



With whip in hand and mask covering his face, Steele County 4-Her Trig Klemmensen displays what it's like showing in COVID-19 times as he guides his Duroc hog across the ring Aug. 18 during the 4-H hog show at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna. See pages A4 and A5 for complete results of this year's 4-H competitions, which were closed to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The show still goes on

Despite pandemic, 4-H members show animals

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Even though she was forced to wear a mask during the 4-H Dairy Show, Kyle Kruckeberg of Owatonna is glad the show still went on.

The livestock shows took on an entirely different look last week at the Steele County Fairgrounds as 4-Hers paraded their animals while wearing face masks to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The

shows were closed to the public and absent of the usual hustle and bustle of the fair going on in the background. For 4-Hers like Kruckeberg, they weren't about to let the coronavirus get in the way of showing animals.

"I didn't want to do a virtual show," Kruckeberg said. "It would be a shame if I didn't get to show. I'm glad I'm able to do it." Kruckeberg, 18, showed two Brown

SEE THE SHOW, A3

73 years, 17 churches, time to retire for Grabau

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It doesn't take long after first meeting Mert and Irma Grabau that these two individuals are deeply in love.

That love has spanned over 70 years. The Grabaus observed their 69th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, Aug. 19. Longevity seems to be the middle name of Mert and Irma. They both would fool anyone who would hesitate to guess their ages. Mert is 93 and Irma is 69. Their smiles are contagious and their true hair colors match their colorful personalities.

The couple resides in a town home on the south side of Owatonna. The coronavirus has slowed them down somewhat, but they still have managed to stay busy serving the Lord in many different ways. They also stay close to one another by sharing many interests.

Mert just recently retired after serving as a church organist for 73 years. He most recently served as organist at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. He also played at

"They are servants of the Lord and love to serve others."

Gloria Kenow
Friend of Grabau



Mert and Irma Grabau have shared their music with the Owatonna community over the years. Mert just retired from Redeemer Lutheran Church after serving as a church organist at many churches for the past 73 years.

SEE 73 YEARS, A7



Sportstitch owner Linda Klemmensen tags some purchases made by customers at her "red hat" fire sale held Aug. 18 at the Blooming Prairie Central Park. Merchandise from the fire was discounted for purchase. Proceeds were turned over to the BP Chamber.

BP Chamber reaps benefit of fire sale

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce can say, without hesitation, that Linda Klemmensen, owner of Sportstitch, is a true friend of the chamber.

Klemmensen has been a very active and supportive member of the BP Chamber for many years. She is a past president of the Chamber and is currently on the executive board.

Klemmensen's business was ravaged by fire on Jan. 28. Her business was located next to The Bakery, which also burned. Both buildings have since been leveled.

Prior to the equipment becoming severely damaged, Klemmensen was able to get some of the building. She also was able to get some of her clothing merchandise out of the

SEE BP CHAMBER, A8

Burnett Blume earns Quilt of Valor

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

With an American bald eagle statue poised ahead, family of Burnett Blume of rural Blooming Prairie watched as Burnett received a Quilt of Valor from the local Quilt of Valor group.

Chris Butler, the originator of the local Quilt of Valor program, presented the quilt to Blume on Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Blooming Prairie Veterans

Memorial site. His wife Marilyn was at his side. The local Quilts of Valor group has given out more than 160 quilts to deserving military service recipients.

Blume's quilt was pieced by Chris Butler and quilted by the Calico Hutch of Hayward. "I never expected anything like this," said an emotional Burnett.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was started with a Blue Star moth-

SEE BURNETT BLUME, A10

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AREA DEATHS

Myrtle Peterson, 100,
New Richland
Julia Taylor, 99, rural Austin

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OUR VIEW

Fair officials didn't disappoint us

Go figure in a year where we are forced to have no fair, the weather ends up being probably the best in years.

Such was the case last week for the Steele County Free Fair, which was shuttered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Days and stretches of beautiful weather wavering in the 80s with moderate humidity and hardly any rain (except for later Friday night) made for one of the best runs of weather this summer. The only problem was we were missing our most prized possession, the county fair.

It was almost like we were being tortured, though not sure who would want to be that cruel to us in a year that has been anything but normal. No doubt the fair would have likely shattered record numbers this year with the awesome weather.

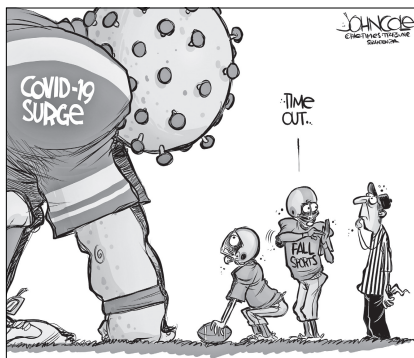
All we could do was settle for the Food Fest, a three-day event that still attracted thousands of people wanting to get a taste of fair food. It certainly wasn't the county fair, but at least we got a little piece of the action to satisfy our fair desires.

The event was well orchestrated by the Steele County Agricultural Society. Fair Board members directed nearly 6,200 vehicles through the gates over three days. They had a system down that allowed people to pull off when they wanted fair food or to pass by in search of something else.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to fair president Dan Deml, fair manager Scott Kozelka and the rest of the fair crew for taking the time to put together this event, which was on the brink of not happening after the state got involved with mandating public health regulations. It could have been so easy to forgo the event all together, but local fair officials stuck with it and made it happen for the enjoyment of 15 food vendors as well as community members.

Over the years we have all come to expect great things from what has become Minnesota's largest county fair. And even in a COVID-19 year that has brought almost everything to a screeching halt, fair officials didn't disappoint us. We all would have loved to have more from this year, but sadly the times we're in don't allow it.

Now all we can do is focus on bringing back the fun in 2021. Let's hope by then COVID-19 will long be in our rearview mirror.



YOUR VIEW

Thanks for attending Food Fest

To the Editor:
The Steele County Board of Directors and staff would like to THANK all those that attended the Food Fest August 21-23. The Steele County Fair Board members and volunteers greeted 6,143 cars as

they traveled through the Food Fest Trail.
Again, thanks to all.
"BRINGING BACK THE FUN IN 2021"
Wayne Steele
Steele County Free Fair

GUEST COLUMN

Supporting our smallest communities

BY TIM PENNY

Central to Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's (SMIF) current strategic plan is a strengthened commitment to look ahead at the future of rural Minnesota. While we continue to make our programming and resources accessible to communities of all sizes in our 20-county region, we know that many of our smaller towns lack sufficient financial resources to help them grow and address challenges. Two ways we have enhanced our invest-

ments in small towns is through our Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) program and our Small Town Grant program.
The REV program started as a pilot here at SMIF, and is supported by Blandin Foundation, with the goal of helping small towns develop new approaches for long-term economic growth. The REV model is based on the e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems framework from Net-Work Kansas, which provides guidance to communities for accelerating entrepre-

neurial activity. The framework, which has been utilized by communities across the country, provides a roadmap for sustainable entrepreneurial development.
In 2018, six small towns with populations under 5,000 were chosen to participate in REV after a competitive application process: Blue Earth, Lake City, Lanesboro, Le Sueur, Spring Grove and Spring Valley. Coaches from SMIF, Region Nine Development Commission and

SEE SUPPORTING, A8

Clover Bud enjoys a first time fair-like experience



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

As I ventured onto the Steele County Fairgrounds last week to cover the 4-H Livestock shows, I came across a little fellow that brought me back to my 4-H days many years ago when I showed hogs.

Brody Lang of the Merry Lane 4-H Club made his first appearance as a Clover Bud at the fair with a beef steer named Snow Flake, who was born during a snowstorm back in mid-January. He had some help from Kaly Nantz, a veteran of 4-H herself who has also been a babysitter for Brody and his brother.

It's neat to see young kids develop an interest in 4-H and specifically showing at well, what was supposed to be the county fair. The 4-H shows were cut short this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. These with livestock projects came only for one day to show their animals and then they turned around and left again. Certainly not the fair experience 4-Hers are used to having, but the important thing is they got to show and go in front of a judge.

For Brody, he also got

a couple extra bonuses. He had his picture taken by yours truly and one of the local radio stations taped a short interview with him. It was great to see him beaming with pride over his animal.

This, no doubt, will instill confidence in him that will last a lifetime. Brody's father, Mark, credits Nantz for getting Brody involved in 4-H as neither Mark or his wife were ever in 4-H. "She promoted 4-H and offered to help us get involved," said Mark, who grew up in Austin. He now has a small farm outside of Blooming Prairie with about 10 beef steers. "She has been very instrumental in getting the boys with the animals and other projects."

Mark says Brody is involved with the

animals every day. Brody especially enjoys bottle-feeding them. "He is a hard working little boy," Mark said, adding he often runs out to the barn in his pajamas to take care of the animals before retreating back inside to watch cartoons.

Beef wasn't the only project for Brody. He also showed a rabbit and goat this year.

"He was really gung ho for a 6 year old," Mark says. "He really took off with it."

With no previous experience with 4-H, Mark likes what he sees happening with Brody, who will be a first grader at Blooming Prairie this fall. "It teaches a lot of values you don't see in kids now-a-days," Mark said of 4-H.

While Mark was disappointed the year was cut short by Brody not getting the full effect of being at the fair, he knows one thing for sure. Brody is eager to come back again next year. "He loves it," Mark says.

Brody will be in hot pursuit for years to come of showing in 4-H and winning championships with the hopes of going to the Minnesota State Fair.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Brody Lang of Blooming Prairie was all smiles after he showed a beef steer for the first time in 4-H competition last week at the Steele County Fairgrounds. Shown with Brody is Kaly Nantz, a former 4-H member helping out Brody with his project.

It just wasn't the same, but it was GOOD

Since the coronavirus wiped out this year's 2020 edition of the Steele County Free Fair, many tried to create some fair atmosphere with the first-ever Drive Thru Food Fest.

Fifteen food vendors set up their stands on the fairgrounds last Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This Steele County Fair clone was just not the same but it did give fair fans a chance to remember their favorite fair foods tasted like.

With ketchup and mustard dripping out of my foot-long hot dog bun and onto my nice, clean shirt, I began to second guess our decision to travel the fairgrounds in search of a favorite food.

If the ketchup and mustard were not enough, I managed to leave finger prints of my order of cheese kurds on my pants. We were hoping to have some of Ole and Lena's onion rings but they were sold out by the time we arrived at the food fest.

The event, sanctioned by the Steele County Free Fair Board, was a major success, thanks to agreeable weather and thanks to some fine organization on the part of the promoters.

The Minnesota State Fair has sanctioned a similar drive-by event.



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

It was sold out in two hours. It continues for the next two weekends.

The food fest route was carefully planned out with cones and live people pointing to the right direction to travel. Entrance to the food fest was located to the east of the race track. Maps were then given each vehicle and it contained numbers of the 15 vendors and their locations.

On the opposite side of the map was a menu that contained the offerings of the 15 vendors.



Our first stop was at the soft pretzel stand owned and operated by my wife Judy's classmate, Connie Evenson and her husband Scott.

Here's who was at the Food Fest:
1) Becker's Strawberry Smoothies
2) Godfather's Pizza
3) Pretzel Wiz (Connie and Scott Evenson)
4) Otte's Kettle Korn
5) Minnesnowli
6) Shaved Ice
7) Schroder Concessions
8) Tom Thumb Donuts
9) Evan's Eatery
10) Minneapple Pie
11) Goette's Pork Chops
12) Salted Nut Rolls
13) Fresh Fries
14) Grandma's Cookies
15) ADA Malt Stand

As my friend, the late LeMar Nelson, would say: a tip of the hat goes to all the vendors who made us recall with satisfaction the fair food we learned to love.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Schroder Concessions was one of 15 vendors that sold their goodies to drive-by shoppers at the Steele County Fairgrounds last weekend. Here, workers deliver a foot-long hot dog to a hungry customer.

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MINNESOTA
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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
1 national award
2013—7 state and
2 national awards
2012—2 state awards
2011—4 national awards

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

Steele adds another 30 COVID cases over past week

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A troubling trend keeps emerging in the county's fight against COVID-19.

Steele County Public Health Director Amy Caron reported on Monday that the county has added 30 new coronavirus cases over the past week, including 20 just over the weekend. Steele's total confirmed cases now stand at 399 with two deaths and no current hospitalizations. Of the cases, 326 have recovered.

Caron expressed concern with the county's cases, which

haven't revealed a particular pattern for public health officials to focus on. Caron said the new cases are "scattered and all over the place" in terms of age ranges and where people are contracting the virus.

The new cases developed over the past week range in ages from 5 to 83 years old, according to Caron. She said most of the cases are coming from the 20 to 50-age range.

She describes the county's cases as being a roller coaster for the past month. Caron said it appeared the county was on a downhill slide

"I'm hoping we're not on the cusp of a second wave."

Amy Caron
Public Health Director

at the end of July, but August has gone the opposite direction. "I'm hoping we're not on the cusp of a second wave," she said. She added it usually takes up to three weeks to identify an actual trend.

In Dodge County where Caron also serves as public health director, there have been 148 confirmed cases with no deaths

the spread," she said. But, she added, to make a direct correlation between the mandate and reduce numbers is very difficult at this time.

Caron continues to work with area schools on developing their plans for the coming school year. They are closely monitoring the county rate, which currently stands at 12.43 per 10,000 people for Steele. Most schools have indicated they are doing in-person learning for elementary grades and a hybrid model of in-person and distance learning for the older grade levels.

"They are not easy decisions for schools to make," Caron acknowledged. "It's really complex."

As the flu season approaches, Caron stressed the importance of getting a flu shot this year. "The fear is we're going to have influenza season on top of COVID," she said. "We could end up with some very sick people out there."

Caron recommends people getting a flu shot towards the end of September. "Get your flu shot, it's even more important this year considering we are in this pandemic," she said.

THE SHOW: still goes on FROM A1

Swiss cows in the Dairy Show. She leases the animals from Clover Glen Farms of rural Claremont. She got the cows ready for show by washing and clipping them.

Besides showing in 4-H, Kruckeberg is also a Steele County Dairy Princess. Despite growing up in the city, Kruckeberg got interested in dairy after participating in Cow Camp as a second grader at Clover Glen Farms. "The first year I really hated it," she related. "For some reason I told my mom to sign me up for another year and then I really enjoyed it and have kept with it every year since."

Kruckeberg joined the Pratt Commandoes 4-H Club six years ago at the urging of another dairy princess, Lillie Zollner. Kruckeberg is continuing a family tradition of 4-H as both her father and grandfather were in 4-H.

Colin Schultz, 9, also took part in the 4-H Dairy Show. He also lives in the city, but goes out to Clover Glen Farms at least twice a week to take care of the animals. He said he spent several hours getting his cows ready for show.

Asked what he thought about showing during COVID-19, Schultz responded, "It's kind of different, but at least we get to show our cows."

Parent Gail Zollner of Owatonna was busy

"It's obviously very different this year."

Kylie Kruckeberg
4-H Dairy Exhibitor

helping her daughter and others get ready for show. "My fair heart is happy," Zollner said pointing out the kids got to do some showing and fair food would be offered on the weekend.

Tracy Ignaszewski, 4-H program coordinator for Steele County, said the 4-H shows ran at about 50% participation of what it is in a normal year. For example, the hog show featured 150 hogs when there are about 230 in a normal year.

"We haven't lost 4-Hers," Ignaszewski said. "They just haven't showed as many animals."

