It's the profane language on the flag that we find so upsetting.

What's happened to us? When did we stop relying on common sense to determine what's right and what's wrong? Have all community standards been tossed out the window?

The expletive-laden, anti-Biden flag flying along Highway 218, like those flying in hundreds of other neighborhoods in the country, needs to come down.

Not because the government says so, but because it's the right thing to do.

Some might argue that the flag is just an expression of free speech and is protected by the First Amendment.

Yes, the speech is probably protected speech. But that doesn't make it right. Just because you are allowed to say something doesn't mean it should be said.

As strong advocates of the First Amendment, we are not calling for government intervention on this matter. We are calling for human decency.

Remove the flag.

We ask the flag owner along Highway 218, and others around the country, to find a less vulgar way of expressing their displeasure with Biden and the outcome of the election.

Object if you must, but find a flag that does so without using obscene language. If one doesn't exist, create one and put it on the market yourself. No doubt, you could make some money.

YOUR VIEW

It's a shame to see partnership ended

To-the-Editor:

On behalf of the Owatonna Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, I thank you for including the Ike's side of the story as the Steele County Free Fair ended what has been an over 80-year partnership to provide the attraction at the Game and Fish Building during the fair.

The Game and Fish building was constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1939. For decades, there had been a handshake deal with the Ikes and fair officials for our chapter to provide the attraction and offer the opportunity for people to learn about conservation and other wildlife groups, see the fish, enjoy the penny pitch and to see the mounts. No money changed hands. There wasn't even a written agreement until about 20 years ago and no rent was charged. There was no cost to the fair or the county, as asserted by one fair board member, because the fair billed the Ikes were for utilities and structure insurance. The bill was paid.

Instead, the Ikes took care of the building it didn't own and provided the attraction that thousands of people visited during the fair. Volunteer labor did the work as it could and professionals were hired by the Ikes when needed. It took about 100 hours of volunteer time to ready the building and the exhibits for the fair, 200 hours during fair week to staff the building, clean up, and provide help to fairgoers, and another 100 hours after the fair to close down.

Just as other volunteer groups

See **A SHAME** on A10 ►

CORRECTION

An appeal hearing before the Minnesota Department of Administration for Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, in Blooming Prairie City Center Council Chambers. If an additional day is needed, the hearing will continue to Friday, June 18. The Times incorrectly reported the date of the hearing in its May 12 edition. We apologize for the error.

Hot Pursuit

RICK BUSSLER

Straight Talk about Steele County

COURTESY LIMBERG PRODUCTIONS

Karen Hale of Owatonna is the host of Straight Talk, a weekly news program about Steele County. The show is streamed on Owatonna Live by Limberg Productions.

If there is one thing I have learned over the past year, residents are fortunate to have two viable options of keeping in touch with what's happening in Steele County: Straight Talk by Owatonna Live and the Steele County Times.

I recently had the opportunity to join Karen Hale, host of the weekly news program for Owatonna Live, in promoting our weekly newspaper. I actually was one of the first interviewees on the show's set in a new studio on Rose Street in downtown Owatonna. Hale has been hosting Straight Talk since December.

Hale laughed out loud when I asked her how she became the show's host, which features businesses, events and non-profit organizations throughout the county. "Completely tripped and fell into it," she said.

She also operates While You're Busy, a company aimed at helping small businesses with building websites and managing social media. In January 2020, Hale began working with Scott Limberg of Limberg Productions, the company that produces Owatonna Live. Last fall Limberg asked her to host Straight Talk.

Hale still chuckles about it all.

"I can talk in front of 1,000 people on stage, but in front of a camera, well that's entirely different," said Hale.

Limberg prompted her to try it because "I think you would be good at it."

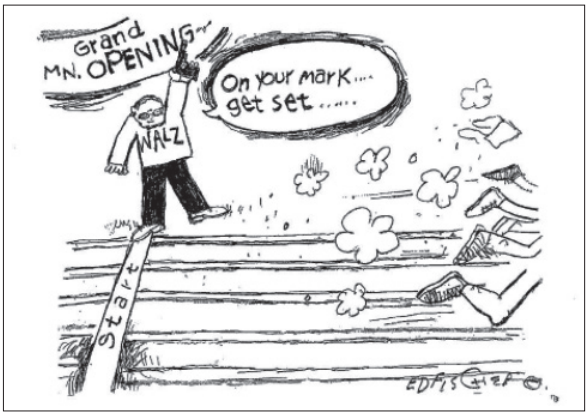
Six months into the gig, Hale is enjoying the new role of interviewing movers and shakers around the county.

She likens the show to a format similar to Entertainment Tonight except exclusively for Owatonna and Steele County. "We're getting the straight story on things," Hale said. "It's a way to keep in touch with the community."

Hale told me her favorite aspect of hosting the show is "getting to know everybody and learning about what they do and what they bring to the community."

She isn't native to the area. Hale moved to Steele County in November 2018 after living in the Phoe-

See **STRAIGHT** on A11 ►



GUEST COLUMN

Dodge County needs to serve all citizens

BY SONJA TROM EAYRS

I read with interest the recent column by Sheriff Scott Rose, ***Stop demonizing our law enforcement*** (Times-May 12 edition). His politically charged piece chastises Gov. Tim Walz, questioning "what has our Minnesota Governor done to support law enforcement?"

I ask, what has local law enforcement done to support the people of Dodge County?

Fighting back against the installation of the 11th and 12th swine factory farms in a 3-mile radius, my family has faced repeated harassment and intimidation following the initiation of legal action against Dodge County officials and area swine contract growers.

Manure-stained blue farm booties purposely blemish the township road leading from a nearby swine factory farm to our family farm–another reminder that industry giants are large and in charge. Bullet holes shot in the stop sign a few hours after my brother and I pulled weeds from the field a few feet away, constant garbage dumped in our roadside ditches and driveway, a large piece of metal hidden in the tall grass that damaged our mower, pure Roundup sprayed on the cornfield that caused thousands of dollars of damage, false telephone calls by industry folks to the sheriff's department (not to report some illegal activity but to put the heat on my family and get us to shut up), harassing late-night phone calls to my elderly father, including such comments as "Have you changed yet?" and other harassing tactics.

The tactics employed against my family are consistent with the tactics employed against other frontline families across the Midwest fighting installation of a factory farm next door.

Serving as a watchdog for powerful industry giants, local law enforcement immediately responds to calls from area swine operators for assistance, including requests to identify a black SUV near our farm and report back to the industry. The culprit–a KSTP news truck.

Unfortunately, local law enforcement under the politically charged watch of Sheriff Rose has repeatedly ignored the cries of my family for help, dismissing our concerns as a simple "littering complaint."

Earlier this spring, following the removal of piles and piles of garbage, I again contacted Sheriff Rose personally for assistance. Among the items, a mailer from the Minnesota Pork Board and the Minnesota Pork Producers Association addressed to an area swine contract grower. Finally, a solid lead. In response, Sheriff Rose only contacted the area swine contract grower and made absolutely no effort to reach out to me. His response, "I personally did some digging on this–I actu-

See **DODGE** on A10 ►

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MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2021—16 awards
2020—9 state awards
2019—7 state awards
2018—6 state and 4 national awards
2017—2 state and 3 national awards
2016—8 state and 6 national awards
2015—7 state and 4 national awards
2014—3 state and 3 national awards
2013—7 state and 2 national awards
2012—2 state awards
2011—4 national awards

(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Associations)

Caron: Mask mandate lifted, but virus still alive

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

While Minnesota marked a milestone in the COVID-19 pandemic by undoing the mask mandate, Steele County's top public health official warns people that the virus is still alive.

"There is a misconception that the virus is gone because the mask mandate has been lifted," said Amy Caron, public health director. "This is not over yet."

Caron said she has "mixed feelings" about Gov. Tim Walz's announcement Friday bringing an end to the state's mask mandate. The decision came after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that fully vaccinated people no longer have to wear masks outside or inside in most cases.

There are some caveats to the mask mandate being repealed. If you're in a medical building like a hospital or long-term care facility, you still need to mask up. Schools will continue to follow state education department guidance that requires masks in school buildings until the end of the current school year. People riding on buses or planes will also have to continue wearing a mask.

Caron said she is not an expert but just feels that we are not at the point of getting rid of the mask mandate. "It makes me a little uneasy," she said, adding there is still so much unknown about the virus.

With people being able to ditch the masks, for the most part, Caron is hopeful that they will reach out to get vaccinated. Currently, 57% of residents in Steele County have been vaccinated, just slightly below the state average of 62%.

Caron admits having the mask mandate repealed makes Public Health's job of getting people vaccinated that much harder. She said they will be doing some targeted outreach to get the remaining 43% vaccinated.

One area that Public Health is focusing on is the schools with 12- to 17-year-olds. Caron said they will be working with that population over the summer to get it vaccinated before the new school year starts in the fall.

"I hope people take to heart the importance of being vaccinated," Caron said. She added getting a COVID shot "will not only help yourself but also your community."

Meanwhile, Steele County's new caseload is "slowly inching down," Caron said. Over the past week, there have been 56 new cases, bringing the county's total to 3,904 with 15 deaths. There are 110 people under isolation right now.

Next week, Steele County will stop utilizing the county's public works building for drive-thru vaccination clinics. However, vaccinations will still be offered at least once a week in the Public Health office parking lot.

COVID-19 VACCINE WATCH

	First Doses	Second Doses	Percent of Residents
Steele:	4,130	3,561	57%
Dodge:	2,231	2,120	58%

Source: Steele County Public Health

A shot against COVID

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Jonathan Heimgartner of Blooming Prairie proudly displays proof that he received his COVID-19 vaccine. Getting youngsters like Heimgartner vaccinated has become a priority for Steele County Public Health, which plans to focus on kids 12- to 17-years-old in the coming months. /

In the spotlight

Gov. Tim Walz highlights the state's work to build vaccine confidence among Minnesotans in a virtual event hosted by President Joe Biden last week. At the bipartisan roundtable highlighting the state's successful vaccination efforts, Walz attributed strong vaccine confidence and high vaccination rates to the state's investment in a community-based approach that focuses on Minnesotans talking to Minnesotans and making it convenient and accessible for Minnesotans to get their shot.

Berne Pizza to be fully operational again

After a curbside summer of pizza and concerts in 2020, Berne Wood-Fired Pizza is excited to announce, per State of Minnesota guidance, that they will be fully open and operational for its 10th season of pizza and concerts starting June 2.

Wood-fired Wednesdays will take place each week from 5-8 p.m. in June, July, and August. Berne Pizza is located on the grounds of Zwingli United Church of Christ at Berne, 5054 23148, County Rd 24, West Concord.

Not only will favorite pizzas be back, but so will favorite local bands. The 26 band lineup over 13 summer nights will infuse a variety of musical genres including country, 80s bands, classic rock, jazz, and oldies. Kicking off the summer on June 2 will be Root River Jam at 5 p.m. followed by County Line Drive at 6:30 p.m.

June 2: Root River Jam & County Line Drive

June 9: (Classic Car & Bike Cruise-In) The Ripdoozers & Street Talk

June 16: Bells and Whistles & The Chubs

June 23: Lost Faculties & Colt 45

June 30: Fred the Bear & Nite Shift

July 7: After School Special & JT and the Gunslingers

July 14: (Classic Car & Bike Cruise-In) Scott Jasmin and The Gracenotes & Gopher Tones

July 21: True North & Incognito

July 28: The Reunion Band & Old Country Boys

Aug. 4: (Artisan Market Night) The Local Hooligans & Hair Metal Radio

Aug. 11: (Classic Car & Bike Cruise-In) Vintage Tones & Wreckless

Aug. 18: The SUITS & Branded: Hot Country

Aug. 25: (Cheers to 10 Years Brewfest) Hair of the Dog & fABBAulous

Several special events are also scheduled to take place at Berne this summer. For those who appreciate vintage vehicles, the "Classic Car & Bike Cruise-Ins" are a draw. Taking place June 9, July 14, and Aug. 11, guests flock to Berne to admire the classic automobiles.

Another highly anticipated event is artisan market night on Aug. 4 where a wide selection of art, handmade items, and unique gifts will be available for purchase. As the summer winds down, guests can raise a glass and celebrate the 10th season of Berne at the "Cheers to 10 Years" Brewfest on Aug. 25. Craft beer will be for sale from SxSE Minnesota Brewing Company of Pine Island to celebrate Berne Wood-Fired Pizza's 10th year of raising funds to support area nonprofit organizations.

Due to the pandemic, a few changes have been made. First, guests will be able to order pizzas in advance on Eventbrite, if desired.

Event organizer Angela Organ commented, "We decided to try out advanced orders this year for two reasons. First, we thought it would help to shorten wait times when ordering for guests. Second, some guests drive quite a distance to get to us and want to be assured a pizza when they arrive. Ordering in advance provides this peace of mind."

Pizza will still be available to order on-site as in past seasons. One additional change will be that guests will need to wear masks until eating and drinking during the month of June or until Minnesota has reached the 70% vaccination threshold. This guidance comes from the State of Minnesota in an effort to ensure safety during COVID for all guests.

If you have never attended an event at Berne Wood-Fired Pizza, what do you need to know?

"These events are made possible by the efforts of hundreds of volunteers working on behalf of area nonprofits because they love and care for their neighbors in need," said Pat Derby, a member of Berne's board.

The money raised by volunteers goes to a variety of organizations, including local food shelves, churches, and senior assistance programs. Guests should think picnic! Arrive with lawn chairs, plates, and a bag to carry out trash.

STEELE COUNTY Times

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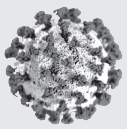
STEELE COUNTY Times

Hy-Vee administering vaccines to those 12 and up

Hy-Vee, Inc. announces today that all Hy-Vee pharmacy locations are now administering free COVID-19 vaccines to individuals ages 12 to 15, per the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recent approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for this age group. Hy-Vee has been offering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to individuals 16 and older for several weeks.

Minors must have parental or guardian consent to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Hy-Vee asks that a parent or guardian accompany minors to both their first and second dose COVID-19 vaccinations. Individuals can walk in to receive the vaccine or make an appointment in advance online.



COVID-19 UPDATE

World	163,000,000	MN	595,000	Steele	3,904	Dodge	1,855	Freeborn	3,421
Deaths	3,380,000	Deaths	7,389	Deaths	15	Deaths	4	Deaths	29
Recovered	94,400,000	Recovered	480,000	Recovered	3,794	Recovered	1,786	Recovered	
U.S.	33,000,000							Mower	4,667
Deaths	586,000							Deaths	32
Recovered	22,265,000							Recovered	

AS OF MAY 17, 2021

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Suspicion: On May 8, officers responded to suspicious activity in the 600 block of 12th St. SE in Owatonna at 4:44 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Man charged in sex cases involving girls

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A man faces felony charges for sexual abuse involving a child.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Erick Edgar Cruz Mendoza, 40, of Owatonna, with two felony counts of soliciting a child to engage in sexual conduct and by utilizing electronic communication to engage in sexual conduct. He also faces a gross misdemeanor for fifth-degree lewd exhibition.

This is the second time Mendoza has been charged with criminal sexual assault. Police say there are at least two girls that Mendoza allegedly has victimized.

The most recent case came to light on May 3 when Owatonna Police received a child protection report alleging sexual abuse. A 14-year-old girl reported her mother's boyfriend exposed himself to her and told her that he wants more than a father-daughter relationship, police reports said.

Erick Mendoza

The victim said her stepfather sent messages to her that were "inappropriate things to tell a young girl." She went on to say that Mendoza told her that he's in love with her and that he can't get her out of his head, according to the criminal complaint. On at least one occasion, Mendoza allegedly told the girl that he wanted to have sex with her.

The complaint said Mendoza sent the victim messages through Whats App beginning in February. He told her that she was going to be his and that they were going to have sex.

On May 3, a social worker with MN Prairie conducted a Corner House interview with the victim. She disclosed that Mendoza had exposed himself to her multiple times and sent her messages on WhatsApp asking for sex.

In an interview with police, Mendoza admitted to sending the victim messages on WhatsApp, but that it was only a joke. Mendoza denied exposing himself to the victim and that nothing happened between the two. "Over there in our countries, it was a normal conversation," Mendoza told police.

If convicted on the felonies, Mendoza faces a maximum of three years in prison and a $5,000 fine.

He is currently being held in the Steele County Detention Center.

CRIME BRIEF

K-9 finds suspect hiding in the foliage

A police K-9 assisted in finding a suspect wanted on an outstanding warrant.

Brandon Froid

Owatonna Police responded to the area of the 400 block of State Avenue on a trespassing complaint May 5. A citizen reported a man had been knocking on his door for the past 10-15 minutes screaming for a woman.

When police arrived in the area, the man took off running. K-9 Vegas and his handler located the man hiding in some foliage.

Officers arrested Brandon Froid, 35, of Owatonna. Besides the warrant, Froid has been charged with violating a domestic abuse order for protection, which is a felony.

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

1. Miles Singleton – domestic assault – no bail
2. Leighton Slagel – drugs – no bail
3. Amy Smith – failure to stop - $1,000 bail
4. Wesley Smith – revoked license – no bail
5. Alan Sobey – disorderly conduct - $500 bail
6. Michael Sorenson – DWI – no bail
7. Carl Swanson – registration violation - $50,000 bail
8. Brandon Tate – domestic assault - $2,000 bail
9. Marques Tate – theft – no bail
10. James Thomas – theft – no bail
11. Ross Timlin – violation of no contact order - $500 bail
12. Corey Tollefson – violation of order for protection – no bail
13. Molly Torres – false name - $300 bail
14. Reyna Torres – obstruct legal process - $300 bail
15. Julio Touchet Campos – criminal sexual conduct - $250,000 bail
16. Gustavo Trevino – DWI, revoked license - $750 bail
17. Kile Trevithick – DWI - $1,000 bail
18. Arnut Tungsununt – drugs - $10,000 bail
19. Marco Valdez – DWI, child endangerment - $6,000 bail
20. Jeremy Vanderlugt – contempt of court - $10,000 bail

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

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 3 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Robert Martinez, 37, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony threats of violence and felony assault-dangerous weapon. He was sentenced to $125 and 75 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 3 – 9:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Latanya A. Capote, 35, Austin, no insurance, expired tabs and disqualified license, $505; Jwokamer P. Debock, 25, Austin, DWI, $400, 1 day in county jail, substance abuse subtle screening inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; David W. Frost, 62, St. Francis, no insurance and no license in possession, $295; Mikaiah M. Greer, 23, Minneapolis, suspended license and no insurance, $475; Garrett A. Johnson, 30, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, $275; Maria Maldonado Sanchez, 23, St. Paul, invalid license, $175; Shelby O. Parks, 35, Blooming Prairie, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, $200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Shaninth M. Ray, 33, Albert Lea, suspended license and no insurance, $475; Daneil P. Rysavy, 32, Austin, DWI, $1,000, chemical dependency evaluation, ignition interlock, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 3 years of supervised probation; Mu K. Shi, 20, St. Paul, speeding, $95.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Donald E. Anderson, 65, Elko New Market, speeding, $125; Nicholas A. Olaman, 21, Dallas Center, IA, speeding, $135; Sandra P. Cordova Mejia, 47, Conroe, TX, no license, $175; Daniel F. Delgado, 48, Mankato, speeding, $215; Oliver J. Holm, 21, St. Paul, speeding, $135; Sammie F. Jones, 21, Fridley, revoked license, $275; Treyten P. Kane, 18, Owatonna, tires violation, $125; Jacob D. Krug, 24, Plattsmouth, NE, speeding, $125; Shatoria D. Lane, 23, Owatonna, speeding, $115; Wills H. Larson, 20, Wayzata, speeding, $135; Kevin D. Lee, 53, Apple Valley, speeding, $115; Nicholas C. Magnini, 24, Grayslake, IL, speeding, $125; Jeremy J. Marshall, 25, Las Vegas, NV, no license and no insurance, $375; Karen M. Maxon, 60, Rochester, speeding, $115; Jerry J. Moe, 32, St. Louis Park, speeding, $125; Richard J. Mooney, 58, Bloomington, speeding, $115; Sherri A. Morgan, 55, St. Louis Park, speeding, $115; Robert W. O'Quist, 25, Anoka, speeding, $115; Deborah R. Pettit, 62, Eden Prairie, limited license violation, $175; Warner J. Pool, 21, Des Moines, IA, speeding, $135; Rebecca Ritland, 31, Des Moines, IA, speeding, $125; Rene J. Romero, 62, New Iberia, LA, log book violation, $375; Cody O. Rowe, 19, Austin, restraining order violation, stay of adjudication, 3 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Brendan A. Schleyer, 29, Kansas City, MO, speeding, $125; Antonio E. Stevenson, 27, South St. Paul, speeding and no license, $375; Antwon E. Stevenson, 26, St. Paul, speeding and revoked license, $315; Phetsakone B. Sukhaseum, 22, Fort Campbell, KY, speeding, $115; Romulo G. Tajonal, 38, St. Paul, permit violation, $125; Joseph D. Terhune, 30, Fridley, speeding, $115; Melissa J. Toot, 23, Owatonna, no license and revoked license, $375; Briana Y. Villafranco, 29, Albert Lea, no license, $175; Collin D. Volkman, 23, Waterville, speeding, $115; Ryan P. Wessin, 34, Apple Valley, speeding, $125; Georgianne White, 50, Edina, speeding, $135.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Craig S. Brase, 60, Owatonna, assault, $705, no contact with victim and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Keton C. Brown, 23, Owatonna, suspended license, $275; Ray D. Cabrera, 23, Owatonna, speeding and careless driving, $475; Jamie D. Cummings, 42, Claremont, speeding, stay of adjudication, $145 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Sergio A. Garcia, 50, Owatonna, no insurance and invalid license, $375; Corey L. Goetsch, 24, Owatonna, motorcycle endorsement violation, $125; Edgar J. Gonzalez Diaz, 20, abandoned vehicle, $125; Ryan J. Gromelski, 28, Owatonna, domestic assault, $375, 2 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, domestic abuse evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Vanessa M. Guerra, 20, Owatonna, revoked license, $275; Stanley G. Jones, 64, Rio Rancho, NM, speeding, $215; Chris J. Kapp Jr., 65, Owatonna, DWI, $375, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Lloyd W. Kuefner, 47, Waseca, DWI, $375, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Kiana R. Louks, 21, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, $200, 29 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Steven R. Luebben, 22, Owatonna, open bottle, $175; Rebecca H. Lustig, 43, Owatonna, deposit injurious material, $175; Mary P. Nyang, 37, Owatonna, abandoned vehicle, $125; Casey E. Peterson, 37, Owatonna, unlicensed vehicle, $125; Sarah M. Quezada, 27, New Richland, no insurance, $275; Michael S. Reider, 31, Owatonna, stop sign, $125; Charles G. Rubel, 50, Owatonna, revoked license, $275; Susan A. Schuler, 55, Owatonna, speeding, $135; Edward W. Thorson, 27, Owatonna, no contact order violation, no insurance, expired tabs and abandoned vehicle, $780, 7 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, domestic abuse evaluation and 18 months of supervised probation; Marcos A. Trevino, 28, Waseca, revoked license, $275; Jenni M. Williams, 38, Owatonna, no insurance, expired tabs and revoked license, $505.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Eric M. Anderson, 39, Ellendale, DWI, $400, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, 80 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Tate E. Bauer, 21, Faribault, stop sign, $125; Darius D. Binion, 28, speeding and invalid license, $215; Travis D. Chadbourn, 39, suspended license, $275; Mark J. Crum, 34, Arbor Vitae, WI, speeding, $215; Wyatt H. Dahle, 19, Mapleview,

See **BLOTTER** on **A9** ►

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Upcoming 4-hour refresher defensive driving classes

- Wednesday, June 2- 6 to 10 p.m.
Blooming Prairie City Center community room

- Monday, July 12- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Blooming Prairie High School room 206

$24 cash or check made out to BPPS

Defensive Driving

Register by calling **507-583-4426** or email **msouthworth@blossoms.k12.mn.us**

BLOOMING PRAIRIE AREA Chamber of Commerce

BUSINESS of the WEEK

Mike's Repair

Mike's Repair has been in business since 1979 and became a member of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce in 2003. We appreciate Mike, Seth and Courtney Hartle and Dakota Grant for their continued support of the Chamber and the Blooming Prairie Area Community.

