



COVID-19 didn't totally snag fun away from Ellendale area residents as the community held a mini-Ellendale Days on Saturday. With a pink full length cast on her right leg, Keela Stitt, 4, of Ellendale, didn't let it bother her one bit as she drew a sidewalk chalk picture during the celebration. See Page B1 for more photos and a story about the abbreviated festival.

Fair Fest to replace Steele County Fair this year

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

While COVID-19 has shuttered nearly every county fair and even the state fair in Minnesota for this year, Steele County isn't about to go without anything to satisfy at

least some fair goers who have a hankering for fair food.

The Steele County Fair plans to hold "Fair Fest" on four of the days when the fair would normally be operating in August, according to Scott Kozelka, fair manager. Fair Fest will

run Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 20-23 on the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

Kozelka said Fair Fest will feature "not more than 20 food vendors" scattered throughout the fairgrounds. He is still in the process of finalizing

the list of vendors that will be at the festival, but Kozelka assures everyone that there will be mixture offered in the choices. "I want to have a variety instead of having seven cheese curd stands," he said. "We're trying to salvage the little parts

that we can to help the vendors," Kozelka said. "We're here to help—we help them, they help us," he said of the vendors. The idea comes after the fair allowed the Steele County American Dairy Association to hold a Drive-In

Dairy Days in late June to replace its annual Breakfast on the Farm event. The two-day event, which offered 11 food vendors, proved to be a huge success, Kozelka said. He added there were also

SEE FAIR FEST, A6

Garris trades in corporate life for small auto business

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After many years of corporate life, Troy Garris is ready to channel his energies into his own business in Steele County.

Garris purchased Hometown Motors in Owatonna from Daryl Kubiek in late May, closed the facility down for a month to make renovations and opened as Honest-1 Auto Care. Unlike Hometown Motors, Honest-1 will be solely focused on auto repair and not selling used vehicles.

The repair shop had a soft opening on June 30. Garris is planning a grand opening in a couple months.

Honest-1 is a franchise store with more than 70 locations around the country, according to Garris. The largest concentration of them is in the Twin Cities where there are 15 stores.

"We have brought something different to Owatonna," said Garris. "I want to grow the business, and we want to be the place to go."

The facility located on S. Oak Avenue was built about 20 years ago. Garris made significant improvements to the

building. One of the showpiece items of the renovation is a large picture window where customers can see their vehicles being repaired in the garage, which features six service bays.

For 20 years, Garris worked in financial operations for a large corporation in Chicago. "I tell everyone I was the data guy," said Garris, who has a master's in business and a law degree. He added he is excited about his transition into being a small

business owner. "I was tired of corporate life and decided I wanted to own my own business."

Garris acknowledges he had been looking for a location for an auto store for five years and that Owatonna was not his first choice. He thought he had a store lined up in Mankato and moved to near by Eagle Lake from Chicago. "It didn't work out and this is Plan B," he said. "It all worked out for the best, and I feel pretty

comfortable with this," he added.

As a newcomer to Owatonna, Garris says he likes the community. "I was pretty blown away by the downtown," he said. "The community seems dynamic and growing. Things are happening here."

He and his family are hoping to move to Owatonna in the near future. Honest-1, Garris says, is focused on

SEE GARRIS TRADES IN, A8



Rod Salaysay, manager, and Troy Garris, owner, are ready to serve customers at Honest-1 Auto Care in Owatonna. Garris took over the business, which was previously Hometown Motors and converted it into Honest-1. During the renovation, they created a large window so customers can see their vehicles being worked on while they wait.

STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Argument ends in murder charges

Police capture suspect in Mpls. day after killing

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A 28-year-old man has been captured and charged in connection with the murder of a

man in an Owatonna park July 19.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Hassan Nur

SEE ARGUMENT ENDS, A6

Help design BP's new water tower

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The City of Blooming Prairie will be getting a new water tower, and area citizens have been asked to submit a design for the new tower.

Jerry Mausbach, manager of Blooming Prairie Utilities, appeared before the BP City Council on July 13, reporting on a process to select a logo for the new tower.

Advertisements seeking water tower logo designs will be run for two months, stretching into October. If not enough submittals are received, or the judging committee does not like the designs, the dead-

line will be extended a month.

The public will be asked to submit art designs to a committee consisting of Greg Johnson, Mary Kittelson, Willie Olson, Marcy Sundline and H. Peterson.

Mausbach said it is hoped that the design could last 40 years or longer. Bids for a new city water tower, Mausbach said, will be sought in early January of 2021.

Mausbach said he will continue to search for state grants to help with the cost of tower construction. He said the Blooming Prairie

SEE HELP DESIGN BP'S, A6

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AREA DEATHS

Joan Vanden Heuvel, 86, Geneva

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Why is state senator being investigated?

Minnesota State Senator Scott Jensen, R-Chaska is being investigated for comments he made about COVID-19. Who's doing the investigating? That would be the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice (members of the Board are appointed by the Gov. Tim Walz), who alleges that Jensen, a physician, is "spreading misinformation" and giving "reckless advice" about COVID-19. Just to be clear, the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice, which sent a letter outlining complaints received by the board: "The Board has received complaints regarding public messages you made related to COVID-19. In accordance with Minnesota law, the Board is required to make inquiries into all complaints and reports wherein violations of the Medical Practices Act are alleged," as published in the StarTribune.

Jensen contends that federal guidelines could cause medical staff to inflate the count of COVID-19 cases for financial reasons.

Jensen had made this claim that hospitals would be paid three times more money if they had patients needing a ventilator.

Jensen went so far as to state in a Facebook post: "How can anyone not believe that increasing the number of COVID-19 deaths may create an avenue for states to receive a larger portion of federal dollars. Already some states are complaining that they are not getting enough of the CARES Act dollars because they are having significantly more proportional COVID-19 deaths."

Oops! He let the cat out of the bag. Later, the good doctor reinforced his assertion by, again hitting Facebook: "Hospital administrators might well want to see COVID-19 attached to a discharge summary or a death certificate. Why? Because if it's a straightforward, garden-variety pneumonia that a person is admitted to the hospital for - if they're Medicare - typically, the diagnosis-related group lump sum payment would be \$5,000. But if it's COVID-19 pneumonia, then it's \$13,000, and if that COVID-19 pneumonia patient ends up on a ventilator, it goes up to \$39,000.

Perhaps the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice should be investigating the claims of the good doctor as a whistleblower and try to hunt down the criminality that might be part of a nationwide scam, which is being funded (if true) by... we, the people.

It seems as though free speech or calling out a wrong is now taboo. Have societal norms changes so drastically that we no longer allow for opposing points of view?

After all, Dr. Jensen was named physician of the year in 2016. So what's the real motive behind this investigation? Is the state attempting to control the doctor's freedom of speech? Is there a party line that the politically correct demand from physicians? What's scary about this Orwellian "thought control" move by the Board is the eventual control of medicine for political ends. In George Orwell's book, 1984, doublethink was critical to the success of the Party as it supported the state-imposed practice of language control, or newspeak. Sound familiar?

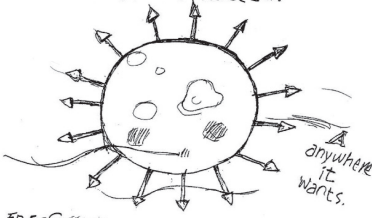
"Doggone it, if this could happen to me, (in) my view, it could happen to anybody," Jensen said. "I mean, I've been a family doctor for 40 years!" he stated in his Facebook video.

Free Speech

The true test of one's commitment to free speech does not come when you allow people to say things that you think they should say. It comes when you allow people to say those things that you find despicable.

-Walter Williams

Q Where is the virus headed next?



GUEST COLUMN

What will the new school year look like?

BY CHRIS STALOGH

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy Fourth of July weekend. I know that July isn't typically the time of year that you want to start hearing about the next school year, but I want to keep you up to date with our planning process for the 2020-2021 school year. The Minnesota Department of Education is asking school districts to plan for three scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. In-person learning for all students.
2. Hybrid model with strict social distancing and capacity limits.
3. Distance Learning only.

Our admin team is working with our school board, business office, food service, other school districts, Steele County Public Health, Hillyard (our cleaning supplier), transportation, and others to develop plans to meet the guidelines to reopen the school. We have formed a committee that will meet in the coming weeks to review our work, provide feedback, and we will adjust these plans accordingly. The committee will include a variety of stakeholders.

Governor Walz's Office, in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education, will determine and

announce the scenario model under which schools may reopen for the 2020-21 school year based on school COVID-19 metrics by the week of July 27. It is my understanding that we need to be prepared for all three scenarios and that we have the potential to work under all three scenarios as the school year progresses.

We will share our plans with each of you once we know which scenario the state allows us to begin with. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process. Our goal will be to bring our students and staff back safely

SEE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, A10

Curing the corona blues with Redlin art

As I'm sure many of you are figuring out, it's tough to find anything to do this summer in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have a love for art and specifically Terry Redlin, I have the perfect respite for you to enjoy.

Take a short road trip over to Watertown, S.D. to visit the Redlin Art Center, which is a special tribute to the late Terry Redlin. Today, 150 originals representing the legendary wildlife artist are on permanent display at the center. Admission is free.

Redlin was an American artist popular for painting outdoor themes and wildlife, often pictured in twilight. During the 1990s, he was frequently named "America's most popular artist" in annual gallery surveys conducted by U.S. Art magazine.

He considered himself to be an average person who just painted what he loved - rural America, "America's rural past, in my eyes,



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

was a wonderful place full of both beauty and opportunity. How fortunate I've been to spend my life creating memories of those to enjoy," Redlin once said. He died in his hometown of Watertown in 2016.

After years of watching his father paint and sell every oil painting, Terry's son wanted him to stop. Charles Redlin wanted to preserve his father's original oil paintings, but not for his own sake. He wanted everyone to be able to experience his father's works in their original form. So Charles developed a plan to collect and display them in a public space.