While most 4-Hers showed in person, there were 40 virtual entries for livestock, according to Ignaszewski. Support staff had a laptop computer at the shows for judges to view the virtual entries.

Ignaszewski said this year has been a "whole roller coaster of emotions" for the 4-H program trying to adapt to COVID-19 guidelines. "It has been excitement, disappointment, gratitude and appreciation," she said. "There has been a whole realm of emotions," she added.

Many 4-H members and their parents have

expressed their appreciation for 4-H leaders like Ignaszewski who pushed to have face-to-face judging even without a fair.

While COVID-19 has brought its share of problems, Ignaszewski is quick to point out that it has taught character, flexibility and change for 4-Hers. Pivot is a word that Ignaszewski has grown to describe the past several months. "To be able to pivot quickly made it challenging," she said.

She said the most difficult part of the past few months for 4-H has been not knowing which direction they would be going. "We were planning two fairs," Ignaszewski said, noting they had been looking at a virtual show to start and ended up with an in-person show.

As 4-H members showed their animals, they all wore face masks in the show rings. While it wasn't ideal for many, they also understood the importance of wearing them.

"It's the only thing that's putting a halt to the spread (of COVID-19)," reasoned Kruckeberg. "It's obviously very different this year."

Staying safe while selling corn



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRAD
A familiar face behind the mask at a farmers food stand in Blooming Prairie is Terry Jordan of Stewartville. Jordan sells produce from Produce Plus of Eyota. She had a half of a truckload of sweet corn on this hot, summer day.

There are many heroes in our midst... but only **YOU** can help us identify them!



Let us know about your personal story of how a hero in our communities has touched your life during the coronavirus pandemic.

Share your hero and you could win a prize!

- In 200 or less words, send us details highlighting your hero and how they helped you survive COVID-19.
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- Please include: Name, Phone Number and Address and/or Email
- Submissions will be published in a special Hero section later this summer.
- **PRIZES** will be awarded to the best submissions as selected by our judges.
 - Gift Cards to area stores and restaurants
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- **HURRY!** Send your submissions by Friday, August 28

What's your COVID-19 HERO story?

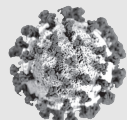
We're waiting to hear from you today!

STEELE COUNTY Times



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER
For the first time ever, virtual entries were a part of this year's 4-H livestock shows in Steele County. Here, 4-H coordinator Tracy Ignaszewski, right, assists the hog judge with a laptop computer to view some of the virtual hog entries.

COVID-19 UPDATE



World.....23,400,000
Deaths.....809,000
Recovered.....15,200,000

U.S.5,720,000
Deaths177,000
Recovered.....2,310,000

MN.....69,630
Deaths1,813
Recovered.....28,205

Steele.....399
Deaths2
Recovered.....326

Dodge148
Deaths0
Recovered.....123

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Interview – Carson Van Gelder, Pratt Commandos; Reserve – Ericka Jaster, Medford Go Getters; Senior Champion Beef Interview – Joshua Katzung, Meriden Meadowlarks; Reserve – Ava Kyle, Straight River Stars.

Poultry

Champion Show/Hobby Bird – Evan Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Champion Dove – Jack Bruns, Merry Lane; Champion Chicken – Kayden Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Reserve – Gavin Seykora, Straight River Stars; Champion Duck – Alla Kubicek, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Evan Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Champion Goose – McKenna Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Reserve – McKenna Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Champion Turkey – Evan Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Junior Champion Poultry Showmanship – Jorrie Seykora, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Miles Aase, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Intermediate Champion Poultry Showmanship – Alla Kubicek, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Gavin Seykora, Straight River Stars; Senior Champion Poultry Showmanship – Evan Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Reserve – McKenna Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Junior Champion Poultry Interview – Jorrie Seykora, Straight River Stars; Senior Champion Poultry Interview – McKenna Melby, Ellendale Hustlers; Reserve – Evan Melby, Ellendale Hustlers.

Dairy

Champion Senior Ayrshire – Allison Krohnberg, Merry Lane; Champion Junior Brown Swiss – Kellen Nelson, Pratt Commandos; Reserve – Kylie Kruckeberg, Pratt Commandos; Champion on Senior Brown Swiss – Afton Nelson, Pratt Commandos; Reserve – Lilly Zollner, Pratt Commandos; Champion Junior Guernsey



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSELER
Addison Hjelmén concentrates on showing her beef cow during the 4-H Beef Show on Aug. 19. The show took on a different flavor this year as it was closed to the public and exhibitors were required to wear face masks.

– Allison Krohnberg, Merry Lane; Reserve – Andy Nelson, Straight River Stars; Champion Junior Registered Holstein – Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Reserve – Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion Dairy Genetics – Courtney Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks; Reserve – Kennedy Wagner, Meriden Meadowlarks; Junior Champion Dairy Showmanship – Andy Nelson, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Ava Cox, Pratt Commandos; Intermediate Champion Dairy Showmanship – Ali Slater, Meriden Meadowlarks; Champion Senior Grade Holstein – Erin O'Brien, Merry Lane; Champion Junior Jersey – Madi Murphy, Meriden Meadowlarks; Champion Junior Red & White – Trevor Hiatt, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion Senior Red & White – Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion Junior Crossbred – Hailey Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Adeline Schrott, Deerfield Get There; Champion Junior Red & White – Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion Junior Red & White – Trevor Hiatt, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion Junior Dairy – Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion

Best Uddered Dairy Animal – Arica Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks; Champion Dairy Production – Kelton Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks; Reserve – Kiya Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks; Champion Dairy Genetics – Courtney Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks; Reserve – Kennedy Wagner, Meriden Meadowlarks; Junior Champion Dairy Showmanship – Andy Nelson, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Ava Cox, Pratt Commandos; Intermediate Champion Dairy Showmanship – Ali Slater, Meriden Meadowlarks; Champion Senior Grade Holstein – Erin O'Brien, Merry Lane; Champion Junior Jersey – Madi Murphy, Meriden Meadowlarks; Champion Junior Red & White – Trevor Hiatt, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion Senior Red & White – Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion Junior Crossbred – Hailey Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Reserve – Adeline Schrott, Deerfield Get There; Champion Junior Red & White – Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion Junior Dairy – Jerome Stransky, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Champion

Dog
Open Showmanship Junior Purple Award – Hannah Parrish, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Dog Rally Advanced Purple Award – Abby Heffling, Merry Lane; Dog Rally Veterans Award – Madilyn Styndt, Merry Lane.



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSELER
Isaac Reayant of Merry Lane 4-H Club earned reserve champion with his beef prospect market calf last week.

2020 4-H General Projects Results

Agronomy:

Forages (Grades 3-5) Champion – Andy Nelson, Straight River Stars; Specialty Crops (Grades 3-5) Champion – Sophie Oswald, Pratt Commandos; Agricultural Technology (Grades 3-5) Champion – Andy Nelson, Straight River Stars.

Animal Science:

Dog (Grades 6+) Champion – Hannah Parrish, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Exploring Animals (Grades 6+) Champion – Samantha Miller, Medford Go Getters.

Club Activities:

Club Banner: Owatonna Victory Boosters; Club Scrapbook: Pratt Commandos.

Civic Engagement & Leadership:

Citizenship (Grades 6+) Champion – Alex Kindseth, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Clothing

Overall Champion Clothes You Buy – Nicole Behne, Happy Hustlers; Overall Champion Clothes You Make – Jayden Wencil, Merry Lane; Overall Champion Fashion Revue – Nicole Behne, Happy Hustlers.

Demonstrations:

Overall Sr. Champion Demonstration – Brenna Sommer, Straight River Stars; Demonstration – Individual (Grade 6+) Champion – Cody Shaw, Meriden Meadowlarks; Livestock Demonstration – Individual (Grades 6+) Champion – Brenna Sommer, Straight River Stars; Illustration Presentation – Individual (Grades 6+) Champion – Isabella Schultz, Pratt Commandos.

Environmental & Earth Sciences:

Overall Jr. Champion Environmental & Earth Sciences – Lowell Schultz, Pratt Commandos; Water/Wetlands (Grades 3-5) Champion – Lowell Schultz, Pratt Commandos; Overall Sr. Champion Environmental & Earth Sciences – Alex Kindseth, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Exploring the Environment (Grades

6+) Champion – Alex Kindseth, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Expressive Arts:

Overall Jr. Champion Crafts & Fine Arts – Micah Gentz, Pratt Commandos; Crafts (Grades 3-5) Champion – Shaela Karlen, Happy Hustlers; Fine Arts (Grades 3-5) Champion – Micah Gentz, Pratt Commandos; Overall Sr. Champion Crafts & Fine Arts – Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Crafts (Grades 6+) Champion – Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Fine Arts (Grades 6+) Champion – Brianna O'Connor, Deerfield Get There; Quilting (Grades 3-5) Champion – Jayden Wencil, Merry Lane; Quilting (Grades 6+) Champion – Brianna O'Connor, Deerfield Get There.

Family Consumer Science:

Overall Champion Home Environment – Lexie Ignaszewski, Lemond Snappy Boosters; Home Environment Champion (Grade 6+) Champion – Lexie Ignaszewski, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Foods & Nutrition:

Overall Jr. Champion Food & Nutrition – Jayden Wencil, Merry Lane; Food & Nutrition (Grades 3-5) Champion – Jayden Wencil, Merry Lane; Overall Sr. Champion Food & Nutrition – Rachel Winzenburg, Merry Lane; Food & Nutrition (Grades 6+) Champion – Cody Shaw, Meriden Meadowlarks; Food Preservation (Grade 6+) Champion – Rachel Winzenburg, Merry Lane.

Healthy Living

Health (Grade 6+) Champion – Isabella Schultz, Pratt Commandos.

Horticulture

Flower Gardening (Grades 3-5) Champion – Kaylee Sammon, Medford Go Getters; Flower Gardening (Grades 6+) Champion – Claire Oswald, Pratt

Commandos; Indoor Gardening (Grade 6+) Champion – Brianna O'Connor, Deerfield Get There.

Outdoor Adventures

Wildlife Biology (Grade 6+) Champion – Alex Kindseth, Lemond Snappy Boosters.

Performing Arts

Overall Performing Arts Champion – Hannah Parrish, Owatonna Victory Boosters; Performing Arts (Grade 3-5) Champion – Carson Van Gelder, Pratt Commandos; Performing Arts (Grades 6+) Champion – Hannah Parrish, Owatonna Victory Boosters.

Photography

Overall Jr. Champion Photography – Jayden Wencil, Merry Lane; Elements of Photography (Grades 3-5) Champion – Jayden Wencil, Merry Lane; Overall Inter. Champion Photography – Anna Cox, Pratt Commandos; Elements of Photography (grades 6-8) Champion – Anna Cox, Pratt Commandos; Overall Sr. Champion Photography – Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Elements of Photography (Grades 9+) Champion – Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars; Video/Filmmaking (Grades 9+) Champion – Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars.

Self-Determined

Self-Determined Champion (Grade 3-5) Champion – Lowell Schultz, Pratt Commandos; Self-Determined Champion (Grades 6+) Champion – Gabriel Rysavy, Straight River Stars.

Shop, Small Engines & Tractor

Overall Jr. Champion Shop, Small Engines & Tractor – Ericka Jaster, Medford Go Getters; Shop Exhibit (Grades 3-5) Champion – Ericka Jaster, Medford Go Getters; Tractor (Grades 3-5) Champion – Colin Schultz, Pratt Commandos; Overall Sr. Champion Shop, Small Engines & Tractor – Madison Jaster, Medford Go Getters; Shop Exhibit (Grades 6+) Champion – Madison Jaster, Medford Go Getters.

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Police warn against scam targeting grandparents

An Owatonna resident is out thousands of dollars after falling victim to a grandparent scam.

Police say a person purporting to be a grandson called to report he had been arrested by the Owatonna Police and needed bail money.

A person purporting to be a police officer then got on the phone asking the victim to get \$8,200 in cash, wrap the money in wrapping paper, place it between two magazines and send it to an address in Indianapolis.

By the time the victim realized the

scam, the damage had been done. The package had been delivered to a vacant house in Indianapolis and had already been picked up by the perpetrator. The phone numbers used to contact the victim have also been disconnected.

"Before you act on anyone asking for

money over the phone, please verify on your own. Call someone you trust or call Owatonna Police and ask to speak with an officer," police warn.

The Owatonna Police Department will never call anyone for money in lieu of arrest, for bail or for any other reason.

AAA urges drivers to be careful as schools reopen

As students prepare for the school year, AAA is urging motorists to be alert and prepared for changes in traffic.

As part of AAA's annual School's Open, Drive Careful campaign, motorists are advised to expect to see children along their travel routes throughout the day and to be extremely cautious in neighborhoods and in school zones. School buses will also be returning to the roads after a long summer break.

"This pandemic could create risky conditions on the roadway as drivers may be unsure of when and where they may encounter children," said Mark Peterson, Minnesota and Iowa spokesman for AAA's The Auto Club Group. "Drivers should

treat neighborhoods like school zones as students taking virtual classes could be outside at various times throughout the day."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the greatest risk to see children along their travel routes throughout the day and to be extremely cautious in neighborhoods and in school zones. School buses will also be returning to the roads after a long summer break.

"This pandemic could create risky conditions on the roadway as drivers may be unsure of when and where they may encounter children," said Mark Peterson, Minnesota and Iowa spokesman for AAA's The Auto Club Group. "Drivers should

be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.

Come to a complete stop. Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Check carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.

Eliminate distractions. Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. Children can move quickly, cross the road unexpectedly or emerge suddenly from parked cars. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example.

Watch for school buses. Motorists are re-

quired to stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing and STOP arms extended.

Watch for bicycles. Children on bicycles are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Give them room and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and a bicyclist. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that he or she wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet.

Talk to your teen. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, and nearly one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occurs during the after-school hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Get evidence-based guidance and tips at TeenDriving.AAA.com.

CRIME BRIEF

Taser needed to arrest man for burglary

Police utilized a Taser to bring a man wanted for breaking into a woman's residence under control last week in Owatonna.

On Aug. 16, police responded to the 1000 block of Grandview for a domestic disturbance. Officers learned from a female victim that a man kicked in her door looking for money, pushed her down the steps and left. Police found a damaged door consistent with being kicked in as the inside and outside trim and locking mechanism were damaged.

Officers found the suspect in the 100 block of E. Rice Street. When they advised him he was under arrest, he charged at one of the officers and he was jolted with a Taser to get him into custody.

Christopher Prince, 34, of Owatonna, has been charged with two counts of first-degree burglary, domestic assault and posses-



Christopher Prince

sion of drug paraphernalia.

Besides this case, a secondary report was filed alleging that Prince had assaulted the homeowner where he was arrested on Aug. 15. In that incident, Prince allegedly kicked the female victim in the chest and put the victim in a headlock, choking her. The victim also claimed Prince said that if she called the police, he would kill, burn the house down and no one would find the body.

Prince was charged with terroristic threats and domestic assault by strangulation in that incident.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 10 with Judge Joseph A. Buellet presiding:

Matthew J. Burr, 33, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of drugs. He was sentenced to \$131, 64 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, mental health evaluation, obtain and maintain employment and 5 years of supervised probation.

Michael J. Riecke, 50, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony engage in electronic communication relating to sexual conduct with child. The defendant was sentenced to \$581, 30 days in county jail, no do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, attend sex offender program, no contact with minors, no possession of pornography, submit to polygraph exam as directed, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 3 years of supervised probation.