Mike's Repair is located at 870 NW 32nd Ave., Owatonna. They repair tires on vehicles such as lawnmowers, tractors, loaders & semi's – they also provide emergency roadside services. For all your tire repair needs check out Mike's Repair at

www.mikesrepairowatonnamn.com/ or give them a call at 507-455-0388.

Congratulations to Mike's Repair for being recognized as the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Week!

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How much will you need to save for retirement?

THE SAVVY SENIOR
Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center
Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,

Is there an easy way to figure out how much I will need to save for retirement? My wife and I are both in our late fifties and want to figure out about how much we'll need in order to retire comfortably.

Ready to Retire

Dear Ready,

How much money you need to retire comfortably is a great question that all working adults should ask themselves. Unfortunately, far too few ever bother thinking about it.

But calculating an approximate number of how much you'll need to have saved for retirement is actually pretty easy and doesn't take long to do. It's a simple, three-step process that includes estimating your future living expenses, tallying up your retirement income and calculating the difference.

Estimate Living Expenses

The first step – estimating your future retirement living expenses – is the most difficult. If you want a quick ballpark estimate, figure around 75 to 85 percent of your current gross income. That's what most people find they need to maintain their current lifestyle in retirement.

If you want a more precise estimate, track your current living expenses on a worksheet and deduct any costs you expect to go away or decline when you retire, and add whatever new ones you anticipate.

Costs you can scratch off your list include work-related expenses like commuting or lunches out, as well as the amount you're socking away for retirement. You may also be able to deduct your mortgage if you expect to have it paid off by retirement, and your kid's college expenses. Your income taxes should also be less.

On the other hand, some costs will probably go up when you retire, like health care, and depending on your interests you may spend a lot more on travel, golf or other hobbies. And, if you're going to be retired for 20 or 30 years you also need to factor in some occasional big budget items like a new roof, heating/air conditioning system or vehicle.

Tally Retirement Income

Step two is to calculate your retirement income. If you and/or your wife contribute to Social Security, go to *SSA.gov/MyAccount* to get your personalized statement that estimates what your retirement benefits will be at age 62, full retirement age and when you turn 70.

In addition to Social Security, if you or your wife has a traditional pension plan from an employer, find out from the plan administrator how much you are likely to get when you retire. And figure in any other income from other sources you expect to have, such as rental properties, part-time work, etc.

Calculate the Difference

The final step is to do the calculations. Subtract your annual living expenses from your annual retirement income. If your income alone can cover your bills, you're all set. If not, you'll need to tap your savings, including your 401(k) plans, IRAs, or other investments to make up the difference.

So, let's say for example you need around $60,000 a year to meet your living and retirement expenses and pay taxes, and you and your wife expect to receive $35,000 a year from Social Security and other income. That leaves a $25,000 shortfall that you'll need to pull from your nest egg each year ($60,000 – $35,000 = $25,000).

Then, depending on what age you want to retire, you need to multiply your shortfall by at least 25 if you want to retire at 60, 20 to retire at 65, and 17 to retire at 70 – or in this case that would equate to $625,000, $500,000 and $425,000, respectively.

Why 25, 20 and 17? Because that would allow you to pull 4 percent a year from your savings, which is a safe withdrawal strategy that in most cases will let your money last as long as you do.

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

Recipe Corner — Brownies

2 C white sugar
1/4 tsp salt
1 C hot water
1/4 C cocoa
2 eggs
1/2 C sour milk
1/2 C oil
1 tsp soda (add to milk)

Put water, cocoa and oil in pan. Bring to boil. Mix with sugar, flour and salt. Add milk and eggs. Put in 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 370 degrees for 25 minutes.
Frost when cool:
1 C white sugar
1/4 C milk
1/3 C butter
Bring to boil. Beat in 1/2 C chocolate chips. Blend well. Let stand a bit. Spread on cooled brownies.

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History from the News Archives

A teaching era comes to an end

FILE PHOTO

After 32 years in the classroom at Blooming Prairie, Frank Vorlicek will be retiring at the end of the school year in May 2001. He has three loves: plants, citizenship and teaching. "Life has been good to me," Vorlicek said. "I've worked actively in the church, worked with plants since college and have taught for many years. God and life have been good to me."

10 Years Ago
May 17, 2011
RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie athletes of the week are Shelbi Swenson, besides playing a steady first base for the Blossoms, she picked up her first victory on the mound by winning at Maple River in Saturday's game. John Krahling, he has been a steady outfielder for the team all season and had a four-hit day at the plate against Triton.

The selection committees have made their recommendations to the board to approve Chris Staloch as the next elementary principal. Staloch will take over for the retiring Sandra Grenell. Staloch has been with the school district for the past 12 years. Ten of those he taught first grade, and for the last two he has been teaching fourth grade. He also is currently the head baseball coach and an assistant football coach. Staloch's appointment was made official last night's school board meeting.

20 Years Ago
May 15, 2001
ELSIE SLINGER, EDITOR

Close to 200 people participated in the First Annual Cancer Benefit held Saturday at the BP Servicemen's Club. Over $1,299 was raised and organizers were very happy to Blooming Prairie to the list for the Eagles Cancer Telethon.

Retirement from teaching will rob Blooming Prairie High School of its most unconventional teacher, but Frank Vorlicek will find some way to poke his devilish presence into the classrooms he has taught for 32 years. After teaching social studies for 34 years total, helping coach a very successful speech program and directing a number of musicals and one-act plays, Vorlicek will step down this spring knowing his love of teaching has made a difference.

50 Years Ago
May 19, 1971
VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The Blooming Prairie High School Band and Mixed Chorus participated in the State Area Music Contest in Stewartville on Saturday. Three judges rated the groups on performance and one on sight reading. Three of the four judges must give "stars" for the groups to earn a superior rating. The band under the direction of Cliff Jones, received a superior rating by receiving three stars and the chorus received two stars.

"It's not often you see a 20-year-old young person giving up school to work in legislature," said Senator Mel Fredrick recently. "And reports indicate Greg Olson is not only doing that, but doing a whale of a job at it." Greg is a sophomore at the University Of Minnesota and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Olson of Blooming Prairie. Greg's duties are many, one minute helping with a report for a senator and the next delivering memos and filing bills. "I find the work interesting," Greg stated. He became involved originally after volunteering to work in Senator Fredrick's campaign last fall.

75 Years Ago
May 16, 1946
FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Enthusiasm is "waxing" high in the Blooming Prairie community among followers of kittenball and the prospects of a pennant winning team looks bright. The local VFW Post is not only giving the soft ballers their undivided moral support, but are contributing $100 toward the purchase of new suits for the players. Many other businesses have volunteered financial aid. Blooming Prairie squad is under the managership of Harold Morrison and Captain Buddy Coufal. Sixteen men have been placed on the player roster: Lowell Berg, Dede Harms, Alfred Jorde, Gerald Peterson, Russell Peterson, Charles Ressler, George Ressler, Don Estenson, Donald Morrison, Robert Kiley, Roger Ille, Boggie" Bolla, Verne Betlach, Buddy Coufal Stewart Peterson and John Peterson.

Owatonna Photo News

31 Years Ago
May 17, 1990
TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Owatonna High School's physics class and teacher, Dick Schleich, will have an opportunity to experience the science of matter and motion as they participate in Valleyfair's Fourth Annual Physics Day on May 21. "More than 6000 students will put their classroom studies to practical us by analyzing the principles of gravity, velocity and weightlessness illustrated by Valleyfair's Excalliber roller coaster and other rides," explained Steve Ethen of Burnsville, coordinator of the special day.

The OHS boys' and girls' track teams both took second place honors in Section 1, AAA True Team Track competition. Jenny Finne won the high jump clearing 4'10". Tonja Worrell won the 100-meter dash with a 13.29 and the long jump with a 16'4" leap. The 1600-meter relay team of Jenna Pike, Kelly Hoffman, Marla Larson and Holly Haycraft won first place. Wayne Robke won the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles. Other first place winners for the boys' team were Eric Christianson in the 100-meter dash, Jason Blum in the triple jump and the 1600-meter relay team.

TURN OFF the television…

Encourage your children to make reading the newspaper a part of their everyday routine for lifelong learning.
STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.

Tips for growing strawberries in containers

BY ANNIE KLODD

Strawberries are a great choice to fill your pots, planters, hanging baskets, or maybe even window boxes. The plants are compact and the berries hang beautifully off of the edge of the container. As long as you choose the right type of strawberries, they can be removed at the end of the season so you don't have to worry about where to put them over the winter.

There are two types of strawberries: day-neutral and June-bearing. Only day-neutral strawberries are truly well-suited for containers. These are also commonly called "everbearing" strawberries.

So the first tip for planting container strawberries is to make sure you purchase day-neutral plants and not June-bearing plants.

Tip #1: Choose the right plants

Day-neutral strawberries produce fruit all summer, from July through October or the first frost.

One thing that makes them great for containers is that they are usually grown as annuals – we remove the plants at the end of the season and plant new ones the next year, just like with annual vegetables.

Find day-neutral (everbearing) strawberry plants in local hardware stores, garden centers, or online seed companies and nurseries. In stores, they are sold in bags of 5-10 and are displayed with seed potatoes and asparagus crowns. Online, you will often find them in sets of 25 for around $25.

They are sold as dormant bare-root plants – just a ball of roots connected to a couple of small dormant leaves. Sometimes, you can also find potted plants in garden centers, but these are much more expensive and don't really have any advantages.

Look for these varieties: Albion, Seascape, Evie-II, Monterey, Portola, and San Andreas.

Do not grow June-bearing strawberries in containers unless the containers are very large, like a wood-framed raised bed. They are perennial plants and have to have space to spread and reproduce, otherwise, they will only produce fruit for one season before declining. Also, they do not produce fruit until a year after planting.

Tip #2: Find some sun

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Each strawberry plant will produce about 0.5-1.0 lb when grown in full sunlight with adequate soil conditions and water.

We might sound like a broken record saying this, but fruit crops really do need full sun. Place your containers where they get full sunlight for at least 8 to 12 hours per day.

It takes a lot of energy for plants to produce large, flavorful berries, and they need sunlight to achieve this. Select a south-facing side of your home, or find a spot away from shade trees or buildings. Window boxes can be perfect for strawberries, as long as they are in full sun.

Tip #3: Reach for the good potting mix

Day-neutral strawberries produce more, larger berries when they grow in well-drained soil with plenty of nutrients.

Use a potting mix meant for containers, and mix in a fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (N-P-K) before planting. You may sprinkle on a small amount of nitrogen-containing fertilizer mid-season to give the plants a boost. Follow instructions on the fertilizer label to ensure you are not over-applying it and potentially burning the plants.

Tip #4: Give them just enough space

Plant day-neutral strawberries about 8 inches apart in the container. They may be planted 6 inches apart if staggered in a row.

Because they can be planted relatively

See **TIPS** on A10 ►

Managing flies on cattle operations

On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

Spring is the perfect time to do a big cleanout to prevent flies on the farm. Early sanitation can help you stay on top of cleanliness throughout the summer; cleanliness is the most important step for managing flies. Fly management is important to help minimize potentially yield-reducing behaviors in cattle. You will likely need to implement several strategies in your fly management plan, but successful fly management **must** include effective sanitation.

It's important to manage flies on the farm, because some behaviors caused by flies can lead to decreased production. Fly populations on the farm also have the potential to increase disease transmission. Additionally, large populations of flies may become a nuisance to humans.

There are several kinds of flies that can cause issues on the farm. The typical culprits in Minnesota are: stable flies, house flies, face flies, and horn flies. These different species of flies can be found in different areas of the operation and cause different behaviors in cattle, which can help you identify which flies might be present.

See **MANAGING** on A10 ►

Farm Bureau announces video contest

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Promotion & Education Committee recently announced its "Farmers Produce More than Produce" Video Contest for youth ages 11 to 21.

Minnesota 4-H members, FFA Chapters, home school families, local public and private school students and college students are invited to create videos that are:30 seconds or less containing accurate agricultural facts that focus on one of two topic areas, livestock or crops. Video submission deadline is June 15 at 11:59 PM CST.

The Grand Prize winner will receive $200 for a video release party and a personal movie poster of the winning video. An additional winner from each age group (ages 11-15 and ages 16-21) will receive a $200 cash prize. All three winners will also receive a t-shirt and two admissions tickets to the Minnesota State Fair where their videos will be displayed in the Minnesota Farm Bureau building.

The theme "Farmers Produce More than Produce" was chosen to promote to consumers the multitude of products produced by farmers and ranchers used in our everyday lives. This theme will also serve as the theme of the 2021 Minnesota Farm Bureau building exhibits at the Minnesota State Fair.

For complete contest rules, guidelines and required video release form, visit fbmn.org/promotion-education or contact Ruth Meirick, Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation Director at ruth.meirick@fbmn.org or by phone at 651-768-2115.

A farm family partnership

The Ahrens'

There is no shortage of family with two brothers and two sons and their families helping at the Ahrens Farms outside of Owatonna.

Ahrens Farms is a family partnership consisting of Brian and Lisa Ahrens, Brian's brother, Marshall and Patty Ahrens, and Brian's sons Nolan and his wife Missy and Nate and his wife Molly. Nolan and Nate represent the sixth generation of the Ahrens family dating back to 1867 when their ancestors arrived in Steele County from Germany.

The family has farmed on the present farm located six miles southeast of Owatonna since 1899. The Ahrens grow corn, soybeans, sweet corn and peas stretching into both Steele and Dodge counties.

When asked why he got into farming, Brian replied: "When you are raised on a farm and you work alongside other family members trying to improve your families' operation from generation to generation, it gets into your blood."

Brian gets great joy out of farming. "The feeling of pride being a multi-generational farm and being commended by your peers on not farming the most acres we can, but doing the best possible job on the acres we have," he said.

Sometimes large farms like the Ahrens get unfairly labeled as corporate farms, Brian noted. "Many people don't realize that in a true family farm there are multiple families involved within the farm operation," he said. "In reality we're a few farmers working together who happen to be a family."

Members of the Ahrens family include back row, from left: Al, Maxx, Zach, Carson, and Miley; front row: Nate, Molly holding Ava, Missy, Nolan, Lisa, Brian, Patty, and Marshall.

This week's farm family is brought to you by:

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-Our Students- Worth A Million!

18th Annual Blooming Prairie EDUCATION FOUNDATION

AUCTION
Saturday, May 22, 2021

Silent
1 PM - 3 PM
Inside the Pizza Cellar

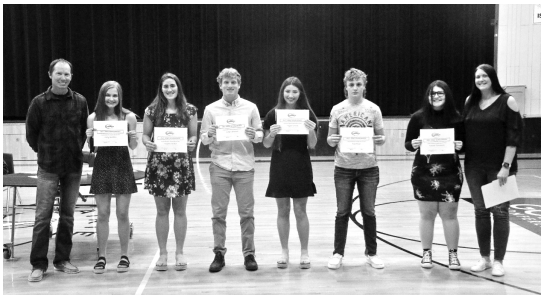
Live
4 PM - 11 PM
Live auction is a 21+ event
Under the big tent at the BP Cue Company!

These items have been donated for purchase at the auctions:

- Ladies Umbrella Auction. Options within umbrellas are: A) Dinner and Show at Chanhassen Dinner Theater. Can use for any Main Stage Poduction. Expires 5/22/2022, Blossom Tumbler, Green Scarf, 2 bottles of wine, and Two Awesome Blossom Sketched Wine Glasses B) Black Onyx Ring, WineBottle Clutch and Wine, Cheesecake Factory GC $50, $50 HyVee Gift Card, Blossom Tumbler, and Fox River Socks C) $250 R.F. Moeller Gift Certificate, Real Deals GC $25 plus himalyan salt candle, Hefe Rojo GC $25, Pastel Scarf, Blossom Tumbler
- 15 ton load of black dirt, sand fill, wash sand, or class 5 gravel in a 15 mile radius of Blooming Prairie
- Seating for 4 at the BP Elementary Christmas Program for Afternoon Program plusreserved parking
- 1 month lawn mowing in the city limits for one standard size lot
- Metal Yard Art-Butterfly or Flower
- Famous Hooch
- Homemade giant Jenga game
- 10 foot x 12 foot reserved spot on the 4th of July parade route
- Special K bars
- 2 dozen buns
- MN Vikings 9'x9' canopy 90
- Private Pool Party with 3 hrs of lifeguarding and $50 Casey's gift card
- A Day At The Races. Clubhouse Seating, Admission, and Buffet for 4 people. Must Be Used During the 2021 Season
- Blossom shelf
- Metal Art
- Trespassing Windchime
- 16x24 BP Watertower canvas
- Horseshoe American Flag
- MN Twins Home Sign
- Co-Principal for the day
- A Cookie Jar Filled With Chocolate Chip Cookies (x2)
- Sweatshirt (adults) sizes: XS, M, XL CHOICE (3). Also comes with a stocking hat. Sweatshirt can be exchanged for a different size or something of equal value
- Certificate for 6 dozen Christmas cookies delivered by 12/15/21
- 3 bottles of Salem Glen Wine with Gnome Toppers and $20 Winery Gift Certficate
- 40 man hours of rock picking
- Heidi's famous cheesecake
- Cupcake Decorating Class for up to 6 people. Each person gets 1 dozen decorated cupcakes
- Front Row Parking Space for one student 2021-2022
- Krisi Lillie painted water tower picture
- Fox Toybox
- 7 night stay at Breezy Point one bedroom deluxe condo. Sleeps 4. October 1st- May 1st. Excludes Holidays and some weekends. Gift Certificate to The Commander Bar and Grill
- Horse Silouette Afgahn
- Firemen's Birthday Party. Includes games, pictures, cake, refreshments.
- Surprise item
- $1000 AirBnb gift card for use at any booking through AirBnb. (Some restrictions apply from AirBnb). $500 Visa Gift Card to use for travel expenses or any other expenses
- Sweatshirt (adults) sizes: S, L, XXL CHOICE (3). Also comes with a stocking hat. Sweatshirt can be exchanged for a different size or something of equal value
- 4 dozen oatmeal chocolate chip cookies per month for 1 year
- 50 pounds of ground beef, CHOICE (2)
- Light Up Christmas Tree
- 2 shelf cabinet
- Authentic Mexican Meal for 6. Al pastor tacos with fixings for 6, rice, salsa, and homemade chips
- Blossom Buddy
- 1 certificate for 4 dozen krumkake, 2 dozen lefse
- A cooler with assorted Sausage Stuffer meat products along with accompanying foods. Also 3 quart size package of Eleanor Worke's legendary sauerkraut
- Canoe shelf
- Holiday/Winter Porch Pot Part for 4 people. Everything will be provided.
- $350 Gift Certificate towards any photography session with Whitnei
- Handmade Swedish Blanket
- MN Twins Family Pack
- Men's Travel Bag Auction. 1) Perry Ellis Leather Bag 2) Filson Bag 3) Canvas/Leather Bag. Options within bags are: A) A Day at the Races at Canterbury Park for 4 people, CFS Gift Card,and two certificates for gun cleaning with Black Diamond Gunsmithing B) $50 Georges of Geneva gift certificates, $25 Scheels gift certificate, and two certificates for gun cleaning with Black Diamond Gunsmithing C) $100 Georges of Geneva gift certificates, $25 Fleet Farm Gift Certificate, two certificiates for gun cleaning with Black Diamond Gunsmithing, and $50 TT Motorcycles gift certificate and t-shirt
- BP Nutrition Basket
- 1 night stay at Airbnb above Planwell Financial LLC. Sleeps 9 guests
- DQ Basket
- Garden fountain with pump
- Wine O'Clock Somewhere
- Baby Quilt
- BP Merchant memorabilia shadow box created with donated items. A little piece of BP history!
- Heavy Equipment Adventure for up to 5 people for 2 hours
- Minnesota Blossoms Wall Art
- Blossoms Football Lap Quilt and book "All The Steps I Have Taken" and 2 Blossom Tumblers
- Door bench/hall tree hand crafted by Dennis Sisler Family. 7'5" tall, 31.75" wide, 16" deep
- 2 All day unlimited ride wristbands to Nickelodeon Universe, 2 passes to Moose Mountain or Rock of Ages Blacklight mini golf, 2 Fly Over America Tickets
- 2 nights at the Wilderness Resort WI Dells for 4 people, waterpark passes included
- Wine, Beer, and Pizza Party for 2 couples
- Walleye Fishing Trip with Brett King for up to 3 people. Must be used by February of 2022. Buyer must provide own fishing license.
- Bison cooler with Awesome Blossom Logo and 2 Bison 32oz coffee tumblers
- Garbage service for a year
- Large Live Winter Evergreen Arrangement. Delivered November of 2021.
- Wooden Planter Box (x2). Choice
- 2 Welch Village all day lift tickets at Welch Village plus $100 spending money. Money can be used for rental or whatever you want. New or experienced skiers welcome.
- Wheaties Box with Awesome Blossom Logo
- A Cookie Jar Filled With Chocolate Chip Cookies (x2). Choice
- Ride with Santa down Main Street and be the first in line for Pictures with Santa during Blooming Prairie 2021 Holidazzle
- Scrabble Wall Art
- Two Tickets to the Friday June 25th Gopher 50 Race at Deerk Creek Speedway in the Miner's Outdoor suite. Watch a race from the infield. Food and drink servered throughout the evening
- Handmade wooden excavator
- Sandy Jones will do an Awesome Blossom Painting on a wall of your choice
- Professional whitening treatment dental care basket
- Private wine class for 20. Expires 1/1/2022
- Famous Hooch
- rustic bird house
- Carrot Cake
- Brewery Tour for 10 (includes 90-120 minute educational tour, including tasting, and a pint for each person)
- Adult bowling party for up to 10 people. 2 lanes for 2 hours and 1 hour of simulator trap shooting
- Bloody Mary/Dilly Bean Basket
- Wine Rack made from horseshoes and wine
- Golf for 4 with a cart at Somerby
- Step 2 Playhouse
- 11 piece combination wrench set (standard or metric choice)
- Spring Yard Work - in town only between March 21st - May 27th, 2022
- Canvas Bag with Pete the Cat Books
- Framed Picture
- Framed Magnet Board
- Canvas Picture
- "When I'm 100 Years Old" Book
- "When I Grow Up" Book
- Flower Pot with Flowers
- Puzzle and Classroom Book
- Picture Window Frame
- Awesome Blossom Chair
- Outdoor Planter Chair
- Jenga Yard Game
- Cookbook and Supplies with Apron Basket
- Summer Fun Basket
- Chocolate Celebration Basket
- For the Dogs and Cats Basket
- Minnesota Sports Basket
- Art Basket
- 1 hour of Garden Tilling
- Butter braids, popcorn, fruit combo
- Spanish/English Basket
- Table Centerpiece and gift certificate
- Blooming Basistas Basket
- Unicorn Basket
- Horseshoe Coffee Mug Holder
- Horseshoe Table
- Kids Sweatshirt, Size M and stocking hat
- Cars and Coffee Gift Basket
- Kids Sweatshirt, Size L and stocking hat
- Wenger Symphony Chair
- Usborne Book Basket
- Nature Painting
- Blizzard of the month club. Receive a free 16oz Blizzard each month for a year!
- Disney Princess Basket
- Blossoms remote control car
- Large Jar of Seasoned Pretzels
- Boat Tour on the St. Croix River for 2
- Kids Sweatshirt, Size XS and stocking hat
- Holiday Swirl Spinner
- 2 gate admission tickets for 2021 State Fair, Aug 26 - Sept. 6. 2020 tickets will be honored for 2021
- Birdhouse
- Mike Modano signed photo and puck, 2 MN Wild Pillows, Alexander Radulov autographed hockey puck
- 2 dozen buns
- 130 piece tool set and $25 gift card
- Lady Bug Bowling Ball
- Awesome Blossom Gnome
- Chex Mix
- Relaxation basket with spa essentials and tote
- Ice Cream Basket and Have Games, Will Travel Certificate
- Dirty Details Basket
- Coffee Mug Holder made from horseshoes
- Reclining Camping Chair
- Lego Basket
- Faith in a Basket and Religious Wall Art x2
- Blessed Wall Hanging
- LuLa Roe Teddy Bear jacket - size large
- Dinosaur and Ocean Figures
- Vikings and Gophers Quilt
- Deluxe First Aid kit
- Kids Sweatshirt, Size XL and stocking hat
- Music Instruments
- 12x18 BP Watertower canvas
- Valentine's Day Wreath
- BP Merchant memorabilia shadow box created with donated items. A little piece of BP history!
- Religious Wall Art x2, Last Supper Tapestry
- MN Gophers Basket
- Royal Doulton figurine
- PS3
- 3 picture wall hanging
- 12 kids haircuts, ages 13 and younger
- Twins sign
- Super Hero Game Basket
- Water Table
- Season Pretzel Mix
- Pressed glass star punch bowl from the 1930s
- Brewery Basket
- Layered Oreo Cake
- Assorted Ball Jars in Painted Wooden Crate
- SPAM Basket
- Awesome Blossoms Wall Art
- Minnesota Blossoms Wall Art
- Crocheted blanket and Movie Theatre Tickets (8). May use even though expired. For Rochester only.
- Blooming Prairie Pride basket
- Color Street Nail Basket and tote
- Professional whitening treatment dental care basket
- Birdhouse
- Willow Tree Angels
- 2 Early Bird Tickets to Junk Bonanza at Canterbury Park. Valid for Sept. 23 - 25, 2021
- Special K bars
- Banana Bars
- Picnic Basket
- 3 Bottles of Peterson Wine
- Live Life in Full Bloom Painting
- Salem Glen Wine with Gnome Topper
- Dental Hygiene Basket. Includes Oral B Genius toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss and more!
- Metal Yard Art - Heart (small)
- 4 magnetic miniature vases
- multi color handmade glass plate
- 4 VIP passes for admission. Buyer needs to make reservation for a specific date when tickets will be emailed to them.
- $100 off any Wate Removal (x2)
- cut glass water server
- Quilt
- Pampered Chef Baking Basket
- Hand Painted Story Time Chair and Book
- professional dental care basket
- Fox Wall Art
- Baby Yoda Painting
- Basket, Includes drawing of the town and 150th book
- Small Wine Rack
- DragonFly Wall Art
- Gnome and Love Sign, tote, and Admission Ticket to the 2021 Renaissance Festival (x2). 2020 tickets honored for 2021, Scarf
- Jewelry Lamp
- Secret Haven Print
- Family Story Bench
- Breast Cancer Awareness Tote filled with hat, garden gloves, golf balls, tees, bandana, handmade scarf, notepad and more

2021 BLOSSOM SENIOR AWARDS

Congratulations to these seniors from Blooming Prairie on the scholarships they were awarded on May 12:



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Mike Ressler, far left, and Melissa Braaten, far right, awards the JMAC Scholarship to: (from left) Abby Braaten, Megan Oswald, Luke Larkoski, Taylor Wurst, Alex Piller and Rachel Thompson. This was the tenth and final year for the JMAC Scholarship.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Activities Director Alison Mach presents Megan Oswald and Alex Miller with a plaque to commemorate them being recognized as the female and male recipients of Blooming Prairie Letter Club Outstanding Senior Athlete.