Initially, the Redlin family purchased land in Minnesota along Interstate 494 as a potential site for the center. However, Charles was concerned about the urban sprawls in Minneapolis. He didn't want the city to swallow the intrinsic beauty of the Center.

The family formed another idea. Since South Dakota sent Terry through art school on a scholarship for disabled students (Terry lost one of his legs), they decided to build it in Watertown as a gift to the state and the community.

Charles envisioned the massive 52,000-square-foot brick building that is the Center. He wanted the grandeur of the structure to envelope visitors as they entered the building. For the exterior, he drew inspiration from the Egyptian Revival period, incorporating towering 38-foot Rockville White granite columns into the outside entrance.

SEE CURING, A8

She lived on the edge sometimes

She was more like a sister than a sister-in-law.

She was fun loving and oftentimes lived on the edge. There wasn't anything she wouldn't try. An adventurer she was.

My brother's wife, Rosemary, was a most fun member of our family. After a long, wicked battle with cancer, Rosemary passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 18.

A celebration of her life took Judy and me to Colorado where we recently celebrated her all-too short of a life. She packed in a lot of memorable times in her 78 years.

I was a teenager when I first met Rosemary. We got to know one another much better as the years went by and as my brother Dave and her visited our farm near Blooming Prairie on a regular basis. They lived at Austin during that time.

I remember riding with Rosemary in her husband Dave's 1958 silver blue and white Chevrolet Impala. She took me on a ride I will not forget. We were in the Maple Island area and she pushed the Impala to 110 miles per hour. "Don't tell Dave," she suggested.

Rosemary always stuck up for me. I remember buying a 45 RPM record and when I got to her house in Austin, I noticed the record was cracked.

"I'll go with you to take the record back," she volunteered. When we met the store owner, he refused to replace the record, claiming we broke it.

Rosemary used a few expletives and got the



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

record replaced. "Don't ever come back," the store owner said. "Don't worry, we will not ever step foot in this hole (expletives deleted)," Rosemary responded.

Rosemary was most fun when traveling,

which she did often with husband Dave and her sister Penny and husband Wayne.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

We knew them as Dave and Rosemary, brother and sister-in-law. They are shown at the Brooklyn Bridge. We celebrated Rosemary's life recently at a family get-together. She passed away on April 18, 2020.

Dave and Rosemary made many trips to Mexico and also traveled to Europe. We also met up with them at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. The Minnesota State Fair was also a favorite trip Judy and I took with Rosemary, Dave and daughter Jodi.

Rosemary was a dare devil. She parasailed, skydived, scuba dived and rode a motorcycle.

Following Rosemary's passing, I sent her daughter Jodi this note:

I have been thinking all day of words to describe your mom and many come to mind and not in any necessary order.

- She was:
- Kind
 - Loving
 - Fun
 - Smart
 - Caring
 - Unselfish
 - Devoted
 - Willing (to try almost anything adventures)
 - Good cook
 - Animal lover
 - Devout reader
 - Carefree
 - Honest
 - Loyal
 - Responsible
 - Generous
 - Reliable
 - Considerate
 - Thoughtful
 - Fighter
 - Determined
 - Opinionated

Jodi, as you can see, I could go on and on. She had such an impact on all of our lives. She was a wonderful mother to you and a great partner for your dad.

She made us all laugh and urged us to look on the good side of everything.

Her life is one we all can celebrate. She will be missed but never forgotten.

She was a great sister-in-law and always willing to be supportive. She was a rock for Judy and me when Pammi passed. She was there to hold our hands during a very tough time. We want to be there for you guys during this tough time.

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County Writer.....Chris Baldwin

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News: Noon Fridays.
Web: 12 p.m. (Daily)
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Thursdays.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge,
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Elsewhere
in Minnesota \$49
Out of state \$52

A state and national award winning weekly



MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

2020-5 state awards
2019-7 state awards
2018-6 state and
1 national awards
2017-2 state and
6 national awards

2015-7 state and
4 national awards
2014-3 state and
3 national awards
2013-7 state and
2 national awards
2012-2 state awards
2011-4 national awards

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

State's education decision will have Elstad's influence

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Superintendents like Owatonna's Jeff Elstad are anxiously awaiting next week when Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz will unveil his plans for the upcoming new school year.

The governor's decision will have some influence from educators around the state like Elstad, who was appointed to a work group, "Back to Better."

Elstad and six other superintendents have been meeting regularly this summer to provide direction on what school should look like for the 2020-21 school year, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're the feedback providers," Elstad said of his group. Most of their feedback has been going back to the Commissioner of Education, Catherine Ricker.

He said his group has reviewed documents from the Minnesota Department of Health. Elstad credits the health information as "good guidance for decision making."

Elstad said he advocates having a regional or local approach to opening up schools

rather than one size fits all. He noted schools in the Twin Cities may look totally different than schools in greater Minnesota.

Based on what Elstad has seen over the past week, he thinks Owatonna should be given the option opening school in person. But, in Owatonna's case, they would be ready to be accommodated. "We are going to be flexible and provide options for all families," he said, noting the district could still provide some students with distance learning if needed.

"I am really hoping we can be back in person," Elstad said.

As far as fall sports, Elstad acknowledges that's a tough one to answer. While some states have come out loud and proud about having fall sports, Minnesota's high school fall sports season is still hanging in the balance.

"Sports is a big part of the school culture," he said. "In my heart, I want all those activities, but I recognize we need to be safe." Elstad stressed that he doesn't want to put students in unsafe situations. He also realizes there are negatives to cancelling the entire season.

Schools plan for 3 scenarios

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Minnesota school districts, including the Blooming Prairie School District, have been asked by the Minnesota Department of Education to plan for three scenarios for the 2020-21 school year, says BP Schools Superintendent Chris Staloch.

Staloch sent out a letter last week to parents of BP students. He also urged BP Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Becky Noble to share the notice with members of the chamber.

The scenarios are:
1) In-person learning for all students.
2) Hybrid model with strict social distancing and capacity limits.
3) Distance Learning only.

Staloch said Gov. Tim Walz, in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education,



during the week of July 27 will determine and announce the scenario model under which schools may re-open for the 2020-21 school year.

Staloch says it is his understanding that school districts need to be prepared for all three scenarios and that the districts have the potential to work under all three scenarios as the school year progresses.

A Blooming Prairie School District administrative team is working with the school board, business office, food service, other school districts, Steele County Public Health, Hillyard

SEE SCHOOLS PLAN, A8

BP city hall, library to reopen

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's been four months since the Blooming Prairie city offices and library have been open. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz ordered these services closed due to the pandemic outbreak of the coronavirus. These services closed on March 18.

City Administrator Andrew Langholz at a regular BP City Council meeting Monday, July 13 said these services will now reopen with city

hall reopening for regular hours on Monday, July 27 and the library opening for regular hours on Tuesday, July 28. The BP Area Chamber of Commerce office will also be open again.

New guidelines will be in effect with social distancing being enforced for both facilities.

Librarian Nancy Vail

SEE BP CITY HALL, A5



Church during COVID times

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Several area churches, including Red Oak Grove Lutheran of rural Austin, are connecting with parishioners during COVID-19 times by having outdoor services. Top: On Sunday, Pastor Leandra Anderson presided at an outdoor service attended by about 50 people. Because of the pandemic, many churches have been forced to forgo indoor services for several months. Left: Dorothy Kittelson found a friendly tree that she could use as a shield to the brisk wind as she attended Sunday's service.



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!

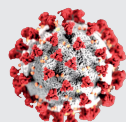
- In 200 or less words, send us details highlighting your hero and how they helped you survive COVID-19.
- Two easy ways to submit:
Email: hptimes@frontiernet.net
Mail: Steele County Times
o P.O. Box 247
o Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Please include: Name, Phone Number and Address and/or Email
- Submissions will be published in a special Hero section later this summer.
- **PRIZES** will be awarded to the best submissions as selected by our judges.
o Gift Cards to area stores and restaurants
o Subscriptions to the Times
- **HURRY!** Send your submissions by Friday, August 14

What's your **COVID-19 HERO** story?

We're waiting to hear from you today!

STEELE COUNTY Times

COVID-19 UPDATE



World.....14,600,000
Deaths.....608,000
Recovered.....8,200,000

U.S.3,900,000
Deaths143,000
Recovered.....1,130,000

MN.....44,147
Deaths1,585
Recovered.....28,205

Steele.....278
Deaths1
Recovered.....182

Dodge112
Deaths0
Recovered.....65

AS OF JULY 20, 2020

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.**

County approves K-9 for sheriff's office

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After soliciting funds for about a year to resurrect the K-9 unit for Steele County, the board of commissioners has given the green light to the sheriff's office to restart the program.

Last week the Steele County Board voted to allow Sheriff Lon Thiele and his office to purchase the K-9. And it's a decision that won't hit taxpayers directly as the sheriff's office received \$32,000 in public donations to fund a crime fighting dog.

The sheriff's office has been without a K-9 for about six years after the previous handler left the county along with the dog. Thiele said given the tight budget con-

straints facing his office, he had "higher priorities" with his capital improvement plan and could not justify spending money for the K-9.

A deputy brought forward the idea of soliciting funds in the community to support the K-9 program, Thiele said. He jumped at the opportunity and appealed to the public to help fund the program. The campaign was bolstered by a single anonymous donation of \$15,000. "Some were small, some were large, but they were all tremendous gifts to the SCSO," he said. "We are excited to get this program restarted and are very gracious to all the people who donated money."

Thiele selected deputy Caleb Buck to be the handler. Buck will travel to Buffalo, Minn. on Friday to pick up a

2-year-old German Shepherd from Performance Dog Kennel. The dog has previous law enforcement experience in Minnesota, Thiele noted.

Buck will spend the next few weeks getting acquainted with the dog before undergoing a 10-12 week rigorous training program in Buffalo beginning Sept. 1. The exact amount of training depends on how well the handler and dog work together, according to Thiele.