Levi B. Ruten, 59, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of cocaine or methamphetamine. Ruten was sentenced to \$131, 135 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, 50 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Dustin G. Smitty, 19, Blooming Prairie, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft. Smitty was sentenced to \$216,57, 5 days in county jail, no contact with victim or co-defendant, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, 50 hours of

community service and 3 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty crimes were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 10 - 16:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Cortney J. Espe, 18, Blooming Prairie, invalid license, \$175; Sonya M. Kirman, 36, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$225; Kee Pigeon, 30, Austin, speeding, \$125; Jordan A. Rosacker, 22, Ellendale, speeding, \$125; Azucena Saldívar Alvir, 25, Brooklyn Park, speeding and cancelled license, \$215; Randall R. Chindler, 52, Plainview, speeding, \$135.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Jamie L. Agbey, 41, Rochester, speeding and registration violation, \$225; Isaac Andra Debazante, 21, Madera, CA, speeding, \$135; Carly M. Christenson, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Homero A. Gutierrez, 33, North Mankato, possession of marijuana, \$225; Samuel A. Illies, 17, Lakeville, speeding, \$135; Isabelle R. Johnson, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Nathan T. Kramer, 25, Farmers Branch, TX, speeding, \$125; Brianna M. Mann, 16, Albert Lea, seat belt, \$100; Sarah J. Martinez-Vallero, 50, Las Vegas, NV, no license, \$175; Kristen L. May, 30, Burnsville, speeding, \$125; Bruce L. Mitchell, 57, Eagan, speeding, \$115; Wengrah J. Ojulu, 21, Mankato, revoked license, \$275; Shant Ozben, 45, Rockville, MD, speeding, \$135; Kommareddy V. Reddy, 29, Orlando, FL, speeding, \$135; E. Rios Millan, 20, Little Canada, hands free violation, \$125; Nimo A. Sahl, 28, Kansas City, MO, speeding, \$215; Dominique A. Simon, 29, Stone Mountain, GA, seat belt, \$100; Taron P. Sok, 19, Austin, speeding, \$115; Jacob T. Wetzel, 17, Fairbault, speeding, \$115; Tesha M. Williams, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$115.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Ahmed O. Ahmed, 31, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$145 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Salad M. Ali, 56, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Jose M. Arriaga, 49, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$125, 91 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Nicole J. Dut, 38, Owatonna, suspended license, \$275; Beatriz Garcia Serrano, 20, Owatonna, DWI and possession of drug paraphernalia, \$400, chemical assessment, attend MADD Impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Taylor D. Hall, 20, Owatonna, invalid license, \$175; Christopher J. Hermes, 44, Medford, stop sign, \$125; Dennis K. Marshall, 33, Petersburg, IN, no insurance, \$101; Joshua T. Rainone, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, stay of adjudication, \$110 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Carol J. Reichart, 74, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$105; Darrie L. Robertson, 19, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$400, chemical assessment, attend MADD Impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Jennifer L. Valmont, 40, North Mankato, speeding, \$115.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Deandrea T. Broadway, 28, West Memphis, AR, speeding, \$125; Sarah A. Bronk, 23, Pine Island, speeding, \$135; Maria P. Dealing, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Joshua D. Hein, 21, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$135; John H. Hoelscher, 18, Hartland, speeding, \$115; Daniel J. Iverson, 18, Medford,

domestic assault, \$175, 2 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, no possession of firearms, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Kellie J. Mrocz, 55, Ellendale, speeding, \$135; Alan J. Noy, 43, Vernon Center, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, 3 days in county jail, 30 hours of community service and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Tara L. Schmidt, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Gregory C. Schroeder, 16, Ellendale, speeding, \$215; Lyle F. Sellers, 58, Waseca, speeding, \$275; Sage A. Thomas, 24, Bloomington, DWI, \$100, 2 days in county jail, chemical assessment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD Impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Jennifer L. Valmont, 40, North Mankato, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE
Aug. 15
DWI: Police responded to a motorist driving while intoxicated at 8th St. NW and Center Ave. N. at 10:10 p.m.

Aug. 19
Arrest: Officers arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Highway Ave. S. and 8th St. SE at 5:47 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE
Aug. 14
Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 21st Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW at 1:11 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 3:49 p.m.

Aug. 15
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 500 block of Minkdoe St. SE at 5:20 p.m.

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 800 block of Willowbrook St. NE at 5:56 p.m.

Aug. 16
Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of University St. E. at 1:25 a.m. They issued a citation.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 2:54 p.m.

ARRESTS Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE
Shemika Tashaw Mason, 43, arrested at 7:55 p.m. Aug. 18, give false name, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Aug. 9 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding: Lois Riess, 58, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony murder. She was sentenced to life without parole in Shakopee State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty crimes were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Aug. 9 - 16:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Chad R. Altstatt, 57, Fargo, ND, speeding, \$130; Steven M. Boyer, 30, Princeton, revoked license and speeding, \$320; Ahmed M. Hussein, 26, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$300 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Thomas R. Johnson, 22, Savage, possession of paraphernalia and speeding, \$180; Amanda M. Scheffer, 38, Hayfield, possession of paraphernalia, \$180; Joann M. Tottingham, 42, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of

unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Colin J. Voigt, 16, Inver Grove Heights, speeding, \$130.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Kyle F. Bassen, 43, Byron, ignition interlock violation and license not in possession, stay of adjudication, \$180 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Melanie R. Cain, 44, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Adrian M. Dragomir Daescu, 34, Pine Island, DWI and speeding, \$1,280, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Terri L. Flicek, 56, West Concord, hands free violation, \$130; Eric R. Hinson, 35, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; Jennifer A. Molitor, 24, Kasson, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Travis L. Myers, 45, Kasson, DWI, \$1,005, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Raynaldo Bagaturo II, 36, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Dan P. Flowers, 19, Rochester, revoked license, \$240; Umon V. Moore, 25, Rochester, expired registration and no insurance, \$310; Rachel L. Naber, 36, Burlington, WI, speeding, \$120; Jacob A. Rhein, 34, Montgomery, speeding, \$120; Lauren E. Skogquist, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Darnay H. Smith, 41, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Roderick J. Williams, 34, Rochester, speeding, \$130.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
Eric R. Hinson, 35, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; Joshua J. Markell, 34, West Concord, registration violation, \$110.

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An Executor's Guide to Settling A Loved One's Estate



Dear Savvy Senior,
My aunt recently asked me to be the executor of her will when she dies. I'm flattered that she asked, but I'm not sure what exactly the job entails. What can you tell me about this?
Inquiring Nice

Dear Inquiring,
Serving as the executor of your aunt's estate may seem like an honor, but it can also be a lot of work. Here's what you should know to help you prepare for this job.

As the executor of your aunt's will, you're essentially responsible for winding up her affairs after she dies. While this may sound simple enough, you need to be aware that the job can be time consuming and difficult depending on the complexity of her financial and family situation. Some of the duties required include:

- Filing court papers to start the probate process (this is generally required by law to determine the will's validity).
- Taking an inventory of everything in her estate.
- Using her estate's funds to pay bills, including taxes, funeral costs, etc.
- Handling details like terminating her credit cards and notifying banks and government agencies like Social Security and the post office of her death.
- Preparing and filing her final income tax returns.
- Distributing assets to the beneficiaries named in her will.

Be aware that each state has specific laws and timetables on an executor's responsibilities. Your state or local bar association may have an online law library that details the rules and requirements. The American Bar Association website also offers guidance on how to settle an estate. Go to AmericanBar.org and type in "guidelines for individual executors and trustees" in the search bar to find it.

Get Organized
If you agree to take on the responsibility as executor of your aunt's estate, your first step is to make sure she has an updated will and find out where all her important documents and financial information is located. Being able to quickly put your hands on deeds, brokerage statements and insurance policies after she dies will save you a lot of time and hassle.

If she has a complex estate, you may want to hire an attorney or tax accountant to guide you through the process, with the estate picking up the cost. If you need help locating a pro, the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils (naepc.org) and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) are good resources that provide directories on their websites to help you find someone.

Avoid Conflicts
Find out if there are any conflicts between the beneficiaries of your aunt's estate. If there are some potential problems, you can make your job as executor much easier if everyone knows in advance who's getting what, and why. So, ask your aunt to tell her beneficiaries what they can expect. This includes the personal items too, because wills often leave it up to the executor to dole out heirlooms. If there's no distribution plan for personal property, suggest she make one and put it in writing.

Executor Fees
As the executor, you're entitled to a fee paid by the estate. In most states, executors are entitled to take a percentage of the estate's value, which often ranges anywhere from 1 to 5 percent depending on the size of the estate. But, if you're a beneficiary, it may make sense for you to forgo the fee. That's because fees are taxable, but Uncle Sam in most states doesn't tax inheritances.

For more information on the duties of an executor, get a copy of the book "The Executor's Guide: Settling A Loved One's Estate or Trust" at Nolo.com.

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

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History from the News Archives

Owatonna
Photo News —

31 Years Ago

Aug. 23, 1989

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

Owatonna's first bank heist in at least a quarter of a century occurred Friday. It came and went with barely a ripple in the community's routine. No guns blazing, no getaway cars, no molls covering the doors. Hardly Hollywood. At 2:49 p.m., most of the activity was at the fairgrounds and patrons were busy making deposits, getting cash for the weekend and one person sticking up the bank. As I stepped up to the window the teller closed her window and said, calmly, "Sorry, I have just been robbed." Said Kevin Kozal, a customer, and then she walked away. According to Deputy Chief Gene Fisher, there were no weapons observed and no injuries. The suspect left on foot and may have departed in a rust/gold colored car. The police, sheriff's department and FBI are investigating.

The Wizard of Oz recently celebrated its 50th anniversary by introducing a special commemorative videocassette which includes unreleased footage from the original film and a special golden anniversary booklet. Locally, the Oz characters: Dorothy — Kristi Johnson, Lion — Doyle Johnson, Tin-Man — Jeff Telschow and Scarecrow — DeAnn Elwood appeared for an Oz open house at Superstar Video.

10 Years Ago

Aug. 31, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

The library announced Barb Blome's retirement, and had an open house for her on Aug. 27. For 24 years, Blome has been working at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. "I wanted to work part-time in Blooming Prairie and so I applied for the job and got it," Blome said. Blome also said she had a lot of respect for everyone she has worked with over the years and the decision to retire was not an easy decision. "I am going to miss talking to people, and being a part of their lived every day at the library," she said.

The girls cross country team for the 2000-2001 season are: Kendra Boecker, Tricia DeBoer, DaVyl Smith, Kelsey Kubista, John Bruns, Hannah Vogt, Savannah Allard, Arlyn Soto, Courtney Easton, Holly Vogt, Katie Williamson, Stephanie Gutierrez, Alanna Grant, Alyssa Gonzales, Melanie Grant and Russia Smith. The girls are coached by John Bruns.

The boys cross country team for the 2000-2001 season are: Noah Crabtree, Nick Srsen, Isaac Baker, Garrett Kubik, Leighton Kubik, Trace Stanley, David Hansen, Cody Wagman, on Wagon, Daniel Hansen, Jake Elmwood, Adam Driesen, Derek Werlings, Tyler Cozine, Juan Rodriguez, Angel Villateal and Andrew Grant. The boys are coached by John Bruns.

73 YEARS: 17 churches, time to retire for Grabau FROM A1

church services at Good Shepherd in Owatonna, Trinity in Medford, Trinity in Claremont, Meridian and others.

Flashing that Minnesota Nice smile, Mert said he was too bashful to say "I quit." He said it was time to retire because he was having issues with his vision, hearing and memory. Acknowledging a continued interest in playing the organ, Mert said he will play if an emergency situation arises. "I would take her along," Mert said, pointing to his bride of 69 years.

Giving it some deliberate thought, Mert said he believed he had played the organ in 17 different churches in the Owatonna area. He also sang and was choir director for many years at Redeemer Lutheran.

He first began playing a Reed organ. His first church was in Hampton, Neb.

Mert and Irma sometimes played for monthly pastoral services at nursing homes in Owatonna.

Prior to retirement, Mert and Irma served their communities as educators. Mert taught elementary school and

Irma worked in the principal's office at Owatonna High School.

Mert's first retirement came in 1989 after teaching for over 30 years in McKinley, Washington and Lincoln elementary schools in Owatonna. Irma followed Mert in retirement in 1989.

Music is a love that both have shared during their time together. They both love to play piano and the organ for their own enjoyment. Usually when people retire, they are recognized with some type of gift. That gift might be a watch, a plaque of recognition, a gift card, or maybe even some cash.

Mert wished none of those items. He instead said he wished he could receive a paper cutter. That he did receive and he uses it to cut fabric and assemble quilt blocks for quilting groups at local churches.

Both Mert and Irma love to sew. He just completed cutting and assembling blocks for 16-17 quilt tops.

Churches supply Mert and Irma with the quilting material. The largest blocks he cuts measure 16 inches

and the smallest are six inches. Mert says he cuts the fabric blocks to be made into quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The blocks end up in a finished 60 by 80 quilt.

Mert has a sewing machine in the basement and Irma sews on the main floor. "She will work on my bobkins when I need help," Mert admits.

The Grabaus, of course, have made lots of friends over the years because of their engaging personalities and because "they are servants of the Lord and love to serve others," says friend and fellow organist Gloria Kenow.

"Mert and Irma are great friends, fun to be with," says David Kenow. The two couples have been together in a card club for many years.

The Grabaus first met in 1949 and it was in a church in Detroit, Mich. Irma was born and raised in Detroit. Mert grew up in Chester, Neb., a little town 100 miles southwest of Lincoln.

The two came together after Mert traveled to Detroit to visit his brother Herb. Their romance continued through the mail.

20 Years Ago

Aug. 29, 2000

ELSIE SUNGER, PUBLISHER

Trinity Lutheran Church celebrates their 125th anniversary of existence on Sept. 17, with a special ceremony of past ministers speaking, a catered dinner, much visiting and Sunday sermon by the Bishop Glynn Nyckleno. Although times have changed, many of the last names of the congregation have stayed the same, as well as some of the Danish values it once embodied every Sunday worship.

The 2000 volleyball team will be starting the season with almost a completely new team. All six starters were lost to graduation plus the first reserve off the bench. Fortunately, there is a lot of talent with which to build. Along with the new lineup, the girls will have a new coach, Britt Miller, also a science teacher at BPHS. Returning from last year's championship squad are reserve letter winners Megan Ingvalson, Stephanie Thompson, Annie Hanson, Becky Naatz, Randi Goette, Allison Trom, Sami Zwienen and Amanda Busho.

50 Years Ago

Aug. 26, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJC, PUBLISHERS

Blooming Prairie public schools will open for the 1970-1971 term on Aug. 27th. With the teaching staff expected to greet 1336 students announced Supt. McFarland. Advanced registration placed the enrollment at approximately 685 pupils in kindergarten through grade 6 and 651 students in grades 7-12.

An electric hot water heater exploded at the Robert Hansen farm, 3 miles north of Blooming Prairie at 3 a.m. on Aug. 22nd, destroying the milk house and contents and damaging the roof of a steel corn crib. Damage by the blast was estimated at approximately \$3,000. The Hansen family was asleep at the time of the blast and fortunately no injuries resulted.

75 Years Ago

Aug. 30, 1945

FRANK KREJC, PUBLISHER

Mrs. Guy Ile was the winner of the grand prize with a beautiful dahlia arrangement at the Civic League Flower Show held last Wednesday at the Community Building. Mrs. Melvin Johnson was awarded first prize in the gladiolus exhibit.