2021 Senior Awards

Lillian Abbe
- BP Ambulance Scholarship Ashleigh Alwes
- Winona State University Presidential Honor Scholarship

Adrianna Bermea
- Alice Myers Memorial Scholarship Abby Braaten
- JMAC Scholarship
- Rachel & Emerson Harberts Scholarship

Maggie Bruns
- Gustavus Adolphus College Presidential Honor Scholarship
- Legacy Scholarship
- First Lutheran Church Scholarship
- Education Foundation Scholarship
- JayCee/Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Scholarship
- Magnuson Presidential Scholarship
- BP Teachers Association Scholarship
- Lions Scholarship
- Triple A Local Award

Cole Christianson
- Federated Insurance Scholarship
- Darrel Trom Memorial Scholarship
- Rodney Nelson Memorial Scholarship
- Farmer's Co-Op Elevator Scholarship
- Dale Hansen Memorial Scholarship
- Bud Ringenberger Scholarship
- FFA Alumni Scholarship
- BPHS Agricultural Trades Scholarship

Maren Forystek
- The College of St. Benedict Presidential Academic Achievement Scholarship
- Alumni Scholarship
- Legacy Scholarship
- Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
- JayCee/Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Scholarship
- Magnuson Presidential Scholarship

Ethan Grant
- Robert E Meyerhofer Scholarship

Charlie Heimerman
- American Legion Citizenship Award
- Eric Kaplan Memorial Scholarship
- BP Fire Department Scholarship
- American Red Cross Scholarship
- Triple A Local Award

Brianna Hensrud
- MSU, Mankato Raise Me Scholarship
- JMAC Scholarship
- James Underwood Scholarship
- Magnuson Scholarship

Shyane Jorgenson
- Open Arms Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program Scholarship
- AAUW Scholarship
- Lions Scholarship
- Katie Nelson Kindness Scholarship

Anna Kittelson
- BP Fire Department Scholarship
- BP Ambulance Scholarship

Allison Krohnberg
- Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall Vice President's Award
- College Now Scholarship
- Magnuson Scholarship
- Rachel & Emerson Harberts Scholarship
- Lions Scholarship

Emily Kubicek
- James Underwood Scholarship

Luke Larkoski
- Gustavus Adolphus College President's Scholarship
- Freeborn County Commissioners Scholarship
- JMAC Scholarship
- Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
- Magnuson Presidential Scholarship
- American Red Cross Scholarship
- Mayo Clinic Heath System Scholarship
- Wendy's High School Heisman Award

Lane Lembke
- Matmen John Carlson Scholarship

Grace Magnuson
- Winona State University Presidential Scholarship
- Winona State University Musical Arts Scholarship
- Winona State Arts Scholarship
- James Underwood Scholarship
- Magnuson Scholarship

Reese Millam
- University of Wisconsin, Stout Chancellor's Scholarship

Alex Miller
- Blooming Prairie Letter Club Outstanding Senior Athlete

Erin O'Brien
- Alice Myers Memorial Scholarship
- FFA Alumni Scholarship
- Ford/Ingvalson Scholarship

Megan Oswald
- University of Jamestown Women's Basketball Scholarship
- University of JamestownNursing Scholarship
- University of Jamestown Distinguished Scholarship
- Mayo Employee Dependent Academic Scholarship
- American Legion Citizenship Award
- Alice Myers Memorial Scholarship
- Arkema Scholarship
- JMAC Scholarship
- Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
- JayCee/Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Scholarship
- Farmer's Co-Op Elevator Scholarship
- LeMar Neslon Memorial Scholarship
- BP Teachers Association Scholarship
- Lions Scholarship
- Dale Hansen Memorial Scholarship
- Mayo Clinic Heath System Scholarship
- Mayo Clinic Health System Auxiliary Scholarship
- Connie Njos-Gilbertson Award & Scholarship
- Wendy's High School Heisman Award
- Blooming Prairie Letter Club Outstanding Senior Athlete

Alex Piller
- JMAC Scholarship
- Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
- James Underwood Scholarship
- Magnuson Scholarship
- BP Ambulance Scholarship

Joseph Pirkl
- Lions Scholarship

Jessica Ressler
- Lions Scholarship
- American Red Cross Scholarship

Rachael Riley
- North Dakota State University Presidential Scholarship

Halle Strunk
- College of St. Benedict Academic Achievement Scholarship
- College of St. Benedict Legacy Scholarship

Greta Sunde
- Mayo Clinic Heath System Scholarship
- Mayo Clinic Health System Auxiliary Scholarship

Kiya Thompson
- North Dakota State University Green and Y ellow Award
- Alice Myers Memorial Scholarship

Rachel Thompson
- University of Minnesota-Duluth Scholarship
- JMAC Scholarship
- James Underwood Scholarship

Micalyn Trihus
- Bemidji State University Volleyball Scholarship
- Bemidji State University Scholarship

Taylor Wurst
- Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Scholarship
- JMAC Scholarship

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP MONEY FOR THE CLASS OF 2021 is $714,670

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Geneva, Mn 507-256-7258

misgen auto parts
507-684-2100
12880 SW 72nd Ave, Ellendale

MnDOT seeking feedback on intersection in Blooming Prairie

Motorists driving in Blooming Prairie have likely noticed some changes to an intersection leading into the downtown area. And now safety officials want some feedback on the changes.

Last week the Minnesota Department of Transportation installed a demonstration project at Hwy. 218 and 1st Street N.E., which is the intersection by the former Krejci Ford dealership. The project includes potential intersection safety improvements.

MnDOT is seeking community feedback on the temporary changes at the intersection.

Demonstration projects allow MnDOT, project partners and community members to evaluate potential improvements before investing in permanent infrastructure changes. A list of demonstration projects in Minnesota, including Blooming Prairie's, can be viewed at www.dot.state.mn.us.

The demonstration project in Blooming Prairie includes temporary alterations with paint and flex posts at the intersection.

"With the Hwy. 218 demonstration project, MnDOT wants to see if changes to the roadway can slow down traffic turning off of Hwy. 218, and we want to see if people feel more comfortable walking through the intersection," said Kurt Wayne, MnDOT District 6 principal planner.

"We'd like to hear from the people who use it, because their feedback is important."

Community members are encouraged to provide feedback about their experiences and impressions of the intersection changes through an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/mbgq216 by Aug. 1.

The Hwy. 218 corridor through Blooming Prairie is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2024. The project's purpose is to improve pedestrian safety and reduce vehicle crashes. MnDOT is reviewing options for through lanes, turn lanes and bicycle and pedestrian facilities with the City of Blooming Prairie.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

MnDOT has installed a demonstration project at Hwy. 218 and 1st Street N.E. across from Arkema in Blooming Prairie. MnDOT is seeking community feedback on the enhancements until Aug. 1.

PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ **BLOTTER** from **A4**

suspended license and no insurance, $475; Benjamin K. Dybas, 20, Janesville, WI, speeding, $115; Nathan A. Frye, 35, Waseca, revoked license and no insurance, $475; Jose J. Guaman Quizhpi, 20, Minneapolis, speeding and invalid license, $235; Kenaniah J. Handlee-Davis, 24, St. Cloud, speeding, $75 and 90 days in county jail; Dennis J. Helton, 29, Waseca, expired tabs, $105; Gregory R. Israel, 23, Rochester, stop sign, $225; Zachary G. Jansen, 30, Rochester, speeding, $115; Alexander J. Kovich, 22, no insurance, $275; Carl W. Luedtke, 17, Rochester, speeding, $115; Robert Martinez, 37, St. Cloud, terroristic threats, $75, 1 year in county jail; Khadar A. Mohamed, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $125; Candace M. Morris, 36, Waterville, speeding, $215; Hudson A. Mrotz, 23, Ellendale, speeding, $215; Lexi L. Nelson, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $135; Wesley M. Nelson, 31, Columbia, MO, speeding and no insurance, $335; Teriann Powell, 38, Waseca, child passenger restraint system violation and no insurance, $300; Cheyenne D. Quam, 31, Ellendale, expired tabs and no insurance, $305; Michael J. Shadow, 19, Dodge Center, revoked license, $275; John H. Spence, 21, Geneva, speeding and no insurance, $335; Trace M. Stanley, 23, Hollandale, revoked license, $275; Melissa J. Toot, 23, Owatonna, revoked license, $275; Maria G. Torres Garza, 28, Owatonna, speeding, $115; Jorge A. Torres, 19, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $115; Megan A. Treece, 22, Ham Lake, speeding, $115; Ashley C. Valadez, 28, Wautoma, WI, revoked license and speeding, $325; Amanda E. Willis, 33, Northglenn, CO, speeding, $115.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

May 7
Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 2:22 p.m.
Hit and Run: At 3:31 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 300 block of School St. E.
Restraining Order: At 6:15 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 900 block of 14th St. NE.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 700 block of Vine St. E. at 7:51 p.m.
Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 9:59 p.m.
May 8
Mental Health: Police responded to a mental health incident in the 500 block of Grove Ave. S. at 3:41 a.m.
Burglary: Police began burglary investigations in the 200 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 8:19 a.m. and the 1500 block of Frontage Rd. E. at 12:39 p.m.
Hit and Run: At 9:08 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE.
Drugs: Police responded to drug activity in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 11:29 p.m.
May 9
Vulnerable Adult: Police received a vulnerable adult report from the 800 block of Grove Ave. S. at 12:49 a.m.
Warrant: Officers made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of North St. W. at 1:35 p.m.
Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 400 block of School St. E. at 11:21 p.m.
May 10
Drugs: Police responded to drug activity in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 12:45 a.m. and the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. E. at 3:44 p.m.
Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 9:15 a.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1800 block of Elm Ave. S. at 10:59 a.m.
Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:26 p.m.
Fraud: Officer issued a fraud citation in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 2:26 p.m.
May 11
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1100 block of Oak Ave. S. at 10:32 a.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

May 7
DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at 138th St. SE and 94th Ave. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 3:20 p.m.
Dispute: Deputies responded to a neighborhood dispute in the 2500 block of 24th Ave. SW in Owatonna Township at 5:08 p.m.
May 9
Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 7500 block of 52nd Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 2:03 p.m.
May 10
Animal: At 6:27 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 2900 block of Rose St. in Owatonna Township.
May 11
Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Main St. S. and 1st Ave. SW in Medford at 1:59 a.m.
Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 6:12 p.m.
Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 6:54 p.m.
Animal: Deputies received a report of a dangerous dog in the 8900 block of 37th Ave. SW in Somerset Township at 8:49 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Trerelas Dishauwn Harris, 37, arrested at 11:21 a.m. May 11, warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 2 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:
Daniel R. Anderson, 37, Janesville, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to $130, 80 months in St. Cloud State Prison and predatory offender registration.
The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 2 – 9:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

James L. Artig III, 36, Circle Pines, possession of marijuana and revoked license, 18 days in county jail; Susan R. Christopherson, 61, Hayfield, speeding, $140; Zachary M. Edling, 31, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Tanner B. Fischer, 23, Kettle River, speeding, $220; Ethan K. Golinghorst, 29, Windom, parking violation, $32; Olivia M. Herzog, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $280; Donald E. Leth, 79, Mantorville, burning permit violation, $130; Leonardo Lopez, 20, Northfield, suspended license and speeding, $330; Michael J. Moechnig, 31, West Concord, speeding, $380; Michael D. Myers, 32, Dodge Center, speeding, $130; Diego Pena, 18, Claremont, speeding, $130; Steve H. Searles, 61, Pine Island, speeding, $130; Nycolls C. Setterlund, 27, Mantorville, parking violation, $32; Joshua N. Tamez, 33, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Laura C. Wittwer, 42, Dodge Center, possession of paraphernalia, $280; Mekiyal M. Wright, 20, Rochester, failure to stop for school bus, $500.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Barbara A. Clark, 65, Kasson, revoked license, no insurance and registration violation, $580; Amanda L. Finck, 32, Rochester, parking violation, $32; Leah C. Hoegh, 39, Byron, speeding, $220; Kog J. Malith, 28, Kasson, disorderly conduct, $180; Benjamin J. McKee, 46, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Jalil T. Nelson, 26, Hatfield, PA, parking violation, $32; Guadalupe Salas, 33, West Concord, hands free violation, $130; Eric L. Sickenger, 46, Waseca, revoked license and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, $380; Jeremy M. Wilburn, 39, Rochester, domestic assault, $75, no contact with victim, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Treyten P. Kane, 18, Owatonna, speeding, $220.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Juan M. Angulo, 34, Kasson, ATV on roadway, $130; Ricky A. Benner, 57, Mantorville, speeding, $120; Erika E. Bergstad, 26, Hayfield, speeding and revoked license, $340; Aaron T. Jenkins, 24, Rochester, speeding, $130; Timothy R. Pagel, 30, West Concord, speeding, $130; Joshua E. Telljohann, 41, Hayfield, DWI, $580, chemical assessment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Garry D. Trawick Jr., 40, Lake Station, IN, speeding, $220.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mirna Hernandez, 61, West Concord, parking violation, $32; Jordan D. Lindeman, 23, Medford, tampering with motor vehicle, 90 days in county jail.

MAY BLOSSOMS OF THE MONTH
Blooming Prairie High School

Halle Strunk- Senior

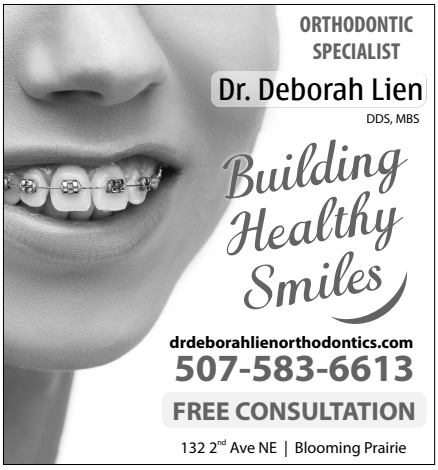
The senior high student of the month is Halle Strunk, who is a senior. Her favorite class is foods and Spanish. "I love to cook and always doing something different and fun," she says.
"Halle always has an upbeat attitude and does not shy away from a challenge," said one of her teachers. "She works well with her peers and expects the best from herself and those around her."
Other teachers commented about Halle:
• "Halle is a great leader. She is always willing to help other students."
• "Halle is very motivated and has the confidence to succeed in anything she chooses." Her special interest is golf. "It's my favorite sport and something I will always be doing," Halle said.
Halle's siblings are Trent, Ethan and Elly. She has five dogs, five cats, a bunny and a horse to keep her busy. Their names include: dogs- Ginger, Mikko, Nena, Kelso and Fern; cats- Roger, Ferb, Otter, Moose and Skittles; horse- Starsky and bunny- Princess Poppy.

Jeremiah Jones- Eighth Grade

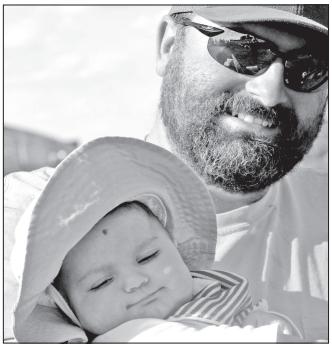
The junior high student of the month is Jeremiah Jones, who is completing eighth grade. His favorite class is gym because "I move around and exercise," he said.
Some comments shared by Jeremiah's teachers include:
• "Jeremiah is a respectful young man that has a heart of gold and would help others in need."
• "JJ is normally a very positive, happy young man. I have never heard him say a mean word about anyone. In class, he typically does what he's asked to do when he's asked to do it."
• "JJ has been a wonderful addition to our classroom and school this year! He has a funny sense of humor and a caring and outgoing personality. It has been fun to get to work with him and watch his academic skills improve throughout this year!"
• "I truly enjoy working with JJ, he gives 100% all the time. JJ is a very kind respectful polite young man. Best of all he makes me laugh, which makes my job easier and the day go faster."
His special interests are riding bike, scooter rides, swimming, walks and going to the beach.
Jeremiah has seven siblings: Isaiah, Elijah, Demari, Camille, Sharissa, Zara and Nila. He also has a dog, Miko, and two cats, Zeri and Posi.

MINERS Outdoor & Rec
507-583-2712
1 Hwy 218 South
Blooming Prairie, MN
www.minersoutdoor.com
Hours:
Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:30pm
Saturday: 8:00am-Noon

Blossoms of the Month is sponsored by this community booster!



The youngest baseball fan?



Three-month-old Case O'Connor may well be the tiniest and youngest baseball fan who recently took in a Blooming Prairie eighth-grade baseball game with his dad, Patrick O'Connor

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Nine departments battle hog barn fire near Waseca

Firefighters from four counties battled a blaze that killed 3,000 sows and 9,000 piglets at the Woodville Pork hog barns, located just east of Waseca, on Sunday and Monday.

The Waseca Fire Department, along with Owatonna Fire Department, was called to the structure fire on Sunday, May 16, at 10:28 p.m.

Upon arrival, firefighters found heavy fire and smoke coming from a large hog barn. Assistance was requested from Medford, Ellendale, Morristown, Waterville, Janesville, Waldorf and New Richland. At one point, there were more than 20 tankers on the scene.

Also assisting was Waseca County Sheriff's Office and North Ambulance.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the blaze, according to officials. The two large hog barns were a total loss.

Damage estimates are not available Monday and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The State Fire Marshal office was on scene Monday morning.

Drug court grad takes charge of his recovery

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gerald Pettipiece recently became the Steele Waseca Drug Court's 70th graduate.

At a recent Steele Waseca Drug Court (SWDC) virtual graduation ceremony, Third District Court Judge Joseph A. Bueltel reminded attendees that addiction can hit anyone.

He went on to congratulate Gerald Pettipiece, the court's 70th graduate.

Since its inception in July 2014, SWDC Coordinator Nicole Gram said, the drug court program has served 212 participants, with 106 of them either withdrawing – electing to serve their jail or prison time or transfer to another drug court – or being terminated because of new criminal behavior or rejection of services.

An alternative to incarceration, drug courts throughout the country reduce the costs of repeatedly processing high-risk, high-need substance abusers through the courts, jails, and prisons while providing offenders a pathway to recovery.

SWDC's five-phase program is rigorous, according to Grams. Participants are required to abstain from substance use, to be accountable for their behavior and to fulfill the legal responsibilities of the offenses they have committed.

Weekly or monthly, court attendance is also required depending on which phase of the program a participant is in. Recovery-related programming includes treatment, support meetings, mental health meetings, completion of a cognitive skills program that helps change behaviors and at least three hours of self-help recovery meetings each week.

Participants submit to a minimum of twice-weekly random testing.

Other requirements for graduation from the program include completing treatment, making meaningful connections in the recovery community, obtaining a valid driver's license, GED/Diploma, employment and compliance with child support and payment of any fines, fees or restitution.

There are currently 37 participants in the SWDC program.

Pettipiece, who entered drug court in October of 2019 on his second felony DWI conviction that involved property, faced a mandatory prison sentence of 42 months. By taking part in drug court, he was allowed to have a downward departure and remain in the community while engaging in rehabilitation services.

While participating in drug court, Pettipiece underwent 266 days of daily remote alcohol testing and 121 in-person alcohol and drug tests. On graduation day, he'd been sober for 578 days.

"You said you were going to do this program in 18 months and you did," said Saraj VanHoudt, Pettipiece's counselor from House of Hope, during the graduation ceremony. "I'm proud of you."

To other drug court participants, VanHoudt said, "Jerry is an example that you can be fully compliant the whole way through. If there is a will, there is a way."

Managing flies on cattle operations

◄ **MANAGING** from **A6**

I'm focusing on premise flies here, because spring is a good time to clean any confined areas.

Stable flies and house flies are considered "premise flies" because they are found in confined areas, such as barns, reproducing in organic debris including bedding and manure. Stable flies are blood feeders, so they bite cows and cause behaviors such as stomping, tail switching, and bunching. Because of these behaviors, stable fly presence can result in reduced production. Stable fly larvae (maggots) are often found in soiled cow and calf bedding. The adult flies spend time on the legs of cattle

House flies are not blood feeders and cause minimal defensive behaviors. House flies have sponging mouthparts and feed on secretions from the nose and eyes, spending some time around the faces of cows. Otherwise, house flies don't spend too much time on the animals. They mainly reproduce in manure.

To manage stable flies and house flies, start with sanitation. Doing your best to remove possible breeding sites like rotting hay or grain, spilled feed or TMR, manure piles, and other decaying matter is the most effective way to manage stable flies and house flies. A thorough spring cleanout is helpful, followed by frequent debris removal. Scrape, haul, spread, or compost soiled bedding every other week during the summer, if possible. These steps toward cleanliness should be part of any fly management plan, even if you also use additional methods.