The reason the county selected this particular facility, Thiele said, is because of the blood line of the dogs. "It's a proven blood line that gives the dog enhanced abilities to do its job properly," he said.

The new K-9 will be a dual-purpose dog with the ability to do both narcotics

and tracking. "It will be a great benefit for our community to not only get narcotics off the street, but also track a missing person," Thiele said.

Unlike some K-9s, Steele's new dog will not be trained to be aggressive, Thiele said. "Something that has been a big concern for me is all the liability that goes with a K-9 when you see lawsuits around the country for wrongful bites," he said.

Thiele plans to use the remaining funds left from donations or his forfeiture fund to pay for the on-going costs of the K-9 program. "It will have no impact on my budget for the sheriff's office," he stressed. He added the forfeiture fund proves to be a "nice contingency fund" derived from drug and DWI forfeitures.

CRIME BRIEF

Booze, a gun and threatened violence add up to felonies for man



Brent Potein

A gun, excessive booze and some threatened violence have landed a man in jail facing felony assault charges.

Brent Potein, 50, of Owatonna has been charged with second-degree assault and terrorist threats.

Owatonna Police responded to a residence in the 500 block of Adams Avenue July 16 for a gun threat. The victim reported getting into an argument earlier in the evening with Potein who had been drinking all day. A confrontation between the two brought out

The victim reported seeing something in Potein's hand and thought he was going to get stabbed so he slapped him, according to police. Potein returned to his apartment, and the victim heard him loading a gun, police said.

Potein allegedly pointed a black gun at the victim and threatened to kill him.

Police executed a search warrant in Potein's residence where they found a black handgun, magazines and 9mm and 45mm ammunition.

ARGUMENT ENDS: in murder charges FROM A1

Hassan of Owatonna with two felony counts of second-degree murder, felony assault and felony theft in connection with the death of Mohamed Aweis Mohamed.

Police took Hassan into custody in Minneapolis during the late hours of July 20, the day after the murder at Dartt's Park in Owatonna. Hassan was eventually brought back to the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna where he will remain during the duration of the case.

Hassan made his initial court appearance in Steele County on July 15. Judge Joseph Bueltel set bail without conditions at \$1 million. Hassan's next court appearance is set for July 22.

The murder charges against Hassan allege he caused the death of Mohamed with intent to effect death

without premeditation and another count without intent while committing a felony. The maximum sentence on both counts is 40 years in prison.

According to the complaint, an argument between Hassan and Mohamed had been brewing throughout the day. Witnesses told police that both men were at Manthey Park earlier in the day and had a disagreement.

After the witness and Hassan left Manthey Park, Owatonna Police stopped them for unknown reasons. Following the traffic stop, they went to Kwik Trip on Mineral Springs Road and then to Dartt's Park to hang out.

While at Dartt's Park, Mohamed and two other unidentified men came over to them and began fighting. The witness told police Hassan had a knife and stabbed Mohamed. When the witness

went to check on Mohamed, Hassan was driving away with his car. The witness did not give Hassan permission to take his vehicle, which was a tan Honda Accord.

Police later put out an alert for Hassan as a person of interest in the case and the Honda vehicle. Both were found July 20 in Minneapolis.

Another witness told police that when he was at Manthey Park with Mohamed, Hassan wanted to fight him. Hassan punched the car window of the witness with brass knuckles so they left the park.

They then went to Dartt's Park to smoke. While at the park, Hassan began yelling Mohamed's name so the witness got out of the car and started walking toward Hassan. Mohamed drove the car over to another parking lot and got out. The witness said that when Hassan stabbed Mohamed.



Hassan Nur Hassan

A third witness told police that Hassan started "chasing Mr. Mohamed with a knife." Hassan apparently had brass knuckles on each hand with knives attached to them. The witness said Mohamed was running away as Hassan chased him down.

An autopsy by the Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office in Rochester revealed that Mohamed died of a single stab wound to the chest. The death was ruled a homicide.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of July 6 - 12:

BLOOMING PRairie

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mansamany D. Abella, 20, Austin, revoked license, \$131 and 18 days in county jail; Jamaal K. Gibson, 28, Austin, unlawful use of license plate and speeding, \$425; Christina Lemus Lara, 28, Austin, speeding; Lynn C. Miller, 62, Austin, expired tabs, \$105; Ochoan C. Okey, 20, Austin, speeding, \$125; Israel Villar-Rodriguez, 46, Austin, revoked license, \$275.

MN DEPT. OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Antonio Patino Jr., 27, Blooming Prairie, fishing - illegal length Northern, \$125.

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Trisha A. Aguilera, 44, West St. Paul, speeding, \$135; Kyle R. Boeck, 35, Rochester, driving restriction violation - alcohol or controlled substance use, \$175, 11 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation; Brittany D. Brown, 40, American Fork, UT, speeding, \$125; Fernando F. Cisneros, 41, Rochester, speeding, no license and revoked license, \$435; Kyle F. Delarocruz, 25, Prior Lake, speeding, \$135; Bailey J. Eaton-Bromley, 23, Minneapolis, speeding, \$115; Tracy L. Fenster, 53, Kansas City, MO, speeding, \$115; Jay P. Holmes, 47, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Trung T. Le, 55, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$115; Sabrina L. Louks, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Natalie D. Nault, 17, White Bear Lake, speeding, \$375; Anna M. Neff, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Cameron L. Papow, 22, Faribault, seat belt, \$100; Emily J. Pritchard, 31, Minneapolis, speeding,

\$215; Krystal Ramon, 23, Alton, TX, speeding, \$135; Mara J. Shepe, 26, Edina, speeding, \$215; Jason T. Strange, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$135; Jennifer M. Teichrow, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Tjray D. Terry, 33, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Emily G. Walker, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$115.

OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Dalton J. Andersen, 33, Owatonna, DWI, \$200, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MAAD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Jacob L. Broughten, 42, Waseca, speeding, \$125; Jacob D. Goerdt, 20, Owatonna, burglary and stalking, stay of adjudication, \$1,301.92, 21 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation; Nathan A. Hartfield, 20, Waseca, speeding and possession of marijuana, \$175; Alexis J. Miller, 18, Albert Lea, theft, \$215; Abraham M. Osorio, 20, Faribault, theft, \$91; Mary E. Resler, 58, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Patricia L. Stencil, 43, Waseca, speeding, \$125; Jeffery P. Valek, 44, Faribault, speeding, \$115.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Owling M. Arika, 33, Rochester, speeding and seat belt, \$150; Ernest A. Comeaux, 63, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Alexander J. Dugstad, 28, Rochester, speeding, \$115; Isac C. Froman, 30, Ellendale, hands free violation, \$125; Josefin Gonzalez, 68, Alamo, TX, speeding, \$125; Abigail L. Hatcher, 21, Burnsville, speeding, \$215; Michael J. Kuper, 41, Austin,

speeding, \$275; Jennifer K. Mielke, 42, Kasson, speeding, \$135; Kirsten E. Morken, 17, Ames, IA, speeding, \$125; Elvis R. Pesantez, 20, Minneapolis, speeding, \$135; Roosevelt Rios, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Jacob A. Schroeder, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Jonathan S. Schull, 46, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Dominic W. Wachter, 26, St. Cloud, WI, speeding, \$135; Eldon C. Wiegert, 65, Sun City West, AZ, speeding, \$135.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

July 10 Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 700 block of Truman Ave. SE at 7:58 a.m. **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 1500 block of St. Paul Road NE at 1 p.m. **Juvenile:** Police responded to a juvenile complaint in the 600 block of 11th St. SE at 7:12 p.m. They took a juvenile into custody.

July 11 Juvenile: Police responded to a juvenile complaint in the 300 block of Glendale Place NW at 12:54 a.m. They issued a citation at the scene. **Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 4:04 p.m.

July 12 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 7:12 a.m. **Domestic:** Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 1:55 p.m. **Suspicion:** Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1500 block of St. Paul Road NE at 4:36 p.m.

July 13 Threats: Officers responded to a subject making threats in the 400 block of Allan Ave. SW at 8:45 a.m.

Assault: At 5:44 p.m., police responded to an assault at 16th St. SW and Mosher Ave. SW. **July 14 Restraining Order:** Police arrested a subject for a restraining order violation in the 2700 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 12:35 p.m.

July 15 Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 10:54 a.m. **Weapons:** Police responded to a weapons-related incident in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 7:14 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 7:48 p.m.

July 16 Vulnerable Adult: Police received a vulnerable adult report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:43 a.m. **Shoplifting:** At 1:24 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 100 block of Vine St. W. **Burglary:** Officers responded to a burglary in the 400 block of Pebble Beach Dr. NE at 7:17 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF

July 10 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 5400 block of 73rd St SE in Aurora Township at 9:44 a.m. and the 7800 block of 85th Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 3:41 p.m. **Crash:** At 8:22 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford.

July 11 Hit and Run: At 8:29 a.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 300 block of 3rd St. SW in Medford.

Animal: Deputies responded to an animal call in the 8500 block of 85th Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 1:03 p.m. **Crash:** Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 100 block of 6th St. SE in Medford at 6:54 p.m.

July 13 Restraining Order: At 6:08 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. in Owatonna.

Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 6200 block of County Road 45 N. in Medford Township at 10:10 a.m. **DWI:** Deputy made a DWI arrest in the 3600 block of School St. in Havana Township at 10:16 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

STEELE ARRESTS

OWATONNA POLICE

Guillermo Luis Reyes, 23, arrested at 4:20 p.m. July 10, felony criminal sexual conduct, held for court. David Mark Perez, 57, arrested at 7:45 p.m. July 10, probation violation warrant arrest, body only. Jamie Demetrius Rodriguez Lyons, 24, arrested at 2:15 p.m. July 12, felony domestic assault by strangulation, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF

Timothy Wor Kong, 27, arrested at 7 p.m. July 11, probation violation warrant arrest, body only. Marcus Allan Granquist, 36, arrested at 10:46 p.m. July 13, DWI-test refusal, held for court. Jordan Anthony Kane, 29, arrested at 8:50 p.m. July 16, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 5 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding: Shane J. Anderson, 29, Hastings, previously appeared and was convicted of felony receiving stolen property. He was sentenced to \$130, 32 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled

substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation.