Tec. 3 Herbert Jurgenson, 38, Med. Det. 54th Sig. Bn Med. With 36 months overseas is home with an honorable discharge. He has been awarded the following decorations: American Defense, Good Conduct and Clasp, ETO Ribbon with three battle stars. He is the son of Fred Jurgenson.

Over 1,300 rural school pupils will begin public school attendance in Steele County on Sept. 4th according to Melvin H. Jenke, Steele County Superintendent of Schools. Only six schools still have an eight-month term. These schools will begin about the middle of September so that they can declare a vacation during period of bad weather in the winter.

Mert attended Seward College and received a bachelor's degree in elementary education. He then taught 12 years in a one-room school at Hampton, Neb. for eight grades including 32 students.

After high school, Irma went to work for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Her father was a minister and started a new mission at Hampton.

The Grabaus moved to Minnesota in 1967. Just prior to this move, the Grabaus lived in Greeley, Colo. where Mert taught. The move to Minnesota meant better wages for Mert. He then began his teaching career in Owatonna.

The Grabaus raised one son, Kent. He and his wife had two sons who have since passed away. Kent now resides in Montana.

Mert and Irma still enjoy one another's company in retirement. "I try real hard to keep out of mischief," Mert chuckles.

Music continues to be part of their lives. Just read a verse on a pillow given to them as a gift. It reads: "There's a special place in Heaven for musicians."

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Julia Taylor, 99, rural Austin

Julia "Jane" Kelley Taylor, age 99 of rural Austin, went home to Heaven on Aug. 14, 2020 surrounded by family at Our House Memory Care.

Julia Jane Kelley was born at home on April 12, 1921 in Albert Lea, the third child of Julia (Swendsen) and Adelbert Kelley.

Jane grew up on Louis Street in Albert Lea close to the railroad tracks where her father worked and she often invited homeless "hobos" home for something to eat during the Depression. She attended Abbott Elementary School and graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1939.

Her education continued with two years of Jr. College followed by two more years at Mankato Teachers College, graduating in 1943 with a degree in elementary education. During this time, she developed lifetime friendships with 12 young women from Cooper Hall Dorm. They faithfully corresponded through "Round Robin" letters for 77 years. Jane was the last survivor of that group.

Jane taught for 1 1/2 years in the Kasson Elementary School before her teaching career ended after she met the love of her life, James Anderson Taylor, on a blind date. They were married during an ice storm on Dec. 30, 1944 at First Presbyterian Church in Albert Lea. To this union they were blessed with four children.

Jimmy and Jane lived and worked on their farm northwest of Austin for 38 years before Jimmy passed away in 1982. Jane remained in her home until at age 93 health concerns warranted her move into a care facility.

Family meant everything to Jane. She had a servant heart and was always willing to help with doing dishes, serving on church and neighborhood committees, doing an awesome job mending anything, making her signature homemade waffles or rice with hamburger hotdish, or playing board games with grandchildren on the floor. A fervent prayer warrior, her faith never wavered.

Hobbies over the years included square dancing, neighborhood card clubs, knitting, traveling abroad, reading, and most recently, word find puzzles.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James A. Taylor; granddaughter, Amy Beth Taylor; sisters, Sereta I. Schneider, LuVae A. Anderson, and brother John A. Kelley.

Jane is survived by her son, J. Michael (Izzy) Taylor of Austin; daughters: Barbara J. (B. Russell) Shannon of Richland Center, Wis.; Nancy J. Heimer of Austin; Sarah J. (Herb) Wehner of Austin; 13 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Public visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28 at Cassman-Jordan Mortuary, 209 2nd Ave. NW, Austin. Private family services will be held with interment at Oakwood Cemetery.

Jane was the rock for our family, loved and cherished by her children, grandchildren, and extended family. Blessed be her memory.

Myrtle Peterson, 100, New Richland

Myrtle Peterson passed away on Monday, Aug. 17, 2020 at the New Richland Care Center, at the age of 100.

A public visitation was held for Myrtle on Aug. 20, 2020 at the Bonnerup Funeral Chapel in Ellendale. A graveside service was held at 7 p.m. at Geneva Cemetery with Rev. Lisa Vick officiating. Masks were required and social distancing guidelines were enforced.

Myrtle L. (Anderson) was born on Jan. 27, 1920 on the farm in rural Bixby, to parents Christofer and Lena (Jacobson) Anderson. She attended country school near Aurora Township. On April 19, 1944, Myrtle was united in marriage to Richard W. Peterson in Geneva. Together, Richard and Myrtle worked on the family dairy farm, all while raising three children. The couple had many wonderful years together until Richard's death in 2009.

Myrtle was an active member at the Methodist Church in Geneva and later Ellendale. She was the Superintendent of Sunday School, and taught Sunday School for many years in Geneva. Her faith was very important to Myrtle. Myrtle enjoyed many things in life. She was a very talented seamstress, and would create numerous jeans quilts for her grandchildren and later to donate to the Geneva Cancer Auction; being a two-time cancer survivor herself, this was very near and dear to her heart. Myrtle had a large vegetable garden that helped feed her family. She enjoyed going for family visits, and later in life, cherished the time spent with her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by both parents, Christofer and Lena Anderson; husband, Richard W. Peterson; grandson, Jeffrey J. Karl; great-grandson, Brayden M. Hullopeter; brothers, Frank, Freddie, and Raymond; and sisters, Bertha, Annie, and Ella.

Those left to carry on her legacy include her children, Gloria Karl (John), Gary Peterson (Sonya), and Wendy Shultz (Marty); grandchildren, Tim Karl (Lisa), Tony Karl (Melissa), Ruth Ahnen (Joe), Brent Peterson (Terri), Chris Peterson (Marilyn), Katie Kraus (Victor), Brian Peterson, Heather Hullopeter (Brady), Jessica Shultz (Darren) and Nicholas Shultz; 17 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and extended relatives.

Blessed be her memory!



Myrtle Peterson

BOOK NOOK

Library catalog now mobile



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Library users now have the option to take the catalog with them wherever they go via a mobile app on their smartphones. The app makes it simple for users to search for materials, place holds, manage their accounts, and more.

The Blooming Prairie Branch Library is part of the SELCO (South-eastern Libraries Cooperating) regional public library system, which spans 11 counties and includes 36 public libraries. SELCO worked with a developer to create the region-wide app that will function similarly to the desktop version of the catalog. Users

will be able to search the regional catalog as well as their own library's, manage their account, place holds, renew materials, download eBooks and eAudiobooks, and find libraries near them based on their location.

So many people use their smartphones more often than their internet-connected computers. This new app will make it simple to see what the library has, including all SELCO libraries, as well as allowing you to request or renew items. There will be a Facebook Live app instruction video available on our library Facebook page. Using that video, you can download and explore the app as you watch.

The app is free and available on the Apple App Store and Google Play store. You can find it by typing "SELCO Libraries" in the search bar. If you have questions or need help downloading the app, please contact the library for assistance.

SUPPORTING: our smallest communities FROM A2

University of Minnesota Extension have been working with each of these communities for a three-year period. Together we have provided tools and guidance to each community as they develop what REV looks like for them. In Blue Earth, they have focused on efforts to retain youth in the community after graduation. In Spring Grove they are working toward starting a Chamber of Commerce. In Spring Valley they are developing a tourism campaign to attract more visitors. All REV communities have been able to build more energy around supporting entrepreneurs.

Our Small Town Grant program has also made a significant impact in communities across the region. In St. James, volunteers formed a group called Uniting Cultures/Uniendo Culturas, which plans programs and events to bring people together to create a welcoming environment. La Crescent underwent a branding and marketing planning process to enhance the town's image. The City of Preston focused their grant on creating resources to showcase current and future affordable workforce housing initiatives.

This year, our Small Town Grant Program will be focused on helping towns respond and recover from the hardships created by the current health and economic crisis. We know that the needs will look different in each town. We will be prioritizing funding for projects that address a community issue that was created by COVID-19 and supports vulnerable community members. Additionally, we will prioritize projects that address economic gaps, educational gaps or racial inequities that were manifested or made worse by the current crisis.

We are currently seeking applications for both of these SMIF programs. Three small towns with populations of 5,000 or less will be accepted into the second cohort of REV communities. Applications are due Sept. 1. The Small Town Grant applications are open to communities under 10,000 and are due on July 30. Details about both programs can be found on our website at smifoundation.org.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Tim Penny is the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in Owatonna. Penny represented Minnesota's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1982-1994.

COLLEGE NEWS

Owatonna students graduate from Scholastica

Two Owatonna area students have graduated from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

They are Scott Swenson with a bachelor of

science in nursing and Samuel Noeldner with a master of science in athletic training.

They were a part of the graduating class for Spring 2020.

Forystek named to Dean's List

Kylie Forystek of Blooming Prairie has earned the distinction of being named to the Dean's List for 2020 spring semester at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph.

Forystek is a junior elementary education major at CSB.

To be included in the Dean's List, students must have a semester GPA of at least 3.80 and have completed 12 credits for which honor points are awarded.

She is the daughter of Chad and Karl Forystek.

Jacobson obtains college honors

Greta Jacobson of Ellendale is among the outstanding undergraduates who have been named to the Dean's List for Spring 2020 semester at Millikin University

in Decatur, Ill. Students who attempt 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher earn Dean's List honors.

building but it sustained smoke damage. Klemmensen held a "red hot" sale at the Blooming Prairie City Park Pavilion on Aug. 18. Her sale featured items, mainly clothing that was in the fire and later washed. All items sold for 50% off or more. Some of the items were taken from Klemmensen's Sportstitch inventory. The sale brought in \$5,500. This amount was then turned over to

the BP Chamber. Klemmensen also donated \$4,500 from a Shop Locally t-shirt sale held earlier in the summer. Klemmensen has been operating her Sportstitch business out of her residential garage under a conditional use permit since the fire. "We handed 25 boxes of merchandise to the park for the sale and brought just three little boxes back home," remarked Klemmensen. "I can now get a stall

back in the garage," she said. The sale went from 4-7 p.m. Klemmensen said she chose the BP Chamber as the beneficiary of this fundraiser because many people are not aware of what the chamber does in promoting the community. Other organizations seem to have an easier time of raising money for their causes, she explained. Just over 100 customers attended the "red

hot" Sportstitch sale. Klemmensen helped mark the merchandise and then sent them to a checkout line where they paid for their merchandise. Chamber Executive Director Becky Noble and Mayor Curt Esplan, who is also a chamber member, took payment for the items. Other workers at the sale were Sarah Esplan, Carol Holman, Jackie Vorlicek, Miranda Camery and Randy Klemmensen.

D.O.T. Physicals

Dr. Eischens is a Certified Medical Examiner and on the National Registry for DOT Health Cards



Try Chiropractic! New patients welcome!

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144 East Main Street
Blooming Prairie, MN • 563-2271
1-866-5DR-CHAD

www.drchad.org

Recipe Corner

Hamburger Casserole

- 1 lb. hamburger, browned
- 1 1/2-3/4 cup of rice, uncooked
- 1 can Consomme soup
- 1 small can of mushrooms with juice

Mix all ingredients together and placed in a greased casserole. Bake covered for 1 hour. During the last few minutes, remove the cover. If casserole seems dry, add broth or a little water. The results should be moist and fluffy.

Sponsored by

STEELE
COUNTY **Times**



BP CHAMBER: reaps benefit of fire sale

FROM A1

Too much judging



Pastor Paul Hauschild
TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
HAYFIELD

While waiting at the airport terminal for her plane to begin boarding, a woman sat reading a newspaper. Earlier, she had purchased a package of cookies in the airport snack shop to eat after she got on the plane. Out of the corner of her eye, she noticed the man sitting next to her was eating a cookie. She looked down and noticed that her package of cookies had been opened and the man was eating them!

The woman couldn't believe that the man would have such

nerve as to eat her cookies. So she wouldn't lose all of her cookies to the man, she slowly reached over, took a cookie, and ate one herself. To her amazement, the man continued to eat even more. Getting more and more irritated, the woman removed all but one cookie from the package and ate them.

At that point, the man reached down and took the last cookie. Before eating it, though, he broke it in half and left half of the cookie for the

woman. This made the woman so angry, she grabbed the empty package with the half cookie and crammed it in her purse.

Then to her shock, she noticed that there, in her purse, was her unopened package of cookies!

Sometimes when we judge or condemn others, we end up judging or condemning ourselves. The Bible says in Luke 6:37: "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned." We all have been

too quick to pass judgment on each other, especially in these turbulent times of politics and a pandemic.

As we speak we need to speak our truth in love, not for the goal of being right. We speak to understand each other. We should listen more so that we can empathize and be united in honoring each other's positions, even in conflict. The more we judge and demand to be right, the more we lose contentment and peace. May God bless your week!

United Methodist plans special outdoor service

United Methodist Church of Owatonna extends an invitation to everyone for its outdoor parking lot worship and communion on Sunday, Sept. 6 at 10 a.m.

Pastor Lisa Vick will be blessing backpacks and tablets plus praying for students, teachers and all those who work in the schools. United Methodist is located at 815 E. University St. in Owatonna.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
639 St. 20th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5096
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: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC
503 Kadel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2453

Men's Bible Study: 8 a.m. Sunday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church 9 a.m. and Confirmation: 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - ELCA
434 First St. SW, Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Hergert
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Valerius
507-683-6621

firstlutheranpb.com
Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - LCMC
8853 SW 57th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854

Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: Adult Ed.: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN - LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125

goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN - ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edmondson
507-280-6661

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: 9:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN - LCMC
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Grubel
507-451-2720

Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN - ELCA
30456 Mower-Frederick Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000

www.rglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2484

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
Pastor Collin Dulung
507-253-5568

Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN - ELCA
1001 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jesse Richmond
507-451-7293

stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m.
Thursday & Saturday: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight Dohell
507-567-2474

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272

Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165

Worship: 9 a.m. outdoors only, weather permitting

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520

trinityowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Eloy
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard

Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 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 - LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Heibughauser
507-451-0447

Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. in Sanctuary
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. outdoor south side lawn, bring lawn chairs

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN - ELCA
7128 SW 96th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 9:30 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 lock required after hours or weekends

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
1909 St. Paul Road, Owatonna
Senior Pastor: John Weisenburger
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
507-451-4853

oursaviorowatonna.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
507-451-6353

Father James Starastnick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
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
507-324-6244

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9948 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Wilmont
507-583-2784

www.litomyslweb.com
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month
Litomysl Service Festival has been cancelled for 2020

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father John Wilmont
507-477-2256

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588

www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday:
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father John Wilmont
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 Starastnick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 9:30 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 lock required after hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 10th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032

Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2249

Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday:
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
45089 180th St., Medford (Seven miles west of Medford on CR-28)
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 Cirkema
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
507-451-4774

www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship (Pathways): 9 a.m. Sunday

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Hassell
507-215-2249

Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday

CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER
Service Center:
507-228-2233
After Hours Towing:
507-456-4158
1111 Main Street
P.O. Box 282
Claremont, MN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road
Owatonna 560-451-1546
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.

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.

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Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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 Petet
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.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across the freeway from Cable's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661

Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-580-7532

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 Kirk Bremner
507-433-9042

Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road
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507-402-0960

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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
631-955-4032

Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 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.