Scouting should also be part of your management strategy. Do this to determine where flies are reproducing on your property. Start scouting by examining areas that contain organic matter – bedding, feed, manure piles – and more. Dig or scrape around in areas with organic matter and search for larvae (maggots) and pupae to figure out where your trouble areas are. Cleaning out these problem areas in the spring can help decrease fly breeding over the next few months.

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

Tips for growing strawberries in containers

◄ **TIPS** from **A6**

close together, they pack a lot of fruit production into a small space. Each plant will produce about 0.5-1.0 lb when grown in full sunlight with adequate soil conditions and water. If large fruit is your goal, try planting them slightly further apart.

Tip #5: Don't forget to water!

Strawberries need regular watering to keep producing strong yields of large fruit all season. In fact, strawberry farmers irrigate their strawberries with drip tape or sprinklers to make sure they are getting at least 1 inch of water per week.

Water at least twice per week, or more during the mid-summer when temperatures are hot and the plants are growing rapidly. Check the soil moisture daily by sticking your thumb into the top inch of soil. If the top inch is dry, apply water. You also can use a soil moisture meter to develop a more precise watering regimen.

Annie Klodd ***is an extension educator in fruit and vegetable production.***

County seeking new jail partners

◄ **COUNTY** from **A1**

get a discussion going," Brady said.

The board agreed, particularly when it came to reaching out to Waseca county. "They're going through the same thing Rice County was going through where they have the requirement that they have to do something," Commissioner Greg Krueger said. "Dodge County's a little bit different."

"This is something that will help all the counties involved, it's not just something for Steele County, but it will save whoever we partner with a lot of money also. So it's kind of one of those win-win situations," Krueger said.

Brady also said taxpayers stand to gain from any agreement between counties. "With these adjoining counties, we have a common border with both of them," he explained. "As far as taxpayers, you have farmers who own farms on both sides of the line and for those people, this would be the best of both worlds."

After briefly discussing the possibility, the board made a motion to have Golberg reach out to Waseca County first to see if they can begin preliminary talks on forming a partnership for a joint jail operation. "Let's see if we can get a partnership that will benefit both parties," said Commissioner Jim Abbe.

If Steele County cannot partner with one of its neighboring counties, other options being floated include moving county law enforcement and corrections personnel into the detention center.

It's a shame to see partnership ended

◄ **A SHAME** from **A2**

do, the effort was a fundraiser for other community projects. We are a non-profit organization. Money raised through vendor booths, popcorn, winter rentals and at one time pinball machines, was used to dig the crappie pond at Morehouse Park, buy land at Rice Lake for a public park, start and support the recycling center, open and maintain the Oak Glen Lake park and wayside rest, and partner with other outdoor groups for the Straight River wildlife production area, to name just some projects.

Even though the chapter did not own the building, the chapter painted it, re-shingled it four times before paying for the steel roof (picking up the rest of the cost after the insurance payment to the county), drilled a well to keep the fish display and purchased a filter system to remove the iron from the well water, upgraded the electrical, replaced lighting and replaced the north door twice in one year because of vandalism, among other maintenance work done regularly.

No one disagrees that the cedar shakes that are now over 80 years old, on a 50-year usual life, need to be replaced but spending a significant sum on a building that is not owned by us is not a good business decision even as we were scolded by fair officials for not doing it.

Our chapter could not support paying $6,000 a year in rent, $3,000 for this year, due Aug. 31, and then $500 a month starting thereafter. We offered to provide the attraction this year for a promotional fee, as fees are paid for other attractions for the fair, while turning over all the potential revenue but that was soundly rejected by the fair officials.

The chapter and the book have closed. And it is a shame.

Ted Mittelstadt
Izaak Walton Chapter President
Owatonna

Dodge County needs to serve all citizens

◄ **DODGE** from **A2**

ally think there may be an issue out there with your garbage hauler." The problem with this expert investigation– we don't have a garbage hauler.

Where do we turn for assistance if local law enforcement will not investigate and respond to our cries for help?

The citizens of Dodge County deserve law enforcement that serves on behalf of all citizens– not just industry giants and their local pawns.

Like a knee on the necks of Black people in urban areas, industry giants, with the aid of pro-industry local officials, have had a firm knee on the necks of Dodge County citizens for years.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Among the garbage found near the Trom family farm in Westfield Township was a notice of an annual meeting for the Minnesota Pork Board. The Troms claim they are being intentionally harassed and intimidated with garbage being dumped on their property among other things.

Sonja Trom Eayrs grew up in rural Dodge County as a farmer's daughter. She now lives in the Twin Cities, where she is an attorney and advocate for rural Minnesota.

County telecommuting policy may change

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

With vaccines being rolling out to more and more residents and things slowly return to normal, Steele County is eying possible changes to its regular telecommuting policy.

"We talked about some of the transitional things we would be doing as we moved out of the pandemic and into the post-pandemic and one of those things was our telecommuting policy," County Administrator Scott Golberg said.

The county currently has two policies, one adopted in 2012 and the more recent policy adopted in 2020 on an interim basis for the pandemic. "The proposed updated policy to be considered represents an updated version to use going forward, which would essentially replace the other two," Golberg said. "It would be our working policy."

While the board did not take action on the policy itself during its meeting Tuesday, they did determinee that a work session would be needed to hammer out some specifics before adopting a new, updated policy.

"I think when we look at telecommuting, there are three critical questions that come into play," Golberg said. "I think one of them is can the job be performed at the same service level whether remote or at the office, and that's one of the things we will do with this policy."

The second question is whether the policy is clear with the expectations and requirements. "Hopefully, we have a decent policy there that articulates everything we need to have in there," Golberg said.

"Last but not least is how is workforce productivity measured," Golberg added. "I think that's an issue whether we have a telecommuting policy or not. Whether we're measuring performance in the office or whether we're measuring it in a telecommuting arrangement, we have some departments that have a great metric that measures employees' outputs."

County IT Director Dave Purscell set up the metric. "I think with a telecommuting policy essentially we're going to have to be deriving more of that type of metric or output driven measurement to determine if the employee is productive," Golberg said. "It still is no different than working in the office in certain respects. You still have to determine if the employee is being efficient and being productive."

"I think we learned from the pandemic that telecommuting can work, but due to the very nature of our departments and the work that we do, it won't work for everyone and it won't work for every department," Golberg said.

Should the policy be adopted, Golberg told the board that less than 20% of employees would be telecommuting. "It's probably close to 10%."

Golberg said that the policy would be more of a hybrid arrangement where employees would not be exclusive to telecommuting or office work due to the nature of county work. "We do have to service our county," he said, adding that a telecommuting arrangement would have to be approved for each employee before an arrangement would be made.

The board looked at policies around the state and with neighboring counties while weighing their own options. Part of the reason that an updated policy has been floated is that the newer employees may have altered expectations of telecommuting after the pandemic.

"The pandemic has given us some experience and a silver lining of sorts in that we have discovered that some positions can happen in a remote fashion to some degree," Human resources Director Julie Johnson told the board.

"As the would of work has changed the past year from COVID expectations from applicants have also changed and we're seeing that in our applicant pools," Johnson said

The board hopes to survey the department heads in order to get a round number of how many, if any, positions and employees would be applicable to the updated telecommuting policy before moving ahead on the specifics of such a policy.

Owatonna police update patrol cars with new dash camera system

◄ **OWATONNA** from **A1**

The new system reduces the chances of officer error, according to Mundale.

While state law doesn't mandate when the cameras must be on, Mundale said city policy does.

Since the inception of the body camera program in December of 2019, Owatonna police officers have been required to turn their body cameras on for all pedestrian and traffic stops, during the execution of search warrants, when interviewing a suspect, during arrests and during any adversarial encounter with the public. Officers also can turn them on at their discretion, said Mundale, adding that an officer might choose to turn the camera on if the recording might have evidentiary value in the future.

"Body cameras enhance the mission of the department by accurately capturing contacts between members of the department and the public," said Mundale.

Even before the department's body camera program began, officers in the department were onboard. "They actually tested the cameras and helped choose the vendor we purchased the equipment from," said Mundale.

"Officers like to wear body cams because of the increased transparency and accountability," said Mundale. "You also want to maintain the integrity of the investigation."

Video evidence can be powerful, as Minnesotans and the nation witnessed in the death of George Floyd.

And with more and more members of the public recording interactions with police, Mundale said one of the things the officers like about wearing body cameras is that an officer's body camera video captures the whole police-citizen encounter – things that the public might not see or think to record.

Cameras, said Mundale, tend to alter one's behavior because everyone involved knows they are being observed. "It's called the Hawthorne Effect."

In 2020, Owatonna police body cameras captured 28,836 videos, accounting for nearly 12,000 hours of video. And depending on the type of event recorded, policy requires that the videos be stored a minimum of 90 days and up to 7 years for arrests, citizen evidentiary contacts, crash investigations and cases involving the use of force. Body camera videos involving criminal sexual conduct and death investigations must be stored permanently.

Mundale himself is extremely pleased with the body camera program and the results it's produced.

"We have never had an instance that didn't have video when an officer's action warranted review," said Mundale. "Most reviews are internal. And, no citizen-generated complaints have been substantiated since going to body cams."

He estimated that there have been fewer than a dozen complaints in the 16-months since the program began, and none involved excessive use of force in arrest situations.

In addition to recording video, officers can use their body cameras to make audio recordings and take still photographs. They can also be used as a telephone.

BP community, visitors enjoy city-wide garage sale

◄ **COMMUNITY** from **A1**

wide garage sale is a big social event.

"People travel from sale to sale. It's a great community building event," she said.

Thanks to community-building events such as the city-wide garage sale, she said, "Blooming Prairie is an amazing community and I'm proud to be part of it."

On top of strengthening Blooming Prairie's community, Magnus noted that it was a great chance for visitors to come in and enjoy the garage sales as well as specials downtown on Main Street.

As if that weren't enough, she said it brought a lot of people to the over 25 garage sales around Blooming Prairie.

"It's just a great chance to sell some things that we don't need any more and we really appreciate that," she said.

Meanwhile, the city-wide garage sale also provided opportunities for buyers who were going around town visiting various garage sales.

Carol Hierlmaier said some of the best items that she or her husband bought were a snowblower and a gift for her daughter's wedding.

"It's nice during the city-wide garage sale because there's lots of them and you usually find stuff rather than a normal weekend where there's a garage sale her and maybe another one a ways away," she said.

She's also enjoyed the social aspect of the city-wide garage sale.

"There's been people we haven't seen for a long time," Hierlmaier said.

Another garage sale buyer, Sammie Decker, said she was looking for items for her wedding, which is scheduled for Oct. 2.

Straight Talk about Steele County

◄ **STRAIGHT** from **A2**

nix-Scottsdale, Ariz. area for many years. Her daughter, Jordan, married Zachary Olson, a native of Owatonna. And, as Hale said, if she wanted to see her grandchildren with any regularity, it meant moving to Minnesota.

Hale's professional background doesn't have anything to do with TV or social media. She worked in corporate insurance for 35 years with Prudential and later USAA. Her insurance work focused on international operations in places like Ireland.

At one point, she started a service for troops deployed to handle paying their bills during deployment. That eventually dried up as troops came back and spun her into the social media and digital marketing world.

Hale offers a neat perspective of being an outsider coming into an entirely new area. And she is more than impressed with what she has found in her new home of Steele County.

"People just rally and come together to promote events," Hale said. "It's amazing to watch the traction things get. People get things done."

The entrepreneur spirit that exists throughout the county also flabbergasts Hale. "There is something in the water here. This town is all entrepreneur," she said. "They come together with impossible goals and make it happen."

The current, as well as previous shows of Straight Talk, can be seen at www.owatonnalive.com.

It's reassuring that there are at least a couple of media organizations who are in hot pursuit of keeping a pulse on the great things happening in Steele County.

OBITUARIES

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Joanne Shaw, 83, Blooming Prairie

Joanne Shaw

Joanne Syverud Shaw, 83, of Blooming Prairie died on April 23, 2021.

She was born on April 20, 1938.

Joanne is survived by her husband David Shaw, daughter Renae, son Ron, son in-law Gary, daughter-in- law Lonnie. Grandchildren: Brian (Dana), Christopher, Michael (Chrissy), Amy (Jonathan), and Reid; great grandchildren: Haidyn, Eythan, and Grayson.

She was preceded in death by son Randy.

She also has three siblings: Doris Moe and family, Roger Syverud and family and Janice Kohlrusch and family, many nieces and nephew.

She was raised on a farm in Minnesota where she had chores such as gathering eggs, and helping her father drive the horses during haying season in the late forties. Her job was to hold the reins and pull back when her father said "WHOA."

She was active in 4-H, and was a princess and rode on the float.

Joanne was married on Dec. 16, 1956, and moved to California. On March 7, 1957, they moved back to Minnesota and then to Olympia, Wash., due to the fact David was drafted into the army. Their first son Randy was born in Olympia. They moved back to California in 1958, and Ron and Renae were born.

She was a hard worker, and had many jobs, from selling Avon, working in a machine shop and other odd jobs before she went to work at Crest Optical, and later became the owner.

She could remember every person's name and birthday.

She also was very busy with her children's extra activities.

Everyone that knew her would always comment on her smile and laugh.

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Students of the Week

Chloe 8TH GRADE

Chloe lives out our core values of Pray, Love, Learn, Give, and Lead in all she does. Chloe is a silent leader who always leads by example. She works hard, asks questions, and plans ahead. Chloe is kind and considerate to everyone and always has a smile on her face. She takes leadership roles seriously and always shows up. Chloe is involved in the Dance Team and this keeps her very busy. I have never heard Chloe complain about being busy or about her responsibilities. She takes it all head on, with a smile on her face. Chloe, thank you for being a constant shining light throughout your years at St. Mary's, we will miss you, but look forward to watching you shine at the high school!

PARENTS: Matt & Jessica | CHLOE WAS NOMINATED BY MRS. GINSKEY

Amanda 8TH GRADE

Amanda is a strong leader with a servant's heart. Like a true Shining Knight, she is not afraid of challenges. Amanda puts in consistent effort, and comes to class ready to learn. Amanda is kind to her classmates and willing to help however needed. Congratulations, Amanda, on being an SMS Shining Knight!

PARENTS: Phil & Katie | AMANDA WAS NOMINATED BY MRS. DEML

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Poppy Day is set for May 28 in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It's Poppy Day time once again in Blooming Prairie. This year's Poppy Day in BP is set for Friday, May 28. Poppies will be sold by VFW and American Legion Auxiliary members. Doreen Blome, left, is chair for the VFW Auxiliary Post 878 and Doris Rasmussen is chair for the American Legion Auxiliary Post 52.

It's Poppy Day in Blooming Prairie on Friday, May 28.

Members of the Blooming Prairie VFW Auxiliary Post 878 and American Legion Auxiliary Post 52 will be selling poppies at six different locations in Blooming Prairie during the day.

Get your poppy at the following locations: B to Z Hardware, Blooming Prairie Post Office, Vandal's Family Market, Nick's Cafe, Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club and the Pizza Cellar.

The Blooming Prairie auxiliaries typically alternate years of the poppy drive but since COVID-19 caused last year's drive to be cancelled, both auxiliaries will be joining hands on the project this year.

Doreen Blome is chair for the VFW Auxiliary and Doris Rasmussen is chair for the American Legion Auxiliary.

By wearing poppies on Poppy Day, Americans honor every service member who dies in the name of liberty, freedom and democracy, Blome and Rasmussen said. By giving a donation for the red poppy, people provide an opportunity to support veterans, local VFW and American Legion said.

Donations on Poppy Day go directly to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans.

Blome and Rasmussen thank Poppy Day supporters and also urge everyone to fly the American flag on Poppy Day (May 28) and on Memorial Day (May 31).

THE LITTLE RED FLOWER

The following poem tells the poppy story:

A man walked down the street the other day
The ladies of the Auxiliary came his way.
He took a poppy and gave a dime.
He mumbled, "why do they take up my time?"
He put the poppy in the buttonhole of his coat,
Next to some pencils and other notes.
When he got home, he placed the poppy on the table.
That red paper flower, with a little white label.
As he looked at the flower, as if inspired,
He wondered "Who put the flower on this wire?"
He's probably a man, who once stood tall,
and for his country he gave his all.
He might once have piloted a plane,
Now gives his all just to walk with a cane.
His strong hands were a sense of power,
Now he makes this little red flower
In our world we are busy with money and power,
While this man's job is this little red flower.
He still takes pride in what he has to do,
Petal by petal he makes this flower for you.
This year when it comes to Poppy Day
I'll be glad to see the Auxiliary come my way.
I'll cheerfully give to them generously,
for the veteran making this flower could have been me.

Author Unknown

BOOK NOOK

The library has changed

NANCY VAILLANCOURT

When the Blooming Prairie Branch Library opened 45 years ago this month, it was a momentous event for Blooming Prairie. However, if the people who used the library in 1976 could time travel and step into our current library, they might be confused! Computers at that time were common only at universities and large companies. Now we have computers on-site and anyone can access our wi-fi through portable devices such as laptops, tablets, and even your telephone.

You will no longer find a card catalog here; instead, you can access a catalog of our collection from anywhere using a computer. The vinyl records are gone. The VCR tapes were not here in 1976 and are not here now, but they were a hot item for a period of time. DVDs and Blu-ray Discs were not part of the collection. Cassettes were popular, but CDs were unknown.

The library's influence at the time was limited to its four walls. Now we have a wide variety of databases that are easily accessible from any computer. You can use your library card to learn languages, prepare for tests, find the value of your vehicle, and so much more.

With all these changes, many things remain the same. There is weekly pre-school Storytime (online at this point, but hopefully in person this summer). Avid readers gather in the library as they have always done. Concerned staff members are here to help you find what you need. The City of Blooming Prairie continues to support the library as we move forward into the future. Thank you all!

FREELANCE WRITER WANTED
The **STEELE COUNTY TIMES** is seeking a freelance writer & photographer to cover Blooming Prairie & Ellendale area news. Perfect opportunity for a retiree who loves to write & attend community events.
If interested, please email
Rick Bussler at bprick@frontier.com.

A warm welcome

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Exchange Club of Owatonna welcomes Kathey Huisman of Owatonna, right, as its newest member. Huisman brings ideas and passion for Exchange with her. Welcoming her into membership is Exchange Club of Owatonna President Gail Buckingham. The club meets every Thursday noon.

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LTO awards Veta Alexander Scholarship to Buegler

Little Theatre of Owatonna recently awarded its Veta Alexander Scholarship to Samuel Buegler, a senior at Owatonna High School.

Buegler, son of Todd and Lori Buegler of Owatonna, has been involved in 11 Owatonna High School's theatrical productions over the last four years. He also has performed in two LTO productions.

The Veta Alexander Scholarship recognizes a student's dedication to the theatrical arts. A recipient is chosen based on academic record, community involvement, leadership recognition, school activities, and involvement in LTO and other drama productions.

During his high school career, Buegler has been active in five bands: marching, jazz, pep, Trinity praise, and concert. He has been selected for concert choir and carolers for three years. Other activities have included Wildcat Pantry volunteer, mock trial, homecoming planning, and National Honor Society.

The Veta Alexander Scholarship was established in 1969, and Buegler is the 151st recipient. Currently, funds for the scholarship are provided by LTO patrons as 8% of each show's profit is regularly directed to this scholarship. In addition, individual donations and memorials have been and can be made to the Veta Alexander Scholarship Fund.

Buegler plans to attend Drake University in Des Moines, IA, to study Political Science.

Buegler will be recognized at Owatonna High School at the 2021 Academic Scholarship event on May 26 and on June 3 at the One-Act Festival. He will be honored at the opening night of the LTO summer production, Frumpled Fairy Tales, on Friday, July 16.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

May 19
Ashley Allison
Dean Zilm
Skylar Valek
Nancy Clark

May 20
Martin Krampitz
Frank Vorlicek
Patty Ingvalson
Terry Trotman

May 21
Jessica Kruckeberg
Dawn Ingvalson

May 22
Tricia Imker
Isabella Schiller
Howard Lestrud
Roger Hein

May 23
Alicia Levon

May 24
Jacob Peterson
Margaret Swenson
Sawyer Emanuel
Leah Thompson

May 25
John Welch
Porter Francis DeYoung
Maddie Broten Anderson

Anniversaries

May 19
Darrell & Cindi Hansen
Missy & Justin Korman
Ken & Judy Esplan
Tom & Hannah Stoneburner
Lerslie & Tom Shawback

May 20
Rich & Jean Schwartz
Pat & Jessica Skinner

May 21
Rick & Cheri Krejci
Fran & Cheryl Coughlin
Emma & Stephen Basness

May 22
Per & Andrea Kvalsten
Sheryl & Chris Mans

May 23
Greg & Laura Thomas

May 24
Paul & Jackie Smith
Val & Ashley Garcia
Clarence & Diana Boyd

May 25
Mr. and Mrs. L. Dean Christianson

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COLLEGE NEWS

MINNESOTA STATE, MOORHEAD

Three area students recently graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) during four college-level virtual ceremonies.

Jack Luebbe of Medford received his Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Criminal Justice.

Owatonna High Schools graduates Halea Picha received a Master of Science degree in Special Education and Tammy Spencer received her Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Paralegal.

MSUM will award degrees to more than 770 students, including 168 graduate students.

MINNESOTA STATE, MANKATO

Two Blooming Prairie students recently graduated from Minnesota State University Mankato during a virtual commencement ceremony.

Leah Schiefert received her Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene, Magna Cum Laude. And, Emily Sprau received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

Minnesota State, Mankato celebrated its 2021 spring semester student commencement by providing graduates "commencement-in-a-box" packages and personalized photo opportunities on a graduation stage while holding a virtual ceremony and launching a special website.

The three traditional commencement ceremonies scheduled for Saturday were canceled in March because of the COVID-10 pandemic.

The "commencement-in-a-box" packages were presented to graduates after their "graduate walk" or were shipped to graduates. Included inside the purple-and-gold branded boxes were a diploma cover, two commencement programs, small-branded gifts for the graduates and a personalized note from Davenport.

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

Megan Smith, a resident of Owatonna, was among more than 600 students who recently graduated from Bob Jones University.

Smith graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Since its founding in 1927, Bob Jones University, located in Greenville, S.C., has conferred more 49,000 degrees.

A stronghold in times of trouble

Pastor Matt Fennell

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLOOMING PRAIRIE

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him."

This little gem of Scripture comes from the book of Nahum. It can be found as the seventh verse of the very first chapter. While the comfort of this little verse is obvious the meaning gleams even more brightly when one considers the context. Before we examine this verse more completely let us take a moment to discuss its context.

Nahum's prophecy is one of the few books of the Bible not directly addressed to either the nation of Israel or Judah. It was written to the nation of Assyria of which Nineveh was the capitol and largest city. Nineveh here is representative of the larger state in its entirety. The subject of the text is the well deserved judgment that is imminently and justly about to be poured out upon their civilization for its gross immorality and wicked violence. Assyria was well known for the brutality and thorough way in which they decimated those it had conquered. By breaking up family units and forced integration of various enemies She created a new people without identity or loyalty. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had fallen to her power in 722 B.C. The Samaritan culture that was so repulsive to the Jews of Jesus' day were a result of this cruel forced intermingling of conquered people groups.

This, however, is not the first time Nineveh found herself in trouble with God, nor is Nahum the first prophet of God to address them. Some of you may well remember from Sunday School the story of Jonah and the great fish. Jonah was sent earlier to this same city with a message of God's great displeasure and impending judgment. They had avoided this dire situation when the king in a token of public repentance humbled himself publicly before the Lord. This event led to a city wide revival in which many repented, turned from their idols to the worship of the One true God they had so offended. Unfortunately that time of national repentance was relatively short lived and Assyria had returned to her old ways.