Timothy P. King, 53, Anoka, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terrorist threats. King was sentenced to \$130, 51 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, mental health evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of July 5 - 12:

DODGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Lexi C. Krudsen, 24, Richfield, speeding, \$140; James D. Severson, 55, West Concord, speeding, \$220; Juan F. Villegas, 26, Owatonna, invalid license and speeding, \$240.

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Donna J. Coble, 50, Byron, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Evan D. Erschelle, 17, West Allis, WI, speeding, \$220; Katie J. Fish, 34, West Concord, speeding, \$130; Anthony J. Lamotta, 30, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Gretchen E. Resch, 18, Mantorville, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Isaac L. Shadow, 19, Hayfield, speeding, \$120; Brian C. Slater, 25, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$130; Shannon M. Strain, 27, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120.



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federatedinsurance.com
for COVID-19 resources.

What Happens if You Die Without a Will?



Dear Savvy Senior,
What happens to a person's possessions if they die without a will? I'm almost 60 years old and have never gotten around to making one, but the coronavirus crisis has made it a priority.
Will-less Willie

Dear Willie,
The coronavirus crisis has lit a fire under many Americans when it comes to getting their affairs in order. Currently, fewer than half of American adults have prepared a will or living trust.

If you die without a will, the state you reside in will determine what happens to your assets. Every state has intestacy laws in place that parcel out property and assets to a deceased person's closest living relatives when there's no will or trust in place. But these laws vary from state to state.

Here is a general breakdown of what can happen to a person's assets, depending on whom they leave behind.

Married with children: When a married person with children dies without a will, all property, investments and financial accounts that are "jointly owned" automatically goes to the surviving co-owner without going through probate, which is the legal process that distributes a deceased person's assets.

But for all other separately owned property or individual financial accounts, the laws of most states award one-third to one-half to the surviving spouse, while the rest goes to the children.

Married with no children or grandchildren: Some states award the entire estate to the surviving spouse, or everything up to a certain amount (for example the first \$100,000). But many other states award only one-third to one-half of the decedent's separately owned assets to the surviving spouse, with the remainder generally going to the deceased person's parents, or if the parents are dead, to brothers and sisters.

Jointly owned property, investments, financial accounts, or community property automatically goes to the surviving co-owner.

Single with children: All state laws provide that the entire estate goes to the children, in equal shares. If an adult child of the decedent has died, then that child's children (the decedent's grandchildren) split their parent's share.

Single with no children or grandchildren: In this situation, most state laws favor the deceased person's parents. If both parents are deceased, many states divide the property among the brothers and sisters, or if they are not living, their children (your nieces and nephews). If there are none of them, it goes to the next of kin, and if there is no living family, the state takes it.

Make a Will
To ensure your assets go to those you want to receive them, you need to create a will or trust. If you have a simple estate and an uncomplicated family situation, there are do-it-yourself resources that can help you create all these documents for very little money.

Some top-rated options include the Quicken WillMaker & Trust 2020 downloadable software (available at nolo.com) that costs \$90 and works with Windows and Macs and is valid in every state except Louisiana; LegalZoom (legalzoom.com), which offers basic wills for \$89 or \$99 if you'd like assistance from an independent attorney; and Trust & Will (trustandwill.com) which charges \$89 for a basic will.

If, however, you want or need assistance or if you have a complicated financial situation, blended family or have considerable assets, you should hire an attorney. An experienced attorney can make sure you cover all your bases, which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone.

Costs will vary depending on where you live, but you can expect to pay anywhere between \$200 and \$1,000 for a will.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) and the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (actec.org) websites are good resources that have directories to help you find someone in your area.

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

10 Years Ago

July 27, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Stix of Fury, group of percussionists from Blooming Prairie School District will make an appearance at this year's Steele County Free Fair. The group entertains people in parades and special events and will be strolling the fairgrounds on Sunday afternoon. The "Stix of Fury" suggests a fierce style of percussion. Creator and director is Jacob Peterson, who saw the need for a group of students to have a drumline. Besides strolling, they will appear at the Village of Yesteryear Stage at noon, United Prairie Bank Stage at 1:30 and KRFO Stage at 3.

It has been a horrible few weeks since a tornado destroyed Ryan and Louise Heffling's home. The house and just about all their belongings were gone in a matter of seconds. The family was out of town at the time of the tornado. Now another tragedy has happened to the family. Ryan was meeting with well drilling representative and noticed a 4-wheeler they had borrowed was missing. After further investigation, it was noticed many power tools and hand tools were also missing. Ryan reported the theft to the BP Police Department.

The Heers family has been named Steele County's Farm Family of the Year by University of Minnesota. The family will be honored at the Steele County Fair on opening day. The family, Bob and Marsha and their two boys Matt and Nate are dedicated to farming and the operation as a whole. Their farm was purchased in 1951 by Bob's father Wallace, grandfather Ray and Uncle Paul.

20 Years Ago

July 25, 2000

ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie Clinic is pleased to announce the addition of Keith Kleis. Dr. Kleis will be seeing patients on Aug. 1. He is available for consultation and treatment of a full range of family healthcare services. Dr. Kleis is a native of Rochester

and received his medical degree at the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines. He completed his medical residency at St. John Oakland Hospital in Madison Heights, MI. Dr. Kleis and his wife, Mary, have two children.

Nine farms in Steele County have been named as "Century Farms" this year and will be honored in Fair Square Park on Thursday, Aug. 17. Century Farms are those that have been in the same family ownership for 100 years. Farm families will be honored on stage, presented with a mailbox sign and will receive a signed certificate from Governor Jesse Ventura. Those nine farms to be honored this year include farms owned by Marvin Kubat, Clifford Johnson, Myron Homuth, Lillian Seykora, John Schiller and Gerard LaFond all of Owatonna; Dale and Betty Betlach of Blooming Prairie; and Delmar Borwege and James Carlton of Medford.

50 Years Ago

July 22, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE

KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Sp-4 Keith Kruger, Blooming Prairie, was assigned to Headquarters Company (S-1) as a driver for Captain Hope at BMB Headquarters in Long Binh, Vietnam. For the past 10 months, Kruger has been in the Rat Patrol, which escorts convoys to outlying fire bases. He also was assigned to night ambush patrol. This is Keith's 12th month in Vietnam. He has extended his duty there for an additional 60 days and now hopes he will be home by September.

Three Blooming Prairie area students were named to the honor roll at Winona State College. Cited for their scholastic achievements were James Trotman, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Trotman; Virginia Beinborn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Beinborn; and Daniel McGuiness, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Underwood.

Fifty-five entries competed in the Turtle Race sponsored by Prairie Farm Service Inc. and Bixby Feed Mill in the Blooming Prairie Park. The event was a huge success and everyone watching and competing had an

enjoyable time. Winners were reported as follows: 6-9 age group - Patty Walsh, 1st; Joan Underwood, 2nd; Bruce Nelson, 3rd. 10-13 age group - Tim Onley, 1st; Steven Ulrich, 2nd; and Brian Nelson, 3rd. A special thanks to Kim Eaker and Rodney Nelson who supplied over 20 turtles for the races.

75 Years Ago

July 26, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

After many years of anxious tension, Mrs. T. O'Ro was greatly relieved last week when she received a post card from her cousin Geo Holgerson, Tromsheim, Norway stating he was alive and well. Mr. Holgerson was a Blooming Prairie resident 42 years ago and attended one term of school here. After a time in Chicago, he returned to his native Norway. Before the occupation of Norway by the Germans, he was a manager of Scandinavian American Steam ship lines. His message was as follows: "Send you a few words today to let you know that we are alive and well. It has been awful these past five years of Nazi terror and it certainly feels good that the war is over and that again we are a free nation. Hope that you and yours are well. I will be very glad to hear from you soon. With best wishes to all. Geo Holgerson."

The Blooming Prairie Bombers 4-H Club held their meeting on Wednesday at the Alvin Paulson home. Roll call was answered by telling what we are going to exhibit at the fair. Miss Hochhalter, our home demonstration agent, was present at the meeting. It was decided to have our 4-H picnic on July 22 at Todd Park in Austin. After the meeting, games and a delicious lunch was served by Mrs. Paulson. Evelyn Paulson, Reporter.

Pfc. Raymond Kubick, member of the 114th Infantry, 44th Division, arrived in New York from Europe Saturday morning. Kubick called his wife from New York and said he expected to arrive here later part of the next week. He will be spending a 30-day furlough with her, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kubick and with other relatives and friends.

Brokeback named to tearjerker list

The popular hit love movie that got its start from a Blooming Prairie man and a former Byron area writer has earned a spot on the list of top 20 movie tearjerkers.

PopMatters, an international online magazine, has named Brokeback Mountain to a list of films that are guaranteed to get you weeping. In announcing the list, PopMatters said, "Audiences love to go to movies that make them laugh. Moviegoers also love to be frightened. When it comes to crying, however, hysterics are fine. Heartstrings are not. But some enjoy going to the movies to see a story that makes them weep and weep."

The magazine says moviegoers enjoy the melodramatics and manipulation involved to become invested in characters only to sob over what happens to them. "While women are usually the guinea pigs for these shameless outings, there are examples of men-only movies where the dudes do more bawling than their girlfriends," PopMatters wrote.

With that in mind, PopMatters decided to put together a list of the Top Tearjerkers of All Time. "These films are guaranteed to keep the waterworks flowing, long after you've left the theater or, in most cases, turned off the TV," the magazine said.