BURNETT BLUME: earns Quilt of Valor FROM A1

er, Catherine Roberts of Seaford, Delaware in 2003. The first quilt the foundation made was for a young soldier from Minnesota who had lost a leg in Iraq in 2003.

Butler said the mission of the National Quilts of Valor is to cover service members who have been touched by war with comforting and healing quilts. It is a way of "saying thank you" for their sacrifice, valor and service to their country.

Blume enlisted in the United States Air Force on Feb. 18, 1964. His basic training was at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas.

After basic training Blume was sent to Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois for airplane hydraulic schooling and then to Grand Forks, N.D., where he worked on B52 bombers and KC 135 tankers.

Burnett's last duty assignment was with the 423rd Field Maintenance Squadron (SAC) Strategic Air Command at Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa. It was there where he worked on KC 135 tankers.

Blume received an honorable discharge on Feb. 11, 1968 with a rank of Staff Sergeant at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUP

Marilyn and Burnett Blume proudly hold a Quilt of Valor presented to Burnett at the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial last Saturday. Chris Butler pieced the quilt and the Calico Hutch quilted it.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUP

Burnett Blume of rural Blooming Prairie received a Quilt of Valor during a ceremony Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial. He was joined by his family: Front row - Kody Blume (grandchild), Marilyn Blume, Burnett Blume, Elise Wilker (grandchild) Conor Poepping (grandchild) blue dress. Second row behind Elise - Allison Blume (grandchild), Cameron Blume (grandchild), Sally Poepping (daughter) red top behind Burnett. Back row - Sarah Lenz (daughter), Chris Lenz (son-in-law), Marcus Blume (son), Steve Vogt (friend), Betsy Wilker (daughter) and Josh Poepping (son-in-law).

RE-ELECT RICK GNEMIF

When re-elected I will focus my energy on:

- ★ Work Force in Steele County
- ★ Completion of Highway 14
- ★ Drug and Veteran's Courts

- ★ Senior Care and Protection
- ★ Listening to You, the Citizens of Steele County

As you elected commissioner my goal and focus is to ensure that the people of Steele County are represented fairly with transparency. I will protect and carefully monitor your hard-earned tax dollars. I will also listen to your concerns and will work to find viable and workable solutions.

I value each one of you and ask for your vote on November 3rd.

I would love to hear from you:
Home telephone: 507-451-3813 • Steele County Phone: 507-444-7427
Email: rgnemif@rickgnemiforcommissioner.com
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Familiar face takes on new role in Ellendale

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

In the end, the City of Ellendale didn't have to look very far to find its new city clerk/treasurer. A familiar face who has been with the city for seven years is sliding into the role.

On July 23, Kim Zimprich of Ellendale was promoted to city clerk after serving the city as deputy clerk since 2013. Zimprich replaces Tiffany Krueger, who left the city in February for a new position with the University of Minnesota Extension. The position

had been vacant until now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The clerk position is 30 hours per week. Once the pandemic hit, the council agreed with Zimprich's proposal that she handle the clerk duties in the interim. Little did Zimprich

know that she would end up with the position permanently several months later. "It was not in my future," Zimprich said of becoming clerk. "I do not want that much responsibility. It's definitely a different world," she said.

Zimprich is now ready for the challenge. She will receive help from Steve Engle, who has resigned from the city council to become deputy clerk. The council has appointed Jackie Froman to replace Engle on the council.

Zimprich, who grew up in Owatonna, moved to Ellendale in 2005. In her role as deputy clerk, she primarily handled the city's utility billing. She admits her past really has nothing to do with government.

SEE FAMILIAR FACE, B6



Madison Jenó, 14, of Owatonna hands off a container of cheese curds from Ole and Lena's food stand to an awaiting customer. Everyone was required to stay in their vehicles for the food parade, which featured 15 popular food vendors.

COUNTY FAIR TO GO

Drive-through Food Parade draws people with a hankering for fair food

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Renaee Jenó, who operates Ole and Lena's food stand, felt bad as she ran out of two of her popular items, onion rings and hotdish on a stick, by mid-afternoon Saturday.

"It's been crazy busy," Jenó said as people were still lining up for cheese curds. "I've disappointed a few people."

Jenó, of Owatonna, was one of the 15 food vendors taking part in the Drive Through Food Fest at the Steele County Fairgrounds Friday until Sunday. It was the fair board's goodwill gesture during a year that has disappointed many people because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Steele County Fair, which is the largest county fair in Minnesota, was shuttered like most fairs, celebrations and festivals this summer.

Part of the problem for Jenó and other vendors is that they had no idea what to expect from an event that has never taken place before. She said she went by the sales she has made at Owatonna's Crazy Days in the

SEE COUNTY FAIR, B8



Steele County Fair president Dan Deml directs traffic at Food Fest Saturday afternoon in Owatonna. Unlike the actual county fair, it was more of a traffic jam at times than people jam. Most of the fair board members helped out throughout the weekend to ensure traffic moved smoothly through the fairgrounds.



Brian and Susan Bartley of Austin enjoy Minneapple pie with ice cream from the comforts of their vehicle during Food Fest Saturday. The Food Fest replaced the Steele County Free Fair for this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meshke accepts pastoral call in Belgrade

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie High School graduate Lisa Meshke has accepted a pastoral call at Belgrade, Minn.

She was installed as associate pastor at Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish in Belgrade on Sunday, July 26. She started her new call at this parish on July 15.

Pastor Meshke was ordained on May 20, 2017 at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. She served as pastor at First English Lutheran Church in



Pastor Lisa Meshke, a Blooming Prairie Bloom graduate, was installed as associate pastor of the Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish in Belgrade, Minn. on July 26.

SEE MESHKE ACCEPTS, B6

An emotional time for 4-H



Steele Talkin' JOLEEN KOENIG

Yes, this year the Steele County Free Fair didn't happen for the typical fairgoer but it still happened for our Steele County 4-Hers. This past week, Steele County 4-H held our In-Person Achievement Day Showcases. Let me tell you, even though it

wasn't called the County Fair, our 4-Hers still had a 4-H County Fair experience.

The decision to hold an in-person achievement showcase for both general and livestock projects was not made lightly. I will be the first to admit that as 4-H office staff, we put in many hours of planning, zoom meetings, reading through guidelines, and writing many policies and procedures. We held many virtual PDC's meetings with our project leaders from each species area outlining the guidelines we had to follow for an in-person show. We

SEE AN EMOTIONAL, B8

Cancer ribbons with a creative twist

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A grandfather's craft and hobby is being shared with his granddaughter who resides out of state.

Dick Kruckeberg, founder of MiniMiner, has interests other than making truck fenders and other truck accessory parts. He loves to do stained glass and has taught the fine art of making stained glass creations to his granddaughter Jessica who resides in Aurora, Colo., near Denver.

Jessica is the eldest daughter of Craig Kruckeberg and Karen Fouarge.

Jessica was on a telephone call recently with brother Tyler, both brainstorming ways they could help with fundraising efforts in Blooming Prairie.

Jessica said the idea came to them to make cancer ribbons for the Blooming Prairie Cancer

Group. Jessica said she contacted Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the BP Cancer Group, and asked "if it was OK" to make stained glass ribbons with some funds going to the Cancer Group.

Krejci says the idea is an excellent one, especially after the September BP Cancer Auctions have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jessica explains that she has decided that for each ribbon sold at \$30, Jessica and her siblings through Midwest Stained Glass would gift one to the BP Cancer Group, along with 100% of the profits.

"Right now, I am working on the first round of ribbons, but I am hoping to open a second round for pre-orders," remarked Kruckeberg.



These cancer ribbons are available from Jessica Kruckeberg and the Midwest Stained Glass company. Profits will go to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

"We are only doing pre-orders so we can keep supply costs down to maximize the amount of money we can donate. As of right now, we are going to be able to donate at least \$100 to the Cancer Group. If we can get 4 more orders, that will go up to \$200."

The ribbons measure 4.5" by 5.5" and are made of colored glass. The primary colors offered on the ribbons are pink, orange, gray and purple.

If someone needs a color not listed, Jessica says, she will happily check and see if she has a color in her shop. Jessica said she had a request for teal and she does have plenty of this in her inventory.

Jessica's grandfather began teaching her glass making about two years ago. Earlier this year, she also began exploring working with



Jessica Kruckeberg is shown working on another stained glass project. She is the daughter of Craig Kruckeberg and Karen Fouarge of Blooming Prairie and granddaughter of Lorraine and Dick Kruckeberg, Blooming Prairie.

SEE CANCER RIBBONS, B8

History Center holds ice cream social to promote new exhibit

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

As a fun way of promoting its current exhibit on rural schools, the Steele County History Center hosted an ice cream social with yard games last Thursday evening. The event was a chance for residents to get to socialize in the time of COVID.

"This is just a fun night in conjunction with our school exhibit because croquet and yard games were part of their annual picnics and so this is kind of our version with an ice cream social," interim director Jerry Ganfield said of the event.

Ganfield and others enjoyed the summer weather as they played a game of croquet and ate ice cream. "We wanted to encourage people to learn about our exhibit inside and get a chance to see it," he explained.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the history



Local residents and history center volunteers play a game of croquet during last Thursday's ice cream social held on the grounds of the Steele County History Center. The event was held in conjunction with their current exhibit on rural schools.

center had to close its doors in March, reopening again in July. "We're observing the guidelines," Ganfield said.

The current exhibit on rural schools features a touchscreen showing schools throughout the county and a replica school. "It's outfitted with a cloakroom it has slates and a stove," he said.

"We've also made a CD of the country

schools to take to the care facilities in the county," Ganfield said of the innovative way to help those who are not able to get out during the pandemic get to experience the exhibit.

"So many of the care communities are confined, and they will never get here, so we wanted to share and have programs for them so we made DVDs for all the care communities in the county," he

explained of the DVDs which feature voice over narration and a short film.

In early September the History Center will also host a spelling bee. "That was a country school thing, and we're hoping to have teams of three and we'll eventually get it down to one," Ganfield said.

While the events are a fun way of enticing visitors, the history of Minnesota's rural schools itself is very interesting. "By the time they closed them in the 1960s, there were 96 rural schools in the county," Ganfield explained. "The state law said that children shouldn't walk more than two miles to school."

"Generally, it was a neighborhood thing. Five farm families would get together and they'd build a schoolhouse and the kids would go there," he said of the origin of these schoolhouses, which dotted the county.

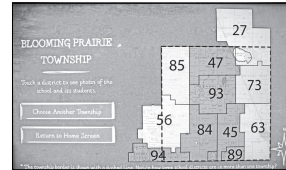
"Quite often the schools would be named after the family that had the most kids in the school, or the farmer on whose land the schoolhouse was built."

After serving rural communities for generations, these country schools disappeared under the ocean of modernity. "The last school that closed in Steele County was in 1971, but most of them were closed in the 60s because if they didn't close, they weren't going to get state funding," he said.

Country Schools: The Beating Heart of Rural Community ex-

hibit is currently being held at the Steele County History Center and is a great way for local residents to get to learn more about the county's rich and storied history. "We've had people call about it because even if they're not here they went to school in Steele County," Ganfield said.

Caption: Local residents and history center volunteers play a game of croquet during last Thursday's ice cream social held on the grounds of the Steele County History Center. The event was held in conjunction with their current exhibit on rural schools.



Darci Stanford

LearningRx Owatonna has earned the Board Certified Cognitive Center (IBCCES) designation, granted by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES). Owatonna staff have completed an evidence-based training and certification program through IBCCES focused on autism, ADHD, anxiety, and dyslexia.

For the past six years, LearningRx has assisted more than 2,000 children and adults dealing with learning disabilities. Their one-on-one brain training center pairs clients with trainers for mental workouts that help them to think faster, learn easier and perform better.

"Becoming a Board Certified Cognitive Center provides rec-

LearningRx Owatonna is now Board Certified Cognitive Center

ognition for an extra level of specialized training of our staff in the field of cognitive training. This allows us to stand-out from the competition in providing high quality services and opens the door for more possibilities for clients," said Darci Stanford, executive director, LearningRx Owatonna. "At LearningRx Owatonna, our programs are like fitness routines for the mind that enable our clients to experience immeasurable benefits. We are proud to be backed by a name that has dedicated over 35 years of research, testing, and development to ensure optimum results. We have helped clients struggling with ADHD, dyslexia, reading comprehension, memory and other conditions by getting to the root cause of their struggles and achieve success."

"One of the core values that guide our daily performance is excellence," reports Kim Hanson, CEO of LearningRx Brain Training. "We strive for excellence in customer service; excellence in program results; and excellence in the training of our team members—the Center owners, directors, and brain trainers who interact with our clients every day." Hanson adds, "Our partnership with IBCCES allows us to expand that excellence by providing team members with a series of certifications that buoy their leadership abilities and enrich their competencies in ADHD, anxiety, dyslexia, and autism. It's a win for our team and a win for the children and adults we have the pleasure of helping, all over the world." For over 20 years, IBCCES has been

the industry leader in cognitive disorder training and certification for education, healthcare, and corporate professionals across the globe. IBCCES provides evidence-based training and certification programs created in conjunction with clinical experts and individuals with autism in order to provide professionals serving individuals with cognitive disorders a better understanding of what these disorders are, industry best practices, varied perspectives, and the latest research in these areas.

IBCCES Board Certified Cognitive Center program is a wonderful addition to the Owatonna team's existing knowledge, allowing them to continue to have a positive impact on the community," said Myron Pincomb, IBCCES Board Chair-

County seeks input on 2040 transportation plan

Steele County, in conjunction with the City of Owatonna and other project partners, is developing a 2040 Transportation Plan that provides a framework for policy development and addresses short- and long-term transportation planning needs.

The plan will guide future development and transportation improvements within the county. The plan is being developed in coordination between the city and county, which will ensure policies and planning outcomes best practices, varied perspectives, and the latest research in these areas.

Project partners had intended to host an in-person open house to share the plan overview and facilitate community feedback. However, due to social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Minnesota Department of

Health, project partners have decided to move the open house online. You can visit the Steele County 2040 Transportation Plan online open house and learn about the plan, review the schedule and share your thoughts and comments. The online open house will be available to view at your convenience on the project website from Aug. 24 through Sept. 4.

Residents can visit the online open house for a quick review of the document or can participate in the project survey and interactive mapping exercise. To view the online open house, take the survey, and identify safety issues or opportunities, please visit <http://www.steelcc2040tranplan.com/public-engagement>.

For more information about the Steele County 2040 Transportation Plan, please contact Greg Ilkka at Gregory.ilkka@co.steele.mn.us or 507-444-7670.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics, I drive a 2016 Chevy Cruze with the tiny little turbo charged engine and I have had a lot of issues with it. I have replaced three turbos in 160k miles and a valve cover twice and three water pumps. Believe it or not, even with all those things going on I still love the car, but it runs poorly unless I use premium fuel over 90 octane but it is so expensive. The owner's manual says I am fine to use 87 but it gets bad mileage and the oil even gets dirtier faster when I use the lower octane fuel. I used a premium fuel with ethanol, but my mechanic scolded me and said it was bad for my car. Is that true?

David in Saint Joseph Missouri We have seen these cars run some long miles but also some that needed a bunch of repairs. They do tend to run much better on the higher-octane fuel as well. Ethanol can provide a higher octane when purchased as an ethanol blend premium at a lower cost than straight gasoline. Ethanol is not bad for your car. Blends of e15 or less can be used in any car year model 2001 and up. Most of our own customers use the ethanol premium in their cars and report having great luck with performance and no increased maintenance costs. Ask your mechanic what the facts are for it being bad for your car.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics, My question is about my electrical system on my Chevy Suburban. I have an issue with the battery going dead and the door locks, the drivers front door speaker, mirrors, interior lights, and oh yeah, my radio wont shut off for ten minutes when I turn off the key but occasionally everything will work fine. I do not have a dead battery every night but at least every other time I park it for more than 48 hours.