How strange then in this message of impending judgment and wrath we find this gleaming gem of mercy and grace, "The Lord is good. A stronghold in the day of trouble and He knoweth them that trust in Him." Let us consider to aspects of this verse. Firstly from the vantage of Judah a member of the greater house of Israel who now mourned the situation of the fallen ten tribes, which constituted the Northern Kingdom. Nahum's message is one of hope that not only will he measure out justice for their fallen brethren, but that ultimately and in spite of present situations He remains Sovereign. As such He will watch over those who are truly His no matter where or in what situation they may find themselves. We see this same truth echoed several years later when similarly Judah is carried off to Babylon. God know those who have placed their faith in Him and will not abandon or forsake them. Let us remind ourselves the reason the Northern Kingdom had gone into captivity in the first place was their own repeated idolatry, disobedience and out right defiance of their own God. Still God remembers his faithful remnant, even when he must bring judgment against the greater whole.

This leads me to the second consideration which is from the viewpoint of the Assyrian. Certainly the vast majority was quite content with the effectiveness of their violently cruel culture and the lifestyle it afforded. Yet, in this metropolis there must almost certainly been a remnant of those believers who in the days of Jonah had turned to worship. What of their spiritual progeny and descendants? Were they to be crushed and destroyed along with the rest. We find a midst these fierce words of judgment the sweet strains of mercy. Not only does God know those who trust in Him, but also he is a fortress to which they may flee in times of great peril. Here we again view the loving nature of God. One who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and is ever ready to hear the prayer of the repentant. Our loving God is eager to forgive and restore all who will turn to Him in true repentance and belief.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen 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., BP
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Walerius
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship Service- 9 a.m.
Sunday School- 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN- ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and
Jacie Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnswatonna.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 – LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd
Buegler; Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppegard
Worship: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30
a.m.- Sanctuary and 10:45
a.m.- Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m.- Live Stream at
facebook.com/tlcowatonna and
tlcowatonna.org/worshiplive
9:30 a.m.- Live broadcast on
KRUE 92.1 FM
Video on Spectrum (Ch.
181), Jaguar TV (Ch. 900)
and owatonnalive.com
- Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.,
Wednesday at 6 p.m. and
Sunday at 11 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

CATHOLIC

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

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave Owatonna
Father John Wilmot
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other
month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father John Wilmot
507-477-2256
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm
Saturday

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father Swaminatha
Pothireddy Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
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.com
Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father James Starasinich
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues.,
Wed. & Fri. (Communion
Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after hours
or weekends

CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

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

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
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.

MENNONITE

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

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

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

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE,
Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
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.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST (OWATONNA'S OLDEST CHURCH)
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Carla Nelson
507-272-9834
www.firstbaptistowatonna.
com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd St NE Geneva
Pastor 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.

FREE CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

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HELP CELEBRATE THE
FOURTH OF JULY
Door-to-door sales in Blooming Prairie
Wednesday, May 26th 5-7 p.m.
Buttons are NOW on sale at area businesses or reserve at the BP Chamber Office 583-4472
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Congratulations to this year's design winner Leah Watson a fourth grader at BP!
Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

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GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK

May's Garden To-Do Checklist

- After frost is no longer a concern, typically late May, you can plant semi-hardy annuals like coleus in the ground.
- When it is consistently warm day and night, get planting! Remember that if your precious new plants were raised in a greenhouse, they will need time to become hardened off. Give them time to adjust to the outdoors by placing them in a protected yet sunny place outdoors before placing them in the ground. Be sure to give them appropriate water during this time.
- Now is a good time to divide winter and fall blooming perennials. You may also want to eliminate or transfer to another spot any perennials that have selfseeded little ones.
- May is also a great time to put in peony cages and trellises.

Provided by Deb Kenison, Steele County Master Gardeners

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DON'T miss out on STEELE COUNTY Times THIS WEEK!
The Steele County Times is available at the following locations:
Blooming Prairie: Casey's, Vandal's, Steele County Times office
Ellendale: Casey's, Larberg's Grocery Store
Owatonna: Hy-Vee, Kwik Trip Oak St., Kwik Trip Mineral Springs, Sterling Drug, Cashwise, Kwik-Trip Frontage Rd, Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip Clinton Falls
STEELE COUNTY Times
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Helping those in a scary and uncertain world

Steele Talkin'
ANDREA MARSHALL

Are you or someone you know struggling with a difficult relationship? Ever wonder how to help make things better?

When you or someone you love is in an unhealthy/abusive relationship it can make their whole world seem uncertain and scary. Too many people misunderstand the complexity of these situations and need to have a better understanding of domestic and interpersonal violence. I reached out to Missie Boone, domestic violence program director of the Crisis Resource Center (CRC), and Travis Ernste, probation officer at Steele County Community Corrections to learn more about this problem and how their services can help people.

First off, what is abuse and how can someone tell the difference between abuse and normal problems/arguments in relationships?

There are many types of abuse, including, but not limited to both physical and verbal. Physical abuse comes in the form of hands-on violence such as hitting, pushing, pulling hair, or any level of physical harm toward another person. Verbal violence typically results out of power and control with the most common forms being threats of violence toward a domestic partner, insults, and controlling one's daily activities. Domestic violence is different from regular arguments, as it involves attempting to instill fear into their other person or control their behavior to limit their freedom. It is important to understand that Verbal and Emotional Abuse IS abuse and it is ok to talk about it. If you are being emotionally abused by your partner; you are in a domestic violent relationship and it is unhealthy. Emotional Abuse can be just as harmful as, if not more damaging than physical abuse. Physical wounds heal over time, however, something someone said that is emotionally traumatizing will stay with someone for a very long time, especially when the emotional abuse has occurred for a long time. Emotional abuse is more damaging to mental health. It can take away one's sense of self, make a person feel trapped, make them feel as if they are the problem, and can cause serious trauma that can affect a person for their lifetime. Victims of emotional abuse and trauma often need individual therapy services to process past trauma and help rebuild their confidence and self-esteem.

A person in an abusive relationship often thinks things will change and hopes it

See **STEELE TALKIN'** on B9 ►

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

MaryAnne Higgins checks over the Steele County History Center's Parochial Schools display, which it bills as "a fulfilling educational experience." The exhibit focusing on all parochial schools in Steele County will be going through early December.

History Center unveils parochial school display

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

When Daniel Moeckly began researching parochial schools in Steele County, he didn't necessarily expect to come across what he found.

Not only have the parochial schools been a vital force in the educational offerings in the county for decades, but they also offer a strong emphasis on family.

"The people are really close and they had fun traditions they had done for decades," said Moeckly, exhibits manager with the Steele County History Center. "There is the concept of a school family… a lot of camaraderie amongst the students."

The parochial schools are being showcased as one of the History Center's main exhibits from now until early December.

Relating to another current exhibit on rural schools, which opened one week before the pandemic hit in 2020, the newest exhibit examines the many parochial schools of Steele County. Among them are St. Mary's School, St. Isidore's School, Owatonna Christian School, St. John's Christian Day School and Marion High School.

Moeckly said he was shocked to learn about how serious music was at St. Mary's School, especially in the earlier years dating back to 1877. At one time, St. Mary's had specific classes on many different musical instruments.

"I had no idea that St. Mary's was a musical force to be reckoned with from its early days," Moeckly said. Because of his discovery, he expects to incorporate it into another exhibit next year focusing on music. He even hopes to incorporate some concerts into the exhibit slated to begin around Valentine's Day 2022.

The current exhibit is labeled as "a fulfilling educational experience" with testimonials from former students.

One of them is Tom Shea, who is a 1969 graduate of Marion High School. The exhibit contains Shea's basketball uniform from 1968.

See **HISTORY** on B2 ►

NRHEG's Carlson retiring

BY ALEX NUEHRING
NEWS WRITER

After six years as superintendent of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Public Schools, Dale Carlson is stepping down effective June 30.

"The most meaningful aspect of being the NRHEG superintendent has been the opportunity to work alongside and be part of a staff that is committed to kids. That'll be something I'm going to miss, working alongside caring professionals who are committed to helping students learn and grow every day," he said. "I'm so appreciative of their commitment to the kids and our communities."

Carlson said he's also going to miss helping the district select quality staff and supporting the team in its day-to-day work.

But, he said, it's the communities' support and involvement that helped him achieve his biggest accomplishment as superintendent – passage of the school referendum in April 2019, which funded upgrades at both school buildings.

See **NHREG** on B9 ►

Dale Carlson

Auction helps school provide quality education

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

This weekend's Blooming Prairie Education Foundation silent and live auction will feature many individual auction item winners, but the big winner will be Blooming Prairie Public Schools because all funds raised by the foundation are made available to the school district.

Blooming Prairie Superintendent Chris Staloch said some of the things the foundation has funded over the years include: field trips, books for the elementary school library, guitars for the music program, a lot of STEM activities, Legos and Ozobots for the elementary students to work on programming and coding and a robotics program.

"The items, activities and the programming that we've been able to do through the funding of the Education Foundation is truly remarkable," he said.

Specifically, Staloch said that the foundation's fundraising has a two-fold impact on the Blooming Prairie community.

"One, the funding that they give us really has enhanced the educational opportunities for our kids and that's what it should all come down to, doing what's best for the kids. And I think this organization really puts kids at the forefront and really thinks about what we can do so kids in Blooming Prairie get a really quality education. We couldn't be more pleased with the work that they do. They are definitely a great supporter of our kids and a great support of our staff.

> 'Their support goes a long way for us to make sure that our kids not only get programming so we can meet the standards, but we can go above and beyond…'
>
> **Chris Staloch**
> Superintendent

"Two, I think the ed foundation really brings our community together to support education. They've really done a great job with that," he said.

Staloch said community support is especially vital since funding is always a challenge.

"Their support goes a long way for us to make sure that our kids not only get programming so we can meet the standards, but we can go above and beyond. That's really what we want to do. We want Blooming Prairie to provide the best possible education. I think we provide a high-quality education and their support is crucial in that," he said.

The fact that the community invests so much in the education that the Blooming Prairie youth receive, he said, speaks volumes about their values.

"It speaks highly of them [the education foundation], but it also speaks highly of our community, how much they care about doing

See **AUCTION** on B9 ►

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Blooming Prairie Education Foundation board member Rachel Blaedorn showcases one of the Ed. Foundation's auction items, a display of the 1966 Blooming Prairie boys basketball team that won the state tournament that's been signed by every member of the team. The silent auction is being held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, inside the Pizza Cellar, while the live auction follows from 4 to 11 p.m. under the big tent at The Cue Company.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Blaedorn displays another auction item, a painting titled 'Live life in full bloom' that was donated by Sandy Jones.

Remember our veterans and family members

Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

Being the gardener she has always been, Mom Lestrud would get down on her knees and plant flowers at her parents' graves in Albert Lea's Lakeview Cemetery.

Remembering her parents was not only an annual ritual, it was her duty she believed.

This tradition has been kept alive by myself and my wife by buying almost-real flower arrangements for my parents' graves and for our daughter Tammi's grave. We also pay tribute to our veteran relatives who are buried at the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church cemetery.

Memorial Day is a most loving day because we take time to pause and pay tribute to our veterans and we also bow to our close family members.

Blooming Prairie veterans do an excellent job of paying tribute to our veterans. Members of the local American Legion and VFW and auxiliaries and the Sons of the American Legion put together activities to remember our veterans and others.

Memorial Day became a national holiday for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving the United States Armed Services.

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day. It is now a national holiday. The holiday is observed on the last Monday of May. The holiday was formerly observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970.

We should be forever thankful for the sacrifices were made in history by our devoted service men and women. Memorials are found in many area communities like Blooming Prairie, Dodge Center and Medford.

It took only five years for Blooming Prairie to finance the construction of one of the most beautiful memorials around.

Wikipedia says In April 1865, following Lincoln's assassination, commemorations were widespread. The more than 600,000 soldiers of both sides who died in the Civil War meant that burial and memorialization took on new cultural significance.

Under the leadership of women during the war, an increasingly formal practice of decorating graves had taken shape. In 1865, the federal government also began creating the United States National Cemetery System for the Union war dead.

By the 1880s, ceremonies were becoming more consistent across geography as the GAR provided handbooks that presented specific procedures, poems, and Bible verses for local post commanders to utilize in planning the local event. Memorial Day is a day we all should pay respects to our fallen veterans. That respect should be shown every day of the year.

Thank you for your service, military service men and women.

Medford pool receives much-needed attention

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

With summer on the horizon, the City of Medford has decided to give some much-needed focus to their pool.

During last month's regular council meeting, the council decided to invest money into the pool to address safety concerns and fill cracks within the pool. This comes after years of minimal improvements.

"The pool is getting to be very expensive this month," Council Member Amanda Mueller, who serves as park and pool commissioner for the city, told the council in April. "We've started sandblasting; we hired a company for $7,000."

According to Mueller, the sandblasting would have been done last year for the same rate, but due to COVID-19 it didn't get done. While the sandblasting was performed, in the short time that the company was able to do so the entire pool was not covered.

"For them to get done what we wanted to get done and for them to do the entire pool, that $7,000 price would have gone up to around $25,000 or $30,000," Mueller said. "So, working with them they will do the best they can for what we can pay."

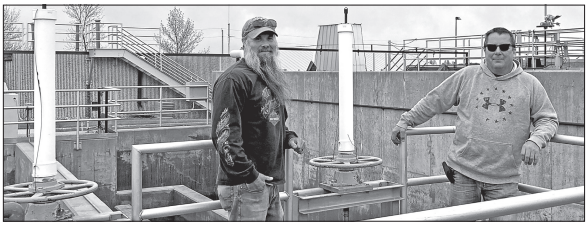
Safety hazards were also a concern. "There's a lot of safety issues with the pool," Mueller said. "There's a crack that runs right down the middle from the shallow end to the deep end and it's getting wider, so that needs to be properly filled and cleaned out."

Fixing the center crack and all of the other cracks and chips was estimated at $5,000. The pool was also scheduled for a new paint job which will also cost some money. "We're going to have the city employees do the painting," Mueller said. "It's a spendy pool."

The money that will be used for these improves will be taken out of a fund set aside to put a new filter in the pool. "It's not like the pool budget is going to be running a deficit or need more than any of the money that was already put in there and planned," City Clerk Elizabeth Jackson informed the council.

After hearing of the issues and possible expenses the council approved fixing up the pool to get it ready for summer. Mayor Danny Thomas tasked Mueller and Administrative Director of Operations Jed Peterson to come up with a plan for next year regarding the pool. "We need to have a plan for the pool," he said. "Start working on a future plan for the pool. We need to take a good look at it."

The Medford Pool will open at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 12, 2021. With all of the currently scheduled improvements in place and the hot summer weather, Medford residents will be eager to get back into the water.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEB FLEMMING

Blooming Prairie Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Dave Hoffman, left, and Plant Supervisor Pat Wehner work at the treatment plant recently recognized by the state for outstanding permit compliance.

Blooming Prairie plant garners state recognition

BY DEB FLEMMING
NEWS EDITOR

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently recognized 77 wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) in southeastern Minnesota for outstanding permit compliance, including the plants in Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Owatonna and Meriden Township.

To receive this recognition, facilities were required to demonstrate consistent compliance with monitoring, operations, and maintenance requirements, submit all reports to the MPCA correctly and on time and employ staff certified by the MPCA in wastewater operations.

Water treated by the local plants ends up in the Straight River.

Blooming Prairie treats between 400,000-500,000 gallons of wastewater each day, said Plant Supervisor Pat Wehner, adding that the water coming out of the plant "looks like drinking water at the end of the day."

According to plant Superintendent Richard Olson, the Owatonna Wastewater Treatment Plant averages just over 4 million gallons of wastewater a day.

Like Wehner, Olson said he is proud of the state recognition.

"We're being recognized for being good stewards of the earth," said Olson, adding that it takes 24 hours for the wastewater to be treated and doesn't create any problems for the fish or the river.

Construction of Blooming Prairie's wastewater treatment improvements began in May of 1989 and was completed in March 1991. The project included both renovations of the existing plant and new construction at a

See **BLOOMING** on B10 ►

Volunteers needed for Fourth celebration

Chamber Buzz
EMILY GLASER

The Fourth of July Celebration plans have been moving forward. Yes, we are having our Old-Fashioned Fourth. In fact, the Chamber needs several volunteers to help with the events happening. If you, or know someone who is interested in volunteering please direct them to our website at www.bloomingprairie-chamber.com/4th-of-july.

GOLF FUN DAY

Plans and preparations are in the works for our Annual Golf Fun Day Event. The Chamber is looking for 3-4 people to volunteer to help this event run smoothly.

- Registration Table (2 Volunteers)
- Food Prep — Grill (1-2 Volunteers)
- Food Prep — Misc. (2-3 Volunteers)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 22: BP Education Foundation Auction
- May 26: Button Sales, door-to-door
- May 31: BP Memorial Day
- July 3-4: Fourth of July Celebration
- July 14: Hawaiian Golf Fun Day
- Sept. 18: Fall Garage Sale

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

History Center unveils parochial school display

◄ **HISTORY** from **B1**

"The greatest advantage was my classmates, the dedicated sisters of St. Francis and teaching staff who instilled life lessons and core values daily in addition to academics," Shea said.

Another testimonial came from Maureen O'Brien Johnson, who graduated in 1959. "The emphasis on a spiritual teaching reveals the importance of prayer time, mass attendance, and knowledge of God, the source of all creation as well as the discovery of God's love with those around us," she said.

In his research, Moeckly encountered some roadblocks. He was unable to find much history on St. John's Church, which was hit by lightning and destroyed by fire on June 6, 2006. "There are few known pictures or records of the church and school," he said.

Moeckly encourages anyone with history of St. John's to contact him at the History Center. He would also welcome any other items on the parochial schools as he found "hardly anything" in the center's archives of a half million items.

"People are disappointed they don't have history on something they want," Moeckly said. "We rely on the general public to make sure their history is remembered."

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What to expect from a financial review

The COVID-19 pandemic may have unsettled many aspects of your life – including your financial situation. Even if your employment and earnings were not directly affected, you might have concerns about whether you've been making the right investment moves in such a stressful environment. The pandemic is, hopefully, just a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, but different events can rattle financial markets. And changes in your own life also can affect your plans. To prepare yourself for whatever tomorrow may hold, you may want to get some professional help – but what, really, can you expect from a financial advisor?

A financial advisor will look holistically at your life – your family composition, your career, your hopes and dreams, your instincts about saving and spending money, your risk tolerance and other factors. So, during your initial meeting, and at subsequent reviews afterward, here are some of the key areas you'll discuss:

- **Feelings about your financial situation –** Numbers are important to financial advisors, but what's most meaningful to them is understanding what's important to their clients. Are you confident about your overall financial outlook? Are you worried about your cash flow? Are you distressed over volatility in the financial markets? Do you have concerns about your career? By getting at the answers to these and similar questions, a financial advisor can gain a clear sense of who you are and what matters to you. You can then follow an established process to build your personalized strategies and take the specific actions needed to achieve your goals.
- **Progress toward your goals –** It takes patience and discipline to achieve long-term goals, such as helping send your kids to college or enjoying the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned for yourself. As you save and invest for these goals over the years, you'll want to ….measure your progress regularly. If you seem to be falling behind, your financial advisor can suggest moves such as increasing your investments or adjusting your investment mix.
- **Changes in your family situation –** Marriage or remarriage, the arrival of new children, the departure of children for college, caregiving responsibilities for older parents – any and all of these events can make a big difference in your goals and, as a result, your investment plans. During your reviews, your financial advisor will consider these changes when making suggestions or recommendations. (Changes in your family's status may affect your estate plans, so you'll also need to work with your legal advisor or other estate-planning professional.)
- **Changes in your retirement plans –** As you near retirement, you might decide that your original plans for this time of your life no longer suit you. For example, you might have once thought that, when you retired, you would stay close to home, volunteering and pursuing your hobbies. But now you've been thinking how much you would enjoy traveling, or perhaps even living abroad for a while. To accommodate your change in plans, a financial professional may recommend certain moves, such as working a couple of years longer or adjusting the amount you eventually withdraw from your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts.

As you work toward your goals, you may find it challenging to navigate the financial markets and respond to the changes in your life – but you don't have to go it alone. And knowing what to expect from a financial advisor can help smooth your journey.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

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To learn more, call today.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MAY 22
BP Education Foundation Auction

MAY 25
10:30 a.m. – Online Storytime, BP Library Facebook

MAY 31
9:30 a.m.- Memorial Day Services- BP Servicemen's Club

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

MAY 21
11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

MAY 22
9 a.m. – Ellendale City Wide Clean Up Day

MAY 24
11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building
7 p.m. – Ellendale Ambulance Meeting, Community Building

MAY 26
11 a.m. – SEMCAC, Community Building

MAY 27
8:30 p.m. – Ellendale City Council Meeting, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

MAY 22
7 a.m. – Farmer's Market, Central Park
9 a.m. – Vintage & Plant Sale, History Center

MAY 24
Noon – Golf for Kids' Sake, Waseca Lakeside Club
4 p.m. – Owatonna HRA Meeting, City Hall
5:30 p.m. – Moonlighters Exchange Club of Owatonna, VFW
7 p.m. – Medford City Council Meeting, City Hall

MAY 25
10:30 a.m. – Online Storytime, Owatonna Library Facebook
4 p.m. – OPU Commission Meeting, OPU
5 p.m. – Steele County Board Meeting, County Admin Building
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall

MAY 28
3 p.m. – Open House Retirement Celebration for Fire Chief Mike Johnson

BP awards scholarships

BY ALEX NUEHRING
NEWS WRITER

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Blooming Prairie High School Counselor Mary Worke smiles as she presents Megan Oswald with one of the many scholarships Oswald received last Wednesday night.

Last Wednesday night was a big night for the Blooming Prairie High School seniors because they received more than $51,000 in scholarships at the high school's awards banquet.

Combine that amount with what they'd previously earned from colleges and the seniors have now received $714,670 in scholarship money.

School Counselor Mary Worke said the seniors definitely earned their scholarships.

"This class is a very bright class. They showed their skills, volunteerism and academics that helped them earn their scholarship money," she said.

In addition to their skills, volunteerism and academics, she said the students earned their scholarships through their hard work over the past four years.

"I hope people realize how much these students do. In school, sports and/or fine arts, work and helping with Sunday school. Not all students do it all, but some do." she said. "It's neat to see how many kids aren't afraid to put in the hard work and put in the hours. They like to be busy. They're proud of all their accomplishments and they should be."

She also said the scholarships the seniors received include academic scholarships and a couple athletic scholarships, which were earned by Megan Oswald who will play basketball at the University of Jamestown and Micalyn Trihus who will play volleyball at Bemidji State University.

The scholarship money that this year's seniors earned is nearly $54,000 more than the Class of 2019 earned.

"This year there are a number of high academic students who are going to private colleges and they got some very good academic scholarship money," Worke said. "It really depends on the number of athletes who get athletic scholarships, the academic scholarships, where they're going and what scholarships the college they're attending offers."

In addition to the scholarships given out by the students' colleges, the scholarships handed out last Wednesday night were all from the Blooming Prairie area community.

"I know here at school we really appreciate all of the scholarship money that the community has handed out over the years. They have really handed out a lot of money to the students and supported them in many areas," she said. "We appreciate them noticing the students' time and efforts."

Quilt exhibit opens at Arts Center in June

Applique Quilts by Victoria Miller, will open in the gallery of the Owatonna Arts Center on Sunday, June 6 and run through Sunday, June 27. The gallery hours are 1-5 PM Tuesday through Sunday, and closed Monday.

Miller's quilts have won Best of Show at the MN State Fair, 1st Place Applique at the annual MN Quilter Show & Best of Show at the national American Quilter Society Show.

"In this age of machine quilting, I still enjoy hand applique and hand quilting," said Miller. "I find both very relaxing."

Miller said she learned needle turn applique form renowned applique artist and pattern designer Patricia Cox in 1988 and has been using Cox's patterns almost exclusively ever since.

The art center's gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.

Owatonna native one of top seniors at Saint Mary's in Winona

BY ALEX NUEHRING
STAFF WRITER

When Elliott Rysavy enrolled at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in the fall of 2017, he had no idea how he'd fit into the fabric of Saint Mary's community.

Fast forward to the present and it's safe to say he not only fit in – but also stood out.