Brokeback earned the No. 16 on the list. "After all, it's just a shirt, right? What's the big deal. Well, if you remember the hubbub that surrounded this film when it first came out, you'd swear it was a defiant call to condemn the ban on same sex marriages, not a period piece Western where our two early '60s era male heroes become accidental lovers," PopMatters wrote. "Dealing with homophobia, social repression and unrequited love, the final reveal of what's behind Ennis' closet door defies dry eyes. Almost an act of insolence, the notion of affection unobtainable remains the film's most sobering sentiment.

For that fact alone it's a groundbreaker."

Other popular movies on the tearjerker list include Terms of Endearment, The Color Purple, Ordinary People, An Affair to Remember and Brian's Song.

Brokeback began as a short story in 1983 when Annie Proulx, who lived in Byron at the time, interviewed Brad Trom, who grew up on a farm outside of Blooming Prairie. He was battling Stage IV cancer and wanted to leave behind a gift to the world. Trom shared his loved story with another man.

Brokeback premiered in 2005. It has been named to the 100 greatest movies of the 21st Century.

BP CITY HALL: library to reopen

FROM A3

lancourt said special shields will be installed at learning stations.

Langholz reported on coronavirus relief funding. He said the city has received \$150,078 in federal funding for coronavirus relief.

The funds cannot be used for revenue shortfalls but can be used for supplies for the city and for small business and non-profit help. Langholz informed the council that

a small business grant program will be established with help from the EDA (Economic Development Association).

Langholz said the city was awaiting guidance from the state and federal government as to how to use these coronavirus relief funds.

In other business brought before the council, the go-ahead was given to Langholz to investigate an ordinance

regulating chickens in the city and an ordinance regulating food trucks in the city.

Technically, only cats and dogs are allowed in the city, said Langholz. He said he was aware of a few residences in the city that had chickens. He said under such an ordinance, no roosters would be allowed.

In respect to food trucks, no ordinances exist. Recently, Dean Goette's food stand and a popcorn stand have been operating. Langholz said these vendors are licensed by the state but not regulated by the city.

The council was informed that the Blooming Prairie Fire

Department's annual brat and corn feed will proceed as scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29. Volunteers will be masked up and will be sanitizing tables.

Volleyball league play began on July 9. The city's three courts are used for action at 6:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. on Thursday nights. Rachel Bleedorn is league commissioner.

The Blooming Prairie City Council will meet next on Monday, Aug. 10. The meeting will again be open to the public.

Regular meetings in April, May, June and July were closed to the public because of guidelines declaring only groups under 10 to be able to meet. All city council meetings were live streamed on the city's Facebook pages. Committee meetings were called off during these months.

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THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER

Keeping healthy in the garden with food safety



Mastering Gardening
LORRIE RUGG

Food safety in the garden, I never really gave it much thought before.

You plant vegetables in your garden, watch them grow, harvest and eat! But I have changed my way of thinking?

I recently took a three-part series class on food safety, called Garden UP. It was put on by the University of Minnesota via Zoom, like most classes these days, but I learned so much that I have changed my thinking toward food safety. We will visit the areas that we all should pay attention to while gardening.

We can't grow awesome vegetables without good soil. Have you ever done a soil test in your vegetable

garden? The University of Minnesota does that for a minimal fee. They have a website to go to, soiltest.umn.edu. That will give you complete instructions on how and what to do. It will provide you with information as to what if anything you need to add to the garden in terms of fertilizer. How many of us have thrown some 10-10-10 on the garden and thought this much is OK then added a handful more?

Water is another thing to think about. Do you have well water? Have you ever had your water tested to make sure it is safe for drinking? Do you live in town and use city water? Hopefully if you do, you don't have to worry about safety.

Do you use water from a rain barrel that you have collected? I learned from the class, is that you should not use water from your rain barrel to water your vegetables. You can use it to water your flowers, but not vegetables. A bird or squirrel or

any creature could have walked across that roof and left behind waste materials that will wash into your rain barrel next time it rains. I had never thought about that before. I knew that collecting rainwater for watering is a good thing, but never thought about the contamination that could occur.

What kind of containers do you use for harvesting your vegetables. Do you use wicker baskets or plastic totes or a kitchen colander? A container that can be washed and sterilized is the best choice.

You want to make sure that container has debris removed from previous harvest trips into the garden. It will help to prevent plant diseases from spreading after each use. The terms "cleaning" and "sanitizing" mean entirely different things. Using Dawn dish soap, for example, does a great job in cleaning your containers and tools after each use, but doesn't sanitize them. Make sure you rinse them thoroughly after

cleaning. Use only drinkable water for cleaning and sanitizing.

Sanitizer won't work if there is still debris and detergent on the surface area. Sanitizers are products that reduce, but not necessarily eliminate microorganisms to safe levels. You can use bleach to sanitize your tools and containers, use 2 tps. per gallon of water. Another product on the market is Sanidate. It is used for hard surfaces and there is no need to rinse the product off after use. It is great for counters, cutting boards and tools that you use.

I hope I have given you some things to think about when we start harvesting those great tasting vegetables from our gardens this year. I want to keep everyone safe and healthy, enjoying the bounty of our great gardens.

Lorrie Rugg is the coordinator of the Steele County Master Gardener program. She may be reached at brou3298@umn.edu or 507-444-7687.

FARM COLUMN

Scouting for Soybean Aphid Mid-July 2020 Update

BY DAVE NICOLAI

The recent hot weather and heavy rainfalls have slowed soybean aphid populations in some of the fields in southern Minnesota. Some of the aphid populations have left indicator spots at the University of Minnesota South West Research and Outreach Center, according to Bruce Potter, Extension integrated pest management specialist.

Although new vegetation is still being produced at the top of the plants, some aphids are now found lower in the canopy, perhaps a response to heat and storms. Scouting soybeans however is still recommended as temperatures fluctuate throughout the day and temperatures within the soybean canopy may differ from the above-canopy air temperature. Therefore, you should not assume that high summer temperatures will stop aphid population growth.

When scouting for soybean aphids the number of aphids per plant should be estimated from a representative number of plants. Plants should be selected from throughout the area being scouted. The average number of aphids per plant should then be calculated. Through R5 (seeds developing, but pod cavity not filled), use the economic threshold of an average of 250 aphids/plant AND more than 80% of plants having aphids AND aphid populations increasing. Count both adults and nymphs, including any white dwarves. However, avoid counting soybean aphid look-a-likes, such as

potato leafhoppers and whiteflies, as well as cast soybean aphid skins and dead aphids.

Soybean aphid reproduction most rapid R2-R4 and late R5-early R6. Under ideal environmental conditions, soybean aphid populations can double every two days (usually three days or longer). Detectable soybean yield loss does not occur at densities of aphids below the economic threshold of 250 aphids per plant (for a short period). Application of insecticide at aphid densities below this threshold, such as 5, 50 or 100 aphids per plant, are unlikely to save yield and may result in treating a large percentage of fields where aphids would never develop into yield threatening problems. Treatment below the economic threshold also increases the risk of negative impacts on beneficial insects (predators, pollinators) and the risk of aphids developing resistance to insecticides.

The economic threshold of 250 aphids per plant remains valid despite changes in soybean and input prices. These changes in prices adjust the economic injury level (EIL), which is the point at which losses are sufficient to justify insecticide application. However, the economic threshold of 250 aphids per plant is still sufficiently below the EIL to allow several days to make an insecticide application before losses occur. A lower economic threshold for soybean aphid is not justified at this time.

Dave Nicolai is an educator with the University of Minnesota Extension Crops.

FAIR FEST: to replace Steele County Fair this year FROM A1

seven food vendors the following weekend for the city's Fourth of July fireworks celebration.

Unlike the two earlier events, the vendors will be more spread out around the fairgrounds for Fair

Fest, Kozelka said. The fair will be following social distancing guidelines throughout Fair Fest.

There may be a couple smaller twists added to Fair Fest, but generally the food vendors will be it.

"It's a shame we're not having a fair this year," Kozelka acknowledges.

But he's trying to keep a positive outlook on everything. When he spoke to this writer last Thursday, he grinned by saying,

"It's only 396 days until the fair." He emphasized how glad he was to see it under the 400-day mark.

More information will be coming out in the next few weeks regarding this year's Fair Fest.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF DAIRY The Schroeders

If there seems to be some extra pride radiating from the Wade and Mary Schroeder farm south of Owatonna, there likely is as the family's dairy farm has been in Mary's family for four generations.

The Schroeders are home to a small dairy and steer operation. They milk about 40 Holsteins and cross bred dairy cows. Wade and Mary also raise their own steers and replacement heifers.

Helping the Schroeders with their dairy operation are their children, Chloe, 20, and Anton, 15. Their oldest daughter, Kendra, has since left the farm, but was very active when she was home. In 2014, Kendra was the Steele County Dairy Princess.

Mary operates the dairy on a day-to-day basis with Chloe and Anton's help. Wade operates the farm part of it and also works as a supervisor at a local manufacturing facility.

Both Mary and Wade grew up on dairy farms. After attending college, Mary came home and took over the family operation and has been milking on the current farm since 1985. Mary came along a few years later in 1990 when the couple was married. They took over the full operation of the farm in 2015.

"We both love working with animals," says Mary. "They all have personalities like people and you grow to love them like they are family... generation after generation of family," she said.

The Schroeders also love the fact that farming is a family affair "so we all get to work together each day as a family," she said.

Asked what they would like the public to know, Mary replied, "The cows on our farm are part of our family. We watch them grow from calves to cows and then one day they have their own calves. Every cow on our farm has a name and we can tell you what type of personality they have... their personalities are all unique."

Perhaps most importantly is the passion the Schroeders share with their farm operation.

"We truly love our cows," Mary says.



The Schroeder farm family operation includes, from left: Mary, Wade, Anton, 15, and Chloe, 20.

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



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HELP DESIGN BP'S: new water tower FROM A1

water tower project has been placed on the Preferred Projects List for the State of Minnesota.

The current tower is located in the middle of the city on a corner of the Blooming Prairie Central Park. The new tower location has yet to be determined.