Jillian in Larchwood Iowa Sounds like the perfect vehicle if that is all that is wrong with it. Seriously though, it may not be as bad as you think. The items you mentioned are all possibly related to one thing, the drivers side door wiring or door module. There is a switch in the door latch that kills the power to the accessory relay also which could be affecting the radio. It is a common issue for the wiring in that door to break in the door jamb or the module in the door to fail and cause these issues so if a shop tells you that is what it is then it is definitely a plausible thing. If it is the wiring, most shops that do general electrical repair should have the ability to move the boot in the door jamb back and repair the wiring. If it is the module then it can easily be replaced but will require some electronic programming.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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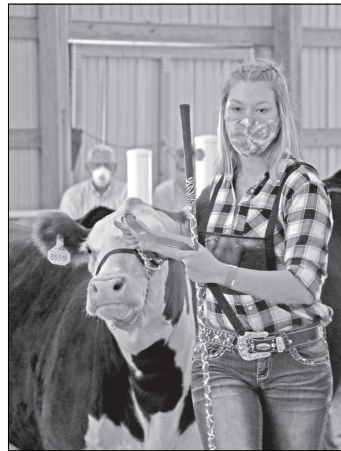
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Area 4-Hers show animals in COVID times

PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER



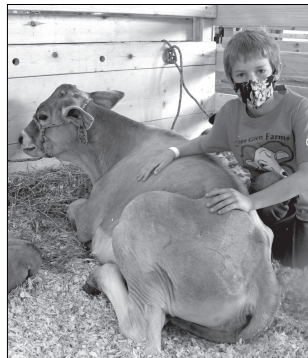
Emma Gillis is all serious as she shows her beef cow during the 4-H competition, which was closed to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Alivia Kubista shows her beef cow in the 4-H Show at the Steele County Fairgrounds Aug. 12.



The livestock shows took on a different look this year with all 4-H members required to wear protective face masks. Raylee Miner wears her mask as she shows in the 4-H hog show.



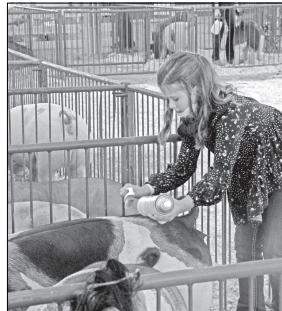
Colin Schultz, 9, of Owatonna leases a cow from Clover Glen Farms of rural Claremont. This is Schultz's second year in 4-H.



Cali Nelson, 8, of Ellendale leads her cow through the barn at the Steele County Fairgrounds in preparation for the Dairy Show Thursday afternoon.



Traci Nelson of Ellendale helps get some dairy cows ready for show by carefully trimming their hair Thursday afternoon.



With brush in hand, Taylor Seykora puts the finishing touches on getting her hog ready for show Aug. 11 at the Steele County Fairgrounds.



Lizzy Schultz, 6, of Owatonna finds comfort on her dairy cow prior to the 4-H show on Thursday. She is a member of the Pratt Commandos 4-H Club.

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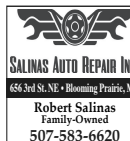
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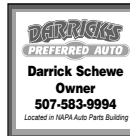
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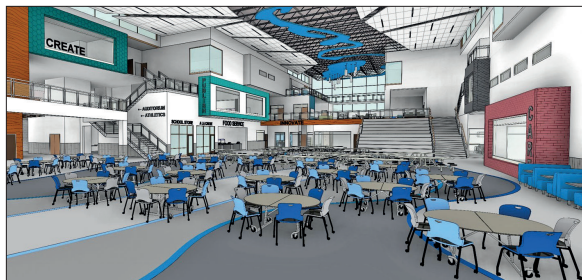
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12880 SW 72nd Ave, Ellendale



New high school plans keep moving along



New high school commons rendering

Planning for the new high school continues! Design teams are finalizing their work and the Board will be seeing more developed designs in September. In June, Wold Architects and Engineers updated the Board about progress in planning the new high school and presented preliminary renderings. The preliminary renderings were based on input from the core planning group that consisted of a cross-section of the users of the facility, including parents, community members, staff, stu-

dents and other local stakeholders. Owatonna High School design concepts include:

- Putting students first
- Welcoming and inclusive
- Safe and comfortable environment
- Efficient, enduring, fiscal responsibility
- Flexible spaces
- Community use
- Personalized learning

Continue to monitor our website for updates on the new high school building project: www.owatonnaproud.org or www.isd761.org/our-district/new-high-school.

Health Services provide COVID-19 tips

To enable the school to give your child proper health care, the school nurse's office welcomes any health communications or questions related to the health of your child. A licensed practical nurse is in the office from 7:45 until 2:45 each school day.

Should your child stay home from school?

Here are some guidelines to help you make that decision:

- If the student has a fever of 100 degrees or more, the student should stay home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal (without fever reducing medicine).
- If the student has vomited or had diarrhea, the student should stay home until 24 hours after the last episode.

- If the student has any rash that may be disease-related or the cause is unknown, check with the family physician before sending the student to school.
- If the student is ill at home, please call the school attendance line daily to report the reason for the absence. It is helpful to report specific symptoms and/or diagnoses.

Medication
Medications are given with doctor's orders AND parent signature ONLY. This includes over-the-counter medications such as Ibuprofen or Tylenol. Permission slips are available

at the nurse's office, on the school district website, or at the Owatonna Clinic. All medications are to be brought to school and picked up by an adult to avoid problems and to ensure safety. Medications must come in their original container. We will not administer medications that come in alternate containers (see policy 516 on our website).

School Immunizations: Is your child ready for school?

To go to school in Minnesota, students must show they've received immunization against a number of diseases or file a legal exemption with the school. Immunizations are due prior to the first day of school. Students transferring into the Owatonna Public School District after the first day of school must provide immunization information and be in compliance within 30 days.

Students entering 12th grade for the 2020-2021 school year are strongly encouraged to have documentation or a legal exemption for the booster dose of the meningococcal vaccine. (Most children received the initial dose of this vaccine when they entered 7th grade).

For a list of required immunizations, please visit our website (www.isd761.org) or the Minnesota Department of Health's website (health.state.mn.us).

COVID-19

If you are feeling sick, stay home. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, congestion, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. Not everyone with COVID-19 has all of these symptoms, and some people may not have any symptoms. Talk to your health care provider if you have questions or concerns about symptoms. Refer to the Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms, found on the Minnesota Department of Health's website (health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf).

COVID-19 Basic Principles

- Sick students, teachers and staff should not come to school.
- Enforce regular handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.
- Disinfect & clean daily: schools and highly used objects and surfaces
- Social distancing – including limiting large gatherings
- Wear cloth face coverings over your mouth and nose in public settings

Important reminders from Nutrition Services

2020-2021 MEAL PRICES

	Breakfast	Lunch
Kindergarten	\$0	\$2.50
Elementary	\$1.30	\$2.50
Middle School	\$1.35	\$2.55
High School	\$1.45	\$2.65

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Nutrition Services strives to offer students a variety of healthy, tasty, and high-quality foods to fuel their growing bodies. Students are encouraged to actively participate in our meal program by eating breakfast and/or lunch and providing feedback about the meals. Each school meal offers milk, fruits, vegetables, protein, and grains, making each meal a great value and convenience for busy families.

Milk is provided with each breakfast and lunch meal. If students wish to purchase a carton with their cold lunch from home or a second milk with their meal, they must have money in their account. The cost is \$.45 per carton.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

Forms for special dietary needs and lactose-reduced milk can be found on our website: www.isd761.org/district-services/nutrition-services. Please call 507-444-8629 with any questions.

MANAGING YOUR STUDENT'S MEAL ACCOUNT

MyPaymentsPlus.com is an online service providing convenience and information you need to manage your student's meal account. Benefits include the ability to view purchase history and meal account balances, set up automatic low balance email reminders,

make prepayments, "auto-replenish" your child's account and more. To set up an account, log on to www.mypaymentsplus.com or download the MyPaymentsPlus mobile app. You can obtain your student's ID for set-up by calling our Nutrition Services department at 507-444-8616.

There is also a drop box for lunch payments outside the District Office, 515 West Bridge Street, on the east side of the building. Payments may also be turned in at your child's school, or you may use the automated phone system by calling 800-420-3478.

APPLY FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Visit www.isd761.org/district-services/nutrition-services and click the "Application for Meal Benefits" tab on the left. Paper copies are available at the District Office. Applications may be submitted any time throughout the school year.

UNPAID MEAL ACCOUNT CHARGES AND DEBT COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Negative balances should be paid off, and prepayments made to your student's account prior to the first day of school. The District will make efforts to communicate with families to resolve unpaid meal charges. For more information, visit www.isd761.org/district-services/nutrition-services.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have a passion for good nutrition and working with kids? For substitute or full and part-time positions, apply online at www.isd761.org.

School Contact Information

Owatonna Public Schools

District Office: 507-444-8600
Nutrition Services: 507-444-8616
Enrollment Office: 507-444-7900
Community Ed: 507-444-7900
Website: www.isd761.org
Owatonna Bus Company: 507-451-5262

Lincoln Elementary (507) 444-8100 Attendance Line: (507) 444-8105	McKinley Elementary (507) 444-8200 Attendance Line: (507) 444-8205
Middle School (507) 444-8700 Attendance Line: (507) 444-8705 Activities/Kids First: (507) 444-8504	High School (507) 444-8800 Attendance Line: (507) 444-8805 Activities Office: (507) 444-8988
Washington Elementary (507) 444-8300 Attendance Line: (507) 444-8305	Wilson Elementary (507) 444-8400 Attendance Line: (507) 444-8405
ALC (507) 444-8000 Attendance Line: (507) 444-8005	ECSE/Pre-K (507) 444-8050 Attendance Line: (507) 444-8050

School Board Meeting Calendar

Owatonna Public Schools board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Board Room at the District Office (515 West Bridge Street) with some exceptions. Typically, the second Monday of the month is a work session and the fourth Monday of the month is the regular business meeting.

- All board meetings are open to the public except those specifically permitted by law to be closed for discussion of identified issues such as negotiation strategy or litigation (see policy 205 on our website, *Open Meetings and Closed Meetings*)
- There is a designated time for community comments at the regular business meetings the 4th Monday of the month.
- Due to the federal and state emergency declarations and guidance about limiting person-to-person contact due to the

COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, meetings have been conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021 – Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means and members of the public have not been permitted to attend. Persons have been able to monitor meetings from a remote location by visiting the school district website where they could find the live-stream video. Please check the website for more information and for updates about when we may transition back to in-person meetings.

2020-2021 School Board Meeting Dates
(additional sessions may be scheduled as needed)

Monday, August 24, 2020
Monday, September 14, 2020 (work session)
Monday, September 28, 2020
Monday, October 12, 2020 (work session)

Monday, October 26, 2020
Monday, November 9, 2020 (work session)
Monday, November 23, 2020
Monday, December 14, 2020
Monday, January 4, 2021 (organizational meeting/work session)
Monday, January 25, 2021
Monday, February 8, 2021 (work session)
Monday, February 22, 2021
Monday, March 8, 2021 (work session)
Monday, March 29, 2021
Monday, April 12, 2021 (work session)
Monday, April 26, 2021
Monday, May 10, 2021 (work session)
Monday, May 24, 2021
Monday, June 14, 2021 (work session)
Monday, June 28, 2021
Monday, July 12, 2021
Monday, August 9, 2021 (work session)
Monday, August 23, 2021

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Steele County District 3 Commissioner

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Salmonella linked to fresh peaches

State health and food safety officials are investigating a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections linked to consumption of fresh, whole peaches supplied by Wawona Packing Company.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

and several other states, are investigating a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections linked to consumption of fresh, whole peaches supplied by Wawona Packing Company.

11 people reported purchasing peaches from Aldi, Target, and possibly other retail locations. On Aug. 19, Aldi announced a recall of peaches from Wawona Packing Company, including both loose and bagged peaches. Target is also in the process of removing peaches from its stores.

Twenty-three Minnesotans have been identified as part of this outbreak, with a median age of 28 years (range, 3 to 92 years). The patients became ill between July 12 and Aug. 3. Six were hospitalized and all have recovered. Overall, 68 cases of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infection have been identified in nine states. The investigation is ongoing and more cases may be detected.

Health officials recommend throwing out or returning fresh, whole peaches supplied

by Wawona Packing Company. Do not eat them. Other peaches (including frozen or canned peaches) are not known to be affected. Fresh peaches supplied by other companies are not known to be affected. If people are unsure whether the peaches they bought are supplied by Wawona, they should contact the retail location where they were purchased. If they have any doubts about where their peaches came from, they should not eat them and should throw them away.

Symptoms of *Salmonella* infection include diarrhea, abdominal pain and fever. Symptoms usually begin within 12 to 96 hours after exposure, but they can begin up to two weeks after exposure. Infections usually clear in five to seven days, but about 28% of laboratory-confirmed cases require hospitalization. Many *Salmonella* infections in otherwise healthy people do not require medical treatment. More serious infections occasionally occur. For those who seek

health care, most do not require antibiotics. However, antibiotic treatment may be warranted in some cases. If you've consumed these products, become ill and are concerned about your health, consult your health care provider.

Approximately 700-975 *Salmonella* infections are reported each year in Minnesota. More information on *Salmonella* and how to prevent it can be found on the MDH website at salmonella.mn.gov.

PRODUCING A QUALITY PRODUCT BRINGS GREAT JOY THE RYSAVYS

A major source of pride for members of the Rysavy family of Owatonna is their farm operation known as Rysavy Dairy LLC. It's an operation where the entire family gets in the action.

The Rysavy farm got its start in 1940 when Joe Rysavy's father, Jerry Rysavy Sr., purchased the farm south of Owatonna. Joe and his wife, Cheryl, are the second generation to operate the farm with their children, Ben and Jacob, coming behind as third generation to join in with the operation.

Rounding out the helping hands on the farm are Wendy, Katelyn, 18, Hailey, 17 and Marcus, 13. Katelyn currently serves as one of Steele County's dairy princesses.

"Our farm has always been a family business and we wish and hope we can continue the business," the Rysavys say. "Benjamin has always enjoyed the dairy aspect of the business whereas Jacob is more the beef aspect of the business."

Until recently, the Rysavys were milking 170 dairy cows. But due to economical circumstances and Joe's health, the family made the difficult decision to sell the majority of the cows and scale back their dairy operation. Now they are operating with just buying

heifers to calve and milk and milking 30-40 cows before selling them to larger dairy herds as milk cows. Besides dairy, the Rysavys have a large beef herd. They are raising 120 brood cows with their calves and backgrounding and finishing 1,200 beef a year.

All the family members are involved in the crop raising, which is basically used for feeding their animals. The Rysavys have 700 acres.

In addition to farming, Jacob works full time as building and grounds director for Steele County. "Learning hard work and having responsibilities on the farm has greatly helped our children learn the respect in our community as well as the respect from their off-the-farm jobs they hold," Cheryl Rysavy said.