The 2017 graduate of Owatonna High School was recently named one of the five male finalists for Saint Mary's Outstanding Senior Award.

Each year Saint Mary's bestows the Outstanding Senior Award to "a male and female senior who have demonstrated the ideals of scholarship, character, leadership, service to colleagues and the university community, as well as genuine concern for the needs of others," according to a press release from Saint Mary's University.

Elliott Rysavy

Rysavy said he believes one of the reasons he's succeeded at Saint Mary's and been named one of the finalists for the Outstanding Senior Award is the preparation for college that he received at Owatonna High School.

"I had a very good experience at Owatonna High School. All of my teachers were very encouraging and always saw the best in their students. They were always encouraging me to push myself and achieve the best that I could," he said.

While he ended up not winning the award, Rysavy was grateful to be named a finalist and be in such esteemed company.

"I felt very honored and excited that I was having the chance to be recognized for the hard work that I put into school and extracurricular activities. All the people who were nominated are all excellent students and great people," he said.

He himself was an excellent student, as evidenced by his 3.99 GPA.

In addition to maintaining a near-perfect GPA, he was also involved in concert choir, chamber singers, the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha, Delta Epsilon Sigma, national scholastic honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, English honors society, ultimate frisbee club and he's been an orientation leader the past three years.

As if that weren't enough, Rysavy participated in several volunteer opportunities. He helped lead some of the retreats for Campus Ministry. He also was involved in Buddies, which involves working with disabled adults in the community, and Big and Little Pals, which involves working with students after school is out and giving them a safe place to go to have fun and work on homework.

He thinks his volunteerism helped him embrace the Lasallian virtues that the university imparts on its students.

"A lot of the Lasallian virtues are focused on relationships and helping other people and that's best accomplished through service," he said.

See **OWATONNA** on B9 ►

Sudoku Corner

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

Answers

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

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Monday -Wednesday - Friday: 11:30 AM to close
Tuesday – Thursday: 10 AM – close
Saturday: 9 AM to close
Sunday: Closed

Bar: 1 AM Closing
Off-Sale: 10 PM Closing
Bar Bingo: Monday at 6:30 PM (Must be 21 to play)
Wine Club: Tuesday 7 – 8:30 PM
May 18th and June 8th
(Masks & Covid protocol will be followed – Reservations required)
JULY 3RD: Street Dance
"Red Dirt Road"
8 PM – Midnight
$5 cover charge – 21 and over
July 4th: Off-Sale open 11 AM – 6 PM
=Bar – Closed
July 24th: B. O. B. Ride "Toys for Tots" – Details Later

New Richland • Hartland • Ellendale • Geneva

PANTHER OF THE WEEK

COLLIN MISGEN

This week's Panther of the Week is **Collin Misgen**. Collin is the son of John and Megan Misgen and they reside in New Richland. Collin is in Mrs. Larson's second-grade class.

Collin is a leader in every way. He is always positive and ready to meet any challenge. Collin encourages not only his peers to do their best, but also anyone he meets. His class recently did a "Going Green Challenge" for Earth day.

Collin got his whole family involved in biking to school one day. Thanks for encouraging others to be their best, Collin!

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OHS MAGNET PHOTO BY LAURYN BATEMAN

Representatives from the first four classes that will be attending the new high school get ready to dig at the groundbreaking ceremony. They include, from left: Davaeh Williams (2027), Will Halverson and Christian Flores (2026), Istahil Hassan (2025) and Donte Miller and Kate Sande (2024).

The future of the new OHS: The Groundbreaking Ceremony

BY LAURYN BATEMAN
OHS MAGNET WRITER

Thursday, May 6, 2021 is a day that the Owatonna, Minnesota community will never forget. At 3:30 p.m., a beautiful sunny afternoon, the Owatonna community gathered together for the groundbreaking of the new Owatonna High School.

Many leaders such as Jeff Elstad, Owatonna's superintendent, Kory Kath, OHS's principal, Mayor Thomas Kuntz, Mark Sebring, Chair of the Owatonna School Board, and Todd Andrix, a current teacher at OHS and president of Owatonna Education Association, all attended this momentous ceremony. Many collaborators and community supporters within Owatonna also attended including: Federated Insurance, Wenger Corporation and Wenger Foundation, Viracon, Gopher Sports, Cybex, Life Fitness, Mayo Clinic Health Systems of Owatonna, city council members, members of chamber of commerce and county commissioners.

Being able to collaborate with classmates and work individually, comfortably, will give students more learning experiences and better education opportunities. In an interview on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, Elstad stated, "I'm so excited about the opportunities that our students will have. You know student voices have been really critical to the design of our building and it's the students' building. We are just lucky enough to work in it and be able to work with our students in it. I think for me it's just the numerous opportunities that will be available, the spaces that will provide a great balance of new technology but also time for collaboration with one another."

Freshman, and one of our first graduates that will be attending the new OHS in 2023, Vanessa Gonzalez, would agree. "What I'm looking forward to the most about the new high school is just having the new and improved learning spaces."

The Class of 2023 is looking forward to the new building and the features that will be included. Freshman Donte Miller stated, "I'm looking forward to the new high school itself, the air conditioning, it won't be as hot. I'm also really excited for how big it's going to be and all the classrooms that we'll have." The new high school's student capacity will reach 1600 students, as of right now OHS is sitting with around 1,400-1,450 students. Hoping for more growth, the new building will be large enough for expansion.

The students of OHS are the main reason for the new building. Mr. Kath addressed the crowd. He said, "To our students that want career and technical education opportunities in the areas of manufacturing, agriculture, health science, culinary sciences, and business, we see your future and your future is here. To our students, we know you need flexible spaces that promise cross-content collaboration and individualized learning opportunities, we see you and your future is right here. To our students, I know that social and emotional learning and connections to the whole student takes space that requires gathering, reflection, de-escalation spaces, and intervention strategies, we see you and your future is right here. To our students that are not able to access spaces in our current building or do not identify with spaces within our current building, we see you and your future is right here. And to our athletes, actors, musicians, and artists with incredible talents, we see you and your future is right here. To the community of Owatonna I know you want a space of pride that carries a tradition of education and excellence, we see you and your future is here as well. Thank you for your trust in this project and I know our staff is excited to make it come alive in two short years, we see this vision and are honored to carry it forward."

Completion and opening of the new high school are scheduled for the 2023-24 school year. The future is looking bright for the students of Owatonna.

Prom 2021: COVID-19 Edition

BY MUNA MOHAMED
OHS MAGNET WRITER

Over the last year, students have experienced the major effects the pandemic has had on schools, one of them being not having a prom. Now, since going through a pandemic for more than a year, schools are starting to go back to normal. All juniors and seniors had the opportunity to attend prom this year.

This year's prom was held at the Four Seasons Arena on May 8. It had a 'Vintage Carnival' theme. Due to COVID-19, there were a lot of limitations when planning prom. The event lasted from 8 p.m. to midnight and students had to arrive by 9 p.m. to be admitted. The students allowed were only OHS juniors and seniors, as well as ALC juniors and seniors. Students who went to prom had to follow social distancing and mask regulations. They can only be in groups of six or less to promote social distancing.

The Prom Committee decided to have prom and after prom in the same place. The dance floor was limited to a certain number of students. When asked about the dance portion of prom and after prom, Senior Emma Dahnert said, "The dance was very different in the sense that it was not the main focus of the night. I think it would've been even better if the dance and after prom were separated to give it more of a normal feel." Some students saw prom as an opportunity to have a great time with friends. Junior Julia Christenson said, "I'm not much of a dancer, but I enjoyed the dance portion of prom. I could see that my friends and other students were having fun with each other. I like that they played all kinds of music and not just the same genre." Also, for the first time, there was no Grand March, due to limitations on the number of people being able to attend this year. However, students had the opportunity to get their pictures taken by Oldenburg Photography and at picture stops.

The activities at prom included, a live DJ, henna artists, casino games, yard games and so much more. When asked if prom lived up to her expectations, Senior Nataly Hurtadotiza said, "I went to prom with low expectations since I knew that it would be different due to COVID-19. That being said, I had a lot of fun. I enjoyed the activities they had way more than the dance portion. I'm so glad after prom was combined with the dance."

Senior Maya Ratzloff was asked what her favorite moments at prom were, and she said, "I thought it was nice that there were a variety of things to do, there was something for everyone. Prom and after prom was really fun, it was nice to see all my friends and actually have a fun night, since we haven't been able to in a long time."

Both juniors and seniors getting to experience prom, shows all the progress and accommodations Owatonna High School made when dealing with COVID-19.

Prom 2021 had to abide by the COVID-19 restrictions. Students were not able to experience how prom was like before. Nevertheless, the prom committee was able to make accommodations for things like the Grand March. Overall, prom being held this year shows how far OHS has come when dealing with the pandemic and made students' dream of having a prom possible.

Teachers help growth of next generation

BY NICK WILLIAMS
OHS MAGNET WRITER

This year Teacher Appreciation Week was May 3-7. Teachers are essential for the growth of the next generation and have a larger role in molding them than we think. Here are a few teachers at OHS that we highlighted during this year's Teacher Appreciation Week.

One of the history teachers here at OHS is Mr. Patrick Churchill, he teaches various social study courses. Churchill has been in education for 17 years. He was the head basketball coach for NRHEG and is now an assistant basketball coach for the OHS Boys Basketball team. Churchill has made a large impact on both students and athletes throughout the years. Mr. Churchill said, "The thing I enjoy most is building relationships with students. I have kids who I coached or taught 15 years ago that I still have weekly contact with. Seeing them progress through their lives is pretty amazing."

Ms. Mara Oien has been teaching mathematics for 17 years. She started teaching in Burnsville in 2003 and then came to Owatonna in 2007, making this her thirteenth year teaching at OHS. She is also the head cheerleading coach for the varsity team. Ms. Oien loves getting to know her students and spending time with them every day, so being a teacher means a lot to her. Ms. Oien said, "Teaching means showing up every day to support others, to build relationships, show students that there are adults who believe in them and care about their future." To her, teaching mathematics means she gets to teach real life skills like problem solving, looking for patterns and discovering new ways to look at problems.

In the special education department, one of the teachers is Mr. Turnar Kist. It is his second year. His favorite part about teaching is seeing his students every day and being able to build positive relationships with all of them. Mr. Kist said, "Teaching to me means promoting self-advocacy and assisting students to become as independent as they can be." He believes ensuring every student has a safe and welcoming learning environment. Outside of school, Mr. Kist is involved as an assistant ninth grade football coach.

As a business teacher, Mr. Scott Pierce teaches a multitude of courses, including Accounting, Marketing, Small Business Entrepreneurship and Personal Law. This is Mr. Pierce's 34th year teaching and he believes that making connections with students is what teaching is all about. He enjoys, "The interaction- the back and forth." Mr. Pierce said, "I also like teaching business because we can introduce kids to things that will be useful to them in their personal lives and careers." Outside of class Mr. Pierce is the OHS DECA adviser.

These are just a few of the many great teachers OHS has to offer.

Owatonna Students of the Week

Elementary School

Ameliana Padilla-Buentello
Third Grade
Parents: Ricardo and Alise Padilla-Buentello

Ameliana is a caring and kind student who works hard and is responsible. She also has an amazing quick wit and sense of humor. Having Ameliana at Washington makes it a great place to be! Keep up the great work, Ameliana!

Reilo Sorvaag
Sixth Grade
Parents: Christopher and Vanessa Sorvaag

Reilo is a silent leader and role model for those around him. He always displays kind and respectful behavior towards both peers and adults. He is conscientious, hardworking, and advocates for himself. He strives to always do his best. He thinks of others, is polite and a joy to be around. Reilo, you make OMS proud!

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Pitching, power propels Panthers to 13-1

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

After suffering its first loss of the season early last week, the NRHEG softball team rebounded with three straight wins, including an 8-2 win over Medford on Thursday, May 13.

Even though it seems like the Panthers cruised to a win, it was actually the Tigers who drew first blood when Lydia Krenske scored on an RBI single by Lily Roehrick.

After not scoring in the first two innings, NRHEG offense got going when Preslie Nielsen started the third inning with a double and then scored on an RBI by Anna Jacobson to tie the game at 1-1.

In the top of the fourth inning, Panther pitcher Sophie Stork recorded her third of four straight scoreless innings.

Then, in the fourth and fifth innings, NRHEG's offense came to life and scored six combined runs to give the Panthers a commanding 7-1 lead.

"Our battery of Sophie Stork and Cloie Arndt led the team both offensively and defensively. Sophie struck out 10 and walked only two. Cloie is solid and consistent behind the plate. We had some well-placed bunts by Faith Nielsen and Grace Tufte," said NRHEG Head Coach Wendy Schultz "It was a total team effort to win this game."

Medford Co-Head Coach Sean Witter added that NRHEG's four-run fifth inning was caused by a combination of the Tigers' mistakes and the Panthers' offense executing.

"There were a few errors and then they had some hits and fully executed to use our disadvantage for their advantage," he said.

Offensively, he explained that the Tigers were only able to score two runs because they couldn't get timely hits.

"We just couldn't put enough base runners and hits together at the same time," he said.

NRHEG's record is now 13-1, while Medford's is now 4-11.

The Tigers' next game is a home contest against Blooming Prairie at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

The Panthers' next game is also a home, but it's against United South Central at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

NRHEG batting stats: Sophie Stork — 3-for-4, 1 run scored and 2 RBI, Cloie Arndt — 3-for-4, 2 runs scored and 1 RBI, Faith Nielsen — 2-for-3, 2 RBI and 1 stolen base, Preslie Nielsen — 1-for-3 and 1 run scored, Hallie Schultz — 1-for-4, 1 run scored and 1 stolen base and Brianna Knudson — 1-for-3 and 1 RBI.

NRHEG pitching stats: Sophie Stork — 10 strikeouts, 2 walks and six hits allowed in 7 innings pitched.

Medford pitching stats: Makenzie Velishek — 3 strikeouts, 0 walks, 12 hits allowed and 5 earned runs in 6 innings pitched.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

NRHEG's Faith Nielsen keeps her eyes on the ball as she gets ready to make contact during the bottom of the sixth inning.

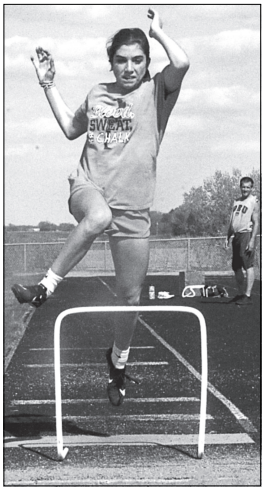
STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

In addition to striking out 10 Tigers, NRHEG pitcher Sophie Stork also recorded an assist by throwing this ball to first baseman Hallie Schultz for the putout.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Medford pitcher Makenzie Velishek gets ready to throw the ball home during the bottom of the fifth inning. The Panthers scored four runs in the fifth inning en route to an 8-2 win last Thursday.

A surprising success in the long jump



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Medford record-breaking freshman Jackie Cole works on her long jump during practice last Wednesday. Two week ago she broke the school record in the long jump with a jump of 16 feet and 9.5 inches. The previous record was 16 feet and 6 inches and it'd been set by Pam Ambler in 1973 so that record had held for nearly 50 years.

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Jackie Cole wanted to get more exercise. She'd been a sprinter, so she thought about the long jump, and her mother encouraged her to try out. That turned out to be good advice because she recently broke a nearly 50-year-old school record — in a sport she'd been competing in for only a few weeks.

Cole, a freshman at Medford High School, just decided to try out for the long jump this spring. One never knows how a new sport will go. But the long jump has gone better than anyone could have possibly imagined.

She credits her speed most of all for helping her fly past the previous Medford record holder. Her record-breaking long jump, which was 16 feet and 9.5 inches, was captured at the Tiger Invite. Cole jumped 3.5 inches further than Pam Ambler, who set the previous school record back in 1973.

"I thought maybe I could get to 16 feet," said Cole. "But I thought my teammates would be better than me. I didn't really think I could do that. I was shocked and surprised (to hear about the school record)."

Her head coach, Kevin Werk, said he's been surprised by Cole for some time. "She started with us when she was in seventh grade, sprinting. I'm glad she had that experience. At her first long-jump practice, she jumped over 16 feet. It's just unheard of that someone jumps that far so early in their time as a long jumper."

Cole credits her speed most of all for helping her in this sport. "And my mindset," she added. "The mindset you have at the start of a jump is really important."

Werk agrees that Cole has speed on her side.

"She's naturally really fast. Either you have that, or you don't. There are ways to get faster, and she can do that. Her technique is where we need to focus now. Technique is things like a person's height (during the jump) and getting their feet out," he said. "She's only been doing this for about two weeks, and she's getting better and better. Practice will help her too."

> "I thought maybe I could get to 16 feet. But I thought my teammates would be better than me. I didn't really think I could do that. I was shocked and surprised."
>
> **Jackie Cole**
> Broke Medford Record

Cole says her goal now is to go to state.

"I really want to get to 18 feet, 5 inches," she said. "I only have a couple of weeks to practice this jump, but that's my goal."

Her coach adds, "Anything over 17 feet is a good jump for Class A girls, and she's in that ballpark. She's the longest jumper in the section now. But people can come out of the woodwork and surprise you, so we don't know who her competition would be. Seventeen feet is the automatic qualifier for state, and she'll have to do that at the section meet. If she could get to 18 or 19 feet, that should make her safe. It should be a guarantee to go to state."

Cole adds, "I know I need more practices and some more drills. It takes a lot of effort, so that's what I'm doing now, giving it more effort."

She also runs the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, and the 4x100 relay. But her greatest focus right now is the long jump. "When I stay after practice sometimes, that's what I'm working on." That's the kind of extra effort Cole believes will help her reach her state goal.

Agonizingly close for Huskie girls track

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

The Owatonna girls track and field team came agonizingly close to winning its home meet, but it was edged out by the Rochester Century Panthers who scored just one more point than the Huskies.

Even though the Huskies didn't win first place, Coach Ann Christensen was happy with how her team performed because she's noticing her team do better and better in every meet.

"We had 52 personal bests at the meet so we are seeing great improvements from the girls as we get closer to the big meets," she said.

The Huskies were led by their relay teams, three of which won first place, including the 4x100 meter relay team, which consists of Janessa Moore, A. Baldwin, Lauren Waypa and Laken Meier, and finished in 53.26 seconds.

The 4x200 relay team, which is made up of Moore, Meier, Waypa and Ava Wolfe, also won first place after finishing in 1:50.52.

The Huskies earned their first-place finish when their 4x400, which consists of Annika Wiese, Madeline Koslosky, Sarah Kingland and Carsyn Brady, crossed the finish line in a time of 4:21.13.

Owatonna's fourth first-place winner was Zinash Valen who won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:40.25.

The Huskies' fifth and final first-place winner was Jenna Gleason who won the discus throw. Her winning throw went 109 feet and was a new personal best.

While Owatonna's 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams all won first place, its 4x800 relay team, which is made up of Koslosky, Anna Cox, Jaci Burtis and Brady, finished in second place with a time of 10:29.42.

In the 100-meter hurdles, Emma Johnson came in second place with a time of 17.80 seconds, while McKenna DuFrene came in fifth place after finishing in 19.36 seconds.

The Huskies also achieved second place in the 300-meter hurdles when Koslosky finished with a time of 50.26 seconds.

Ava Wolfe finished in second place in the 100-meter dash by finishing in 13.39 seconds.

After coming in fourth place in the 1600 meter run at the Dick Norman Invite just about two weeks earlier, Kiara Gentz improved her time by nearly 11 seconds and finished in second place with a time of 5:56.11.

In the pole vault, Natalie Morrow earned second place by clearing a height of 7 feet and 6 inches.

Jenna Gleason achieved a personal best and second place in the shot put with a distance of 33 feet and 10.25 inches.

The Huskies will try to improve their individual times, heights and distances when they compete against Northfield, Mankato West and Albert Lea at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, at Jim Gustafson Field in Albert Lea.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Husky senior Zinash Valen creates some distance between herself and her competitors in the 800 meter run.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Owatonna's Jaci Burtis and Jeni Burtis were neck and neck as they came down the homestretch of the 3200 meter run.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Owatonna's Brooke Miles soars over the bar during the high jump on Tuesday, May 11. The Huskies can heartbreakingly close to winning the meet but lost by one point to Rochester Century.

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Into the swing of it

Blooming Prairie's eighth grade baseball team gets into the swing of action with a game against Randolph on May 13. Top left: Alex Lea (6) swings away in helping his team capture a 2-1 victory. Top right: Carter Bishop (3) delivers a pitch from the mound. Bottom: Catcher Carson Ingvalson picks up a low pitch in action at Victory Field.

Come from behind rally leaves BP on losing end

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

This past week was a tough one for the Blooming Prairie softball team as its record fell below.500 after losing three straight games, including a 5-3 loss to Hayfield on Friday, May 14.

However, it was the Blossoms who took an early lead when they scored one run in the bottom of the first inning.

After two scoreless innings thrown by Blooming Prairie's Allison Krohnberg, the Vikings got on the scoreboard in the top of third inning when they scored two runs on an RBI double and an RBI single. Hayfield looked like it would even more than two runs when a Viking batter hit the ball deep into the outfield but Blossoms centerfielder Bobbie Bruns made a leaping catch to prevent an extra-base hit and end the inning.

In the bottom half of the third inning, Macy Lembke got Blooming Prairie's offense going with a lead-off double. She then came around to score and tie the game at 2-2 when Krohnberg followed with an RBI double. Later that inning, the Blossoms then re-took the lead when Bruns hit an RBI single into the outfield.

After giving up two runs in third inning, Krohnberg settled down and didn't give up any runs in the fourth or fifth inning, but Blooming Prairie's offense didn't add onto its lead either.

So when the sixth inning began, the Blossoms still led 3-2. However, the Vikings scored two runs that inning to take a one-run lead.

Then, in the seventh inning, Hayfield added an insurance run, which increased its lead to 5-3.

Unfortunately, Blooming Prairie couldn't score any runs in the bottom of the seventh inning so that ended up being the final score of the game.

With this loss and their 6-2 loss to Chatfield last Saturday, the Blossoms' record is now 6-7.

Blooming Prairie's next game is a road contest against Medford at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. Its next home game is against NRHEG at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 24.

BP batting stats: Macy Lembke – 2-for-4, 1 double, 1 run scored and 1 stolen base, Bobbie Bruns – 1-for-3, 1 single and 1 RBI, Allison Krohnberg – 1-for-3, 1 double, 1 run scored and 1 RBI, Maren Forystek – 1-for-3, 1 single and 1 run scored and Melanie Winzenburg – 1-for-3, 1 single and 1 stolen base.

BP pitching stats: Allison Krohnberg – 7 strikeouts, 6 hits given up, 5 runs, 1 earned run and 1 walk in 7 innings pitched.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Awesome Blossom pitcher Allison Krohnberg follows through on her swing that netted an RBI double in the third inning.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Blooming Prairie shortstop Macy Lembke's throw to first base beats the Hayfield runner in the top of the fifth inning.

SPRING SPORTS ROUNDUP

Medford racks up 37 runs in baseball action

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

BASEBALL

Medford 37, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 5

Yup, you read that right. It may resemble a score from a football game, but it was the Medford baseball team scoring a stunning 37 runs when they faced the Knights on May 7.

The Tigers' offense was led by A.J. Vandereide who hit two grand slams and recorded 11 RBI. His two grand slams tied the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) record for most grand slams in the one game and his 11 RBI tied for the second-most RBIs in one game in MSHSL history.

If it weren't for Vandereide's record-tying game, the story of the game would have been Jack Paulson who hit a grand slam and knocked in six RBI.

Medford pitcher Justin Ristau went four innings and was named the winning pitcher.

Owatonna 8, Rochester Mayo 7

Having won seven of their last eight games, the Huskies were on a roll and they kept their momentum going by scoring six runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to get a walk-off win over the Spartans.

After trimming their deficit to two runs, Owatonna won the game when Payton Beyer hit a bases-loaded triple over the centerfielder's head, which allowed Dylan Maas and Caleb Vereide to come all the way for the game-tying and game-winning runs.