The Blooming Prairie water tower was built in 1925 and has a capacity of 65,000 gallons. Matusbach said the goal is to have a tower with a capacity of 100,000 gallons.

The new tower will be of modern style with a round ball on a tee.

There was an attempt at one time to investigate the possibility of saving the current water tower as a historic landmark. After doing some investigating, city officials determined that it would be too costly to salvage the old water tower.

"The current tower is of the age where it has accumulated rust and shows structural fatigue," said Matusbach.

The Blooming Prairie City Council

has been made aware of the need for increased water supply. In addition to the water tower supply, the city

does have above ground water storage near the city utilities plant.

Matusbach said the existing water tower needs a painting job and must be brought up to existing safety codes.

"It looks like it would cost as much to renovate the old tower as it would cost to build a new tower," Matusbach reasoned. He said a new water tower will cost approximately \$700,000.

Increasing the capacity of the tower would give the city sufficient storage to handle sizable population growth in the near future. "A new tower would definitely serve the community," said Matusbach.

A new water tower would be advantageous for insurance ratings and for firefighting capabilities, Matusbach emphasized.

The beginning date for construction is unknown at this time. He said tower construction will take about a month and a half.

UMSS Sprints bring extra excitement to Chateau

BY MATTHEW GRAE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

Temperatures were plenty warm Friday Night at Chateau Speedway but not as hot as the racing. The Upper Midwest Sprint Car Series (UMSS) Non Wing Traditional Sprints joined the track's regular seven classes making for a full night of high-speed action. The night's program featured the largest field of cars to hit the track in this shortened season. And another full house packed the grandstand to take in the action.

A little extra money was kicked in for the UMSS Boys and they responded with some quality racing. The group markets itself as a value based racing organization. They credit the fact that you can go racing in their series for under \$10,000. They take a B Mod Motor, convert it to alcohol burning, and put a 2 barrel carb on it to keep the cost down and keep the enjoyment high. The enjoyment was high for drivers and fans Friday Night with the show they put on.

A pair of fast paced caution free heats were won by Scott Brandt of Andover and Ryan Bowers of Nowthen. The field backed that up at Feature time with another caution free event with Brandt backing up his heat win with a flag to flag win in the main event. Brandt has been dominant in the series so far this year as he picked up his fourth feature win on the circuit. Bryan Roach of Welch came out of row two to move into second on lap two but was never a threat. Bowers took third ahead of Johnny Parsons III of Owatonna and Jake Kouba of Minneapolis.

Brauer Roofing WIS-SOTA Super Sprints ran a caution free night as well with Dan Nisslake of Winona continuing to look unbeatable. He has opened the season with three straight clean sweeps as he scored wins in the heat and feature again this week.

The front has been a convenient spot to start in the French's Repair USRA A Mod Main Events. For the third week in a row front row driver has drove off with the top spot. Friday Night it was Joel Alberts of Mantorville. Jason Cummins of New Richmond gave chase all ways but had nothing



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Matt Wieman of Owatonna celebrates in Victory Lane as he claims the Kruckeberg Services WISSOTA Hornet Feature title Friday night at the Chateau Speedway in Lansing.

for him. Blake Arndt of Brownsdale who took one of the heats came home in third followed by Jake Stark of Austin and the night's other heat winner Mark Noble of Blooming Prairie.

Jason Newkirk of Austin stopped Zach Elward's run of feature wins in the Adams Graphix WISSOTA Street Stock Class. The Hayfield driver had been two for two to open the year but had to settle for the runner-up spot on Friday. Last week Elward came on late to take the win from Newkirk but this week Jason held his line and drove off to victory lane.

Things went all kinds of wrong at the start of the Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Modified Feature Event. Coming in to complete lap two over half of the 20 car field never made it to the start-finish line. A couple bobbles in the middle of the field sent everyone sideways and four cars to there trailers. Tianna Mithun of New Richmond looked to be on her way to her first feature win when a late caution regrouped the field. A tough restart saw Travis Underdahl of Northfield skirt around her to steal the win. Bryton Cisneros made a nice run up to third to finish right behind her and just ahead of Greg Pfeiffer Junior of Austin and Cole Neisus of Hastings. Heat wins belong to Josh Mattick of Rose Creek, Kyle Kath of Claremont and Kobie Kath of Owatonna.

Scott Demmer of Ellendale found the outside of the front to be a nice place to start from as he rocketed to the front and ran away from the field in the USRA B Mod Main Event.

For the second week in a row Andrew Eischens of Taopi grabbed top hon-

ors in the Power 96 Pure Stock Class.

In Kruckeberg Services WISSOTA Hornets, Matt Wieman of Owatonna became the third different feature winner the class has seen this year. Justin Scheltzche of Cologne led the first three laps of the race before Wieman went to the front. Dan Knuth of Elk River moved to second around halfway but was unable to reel in Wieman, who cruised to an easy victory with no one close to him for the last half of the race.

Wieman dedicated the win to his younger brother, SSG Dan Wieman, who serves in the 492nd Engineer Company of the U.S. Army. Next Friday a little fun will be had at the expense of the flag man. It's the "Cool The Flagman" night with the kids in attendance getting a chance to throw water balloons at the flagman. Ross Spitzer, the track flagman, was a good sport last year and will stand tall and take the kids best shots again.

CHATEAU RACING RESULTS FOR JULY 17:

KRUCKEBERG SERVICES WISSOTA HORNET
A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 16M-Matt Wieman-Owatonna[4]; 2. 33-Daniel Knuth-Kirk[4]; 3. 207-Troy Tuma-Owatonna[3]; 4. 14-Justin Scheltzche-Cologne[2]; 5. 2-Aaron Reimers-Belle Plaine[5]; 6. 5-Nick Silman-Minnesota Lake[10]; 7. 89-Timothy Gores-Garden City[1]; 8. 511-Shawn Poston-Red Wing[8]; 9. 6-Timothy Barnett-Owatonna[9]; 10. 21S-Brian Schott-Lezapp[11]; 11. 21-Brandon Downs-Austin[12]; 12. 3X-Brandon Blanchard-Spring Valley[14]; 13. (DNF) 53-Ricardo Alvarez-Utica[6]; 14. (DNS) 16-Blake Jacobson-Burnsville[15]; (DNS) 15-Bo

Noble-Fairbault
Heat 1 (5 Laps): 1. 14-Justin Scheltzche[7]; 2. 33-Daniel Knuth[4]; 3. 511-Shawn Poston[3]; 4. 89-Timothy Gores[2]; 5. 6-Timothy Barnett[5]; 6. 21S-Brian Schott[6]; 7. 16-Blake Jacobson[8]; 8. 15-Bo Noble[1]; Heat 2 (5 Laps): 1. 2-Aaron Reimers[4]; 2. 53-Ricardo Alvarez[3]; 3. 207-Troy Tuma[5]; 4. 16M-Matt Wieman[7]; 5. 5-Nick Silman[6]; 6. 21-Brandon Downs[2]; 7. 3X-Brandon Blanchard[1]

Kronenberg-Walters[7]; 3. 1-Troy Maas-Fairbault[2]; 4. 17-Michael Wick-Fairbault[3]; 5. 3-Jack Paulson-Morristown[6]; 6. 96-Kyndra Neis-Chaffield[5]; 7. 31-Roxy Hastings IV-Austin[1]; 8. 7L-Devin Losee-LeRoy[12]; 9. 33-Jim Briggs-Waseca[4]; 10. (DNF) 81X-Kody Hvited-Altona[9]; 11. (DNF) 08-Kyle Kotek-Owatonna[13]; 12. (DNS) 07-Pat McCarthy-Farmington; 13. (DNS) 41-Jordan Allen-New Richmond
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 26-Bradley Kronenberg[1]; 2. 7X-Andrew Eischens[6]; 3. 96-Kyndra Neis[4]; 4. 17-Michael Wick[7]; 5. (DNF) 07-Pat McCarthy[3]; 6. (DNF) 41-Jordan Allen[2]; 7. (DNS) 08-Kyle Kotek-Owatonna[13]; 1. 3-Jack Paulson[6]; 2. 1-Troy Maas[1]; 3. 33-Jim Briggs[4]; 4. 31-Roxy Hastings IV[5]; 5. 81X-Kody Hvited[3]; 6. (DNF) 7L-Devin Losee[2]

ADAMS GRAPHIX WISSOTA STREET STOCK
A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 32-Jason Newkirk-Austin[3]; 2. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield[5]; 3. 01-Kory Adams-Stacyville IA[7]; 4. 21-Jesse Stahl-Austin[5]; 5. 4-Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center[4]; 6. 39J-Dan Klingfus-Austin[12]; 7. 0-Brian Adams-Montgomery[2]; 8. 46-Stacy Kronenberg-Walters[6]; 9. 16-Jacob Bennett-

Steinbrink[7]; 6. 52-Hunter Nelson[2]; 7. 83X-Kadden Kath[5]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 7W-Drew Williams[4]; 2. 72-Alex Schubbe[5]; 3. 55H-Aaron Hoff[7]; 4. 14-Steven O'Brien[1]; 5. 45-Cole Longergan[2]; 6. 44-Matthew Brooks[3]; 7. 00-Thomas Rolfe[8]
Heat 3 (8 Laps): 1. 21-Taylor Overbo[2]; 2. 55-Brody Shaw[3]; 3. 30-Scott Demmer[6]; 4. 4W-Tucker Williams[4]; 5. 83R-Kullen Kath[5]; 6. (DNF) 12-Bracken Smith[1]; 7. (DNF) 17V-Dustin Von Hagen[7]

FRENCH'S REPAIR USRA A MODIFIEDS
A Feature 1 (25 Laps): 1. 4A-Joel Alberts-Mantorville[1]; 2. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richmond[2]; 3. 51-Blake Arndt-Brownsdale[4]; 4. 74-Mark Noble-Blooming Prairie[5]; 5. 77-Jacob Stark-Austin[5]; 6. 33-Joe Ludemann-Grand Meadow[8]; 7. 00-Mark Gartner-Mapleton[7]; 8. 9-Greg Jensen-Albert Lea[9]; 9. (DNF) 72-Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie[3]; 10. (DNF) 23-Darwyn Karau-Kasson[10]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 51-Blake Arndt[1]; 2. 4A-Joel Alberts[2]; 3. 71-Jason Cummins[4]; 4. 00-Mark Gartner[5]; 5. 72-Doug Hillson[5]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 74-Mark Noble[4]; 2. 9-Greg



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Scott Demmer of Ellendale takes home the USRA B Mod Feature Winner from the Chateau Speedway Friday.