The Rysavys also have two other daughters, Rachel and Dan Kaplan who have two children, Clayton, 8, and Kendyl, 5, of rural Blooming Prairie and Karen and Tyler Patten who have one son, Jack, 2, of Oshkosh, Wis.

For the Rysavys, farming is like a puzzle. "It's problem solving but in the end will contribute to good morals, happiness and wealth of the world," Cheryl says. "Knowing and seeing the public appreciate the quality product that we produce is one of our greatest joys."



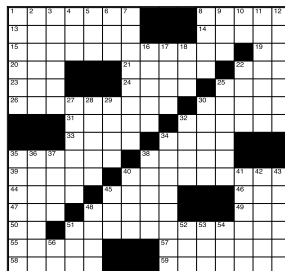
The Rysavy farm family includes, top step: Marcus, middle: Ben, ground level, from left: Hailey, Joe, Wendy, Cheryl, Katelyn and Jacob Rysavy.

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



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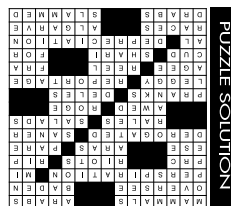


CLUES ACROSS

- Warm-blooded vertebrates
- Semite peoples
- Supervise
- Historical German territory
- Sweet
- The Wolverine State
- China
- Violent disturbances
- A way to commemorate the dead
- Midway between east and southeast
- Bird genus
- Trim
- Disregard
- More coherent
- Abnormal swelling sounds
- Healthy appearance
- Partner to "shocked"
- French pianist Pascal
- Jokes
- Marks to email print
- Tall
- Coverage
- "A Death in the Family" author
- Role of highlights
- Fixed-end access
- Partly digested food
- "Lamb Chop" puppeteer Lewis
- Aluminum
- Reduction in value over time
- Running events
- Portuguese region
- Slovenly women
- Strongly criticized

CLUES DOWN

- Wiped up
- Opposed to
- Macon, GA, university
- Wife
- Small viper
- Polynesian garland of flowers
- Saw-tooth
- Mahase-Sulaiman composer
- Girolamo
- Moved faster than walking
- Commercial
- Covered with mud
- Marketers
- Buenos
- Tailless amphibian
- Belonging to a thing
- Unlabeled
- Iranian name — Khan
- Mist fair
- Citrus fruit
- Awkward
- Brown
- Beloved late broadcaster Craig
- All alone
- Copies
- Poster
- Symmetrical
- Grew older
- Makes tractors
- Not the front
- State as fact
- Long, narrow cut
- Worked hard for
- Indicates position in a box score
- Ten
- "Lookout Weekend" singer
- Debate
- Unlabeled
- Iranian name — Khan
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin (tabby)
- The Golden State



How to handle wasp nests on your property



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

There are several things to consider if you've found an insect nest on your property.

First, you will want to know what kind of nest it is. Not all flying, stinging insects are wasps, after all! Another factor to consider is whether a nest is actually problematic where it's located. If you're allergic to bees or if a nest is located in a place you can't avoid, you will likely want to eliminate the problem.

You shouldn't worry too much about determining if an insect is a wasp or a hornet, because hornets are a type of wasp. Our most common social wasps in Minnesota include yellowjackets, bald-face hornets, and paper wasps. Social wasps tend to disturb people because they can be aggressive while protecting their colony. That's what being a social insect means — that a group of individuals, known as a colony, share one nest. Solitary wasps and bees nest alone. I'm focusing on social wasps in this article.

Some bees, like honey bees and bumble bees, are social as well. It's important to know the difference because bee nests should be preserved if possible. For information on distinguishing social bees from wasps, visit: <https://extension.umn.edu/insects-insect-homes/wasps-and-bees>.

After you've identified it, you can decide what to do about the nest. Wasps will generally not bother people when their nests are not near human activity. If a nest is located in a re-

mote part of your yard, you may choose to leave it. However, wasps are protective of their nests and will sting to defend them. If a nest is in a high traffic area, you may want to take control measures to reduce the risk of being stung.

Keep in mind that our social wasps survive only one year. The workers die in freezing temperatures while newly produced and mated queens leave their old nests and search for protective places to spend the winter. This means winter is a great time to remove visible wasp nests, because they are vacant at that point.

If you decide that a wasp nest is problematic and you need to control it promptly, you have a few options. Regardless of the method you choose, you'll want to do it during the late evening or early morning when the wasps are less active.

If you can see the nest, you can attempt to carefully remove the nest if you're comfortable with it. Or you can treat it using an aerosol spray labeled for wasps and hornets. Spray directly into the opening of the nest where the wasps fly back and forth.

For ground nests, you can place an insecticide dust in and around the nest entrance during the night. The dust particles will stick to the insects as they exit and enter the nest and they should be controlled within a few days. Nests found inside homes are challenging and it's usually best for a pest management professional to control these nests.

If you'd like more information, contact me at 507-330-0447 or lacanne@umn.edu.

Claire Lacanne is agricultural educator for the University of Minnesota Extension for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

Dornink endorsed by top police group

Gene Dornink, candidate for Senate District 27, has been endorsed by the Minnesota Police & Peace Officers Association (MPPOA).

MPPOA represents over 10,400 public safety professionals across Minnesota.

Dornink, R-Hayfield, had the following comment: "I am incredibly humbled to be endorsed by the MPPOA. Being trusted to protect those who we place our trust in everyday is truly something special and I don't take it lightly. I look forward to working

with them once I get to St. Paul."

Dornink, a small business owner and union endorsed carpenter, is the Republican candidate running for state senate district stretching from southern Dodge County to Blooming Prairie and Austin and Albert Lea areas.

Those wishing to find out more about Dornink can find information at dorninkforsenate.com or by visiting Facebook.

He is opposing incumbent senator Dan Sparks, DFL-Austin.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

AUG. 28
BP Youth Club Chalk
Your Walk, Downtown BP

AUG. 29
BP Youth Club Chalk
Your Walk, Downtown BP
4 p.m. – Brat & Sweet
Corn Feed, Fire Hall

AUG. 30
BP Youth Club Chalk
Your Walk, Downtown BP

SEPT. 1
10:30 a.m. – Storytime
Online, Facebook Live

ELLEDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

AUG. 28
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

SEPT. 2
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,
Community Building

AUG. 31
10 a.m. – SEMCAC,

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

AUG. 28
9 a.m. – Book Fair,
Owatonna Library
12:15 p.m. – 2020
United Way Campaign
Kickoff, Virtual

AUG. 29
7 a.m. – Farmers
Market, Central Park

SEPT. 1
9:30 a.m. – Garden
Time, Owatonna
Library
10 a.m. – Genealogy
Club, History Center

10:30 a.m. – Storytime
Online with Daria,
Facebook Live
7 p.m. – Owatonna
City Council Meeting,
City Admin Building

SEPT. 3
10:30 a.m. – Storytime
Online with Daria,
Facebook Live
11:30 a.m. – Onward
& Upward – Courage
and Persistence
of Local Women
Entrepreneurs, History
Center

BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 27
Joshua Toquain
Tyler Amberg
Lucas Chladek

Aug. 28
Peyton Brown
Tammy Johnson
Deanna Weiss
Deb Williamson
Bo Zwiener

Aug. 29
Bill Reister
Tony Lea
Nancy Hansen
Tom Reister
Valerie Winzenburg
Hilaine Trotman
Brisley Hoffman
Robyn Kruckeberg

Aug. 30
Keith Doerhoefer

Aug. 31
Kraig Olson
Bella Komeo

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 28
Katy & Michael Clayton
Denny & Terry Zwiener
John & Sue Svenson
Brady & Brandy Holmberg

Aug. 30
Jay & Kelly Braaten

Aug. 31
Jeff & Rhonda McCabe
Tom & Doreen Blome

Aug. 29
Benji & Nicki Bishop

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

Sudoku Corner

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

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Answers

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

Gun Bingo returns to BP on Sept. 18

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The first-ever Gun Bingo held in Blooming Prairie on Sept. 12, 2019 was a grand success, bringing in over \$17,000 for the BP Cancer Group. Gun Bingo returns to Blooming Prairie on Friday night, Sept. 18, says event chairwoman Connie Trom.

Trom said 200 persons attended the first-ever Gun Bingo held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. She said this year's event will be planned differently because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We will be doing this event under safe, social distancing with tables limited to four guests," said Trom. Masks will be required to enter.

The Sept. 18 event will be held beneath a tent next to The Cue Company and the Pizza Cellar. Starting time will be 7 p.m.

"I never dreamed this event would be that successful," said Trom.

Ten games will be played with a gun given to the lucky Bingo-er. Four gun raffles are also planned, said Trom. She said Craig Anderson has been shopping for the gun prizes.

Last year's event was "well received" by those in attendance, said Trom. Monies from the fundraiser will be directed to cancer research.

People are welcome to donate a gun in memory or in honor of a loved one. Call Connie Trom at 507-456-8431 if interested in sponsoring a gun.

Trom learned about the idea of Gun Bingo from her sister Michelle Faelaki's boy friend, who said gun bingo was a success in Pennsylvania. Proceeds went to a local fire department.

Haley Tollefson was the Bingo caller for the evening last year. She will pass this year's event since she is having a baby. At this time, the caller is a mystery.

BP Cancer Group members took care of registration and also doubled as wait people at last year's event.

Brady Kramer of Hayfield was the first winner of Gun Bingo. All gun winners were able to pick up their guns at the Weibke Fur Company, 218 Portland Ave., Elfton, MN 55931.

One might expect this event to attract mainly

women but there were many women who also played Gun Bingo on this particular evening in 2019.

Lots of door prizes were donated by Brian Johnson and Dannelle Johnson, in memory of their son Dylan (44 in Demolition Derby circles). Dylan's aunt Denise Krell helped distribute the prizes to the lucky winners.

Eight of the 10 Bingo games were sponsored in honor of loved ones stricken by cancer.

The first game of the evening was sponsored in memory of Jim Prihoda. Other special honors were given to Gail Anderson, Elaine Klemmensen, Claremont Chamber of Commerce in memory of local citizens hit by cancer, Darrell Trom, Steve Bernholtz and Marlene Symes.

Chalk your Walk event planned to benefit BP Youth Club

The Blooming Prairie Youth Club has partnered up with Nanner Kruckeberg to bring the first "Chalk Your Walk" to Blooming Prairie.

This is a free event from Aug. 27-30 to all in the community and "a

great way to spread positivity around town," says BP Youth Club staffer Alicia Ptacek.

Anyone can enter. Objective is to use chalk to create a design on a driveway or sidewalk. Judges will then view

the entries and pick the winners.

Cash prizes will be given for the top three winners, along with drawings for gift cards to those who sign up with the BP Youth Club and become a part of our event.

First prize is \$100 in BP Bucks, second prize is \$50 in BP Bucks and third prize is \$25 in BP Bucks.

Register by e-mail at bpyouthclubinfo@gmail.com or message the BP Youth Club on Facebook.

MESHKE ACCEPTS: pastoral call in Belgrade FROM B1

Tyler, Minn. from June 2017 to February 2020.

There are three churches in the parish: Big Grove Lutheran Church near Brooten, Crow River Lutheran Church four miles south of Belgrade and Grace Lutheran Church in the town of Belgrade. These communities have been a parish since 2012. Previously, Crow River and Big Grove were yoked together and shared a pastor.

The senior pastor at the parish is Pastor John Dahen. He has been a pastor for 32 years and has served at

the parish for the last six years.

Pastor John and Pastor Lisa rotate churches each week. One of the group leads worship at Grace Lutheran and the other leads worship at Big Grove and Crow River. Then the next Sunday the pastors flip. Ministry is shared in council meetings, confirmation, and Lent services.

Crow River is the biggest church of the three, with 400 baptized members and average attendance of 88.

Grace Lutheran is second biggest with 338 baptized members

and average worship attendance of 69. Big Grove is the smallest at 215 baptized members and average worship attendance of 47.

Two of the churches are beginning to have worship indoors and one will continue to have worship outdoors.

"I would say leading worship again has been a highlight of ministry so far," said Pastor Meshke. One of the churches began having communion again and it was wonderful to participate in the sacrament again. "I so missed it!" she admitted.

"Each week we are

doing an online service too. It takes a lot of work to put it together each week."

Meshke still plays golf. She is a state champion, placing first in the state tournament her senior year. She also enjoys hiking and recently took up Kayaking.

She can be e-mailed at pastorlisaanne@gmail.com. Also, the public can follow her parish on Facebook by liking the Facebook page, Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish.

Pastor Meshke is the daughter of Dean and Marilyn Meshke of Blooming Prairie.

FAMILIAR FACE: takes on new role in Ellendale FROM B1

Zimprich graduated from Minnesota State University Mankato with a degree in psychology with emphasis on alcohol and drug studies. She worked in the alcohol and mental health fields in both Rochester and Owatonna prior to moving to Ellendale.

In her new role as clerk, Zimprich's top priority is to keep the city organized and presentable to the public. She said the past few months have been

pretty quiet because of COVID-19. "It was nice to have that quietness so I could get organized," she said. "I feel I have things organized so I can function and be efficient as possible," she added.

"I never thought I would be interested in government," the clerk says. She plans to approach the position with her "good people skills."

Zimprich is the first to admit she doesn't know it all. "I have a lot

of learning to do," she said, noting she doesn't view that as being incompetent. "There is a lot of competency in asking for help," she related. She added she hopes people will be patient and tolerant with her.

She feels supported by the current council. "Knock on wood, it has been pretty smooth sailing so far," Zimprich said.

One of the greatest issues facing the city right now is the road

project in Countryview Estates. Zimprich noted Engle has been working diligently on that project.

Zimprich and her husband, Nick, have a 13-year-old daughter who attends NRHEG High School. In her spare time, Zimprich loves to vegetable garden and hike and kayaking. She also works part time as a waitress for the Kernal Restaurant in Owatonna where she has been off and on since 1997.

HIGHS TUESDAY

46 Mankato 46 Zumbrota 49 Wadena 51 Mounds 52 La Crosse

46 Fairmont 46 Albert Lea 47 Austin 47 Preston 49 Duluth 54 Princeton

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

B7



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUUD

Practices began on Aug. 17 for Minnesota high school cross country teams. Coach John Bruns welcomed 19 boys out for this year's Blooming Prairie team. Runners socially distanced from left are: Front Row -- Jesse Cardenas, Jaxon Harberts, Jack Bruns and Tyler Anderson. Middle Row -- Sam Michaud, Hosea Baker, Tyler Forystek, Alex Miller and Ben Riley. Back Row -- Ethan Grant, Luke Larkoski, Boone Carlson, Jacob Pauly, Joe Prki and Dylan Johnson.

Cross country numbers nearly double in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie High School cross country coach John Bruns welcomed 40 prospects for his boys and girls cross country teams. Practice began on Aug. 17.

The season opens Friday, Aug. 28 at the River Bend Nature Center in Faribault with Medford

hosting Blooming Prairie and Maple River.

The turnout of 40 runners, which includes 19 boys and 21 girls, this year nearly doubles the total of 23 runners who reported last year. The added depth is due to several runners coming out for the team who normally would have been involved in volleyball or football.

Volleyball and football players were available since their season normally runs in the fall but has been moved to the spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bruns said there are several newcomers who will compete for the top seven varsity spots. "This will make our team stronger," he said.