Blooming Prairie 14, Schaeffer Academy 0

After starting the season with four straight losses and then being shut down for 10 days due to COVID-19, it seemed like the Blossoms took all that frustration out on the Lions as they scored 10 runs in the first inning and cruised to a 14-0 home win on May 4.

Blooming Prairie's offensive explosion was especially impressive considering they didn't hit a home run. The Blossoms' three extra-base hits were: a triple by Alex Miller, a double by Chris Naatz and a double by Jacob Naatz.

Meanwhile, Chris Naatz, who pitched three innings, and Luke Larkoski and Dylan Johnson, who each pitched one inning, combined to give up just one hit!

After the five-inning shutout of the Schaeffer Academy Lions, the Blossoms beat Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 12-6 for its second win of the season. Blooming Prairie then lost to NRHEG, but this Monday they beat Bethlehem Academy 7-5 to improve its record to 3-6.

The Blossoms' next home game is against Glenville-Emmons/Alden-Conger at 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Owatonna's Brayden Truelson grimaces as he throws home during the top of the sixth inning. He gave up just one run in a complete-game victory.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX NUEHRING

Blooming Prairie pitcher Chris Naatz was nearly unhittable when the Awesome Blossoms faced Schaeffer Academy on Tuesday, May 4. He struck out seven Lions and gave up just one hit in three shutout innings.

SOFTBALL

NRHEG 15, Glenville-Emmons/Alden-Conger 0

The Panthers improved to 10-0 after a blowout win over the Badgers on May 6.

Leading 4-0 after the first five innings, NRHEG's offense erupted for 11 runs in the sixth inning.

"This was a good team win. Almost every player had at least one hit tonight," said Head Coach Wendy Schultz.

The Panthers' offense was led by Brenlee Knudson who went 3-for-4, hit 5 RBI and scored 2 runs. Pitcher Sophie Stork also had a big game offensively, going 3-for-4 with a double and 1 RBI.

"Brenlee and Anna Jacobson made some important catches in the outfield for us. Sophie pitched well striking out six and allowing only three hits. Cloie Arndt did a great job behind the plate," she said.

Andover 6, Owatonna 3

The Huskies scored three runs in the seventh inning and had runners on base, but their comeback attempt come up short on May 7.

"It was good to see us come out aggressive and confident at the plate tonight. We were putting the ball in play all night, but Andover was making the plays defensively," he said. "Once again it was good to see the team fight all the way to the end, unfortunately it was too little, too late tonight."

Offensively, the Huskies were led by Paiton Glynn who was 3-3 with a double and one run scored.

Pitcher Kaitlyn Bentz took the loss going four innings, giving up three runs on six hits, walking one and striking out two.

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 7, Blooming Prairie 0

After winning five of its last seven games, the 7-3 Blossoms were looking to keep their winning ways going against the 5-3 W-E-M Buccaneers, but the Buccaneers' pitcher gave up just three hits and one walk in seven innings to hold Blooming Prairie scoreless on May 6.

Collecting hits for the Blossoms were Allison Krohnberg, Rachel Winzenburg and Maren Forystek.

Krohnberg, who was Blooming Prairie's pitcher, struck out three W-E-M batters and gave up just three earned runs.

After a loss to Bethlehem Academy, the 7-5 Blossoms' next game is a home contest against Hayfield at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 14.

Medford 10, Blue Earth Area 8

It was a back-and-forth game the whole game and that continued in the top of the seventh inning when the Buccaneers took an 8-7 lead, however the Tigers got one more shot and they scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to win the game in walk-off fashion.

The Tigers' offense was led by Lily Roehrick who recorded three hits and four RBI and Jenesis McGuire who went 4-for-5.

Medford pitcher Makenzie Velishek struck out seven, gave up eight runs and just one walk in seven innings pitched.

The 4-9 Tigers' next game is against NRHEG at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 13. Their next home game is the following day at 4:30 p.m. against Waseca.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

For the second straight week, Kadden Kath of Owatonna finds his way to Victory Lane after winning the Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Modified Feature Friday night at the Chateau Speedway in Lansing.

Chateau sparks hot racing action

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

With a chance of rain in the forecast for much of the week the question was what would the Chateau Speedway look like with an early rain out on its schedule. But Mother Nature cooperated, and officials did a good job of preparing a fast track with plenty of hot action all night long.

Leading the way in Victory Lane was Zach Elward of Hayfield who double dipped in the features taking home top honors in both the Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stocks and the USRA B Mod Main Events. After coming out of the second row to take the Street Stock Feature, Elward benefited from a front row spot in the B Mod Feature. He also took one of two heats in the Streets with the other heat going to Kory Adams of Stacyville, Iowa. In B Mods heat winners were a pair of Austin drivers Garitt Wytaske and Noah Grinstead.

Several drivers made look like it took weeks in a row for feature wins. For the second week in a row Andrew Eischens of Taopi took top honors in the Power 96 Pure Stock Feature. Heats belonged to Kyle Kotek of Owatonna and Mike Wick of Faribault. In Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, it was a second straight feature win for Kadden Kath of Owatonna. Kath also had a heat win along with Greg Pfeifer JR of Austin. And in Brauer Roofing WISSOTA Super Stocks, Dan Nissalke of Winona led the way again. Jeff Brauer of Eyota took the heat win in the class.

Joel Alberts of Mantorville turned a front row starting spot into his first feature win of the year in the French's Repair USRA A Mods. Last week's feature winner Jason Cummins of New Richland and Darwyn Karau of Kasson took the heats.

In Skjeveland Enterprises-Owatonna Sanitation-Claremont Recycling WISSOTA Hornet action, Nate Coopman of Mankato swept his way to a pair of wins as he backed up his heat win with a feature win. Brain Schott of Mazeppa and Josh Winsky of Rochester also had heat wins.

Racing action continues Friday night at Chateau with the first green flag set to fly at 7:15. In two weeks on May 28 it will be the "Spirit of 83 Memorial" with the 23rd running of the Mike Guttormson Memorial A Mod Feature Event. Last year's "Spirit of 83" event was a big success with many businesses, fans and drivers getting involved with the "83 for 83 Promotion." Everyone has a chance to chip in $83 into the purse as a business sponsor or even as a memorial tribute in the name of someone who they've known who had the Spirit of 83 and the Love for Chateau Speedway.

CHATEAU RACING RESULTS

May 14
French's Repair USRA Modifieds
A Feature 1 (25 Laps):
1. 4A-Joel Alberts-Mantorville[1]; 2. 90-Ryan Wetzstein-West Concord[3]; 3. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richland[4]; 4. 83-Kylie Kath-Claremont[8]; 5. 55H-Aaron Hoff-Mantorville [10]; 6. 72-Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie[2]; 7. 51-Chris Oertel-Marshfield WI[12]; 8. 74-Mark Noble-Blooming Prairie[6]; 9. 77-Jacob Stark-Austin[7]; 10. (DNF) 23-Darwin Karau-Rochester [5]; 11. (DNF) 70-Greg Jensen-Albert Lea [11]; 12. (DNF) 15-Chris Loberg-Elma IA[9]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 23-Darwin Karau[1]; 2. 83-Kylie Kath[4]; 3. 74-Mark Noble[2]; 4. 15-Chris Loberg[6]; 5. (DNF) 55H-Aaron Hoff[3]; 6. (DQ) 70-Greg Jensen[5]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 71-Jason Cummins[1]; 2. 4A-Joel Alberts[2]; 3. 90-Ryan Wetzstein[5]; 4. 77-Jacob Stark[3]; 5. 72-Doug Hillson[4]
USRA B-Mods
A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield[1]; 2. 22C-Michael Johnson-Austin [9]; 3. 35JR-Garitt Wytaske-Austin [6]; 4. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin[7]; 5. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink-Austin[2]; 6. 45-Cole Lonergan-Dexter[4]; 7. 25-Zach Nelson-Owatonna[11]; 8. 83R-Kullen Kath-Owatonna[3]; 9. 81K-Caleb Korpi-Claremont[13]; 10. 33-Corbin Ludemann-Grand Meadow[15]; 11. (DNF) 14M-Mike Orozco-Mason City IA[14]; 12. (DNF) 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin[10]; 13. (DNF) 28J-Jackson Hale-Grand Meadow [16]; 14. (DNF) 36K-Jayden Larson-Mankato[8]; 15. (DNF) 83-Braeden Allen-Ostrander[12]; 16. (DNF) 51-Shawn Evans-Kenyon[5]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 35JR-Garitt Wytaske[2]; 2. 83R-Kullen Kath[3]; 3. 15-Zach Elward[7]; 4. 45-Cole Lonergan[5]; 5. 44-Matthew Brooks[4]; 6. 25-Zach Nelson[6]; 7. 81K-Caleb Korpi[8]; 8. 33-Corbin Ludemann[1]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 99-Noah Grinstead[2]; 2. 22C-Michael Johnson[5]; 3. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink[4]; 4. 36K-Jayden Larson[7]; 5. 51-Shawn Evans[6]; 6. 83-Braeden Allen[3]; 7. 14M-Mike Orozco[1]
Power 96 WISSOTA Pure Stock
A Feature 1 (15 Laps):
1. 7X-Andrew Eischens-Taopi[7]; 2. 31S-Jack Maas-Faribault[4]; 3. 17-Michael Wick-Faribault[5]; 4. 26-Brady Krohnberg-Walters[6]; 5. 96-Kyndra Guttormson-Chatfield[9]; 6. 08-Kyle Kotek-Owatonna[2]; 7. 1-Troy Maas-Faribault[8]; 8. 00-Bobby Crews-Austin[1]; 9. 33-Jim Briggs-Waseca[3]; 10. 31-Raey Hastings IV-Austin[10]; 11. 44-Trey Hoppe-New Richland[11]
Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. 08-Kyle Kotek[2]; 2. 31S-Jack Maas[6]; 3. 7X-Andrew Eischens[5]; 4. 33-Jim Briggs[3]; 5. 96-Kyndra Guttormson[1]; 6. 44-Trey Hoppe[4]
Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. 17-Michael Wick[2]; 2. 26-Brady Krohnberg[4]; 3. 00-Bobby Crews[3]; 4. 1-Troy Maas[5]; 5. 31-Raey Hastings IV[1]
Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stock
A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield[4]; 2. 34JR-Braden Brauer-Eyota[6]; 3. 01-Kory Adams-Stacyville IA[5]; 4. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin[3]; 5. 16K-Kevin Vogt-Rose Creek[9]; 6. 46-Stacy Krohnberg-Walters[8]; 7. 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca[10]; 8. 147-Brent Holland-Glenville[11]; 9. (DNF) 99-Greg Lammers-Owatonna[1]; 10. (DNF) KOL34-Kolton Brauer-Eyota(12); 11. (DNF) 101-Ken Adams-Stacyville IA[2]; 12. (DNF) 36-Ross Spitzer-Blooming Prairie[7]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 01-Kory Adams[4]; 2. 36-Ross Spitzer[2]; 3. 34JR-Braden Brauer[3]; 4. 101-Ken Adams[6]; 5. 16K-Kevin Vogt[5]; 6. (DQ) KOL34-Kolton Brauer[1]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 15-Zach Elward[1]; 2. 32-Jason Newkirk[3]; 3. 99-Greg Lammers[2]; 4. 46-Stacy Krohnberg[4]; 5. 42-Cody Hyatt[5]; 6. 147-Brent Holland[6]
Brauer Roofing WISSOTA Super Stock
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 22-Dan Nissalke-Winonna[3]; 2. 0-Brandon Duellman-Winona[4]; 3. 7E-Neil Eckhart-Rochester[5]; 4. 34-Jeff Brauer-Eyota[1]; 5. 28S-Spencer Stock-Racine[6]; 6. 71-Brandon Clemens-Lakeville[7]; 7. 17-Harland Morehart-Rochester[8]; 8. (DNF) Z29-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak-Blooming Prairie[2]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 34-Jeff Brauer[2]; 2. 7E-Neil Eckhart[3]; 3. 22-Dan Nissalke[6]; 4. 0-Brandon Duellman[5]; 5. Z29-Anthony (AJ) Zvorak[1]; 6. 28S-Spencer Stock[7]; 7. 71-Brandon Clemens[4]; 8. 17-Harland Morehart[8]
Skjeveland Ent/Owatonna Sanitation/Claremont Recycling WISSOTA Hornet
A Feature 1 (15 Laps):
1. 19X-Jerry Coopman-Manka[8]; 2. 14-Justin Scheiltzche-Watertown[20]; 3. 21S-Brian Schott-Mazeppa[6]; 4. 20T-Troy Tuma-Owatonna[2]; 5. 02-Bryce Lisowski-Faribault[7]; 6. 20K-Zach Korpi-Claremont [4]; 7. 5-Nick Sillman-Janesville[13]; 8. 5L-Luke Geisler-Richfield[12]; 9. 89-Timothy Gores-Garden City[15]; 10. 16M-Matt Wieman-Owatonna[10]; 11. 29-Tommie Tesch-Waseca[14]; 12. 3D-Daniel Bjonfald-Bloomington[18]; 13. (DNF) 19-Robert Schmidt-Owatonna[1]; 14. (DNF) 21-Brandon Downs-Brownsdale[9]; 15. (DNF) 97X-Josh Winsky-Rochester[3]; 16. (DNF) 511-Shawn Poston-Red Wing[5]; 17. (DNF) 511JR-Maison Poston-Red Wing[11]; 18. (DNF) 16X-Carter Magedanz-Faribault[16]; 19. (DNS) 6-Timothy Barnett-Owatonna; 20. (DNS) 86-Victor Van-Faribault
Heat 1 (5 Laps): 1. 21S-Brian Schott[1]; 2. 511-Shawn Poston[2]; 3. 20T-Troy Tuma[5]; 4. 16M-Matt Wieman[6]; 5. 5-Nick Sillman[3]; 6. 16X-Carter Magedanz[4]; 7. 86-Victor Van[7]
Heat 2 (5 Laps): 1. 19X-Jerry Coopman[7]; 2. 19-Robert Schmidt[2]; 3. 02-Bryce Lisowski[3]; 4. 511JR-Maison Poston[6]; 5. 29-Tommie Tesch[4]; 6. 6-Timothy Barnett[5]; 7. (DNF) 14-Justin Scheiltzche[1]
Heat 3 (5 Laps): 1. 97X-Josh Winsky[2]; 2. 21-Brandon Downs[3]; 3. 20K-Zach Korpi[4]; 4. 5L-Luke Geisler[6]; 5. 89-Timothy Gores[5]; 6. 3D-Daniel Bjonfald[1]
Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Mods
A Feature 1 (20 Laps):
1. 83X-Kadden Kath-Owatonna[7]; 2. 24M-Adam Martinson-Blaine[1]; 3. G12-Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA[4]; 4. 83K-Kobie Kath-Owatonna[3]; 5. RED1-Dan Wheeler-Savage[6]; 6. 98D-Christopher Deno-Kasson[8]; 7. 00JR-Greg Pfeifer Jr-Austin[5]; 8. 1M-Josh Mattick-Rose Creek[12]; 9. 79-Jeremy Misgen-New Richland[14]; 10. 38-Kenny Wytaske-Austin[10]; 11. 5-Tyler McFarland-New Richland[9]; 12. 44Z-Anton Nelson-Hayfield [16]; 13. 79H-Luke Hainka-Wannaming[11]; 14. 20-Joe Frahm-Stewartville [2]; 15. 69-Gary Wilde-Austin[17]; 16. 33-Darryl Hainka-Wannaming[13]; 17. 86-Noel Hoppe-New Richland [15]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 00JR-Greg Pfeifer Jr[2]; 2. 83K-Kobie Kath[1]; 3. 98D-Christopher Deno[5]; 4. G12-Ryan Goergen[6]; 5. 5-Tyler McFarland[3]; 6. 79H-Luke Hainka[8]; 7. 33-Darryl Hainka[4]; 8. 86-Noel Hoppe[7]; 9. 69-Gary Wilde[9]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 83X-Kadden Kath[1]; 2. 24M-Adam Martinson[6]; 3. RED1-Dan Wheeler[5]; 4. 20-Joe Frahm[2]; 5. 38-Kenny Wytaske[4]; 6. 1M-Josh Mattick[7]; 7. 79-Jeremy Misgen[8]; 8. 44Z-Anton Nelson[3]

Grandma's Marathon set for June 17-19

The 45th annual Grandma's Marathon weekend has received the green light for June, which comes as Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz announced a loosening of the state's public health guidelines.

Grandma's Marathon will be held June 17-19. The race starts on Saturday, June 19 in Two Harbors and ends in Duluth, 26.2 miles later.

"This is a great day not just for Grandma's Marathon but for our community as well," Executive Director Shane Bauer said.

"So many people had a hand in making this event a reality this year, and to be here today with the final approval is a testament to the effort everyone's put in.

"Our staff can't thank our state and local partners enough for their tireless work, and we look forward to once again welcoming our participants to the unofficial kickoff to summer in Duluth."

"I am so excited to welcome Grandma's Marathon back to the streets of Duluth," Duluth Mayor Emily Larson added.

"Last year many of us participated in Grandma's virtual races – I loved the flexibility Grandma's awarded us as runners, but it's just not the same as the Canal Park finish. It's truly one of my favorite days in the year. We are thrilled to welcome runners back to Duluth and participate in a safe and well-planned event."

While the updated state guidelines provide a clear path forward for the 2021 Grandma's Marathon, organizers say more specific updates as to how they will change the current race weekend plan will be announced in the coming days.

For more information, please call 218-727-0947 or visit grandmasmarathon.com.

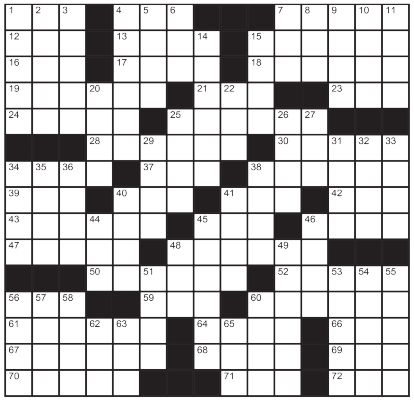
Grandma's Marathon began in 1977 when a group of local runners planned a scenic road race from Two Harbors to Duluth.

There were just 150 participants in 1977, but organizers knew they had discovered something special. Grandma's Marathon weekend draws approximately 20,000 participants for its three-race event each June.

The race got its name from the Duluth-based group of famous Grandma's Restaurants, the first major sponsor of the Marathon.

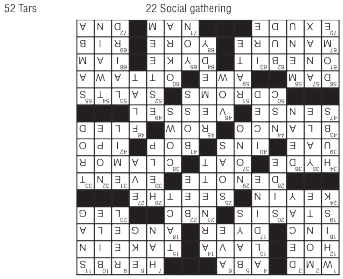
Over time, the level of sponsorship with the restaurants changed, but the name stayed the same. Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with a 17-member Board of Directors and a nine-person, full-time staff.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF THE WEEK



ACROSS
1 Cited as cause of 2003 Iraq war
4 Lawyers' grp.
7 Chef's seasonings
12 Weeding implement
13 Molten rock
15 Deceive
16 Letters after business names
17 Colorist
18 Merkel or Lansbury
19 Inaction
21 S N L network
23 Stage
24 Enter
25 Boil
28 Indicate
30 Happening
34 Jekyll's alter ego
37 Cereal grain
38 Outcry
39 The Emirates
40 Ft. divisions
41 Hit
42 NASDAQ debut
43 Vino selection
45 Heated argument
46 Ran off
47 Detect
48 Ship
50 Some music storage media
52 Tars
56 Retains a reservoir
59 Admiration
60 Canadian capital
61 In the slightest
64 Levee
66 "Before Abraham was, ---" (Jesus)
67 Farm fertilizer
68 Yesteryear
69 Chest bone
70 Ooze
71 Theater for some vets, briefly
72 Double helix molecule (Abbr.)

DOWN
1 Egg beater
2 Spanish card game
3 Rot
4 Type of Venetian type
5 Howls at the moon
6 Hail
7 --- Solo (Harrison Ford character)
8 Heart test
9 Careen
10 Vitriol
11 Catch
14 "Arrested Development" star Will ---
15 Sensitivity
20 Team
22 Social gathering
25 In order
26 Aid
27 "The Locomotion" singer Little ---
29 Forbidden activity
31 Track legend --- Zatopek
32 Informal negative
33 Stepped
34 Centers
35 Connecticut university
36 College head
38 Intimidates
40 Chilled
41 Top banana
44 White House defense advisory grp.
45 Medicament
46 Tire problem
48 Promise
49 Regard
51 Speed
53 Scottish land proprietor
54 Clemens' pen name
55 Rio de Janeiro dance
56 Hemispherical roof
57 Lizzie Borden took ---, ...
58 Restaurant card
60 Southern soup ingredient
62 Chum
63 Wrath
65 Distant but within sight



5.19.2021

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Helping those in a scary and uncertain world

◀ **STEELE TALKIN'** from **B1**

doesn't happen again. Can you address this?

The CRC doesn't judge or shame someone for going back to their abuser. It takes on average, seven times of leaving before people leave for good. Part of the reason victims believe their abuser will change is that they love them, they think of how the abuser was in the beginning, financial reasons, and family. CRC advocates explain the Cycle of Abuse, this shows the abuse going in a cycle that doesn't have any time frame. Typically, after an incident(verbal, emotional, physical outburst) the victim will leave or seek services/Law Enforcement to help. During this time, the abuser will try to honeymoon the victim, such as buying flowers, being loving, promising to get the help they need. Once the victim goes back, the Tension Building Stage happens. This is where it feels like the victim is walking on eggshells to avoid an incident. Then the explosion happens again. This cycle will go round and round until something happens to break it, such as leaving. This is not uncommon and oftentimes, victims have a hard time leaving a relationship and have hopes it will get better due to many factors. Sadly, the pattern repeats itself often getting more intense and dangerous over time.

If a person chooses to stay in an unhealthy relationship, how can they stay safe and emotionally well?

Working with an advocate through the CRC, people can create a safety plan on what to do if violence occurs, safe places to go and provide a trusted third party that can assist when needed. Planning may also include code words to say when help is needed and having trusted family/friends who are fully aware of the situation and can assist when violence occurs.

How can a person leave if they don't have resources to support themselves, especially if they have children to support?

The most difficult decision for a domestic violence relationship is to leave their relationship. Typically, this means leaving their home and moving away from the financial assistance of their partner. If a person does not have the means to support themselves or children, the CRC can assist victims in getting out of an abusive relationship. The CRC works with men, women, and children. They offer "Order for Protection/Harassment Restraining Order" assistance; go to court appearances, law enforcement, and medical appointments with them; make referrals, and offer support groups for victims of Domestic Violence and sexual assault. They do "safety planning" that is tailored to the individual. They want people safe and believe no one deserves to be a victim of abuse! The CRC is completely confidential and has 24/7 services.

How can a person who abuses their partner get help if they want to change their behavior?

Steele County Community Corrections probation clients are referred for a domestic abuse assessment which helps to determine the appropriate level of therapy or treatment for that individual. There are therapy services available to address abusive behavior. They provide post-conviction supervision of individuals following a conviction for domestic violence. Probation Officers work with people to hold them accountable. The most common services involve case planning and referral for services such as mental health therapy, chemical dependency treatment, domestic abuse programming, or order services as deemed appropriate. Support is also offered to the victim in the form of enforcing no-contact conditions or orders and addressing ongoing concerns. The agency uses the Language Line to translate conversations into any other language. Also, many victims of domestic violence rely on friends or other family members for shelter and support until they can get on their own feet.

There is a lot of shame around interpersonal violence how can we make this topic more approachable in our daily conversations and make it easier to help people?

We need to be honest about the fact that domestic violence exists and start teaching children at a young age about healthy relationships and how to effectively resolve conflict without physical or verbal violence. We also need to stand up when we see any type of abuse happening, starting at a young age, and not ignore or tolerate acts of violence.

How can loved ones and friends help someone in an unhealthy/abusive relationship?