ACTION BUILDERS WISSOTA MIDWEST MODS

A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 17-Trevis Underdahl-Northfield[7]; 2. 53-Tianna Mithun-New Richmond[4]; 3. 4-Bryton Cisneros-Blooming Prairie[12]; 4. 00R-Greg Pfeiffer Jr.-Austin[5]; 5. 15-Cole Neisus-Hastings[8]; 6. 79-Jeremy Misgen-New Richmond[1]; 7. 44Z-Anton Nelson-Hayfield[17]; 8. 33-Darryl Hainka-Wanamingo[11]; 9. 14-Tyron Friesse-Zumbrota[16]; 10. 5-Tyler McFarland-New Richmond[19]; 11. 86-Noel Hoppe-Waseca[18]; 12. 28-David Gustafson-Pine Island[13]; 13. (DNF) 79H-Luke Hainka-Wanamingo[1]; 14. (DNF) 612-Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA[10]; 15. (DNF) RED1-Dan Wheeler-Savage[9]; 16. (DNF) 98D-Christopher Deno-Kasson[3]; 17. (DO) 83K-Kobie Kath-Owatonna[5]; 18. (DO) 83-Kylie Kath-Claremont[6]; 19. (DO) 1M-Josh Mattick-Rose Creek[2]

Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 1M-Josh Mattick[1]; 2. 53-Tianna Mithun[3]; 3. 17-Trevis Underdahl[4]; 4. 612-Ryan Goergen[5]; 5. 28-David Gustafson[7]; 6. 14-Tyron Friesse[5]; 7. (DNF) 5-Tyler McFarland[2]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 83K-Kobie Kath[1]; 2. RED1-Dan Wheeler[2]; 3. 79H-Luke Hainka[4]; 4. 33-Darryl Hainka[3]; 5. 79-Jeremy Misgen[6]; 6. 44Z-Anton Nelson[5]
Heat 3 (8 Laps): 1. 83-Kylie Kath[1]; 2. 98D-Christopher Deno[2]; 3. 15-Cole Neisus[4]; 4. 4-Bryton Cisneros[5]; 5. 00R-Greg Pfeiffer Jr.[3]; 6. 86-Noel Hoppe[6]

POWER 96 WISSOTA PURE STOCK

A Feature 1 (15 Laps): 1. 7X-Andrew Eischens-Taopi[8]; 2. 26-Bradley

Austin[13]; 10. 147-Brent Holland-Glenville[9]; 11. KOL34-Kolton Brauer-Eyota[1]; 12. (DNF) 42-Cody Hyatt-Waseca[1]; 13. (DNF) 99-Greg Lammers-Owatonna[10]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 32-Jason Newkirk[2]; 2. 4-Chris Hotovec[4]; 3. 42-Cody Hyatt[5]; 4. 0-Brian Adams[7]; 5. 147-Brent Holland[1]; 6. KOL34-Kolton Brauer[3]; 7. (DO) 16-Jacob Bennett[6]
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 01-Kory Adams[6]; 2. 15-Zach Elward[3]; 3. 21-Jesse Stahl[4]; 4. 46-Stacy Kronenberg[5]; 5. 99-Greg Lammers[1]; 6. 39J-Dan Klingfus[2]

USRA B-MODS

A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 30-Scott Demmer-Ellendale[2]; 2. 99-Noah Grinstead-Austin[6]; 3. 240-Jim Chisholm-Osage IA[9]; 4. 72-Alex Schubbe-North Mankato[11]; 5. 7W-Drew Williams-Rochester[1]; 6. 33S-Dustin Steinbrink-Austin[13]; 7. 55H-Aaron Hoff-Mantorville[7]; 8. 55-Brody Shaw-Brownsdale[10]; 9. 44-Matthew Brooks-Austin[17]; 10. 81X-Caleb Korpis-Claremont[4]; 11. 45-Cole Longergan-Dexter[14]; 12. 14-Steven O'Brien-Red Wing[12]; 13. 17V-Dustin Von Hagen-Glenville[21]; 14. 00-Thomas Rolfe-Carpenter IA[19]; 15. (DNF) 35R-Garitt Wytaske-Austin[5]; 16. (DNF) 52-Hunter Nelson-Petersen[16]; 17. (DNF) 21-Taylor Overbo-Wells[3]; 18. (DNF) 83R-Kullen Kath-Owatonna[15]; 19. (DNF) 83X-Kadden Kath-Owatonna[18]; 20. (DNF) 12-Bracken Smith-Cannon Falls[20]; 21. (DNF) 4W-Tucker Williams-Rochester[8]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 240-Jim Chisholm[3]; 2. 99-Noah Grinstead[4]; 3. 81X-Caleb Korpis[1]; 4. 35R-Garitt Wytaske[6]; 5. 33S-Dustin

Jensen[2]; 3. 23-Darwyn Karau[5]; 4. 77-Jacob Stark[3]; 5. 33-Joe Ludemann[1]

BRAUER ROOFING WISSOTA SUPER STOCK

A Feature 1 (18 Laps): 1. 22N-Dan Nisslake-Winona[3]; 2. 9-Dylan Kromschroeder-Cambridge[4]; 3. 34JR-Brad Braden-Brauer-Eyota[2]; 4. 0-Brandon Duellman-Winona[5]; 5. 55S-Ryan Schaeffer-Hutchinson[1]; 6. 22R-Anthony AJ Zvorak-Blooming Prairie[6]; 7. 12T-Trent Bruter-Watkins[9]; 8. 22-Ryan Jacobsen-LeRoy[8]; 9. 17-Harland Morehart[3]; 10. 12T-Trent Bruter[1]
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 22N-Dan Nisslake[5]; 2. 34JR-Brad Braden[2]; 3. 55S-Ryan Schaeffer[4]; 4. 9-Dylan Kromschroeder[7]; 5. 0-Brandon Duellman[6]; 6. 22R-Anthony AJ Zvorak[8]; 7. 17-Harland Morehart[3]; 8. 22-Ryan Jacobsen[9]; 9. (DNF) 12T-Trent Bruter[1]

UMSS-TRADITIONAL NON-WING SPRINTS

A Feature 1 (20 Laps): 1. 7B-Scott Brandt-Andover[2]; 2. 99-Bryan Roach-Weich[4]; 3. 16-Ryan Bowers-Nowthen[3]; 4. 6-Jake Kouba-Minneapolis[5]; 5. 12-Johnny Parsons III-Owatonna[1]; 6. 19B-Jack Berger-Lake Elmo[6]; 7. 99-Jon Lewerer-Andover[7]; 8. 2K-Jimmy Kouba-Burn[9]; 9. 15J-James Weber-Austin[8]; 10. (DNS) 78-Rob Cahu Jr-Rush City
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. 7B-Scott Brandt[2]; 2. 99-Bryan Roach[1]; 3. 6-Jake Kouba[3]; 4. 99-Jon Lewerer[4]; 5. (DNS) 2K-Jimmy Kouba
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. 16-Ryan Bowers[4]; 2. 12-Johnny Parsons III[1]; 3. 19B-Jack Berger[2]; 4. 15J-James Weber[5]; 5. (DNS) 78-Rob Cahu Jr.

Back in action



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRO

Volleyball is back in action at the Blooming Prairie volleyball courts next to the ice rink. Teams play at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 on Thursday nights.

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Joan Vanden Heuvel, 86, Geneva



Joan Vanden Heuvel

Joan Marjorie (Thompson) Vanden Heuvel, 86, went home to Jesus on July 20, 2020, at her home in Geneva, Minn., following a short battle with acute myeloid leukemia.

Joan was born on Sept. 12, 1933, on the family farm outside of Ellendale, to Anna Julia (Thompson) and Ole O. Thompson, the youngest of three children. She graduated

from Ellendale High School at the age of 16 as class valedictorian.

Joan married her high school sweetheart, Elmer Vanden Heuvel, at age 18 on Sept. 30, 1951, at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale, and together they raised their four children. In 1960, they moved to Geneva and settled into small town living. They enjoyed life to the fullest with lots of love and laughter.

A writing on her wall at home says, "Home is where your story begins." And her home and family were the center of her life story. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her priority and she made a point to attend as many activities as possible. Joan and Elmer were always on the go.

In addition, she instilled a love of music (and discipline) in her children by "encouraging" them to practice at 5:30, 6, 6:30 and 7 in the morning before they went to school.

Joan was very active in Community Lutheran Church, where she was an example of faith in action for her family. Her favorite pastime was quilting and her family and friends were blessed to receive many quilts from her. In addition, she and Elmer looked forward to their annual cruise with friends. She never wanted the cruise to end! Joan treasured her lifelong friends and never forgot a birthday or anniversary.

Joan is survived by her husband of nearly 69 years, Elmer, and their four children Becky Edwards, Steve (Karl) Vanden Heuvel, Julie (Dale) Horihaan, and Marcia (Ross) Vermedahl; her nine grandchildren Mitch (Amy) Edwards, Laura (Jamie) Baudoin, Brad (Nicole) Edwards, Adam (Laura) Vanden Heuvel, Marc (Aisha) Vanden Heuvel, Jill (Tom) Scherer, Joanna Vermedahl, John Vermedahl, Jack Vermedahl, and 12 great-grandchildren; brother-in-law John (Barb) Vanden Heuvel and sisters-in-law Alice Bird, Dorothy Huffman, Loretta Hoops, and Donna Burns; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her in-laws; her son-in-law Gerald Edwards; her brothers Orlando (Bernice) Thompson, and Adrian (Alice) Thompson, sisters- and brothers-in-laws Grace (Roy) Pennacchio, Henry (Audriene) Vanden Heuvel, Ed (Dot) Vanden Heuvel, Harry Bird, Ken Hoops, and Warren Burns.