SEE CROSS COUNTRY, B10



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUUD

Twenty-one Blooming Prairie cross country runners reported to the 2020 team. Shown socially distanced from left are Front Row -- Emily Miller, Lila Quail, Olivia Quail, Anna Haberman, Shanna Halverson and Asha Lighthizer. Middle Row -- Rose Michaud, Ashleigh Alwes, Melanie Winzenburg, Emily Anderson, Rachel Winzenburg, Lily Schammel and Lauren Schammel. Back Row -- Anna Pauly, Abby Smith, Bobbie Bruns, Megan Oswald, Maggie Bruns, Chloe McCarthy and Haven Carlson.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on May 8, 2020, the District Court of Steele County, Minnesota, First Judicial District, made and entered a Judgment in an action entitled "Troy Co. Concrete & Masonry, Inc. v. Richard Hadler, Mar-go McKay, Richie's Truck- ing, Inc., Michael J. Grimm, and Wickman Enterprises LLC dba Generation Build- ing Center" being Court File No. 74-CV-20-513, adjudging that Plaintiff Troy Co. Concrete & Masonry, Inc., is entitled to a Mechanic's Lien upon the premises hereinafter described in the amount of **\$25,217.20**; and, Defendant Wickman Enterprises LLC dba Generation Building Center, is entitled to a Mechanic's Lien upon the premises hereafter described in the amount of **\$24,929.05** and directing said premises to be sold by me as Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, to satisfy said Mechanic's Liens; and a certified transcript of said Judgment has been duly delivered to me with directions to proceed with the sale of said premises as therein provided. **NOW, THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that pursuant to said Judgment and the statutes in such case made and provided in the premises so described in said Judgment and situated in Steele County, Minnesota, viz:

Legal Description: THE EAST ONE-HALF OF LOT 8 AND ALL OF LOT 9, BLOCK 1, ALL IN AL-EXANDER ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OWATONNA, MINNESOTA, AS PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE REGISTRAR OF TITLES IN SAID STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

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Dated: July 27, 2020

Lon S. Thiele
 Sheriff of Steele
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By: Anthony David
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CANCER RIBBONS: with a creative twist FROM B1

fused glass, including bowls, plates, upcycled wine bottles and glass beads.

The cancer ribbons can be engraved free of charge by KIK Marketing, a business operated by Jessica's brother Tyler. The free engraving is offered on any of the ribbons purchased or given by the Cancer Group, up to 20 characters and 2 lines.

Asked why she decided to do this project to fight cancer, Jessica says she and her siblings were raised to

always give when able and all four continue to share this value, she said, particularly in Blooming Prairie.

Tyler and Trevor both participate in many non-profit fund raising efforts around Blooming Prairie. Trevor is also a candidate for city council.

Jessica's sister, LeAnna (Nanner) Kruckeberg is partnering with the Blooming Prairie Youth Club for its Chalk Your Walk event.

Jessica says sister LeAnna is "bugging"

her to make the Youth Club the focus of her next project.

Going forward, Jessica is hoping to partner with several more non-profits in Blooming Prairie to help fundraising. She says she is getting an inventory of fused glass and stained glass to make available at KIK Marketing.

Her goal is to have a local non-profit each month and to make 100% of the profits go straight to the group.

If people are inter-

ested in the Kruckeberts' adventures, go to the Midwest Stained Glass Facebook page.

Jessica is a licensed marriage and family therapist with a private practice with a specialty in working with individuals and couples who live with pelvic pain and/or are high achieving. She also is an affiliate faculty member at Regis University in Denver in its family therapy counseling master's program.

Jessica is married to Troy.

COUNTY FAIR: to go FROM B1

past, but she ended up drastically underestimating those who turned out to get their fix of fair food.

Asked if the Food Fest exceeded her expectations, Jeni quickly responded, "Absolutely, by far."

Jeni also admitted she underestimated what the mood of people would be like. Initially, the Food Fest was supposed to be a walk up event where people could leisurely walk around and enjoy the food, but the state came in and forced organizers to do a drive through event banning out of their vehicles. "I thought people would be upset," Jeni said. "I was pleasantly surprised that they are receptive to it," she added.

With a yellow safety vest on, Fair president Dan Deml directed traffic to ensure vehicles moved smoothly through a well-coor-

minated one-way route where thousands of people would normally walk during the fair.

Fair board members set up stopping lanes for vehicles to pick up food and passing lanes for those who wanted to move on. Deml said they learned a few pointers about traffic flow from some of the vendors who took part in similar events at the Wisconsin State Fair.

Deml wasn't alone. Most of the fair board members worked at least one shift throughout the weekend along with some other volunteers to direct traffic. "It reflects well with the community and vendors when the fair board is helping," said Deml. "The Steele County Fair is everybody's fair, not the fair board's," he added.

"We get people in and out of here quickly," Deml said. "We kept more traffic moving through here

faster rather than people parking and walking."

Deml said the food vendors paid a fee to take part in the Food Fest. The fair was also accepting donations from the vendors to help offset the losses of not having a fair this year. But, Deml pointed out, Food Fest wasn't about the money. "The idea wasn't to see how much money we could make," he said. "We had a real determination that we could find something for the vendors and the community."

After announcing initial plans to have a walk-up event, Deml expressed disappointment when "the health department got on our case" and forced the fair to scale down to a drive through event. Deml said there were days when they wanted to pull the plug on the entire event. But, he added, the fair had a "desire to not give up."

Wayne Steele, who serves as the fair's publicity director, said he was impressed with the way community members were so responsive to the guidelines established for the drive-through event.

Steele said he noticed many people who haven't come out for the last three months because of COVID-19 enjoyed the Food Fest only because they could stay in their vehicles. "People don't have to wait in the hot sun for food. They can be in their air-conditioned vehicles," he said.

With the sun shining and temperatures hovering in the 80s most of the week, Deml reflected on the disappointment of not having a fair. "How sad," he said. "You throw up your hands and say it's what it is. You have to think of what it could have been."

AN EMOTIONAL: time for 4-H FROM B1

listened to their concerns, needs and wishes. As our timeline was drawing near to make the decision, we put out a survey asking what for the families input and if they were willing to step up to volunteer for the "new roles" that needed to be put in place make the in-person achievement showcases a go!

We received a resounding "YES." Everyone followed the guidelines, our volunteers showed up with smiles on their faces, underneath their masks, and

were willing to go the extra mile to do this for our youth!

Today, as I look back over the past couple of weeks, I become quite emotional. I can say that everyone had a fantastic week. Many families had thankful hearts and appreciation that their children were able to show their projects they had spent many hours on this year. Many of our judges thanked us for making the effort to have an in-person showcase. We heard from a judge

or two that they were even willing to wear a mask for the day to make this possible so that these 4-Hers could show their animals.

As staff, are truly thankful for the support and tremendous amount of help we received from the Fairboard, especially Sandy Jirele, Scott Kozelka and the grounds crew who were right beside us daily on the fairgrounds pitching in to do whatever was needed helping us "make chicken salad out of what was dealt to us" as a parent described the year in an emailing thanking us for the opportunities for his children this past week.

Since there wasn't the midway or all the booths to go check out at the fair this year, many of our 4-H families really took the opportunity to make their days at the showcases a family affair. They packed picnic lunches and enjoyed relaxing in the sunshine and enjoying the beautiful weather alongside their livestock trailers while waiting for their time to show. There was a community spirit of being able to come together to spend time with the 4-H families that they haven't been able to see as we haven't been able to have in-person club meetings or 4-H softball games this year.

The week was more of a relaxed atmosphere than you will probably see during a normal county fair. The 4-H youth had more time to do radio interviews and really talk about their projects. KRFO Radio came daily to interview our 4-Hers so they could have a chance to tell the

general public about their projects since our shows were closed to the public and we couldn't display our general projects or livestock for the public to come in and see. Cloverbuds through the first year out of college lined up to share their experiences this year. The "Blast" donated ice cream flurries to all who interviewed on the radio so even if they were a little starry before they started their interview - the ice cream treat was a great way to end it.

The 4-H Showcases were closed to the public, however Owatonna Live was there, streaming the livestock shows as they happened, which are recorded on their website. As my daughter was showing her calf, I received a text from my sister saying "way to go Anna" who was sitting in her living room in Lakeville watching the show live. So even though most relatives and friends weren't able to be there in person, it was the next best thing. If you didn't get a chance to view the shows, OwatonnaLive.com has them all recorded on their website under live events, click on the 4-H clover.

As I said, this year the Steele County Free Fair didn't happen for the typical fairgoer but what an awesome experience it was for our Steele County 4-Hers.

Joleen Koenig is with the University of Minnesota Extension 4-H staff in Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

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CROSS COUNTRY: FROM B7

Coach Bruns also welcomed an assistant coach, Ryan Slack. The Blooming Prairie School Board on Aug. 17 authorized the hiring of an assistant to Coach Bruns. Slack has been involved in the BP track program for eight years.

This year marks Coach Bruns' 22nd year as head coach of the Blooming Prairie cross country teams and 35th year involved in cross country. Bruns ran cross country in high school for seven years and in college for four years. Bruns was an assistant cross country coach for two years.

Bruns has also coached track, boys basketball, girls basketball and girls softball at Blooming Prairie. He is currently head girls basketball coach.

Seven letter winners return to the boys team this year. They are: senior Ethan Grant, five-year letter winner; senior Alex Miller, three-year letter winner and Honorable Mention All Conference in 2018; senior Joe Pirkil, two-year letter winner; senior Dylan Johnson, three-year letter winner; sophomore Hosea Baker, two-year letter winner; freshman Tyler Forsyth, two-year letter winner and eighth grader Jack Bruns, one-year letter winner.

Boys lost to graduation were Isaac Iile and Adam Larson.

Leading the girls team will be five-year letter winner Rose Michaud, a senior. Other letter winners are: senior Abby Braaten, three years; junior Asha Lighthizer, four years; junior Emily Anderson, three years; junior Bobbie Bruns, three years and sophomore Abby Smith, three years. Bobbie Bruns was all conference in 2016 and



The 2020 cross country season has begun. Practices kicked off the 2020 season on Aug. 17. Head coach John Bruns, left, welcomed a new assistant, Ryan Slack. Forty athletes reported to the 2020 boys and girls teams.

2018. She was also Leader of the Pack in 2016. Abby Smith was Honorable Mention all conference in 2018 and 2019. Emily Anderson earned Honorable Mention all conference in 2019.

The boys were fourth in the Gopher Conference last year and 19th in Section 1. They bring back lots of experience this year.

The girls were fourth in conference play last year and 19th in the section. No runners were lost to graduation. This group of girls has lots of experience as many have been on varsity since seventh grade, Bruns said.

Keys to success this year for the boys team will be staying healthy and working to improve every day, remarked Coach Bruns.

Bruns said this is the largest BP girls team, number wise. "The girls are a hard-working group and fun to be around," said Bruns.

Newcomers to the boys team this year include: seniors Luke Larkowski and Boone Carlson; junior Drew Kittelson; sophomores Alex Riley, Jesse Cardenas and Stephen Fennell; freshman Ben Riley; eighth grader Jacob Pauly and seventh grader Tyler Anderson.

Newcomers to the girls team are: seniors Maggie Bruns and Megan Oswald; juniors Bobbie Bruns, Emily Miller, Lauren Schammel and Melanie Winzenburg; sophomores Anna Pauly, Chloe McCarthy and Haven Carlson; freshmen Anna Haberman, Lily Schammel and Rachel Winzenburg and seventh graders Lila Quail and Regan Donnelly.

Of the newcomers, four would normally be out for football and 11 would normally be out for volleyball.

Blooming Prairie Cross Country Schedule 2020 Aug. 28 - Medford (BP, Medford, Maple River) at River Bend Nature Center in Faribault, 9 a.m. Sept. 1 - Blooming Prairie (BP, NRHEG, Pacelli), 4:30 p.m. at BPHS Sept. 10 - WEM/JWP (BP, WEM/JWP, RAACHE) at Prairie Ridge CC, 4:30 p.m. Sept. 15 - Blooming Prairie (BP, USC, Pacelli) at BPCC, 4:30 p.m. Sept. 22 - Blooming Prairie (BP, Medford, Hayfield) at BPCC, 4:30 p.m. Oct. 1 - Hayfield (BP, Hayfield, Maple River), Oaks, 4:30 p.m. Oct. 10 - Gopher Conference Meet at River Bend Nature Center, Faribault

Personnel issues top board meeting

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie School Board acted on some personnel issues at its Aug. 17 meeting.

Board members accepted the resignation of third grade elementary teacher Angie Avery, effective Aug. 1. She has taught in the Blooming Prairie district since December 2001.

The board also accepted the resignation of elementary school para professional Peggy Tashima, effective Aug. 3. She has been a para with the BP district since April of 1997.

Superintendent Chris Staloch also announced the resignation of Cindy Beinhorn, secretary at the high school. Board accepted the resignation.

Family leave was granted Jennifer DeKok, high school science teacher. Request for the

time period of approximately Dec. 9, 2020 through Jan. 29, 2021.

Board approved the hiring of Jan Anderson as a computer tech/para professional, effective Aug. 31.

Alison Mach, BP Schools activities director, requested approval of another cross country coach to assist head Coach John Bruns. Ryan Slack has been hired. Forty boys and girls reported for cross country, Mach reported.

The team will have seven meets and will host three of them.

Football and volleyball teams are allowed 12 practices from October to the beginning of the spring season on March 15. The football and volleyball seasons begin March 15 and end on May 15. Spring sports (baseball, softball and track) will run from May 15 to July 15.

Mach also asked for approval of two coaches for the Blooming Prairie trap shooting team. The trap team shoots every Monday at Hope.

The board discussed meal prices for the 2020-21 school year. The following prices are proposed: \$1.85, elementary student breakfast; \$2.70, elementary student lunch and \$2.80 for high school student lunch. Adult prices approved are: \$1.90 for adult breakfast and \$3.85 for adult lunch. Staloch said the administration will review current class sizes.

The COVID-19 plan was adopted unanimously after a roll call vote by the board.

Tentative enrollment for the 2020-21 school year as of Aug. 12 is approximately 443 for the elementary school (grades K-6) and 387 for the high school (grades 7-12).

DESIGN BP'S NEW WATER TOWER LOGO

Blooming Prairie Public Utilities would like to take this opportunity to announce to any local Blossom that would be interested in submitting a design of their own creation to represent the community and become the new logo on the upcoming new water tower. There is no prize offering, but the winner will have the rewarding satisfaction of having their vision of our community being enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike for decades to come.



Anyone interested is invited to submit any questions or designs to Jerry Mausbach at (507) 583-6683 or jerry@bpu.net.

The deadline for submission is October 16, 2020.



Roger!
Steinkamp
MINNESOTA SENATE DISTRICT 24

YOUR VOICE IN THE SENATE
TU VOZ EN EL SENADO
CODKAAGA XUKUNKA

Are you **HAPPY**
with the way we are governed?

Blaming others rather than taking responsibility?
Creating problems rather than solving them?
Representing the party rather than the people?
Decision making based on hearsay rather than science?
Just saying NO is not a solution!

It's **YOUR** government
and as **YOUR** senator I promise to:

Let the past inform the future.
Develop a long term vision based on science, not hearsay.
Represent the interests of everyone in the community.
Solve the current problems to get us the future we want.
Restore integrity and honesty in government.

Get to know me at **RogerSenate.com**

Join the conversation online via Zoom. The calendar is on the website.

Roger!
Steinkamp

Prepared and paid for by the Roger Steinkamp MN Senate Committee.
PO Box 1177, Faribault, MN. 55021

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