By being nonjudgmental, supportive, and listening to the victim. By offering a safe place to be and financial support if needed. By encouraging and helping the victim access services that can help them break away from the relationship. By calling the police and immediately reporting incidents of domestic violence where threats or physical violence are present. By encouraging the person to seek an order for protection to assist them in getting away from the unhealthy relationship.

If you have questions, need help, or want more information please contact Travis Ernste at 507-444-7760 or Missie Boone at 507-451-1202.

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

NHREG's Carlson

◀ **NHREG** from **B1**

"The construction and renovation, as a result of the support we received from the community, has certainly been a highlight as well. I'm excited to see where our career tech education programs go. That was such a focus of much of the renovation process at the secondary school, most notably in our family and consumer science as well as our industrial tech and construction trades. We also funded much-needed improvements in our science labs and security upgrades at the elementary school," he said.

Thanks to those upgrades, he said, he's leaving the NRHEG school district in better shape than when he arrived.

After six years at NRHEG and 36 years in public education, Carlson is unsure what he'll do in his retirement.

"I don't know what that will look like at this time. I'll take some time to reflect on where I want to go," he said. "I'm looking forward to being able to volunteer and spending more time with family, but I likely won't step away totally from public education as I still have a high interest in being involved in impacting young lives."

"I want to thank the board of education for its support and trust in me. I want to thank the NRHEG community for all they've done to support my work but more importantly in support of our students, staff and families," he said. "Thank you to the staff for their ongoing commitment to our kids and our communities."

Owatonna native one of top

◀ **OWATONNA** from **B3**

With all those extracurricular activities on top of school, Rysavy has kept very busy, but he likes it that way.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from helping people," he said.

Helping others will continue to be a part of his life after graduation. Next fall, he plans to return to Saint Mary's to earn his Master of Arts in Teaching degree. He wants to get licensed in both English and Spanish so he can teach either subject at the middle school or high school level.

Auction helps school

◀ **AUCTION** from **B1**

what's best for our kids. And I think that's what I'm most proud of as a superintendent is that our community really supports our kids and is willing to go above and beyond. They spend a lot of time, a lot of effort to make sure that they get the best possible education that they can," Staloch said.

For all the work they put into supporting the Blooming Prairie school district, Staloch said he's very grateful for everyone who's involved in organizing the foundation's auctions and everyone who has bought or will buy an auction item.

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation's silent auction will be held inside the Pizza Cellar from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, while the live auction will be outside under the big tent at The Cue Company from 4 to 11 p.m.

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: **Lucy, Megan** and **Jack** for their achievements. They are being recognized as the top students for April.

Lucy Macius

She is the daughter of Amy and Al Macius. She is involved in gymnastics, track, link crew and National Honor Society. She has participated in BBBS, OYO youth group and Young Life. Lucy currently works at the Owatonna Country Club. She is not sure what college she plans to attend, but she plans to major in biology or kinesiology.

Megan Copeland

She is the daughter of Rian and Jennifer Copeland. Megan has been on the Speech Team since ninth grade. She thoroughly enjoys volunteering her time at nursing homes reading to the elderly and being the greeter at the local community dinners. She participates in Young Life and youth group and helps at Feed My Starving Children any time they are in town. She enjoys writing and speaking in front of others. She plans to participate in a transition program at MN State Academy for the Blind and then go to college for something in the legal field, such Anoka Technical to study to be a Court Reporter.

Jack Titchenal

He is the son of Molly and Eric Titchenal. Jack is involved in football, basketball and is captain of the track and team. Jack has also been involved in choir for four years and has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters as a student mentor for the last three years as well as volunteering with youth camps for football and basketball. Upon graduation Jack will be attending the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities to major in biology and then go on to medical school.

Congratulations to Lucy, Megan and Jack!

Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2017 Honda Civic and I have let it sit for a month and when I tried to start it the engine did start but once it fired every warning light you can think of came on. The message center also is giving error messages. I tried to disconnect the battery for ten minutes then I restarted it and it did the same thing. I have heard that the wiring may have been eaten by a rodent since I am seeing evidence of a rodent under the hood. Is this possible.

Nathan in Sachse Texas

It is possible that you have a rodent problem. Some cars are made with soybean-based wiring covering which we believe is for environmental reasons. It can be an attractive food source for rodents and an awfully expensive fix. We once had a van in our shop four times for repair to the same wire at the same spot because of a hungry mouse. Before you get too excited about the high costs involved with a wiring repair of this nature make sure to have your shop check the basics. It could be as simple as the battery being low and when the car started it caused the computers to get disrupted which is causing all the lights. It may be as simple as resetting the computers and possibly charging the battery. A Battery maintainer is a good idea when a car is parked for extended periods.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
My car is a 1995 Buick Roadmaster Sedan and after getting it out of storage for the summer cruising season I have noticed that it pushes coolant out of the overflow bottle after it runs for only ten minutes. It does this hot or cold and I must add almost a gallon of coolant every time it does this.

Bob in West Bend Indiana

Buick Roadmasters have started to become a collectable car, something we never thought we would see but here they are. The V8 engine LT1 powered car is extremely popular with customizers and cruisers. The engines are tough but at the age yours is it may have one or two issues with the cooling system. If you have not had a thermostat replaced in many years, or never then its time for one. This does not eliminate any other issues though. We would also perform an exhaust gas check of the cooling system to see if there are any exhaust gasses present in the coolant indicating that the engine has a head gasket leaking. If the gasket leaks or if the head is cracked the pressure can cause coolant to be pushed out of the system necessitating adding coolant often. These engines are simple compared to today's dual overhead cam cars so if engine work does need to be done hopefully it will be at an affordable price and you can get this beauty back on the road.

Take care, The Motor Medics

5/20

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Medical groups to merge operations by end of June

The boards of directors of both the Free Clinic of Steele County, based in Owatonna and HealthFinders Collaborative, based in Faribault have agreed to pursue a merger. The merger is expected to formally close by the end of June.

It will result in a stronger combined entity able to serve more communities and patients. The combined organization will be led by the current HealthFinders Collaborative Executive Director, Charlie Mandile and his leadership team. It will use the HealthFinders Collaborative brand.

"I am very excited by this opportunity," said Mandile. "Both the Free Clinic of Steele County and HealthFinders Collaborative are committed to providing high-quality care to families who are often on the margins of our health care system. Together, we will be able to increase access and expand services to more people who need them. The Free Clinic and HealthFinders Collaborative share very similar missions and values. The opportunity to expand access to medical care to our neighbors who need it is the driving force behind this merger."

Both HealthFinders Collaborative and the Free Clinic of Steele County leverage volunteer providers such as nurse practitioners, dentists and physicians to offer services to patients who otherwise would not have access. Regardless of insurance coverage or spoken language, the community-based clinics provide essential education, advocacy and access to high-quality care.

"Bringing these two entities together is a huge step forward for our communities," said Dr. Brian Bunkers, president and CEO of Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Faribault and Owatonna. "They have similar objectives and values and merging will give them the synergy needed to take each organization to an even higher level of service."

HealthFinders Collaborative services in Faribault and Northfield will experience no changes in services or operations as a result of the merger. All existing appointments and services will continue without interruption. The Free Clinic will launch more consistent and coordinated scheduling and accelerate needed process improvements such as electronic medical records and phone and volunteer scheduling infrastructure as part of the merger process.

"Our model is based on local community engagement," said Mandile, "and as we expand to Owatonna, this will continue to be central to our work. We are committed to hiring local staff and engaging the local community."

The Free Clinic of Steele County serves primarily adult uninsured residents of Steele County and provides chronic disease management (high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, mild depression) and other non-life-threatening medical conditions. The clinical care team includes health care professionals from different backgrounds, including registered nurses, health promoters, social workers, dental hygienists, medical lab technologists and physicians. The volunteer organization has offices in Owatonna and is generously supported by the United Way of Steele County and the May Clinic Health System.

Ambassador Visit

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Ambassadors from the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism visit with Insperity to welcome them as a new member. Jennifer Libby is the area Business Performance Advisor. Insperity helps business owners outsource their Human Resources to contain costs on medical, provide administrative relief and create efficiencies on all things Human Resources.

Community Bank announces promotion

Steven Grams

Locally owned and operated Community Bank Owatonna and its Board of Directors are pleased to announce the promotion of Steven M. Grams to the position of president/chief executive officer (CEO). Grams will replace Timothy R. Kluender, who recently resigned to accept a president/CEO position elsewhere.

Grams is a native of Sheboygan, Wis., and is an original founding officer of Community Bank Owatonna. He has served as the bank's executive vice president/senior loan officer and a member of the Board of Directors since the bank first opened in 2003. Prior to that he worked for the former Owatonna State Bank, which was acquired in 2002.

Grams graduated from The University of Wisconsin-Madison before earning a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He also attended the prestigious Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He and his wife Martha have two daughters and the family resides in Owatonna.

"Steve was the logical choice for this opportunity due to his loyalty and longevity at Community Bank Owatonna," said David "Ole" Olson, Chairman of the Board of Directors. "No one else knows the customers, employees, shareholders, and community better than he does. Steve has earned this opportunity due to the outstanding results he has produced over many years. Additionally, this promotion will allow the bank to move forward with a seamless transition for our customers and staff."

"I am honored to have been part of the Community Bank Owatonna team for the past 18 years, and appreciate the confidence placed in me by the Board of Directors," said Grams. "I look forward to continuing to serve the customers, staff, directors, and shareholders in the years to come."

Edward Jones ranks high in investor satisfaction

Financial services firm Edward Jones ranks highest in investor satisfaction with full-service brokerage firms, according to the J.D. Power 2021 U.S. Full-Service Investor Satisfaction Study(SM), the firm announced. The study measures overall investor satisfaction with 24 full-service investment firms based on seven factors, including product offerings, problem resolution, convenience, digital experience, financial advisors, value and trust.

The firm scored 770 in overall satisfaction, 38 points over the industry average. A deeper dive indicates that Edward Jones also scored highest in trust; convenience; and problem resolution

"We are incredibly honored to be named by investors as delivering the highest level of satisfaction, especially during a year of challenge and volatility," said Edward Jones Managing Partner Penny Pennington. "We are constantly looking for ways to improve our service experience and deepen relationships as we live our purpose – improving the lives of our clients and colleagues and, together, benefiting our communities and society."

Edward Jones has ranked highest in investor satisfaction by J.D. Power for several years – in 2019, 2015 (tied), 2012, 2010, 2009, 2007-2005, and in a tie in 2002, when the study began.

Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in St. Louis, provides financial services in the U.S. and, through its affiliate, in Canada. There are several firms in Owatonna.

Blooming Prairie plant garners state recognition

◄ **BLOOMING** from **B2**

cost was $3,757,000, of which 80% was funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Owatonna plant has been online for 33 years. Olson said the city is in the design phase of a plant upgrade that is expected to handle the city's wastewater needs for another 20 years.

Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Ellendale and Meriden Township were among the elite few to garner the MPCA award. Only 292 of 1,600 plus facilities in Minnesota were recognized for outstanding permit compliance.

NOTICE

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 4/27/2021

Complete Minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website:

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Krueger/Gnemi to approve the Agenda. Ayes all.

2. There were no comments from the public.

3. Correspondence acknowledged.

4. Gnemi/Abbe to approve the following Consent Agenda items. Ayes all.

A. Approve April 13, 2021 Board Minutes

B. Approve April 20, 2021 Board Work Session Minutes

C. Approve April 26, 2021 Special Session Board Minutes

D. Approve Bills and Journal Entries

E. Approve Personnel Report

F. Approve purchase of annual license from Visual Labs for storage of body camera footage and squad video and Authorize the County Attorney to sign Agreement.

G. Approve purchase of two safety jackets for Emergency Management Directors

H. Approve purchase of batteries for Handheld ARMER Radios for Emergency Management

I. Approve MNDOC Work Release Contract Amendment allowing Steele County to resume a partnership with the DOC to house their Work Release Offenders

J. Approve Agreement with Clinton Falls Township for Removal of Bridge No. L5573 on NE 50th Street

K. Approve Contract Award 2021 County Wide Sealcoat CP 074-021-003 in an amount of $657,713.82 to Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp.

5. Amy Caron, Director of Public Health Nursing, made a Public Health Presentation regarding the current status of COVID-19 in Steele County. She reported 52% of the population has been vaccinated.

6. Krueger offered a Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Gnemi to approve the Consenting to the Benedictine Refinancing Project. Upon the vote being taken 3 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Glynn and Commissioner Abbe voting against.

7. Gnemi/Abbe to adjourn to the call of the chair at 5:30 p.m. Ayes all.

5/19

LISTING OF BILLS 4/27/2021

Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	10,045.96
BCA State of Minnesota	2,735.00
Bolton & Menk Inc	19,827.00
Central Farm Services	17,524.00
Compass Minerals America	19,572.16
CRK Properties LLC	6,526.68
Fidlar Technologies Inc	2,968.56
Four Seasons Electric	7,928.37
Justice Planners LLC	16,371.00
Kronos Incorporated	3,510.73
MCCC MI 33	5,571.66
Moore Md/Kellyanna J	3,536.33
Nuss Trucks & Equipment	4,108.56
RDO Equipment Co., Inc.	2,762.87
SCR	3,293.03
SHI International Corp	2,437.00
SRF Consulting Group Inc	15,357.42
Steele County Auditor	35,000.00
Steele County Treasurer	22,585.31
Summit Food Services LLC	7,453.24
Verizon	4,867.07
91 Payments less than $2,000	46,875.50
Final Total:	260.857.45

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY STEELE

DISTRICT COURT
Judicial District: Third
Court File Number: 74-CV-21-645
Case Type: Harassment

Notice of Issuance of Harassment Restraining Order by Publication

Edwin White
Petitioner
vs
Laura Williamson
Respondent

To Respondent:
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Harassment Restraining Order has been issued on April 30th, 2021.

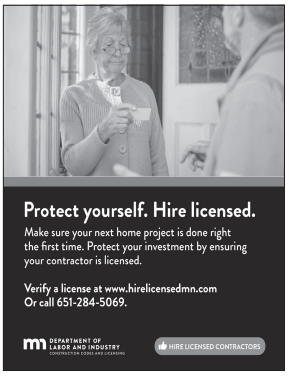
A hearing has not been scheduled. You may request a hearing on this matter by filing a *Request for Hearing* HAR301 with the Court within twenty (20) days of the date this Notice is published. You may get a copy of the HRO from the court administrator's office at the following address: 111 East Main Street, Owatonna MN 55060.

Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing or to get a copy of the Harassment Restraining Order will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.

Date 5/11/2021

/s/ Kashayla Madsen
Court Administrator / Deputy

5/19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bptimes@frontiernet.net
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TO PLACE AN AD
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Dodge County Advantage
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121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Rifle Ammunition. Factory new Remington .22-250 (20 rds.) $25; Federal 300 Win.Mag. 180 grain soft point $45; 7 boxes New Components 22-250 CCI 200, 33.1 GR IMR 4064, 55 Hornaday V-Max 140 rounds $15/20 rounds or all for $95; 100 rounds of .300 W/by. Magnum cartridges $100; .223/5.56 bulk ammo (50-1,000 rounds) $1.10/round. 763-226-9775 for information. 5/6tfnpd

FOR RENT

DODGE CENTER: 1-bedroom upper apartment in house, with private entrance. Stove, refrigerator, water and garbage serv. incl. Nonsmokers only. No pets. Available now. $600 per month, plus deposit. 507-374-6747. 5/6TFN

2 & 3 BD – DODGE CENTER: Smoke free two-story townhomes with garages! Open May & June. $1010 & $1050 p/mo + util. Minutes from Hwy 14 & Rochester. 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 or www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 EHO 4/29T4

STORAGE FOR RENT: Storage-Indoor-Kasson. 10 by 20 ft: $90 month. 7 by 9 ft: $60 month. Voice/Text 651-272-7970. 3/18T6/TFN

COINS

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. 5/20T6pd

BARGAIN FINDERS

FOR SALE: Krause 16' type 1A industrial, extra heavy foldable ladder, 300# rating. $50. Call: 507-528-2252. Leave message. 5/5t4pd

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507-634-7907. 33tfc

GARAGE SALE

KASSON

65879 250th Ave., KASSON. Friday, May 21, Noon-7PM; Saturday, May 22, 8AM-1PM. Quilting fabric, supplies, book, patterns, notions. Fabric for clothes, sewing and crafting items. 5/20pd

Multi-family Sale! 63073 260th Ave, KASSON. Thursday & Friday, May 20 & 21, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, May 22, 8:30AM, 1PM. (Same green signs but different location.) Lots of men's clothing medium to 3XL, men's pants/shorts 38-44, boy's size 10-18, ladies clothing form 0-2X, household décor, housewares, canning jars, misc. books and movies, misc. furniture, camping gear, some painting and tool supplies, too much to list! 5/20pd

HELP WANTED

Dodge Center American Legion is looking for a part-time bartender. If interested and for more details, please call 507-259-7241. 5/20TFN

Eugene & DeAnn Kaplan Estate Sale
Friday, May 21 • 12-6pm
Saturday, May 22 • 9-1pm
Lifetime Treasures
12509 34th Ave SE
Blooming Prairie, MN
(Signs posted near sale)
NO early sales. NO numbers handed out. Please check website/Facebook for item list & photos. **More items added to sale!**
www.lifetimetreasuressales.com
5/19

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Activities Assistant
- Part-Time

Cook
- Part-Time

JAYBIRD SENIOR LIVING
Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING
Apply on Indeed or 800 5th Ave. NW, Kasson, MN - EOE
Professionally Managed by Jaybird Senior Living, formerly Senior Housing Management.
5/13T3

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is looking to fill the following positions

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Welder

Starting pay based on experience.

Apply at 201 8th Ave SE, Kasson, MN 55944

Or call 507-634-6870

5/20T2

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www.triton.k12.mn.us
under the District Office menu.
EOE
5/20

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635-6266
or call collect 24 hours
289-0636

GOT NEWS? EDITORDCI@KMTEL.COM

Rolling Hills Transit

Are you friendly and have excellent customer service skills?

Rolling Hills Transit is looking for a Full time Dispatcher (35 hrs/wk) for the Dispatch Center in Kasson.

Position requirements include:
- Excellent computer skills, including experience with Microsoft Excel and Word.
- Ability to multitask in a very fast paced environment.
- Must be a team player with a positive attitude.

More information & application available at
www.semcac.org or contact Barb Thompson at **barb.thompson@semcac.org** or **507-864-8202.**

Applications must be received by **May 30, 2021** E.O.E.
5/20T2

KASSON-MANTORVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

has a
KoMet Kids Paraprofessional
and an
Early Childhood Special Education Paraprofessional
position available.

Please complete an application online at **www.komets.k12.mn.us** and include a resume and letter of application.
5/20

Blooming Prairie Elementary School

is accepting applications for a
Secretary/MARSS & ED-FI Coord.
(10 mo. work year/7.5 hours per day).

Student data reporting is an integral part of this position with the ability to multi-task, possess excellent computer skills, perform general office duties, and be a team player is a must.

Please send a letter of interest, resume, and recommendations to:
BP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Jacob Schwarz
123 2nd Street NW,
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Deadline for applying is May 21, 2021.
5/19

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Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

EMPLOYMENT

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS
Multi-District/Education Cooperative in Isabel, South Dakota is seeking applications for the following instructor position/s: open until filled. Speech Language Pathologist, Early Childhood Special Education Instructor, Intro. to Drafting and Design/ Architectural Drafting and Design (CTE CADD position). South Dakota licensure is required and work-related experience may count toward certification. NWAS offers competitive salary, benefits, transportation and SD Retirement. Contact Quinn Lenk, Director, at 605/466-2206, or email quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us. Northwest Area Schools Multi District/Education Cooperative does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS
Competitive wage and benefits, meal allowance, paid lodging. Traveling position for railroad vegetation control, 60-80 hours/week. RAW (Cooperstown, ND) 888/700-0292 info@rawapplicators.com www.rawapplicators.com

EMPLOYMENT

KMS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
has FT high school Social Studies position beginning August 2021. Qualifications: MN Licensure. Apply: www.kms.k12.mn.us. Attach: letter of interest, resume, transcripts, copy of license, three letters of recommendation.

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CARVING A NICHE

Wood artist's work draws attention at the Pirkls

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

"I quit smoking and drinking and needed something to do."

Patrick Doyle
Wood Carver

"It's a masterpiece." That's how Bob Pirkl of Blooming Prairie describes a piece of creative art that has been added to his front yard at 239 Memorial Drive.

Being an avid outdoorsman and hunter, Pirkl said he always wanted something salvageable from a tall pine tree that was cut down on the southwest corner of their lot.

Bob and his wife Karen did some scouting online for wood carvers and found Patrick Doyle, a wood carver from Floyd, Iowa. His business is called Doyle Carving Niche. Floyd is located seven miles north of Charles City.

The Pirkls' desire to add art to their front lawn became a reality over two days last week when Doyle brought seven chain saws, ranging from 12-inch to 24-inch blades. He uses nothing but Stihl chain saws.

The order from the Pirkls to Doyle was to create an outdoor hunting scene. That's when Doyle came up with the idea of a scene showing a rooster pheasant going airborne from a corn field. The field featured some ears of corn on farm stalks.

The project ended being about 4 1/2 feet tall.

Doyle's artistic talents drew interest from many passers by curious as to what was going to appear on the Pirkl's front yard.

The Pirkl's Brittany Spaniel named Bre was painted beneath the corn.

Doyle said he currently is in his 28th year of wood carving. "It started out as a hobby and ended up being a business," remarked Doyle, a rather unassuming, tall man who takes a lot of pride in his unique work.

"I quit smoking and drinking and needed something to do," Doyle confesses.

Doyle first started doing some hand carving after cutting his own firewood. "That's when I started messing around with a chain saw," he said.

Doyle is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in education. He earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's in counseling. He was a counselor at a treatment center for over 30 years. He then began to lead a two-career life as a counselor and an artist.

"It's an art that requires having a vision," remarked Doyle. He admits to not using a pattern when carving his creations.

During his 20-plus years of carving, Doyle said he has finished over 20,000 carvings.

His subjects are built on these woods: walnut, pine, white oak, burr oak, cedar and ash. He says many people believe that the harder the wood the longer it will last. He says that is not true.

Doyle says he will do any subject as long as it is not obscene or something in which he does not believe. In other words there are not many projects that Doyle will not accept. He does emphasize that he doesn't do dragons.

He loves doing bears and eagles. Other items he carves include squirrels, turtles, cardinals, fish, people and flowers.

House signs are another specialty Doyle has adopted.

The Pirkl project is his first in Blooming Prairie. Doyle's wife, Sonne Nielsen, manages their business and helps with sales and bookings for fairs and festivals.

Doyle has been the featured chainsaw carver at the Iowa State Fair and numerous county and regional fairs. Many of his carvings are done on-site and often draw crowds to watch as a critter or person is released from a tree, having been "trapped inside" for years.

Additionally, many of Doyle's carvings have been auctioned or raffled as fundraisers for benefits and organizations such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

"I like to do the carving; it pays the bills," Doyle says matter of factly. "It's not fun when I have to do it."

Doyle says he is amazed and humbled with how God has been and is working in his life. "I have been blessed with a wonderful, loving family and friends, as well as gifts that I can share with others," he added.

The carving hobby and business have produced some "fantastic" experiences with people, said Doyle.

Patrick Doyle, a wood carver from Floyd, Iowa begins a carving project at the Bob and Karen Pirkl residence in Blooming Prairie. The project, an outdoor scene, took him two days.

Four grandchildren of Bob and Karen Pirkl, Ruby and Lily Fausett, back row, left to right and Sam and Joseph Pirkl, front row, left to right, proudly pose in front of an outdoor scene carved on the Pirkls' front yard by Patrick Doyle. Also shown is the Pirkls' Brittany Spaniel, Bre, who was painted beneath the corn.

DOYLE CARVING NICHE

Patrick Doyle
2586 155th St.
Floyd, Iowa 50435

641-220-0738
www.doylecarvingniche.com