While Joan's chapter comes to an end, her story continues in the lives of her beloved family. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Recipe Corner Guacamole

- 8 avocados
- 2 tomatoes (medium size)
- 1/3 cup onion
- 1 tablespoon salt (or to taste)
- 1 tablespoon cilantro
- 2 limes (fresh)
- 2 jalapeno peppers

Cut avocados in half and peel off skin. (Avocados must be soft.) Mash avocados in a dish. Dice tomatoes, onion, cilantro and jalapenos and mix in with avocado. Squeeze in lime. Add salt. Keep pits in the guacamole (keeps the guacamole from turning brown) and refrigerate. Serves 10.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Area students graduate from colleges

Several area students have graduated from colleges this spring.

Brooke Otterson of Blooming Prairie graduated at the end of spring semester 2020 with a bachelor of science degree in business/marketing from Drake University in Des Moines.

More than 3,000 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students attend Drake.

Marissa Larson and the late Anthony Nelson, also of Blooming Prairie, graduated from Bethel University in St. Paul.

Larson was awarded a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She is the daughter of Tammy and Jeff Larson.

The college presented a bachelor's degree posthumously to Nelson, the son of Brian and Lois Nelson.

Schewe makes the Dean's List

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus has announced Jesse Schewe of Blooming Prairie has been named to the Spring 2020 Dean's List.

Schewe is a senior majoring in science and engineering.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more credits while attaining a 3.66 GPA.

CURING: the corona blues with Redlin art FROM A2

He also wanted the interior to mirror the elegance of the exterior.

The Center opened its doors in June 1997-10 years before Redlin retired.

What intrigues me most about the center is the stories told through Redlin's paintings.

Redlin drew from his own experiences to bring us back to the special moments in our own lives. As I went through every

painting, my mind was quickly drawn back to my childhood of growing up in rural Minnesota. I found myself being taken back to a simpler time in life.

It's obvious that Redlin had a passion for family, the land and this country.

They were all witnessed through every masterpiece's theme.

The hardest part came when I had to choose which painting to bring home. Well, okay, I didn't have to buy a painting, but who could resist. I ended up settling on his 1996 painting.

"Sunset Harvest." It reminds me of helping my parents with the fall harvest, which was always one of my most favorite times of the year on the farm. I found a perfect spot for it above my fireplace.

COVID-19 has altered our lives significantly this year, but a road trip to the Redlin Art Center is something you may want to consider going in hot pursuit of curing the corona blues.

SCHOOLS PLAN: for 3 scenarios FROM A3

(cleaning supplies), transportation and others to develop plans to meet the guidelines to reopen the schools.

President Donald Trump says it's his goal that students will return to school in person to begin the 2020-21 school year.

"We will share our plans with everyone once we know which scenario the state allows us to begin with," Superintendent Staloch stated.

"We appreciate your patience as we work through this process," Staloch emphasized. "Our goal will be to bring our students and staff back safely to our buildings," he continued.

Staloch says "some of the decision-making will be out of our control, but we will do everything we can to provide our students and staff with safe/high-quality learning environments for the 2020-2021 school year."

School districts are required to include a plan for distance learning in each of the scenarios to accommodate all students' needs.

Distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year will need to meet higher requirements than the spring of 2019-2020, Staloch said.

Staloch explained that students will need to be logged into the classroom or each class to participate with their classmates throughout the school day.

"We will work to provide all of the information necessary to best understand each scenario in the coming weeks," Staloch affirmed.

Staloch thanked families for the partnership and educational support they have shown the students of the district.

"Together we will provide our students with a high-quality education," Staloch promised.

BOOK NOOK

Library open to public again



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

The July Story-Walk is ready for you downtown. You can read the book Curious You - On Your Way by H.A. Rey. Just start at HomeSellers on the corner of Main and Highway 218.

Thanks again to the businesses for their willingness to display the pages.

The Blooming Prairie Branch Library will be open to the public beginning on Tuesday, July 28. Patrons will be welcome from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. In order to make this a safe place for visitors and staff, the city council has approved these changes for the library:

- Face masks are required.
- Social distancing must be practiced.
- A hand sanitizing station will be placed inside the door and all are encouraged to use it.
- Patrons must limit their stay to 15 minutes per day.

recycle and dispose of materials properly," he said.

There are currently nine employees at Honest-1. The store is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Garris pointed out that he wanted to pro-

vide the convenience of being open for customers earlier in the day to work around their schedules.

Garris, who grew up in a small town in southeast Iowa, said he developed his interest in cars back home where his grandfather owned a Ford dealership in Iowa. "I always changed oils and changed brakes. I've always had that interest," he said.

His pride and joy is tinkering around on a 1965 Thunderbird, which is kept at his parents in Iowa. Whenever time allows, Garris goes back home to work on the vehicle on the weekends.

In the future, Garris hopes to expand his business to other locations around southern Minnesota, possibly areas like Albert Lea, Faribault, Rochester and Mankato.

But for now he is content with building the Owatonna location.

"It has been a long journey to owning the business," Garris said.

"We have brought something different to Owatonna."

Troy Garris
 Honest-1 Auto Owner

"We're the home of the honest mechanics," Garris said, noting they are serviced by ASE certified technicians that receive continual training. Honest-1 is paperless with all of their service work done on iPads with a text or email link sent to customers featuring a report on their vehicles.

Another important feature of Honest-1 is that they are as eco-friendly as possible, Garris said. "We try to do as much as humanly possible to

recycle and dispose of materials properly," he said.

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Pastor Leandra Anderson

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN AUSTIN

Minnesota is a new area for me. A new place to explore, live, and do ministry. I am the new pastor of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, and I am very excited to be at this new church.

To introduce myself a bit, I was born and raised in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. I attended undergrad in Greenville, S.C. at Furman University. I attended seminary at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa. I am married to Jesse Anderson and together

we have moved from Pennsylvania to Florida then back to Pennsylvania. Now, Jesse and I find ourselves called to southeastern Minnesota. For me, this is a beginning in ministry with the people of Red Oak Grove.

If I am honest, this is a weird time to begin ministry with my first congregation. It was an odd time to drive from Pennsylvania to Minnesota with a car packed full of a few belongings, two small dogs, and two people. Our move began when restaurants still only

had drive-thru or were just beginning to figure out how to open their dining rooms. Each stop at a gas station, rest area, or hotel was filled with hand washing, hand sanitizer, and masks. After landing in Minnesota, we had to make the effort to stay away from people until we were certain that we had no symptoms of the virus. Of course, we still wear our masks and keep our distance even in worship.

The thing I noticed most about our move was a unifying attitude among travelers. There

seemed to be not only a wariness of each other in each stopping place, but a hope too. A hope that we were keeping each other safe with our masks and sanitizing wipes. These travelers held a responsibility to each other because each person had a destination to arrive at healthy and symptom-free. Luckily for us, we did arrive in our new home without issue or illness.

In many ways, this is how we begin ministry in a new community. We begin with a wary but hopeful attitude

towards one another. As masks united travelers stopping along the road, faith unites Christians in an area. Hope and care unite all of us no matter religious practice or faith tradition. I am hopeful for our future in this area and am excited to get to know this community as we move forward together. I am hopeful as we move through this never normal of life that we see each other and support each other, so that we will arrive at our destinations happily and healthily.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
629 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
106 Third St. SE, Geneva
Pastor Kristin Venne
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC
503 Radd Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
Worship: 8 a.m. Sunday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday

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 Heimgartner
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Valerius
Worship: 8 a.m. Sunday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN - LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

MOLAND LUTHERAN - ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edvardson
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN - LCMC
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN - ELCA
30456 Mower-Frederick Road, Austin
Leandra Anderson, Pastor
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawier and Jacie Richmond
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight Dobell
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Kruemker
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW, Medford
Pastor Mark Bieghausser
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

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1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
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Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
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Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

ZION LUTHERAN - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
8 a.m. outdoors only, weather permitting

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

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
Worship: 8 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

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CHRISTIAN
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

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Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW, Owatonna
Pastors Rich and Amy Petter
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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DESTINY CHRISTIAN
2515 Harvest Lane NW, Owatonna
Pastors Rich and



A triple delight

There's nothing better than a triple delight of ice cream treats on a hot afternoon for the Hemm brothers. Wyatt, Alex and Colton Hemm of Blooming Prairie can't wait to eat their ice cream treats bought for them by grandparents Paul and Laura Dale. The treats came from Noelan Riley's Sunny's Ice Cream truck.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

NEW SCHOOL YEAR: look like?

FROM A2

to our buildings. Some of the decision-making will be out of our control, but we will do everything we can to provide our students and staff with safe, high-quality learning environments for the 2020-2021 school year.

We are required to include a plan for distance learning in each of the scenarios to accommodate all students' needs. Distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year will need to meet higher requirements than the spring of 2019-2020. Students will need to be logged into the classroom or each class to participate with their classmates throughout the school day. We will work to provide all of the information necessary to best understand each scenario in the coming weeks.

We appreciate the partnership that we have with our families and the educational support that each of you provides your students. Together we will provide our students with a high-quality education. If you have any questions please contact me directly.

Christopher M. Staloch is superintendent of Blooming Prairie Area Schools.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

I would like to give my appreciation and gratitude for my mother's recent open heart surgery. To the surgeon Dr. Schaff of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and to all the fifth floor ICU nurses and the sixth floor nurses at St. Mary's Campus in Rochester for making my mother's stay very comfortable. She was in good hands with her care team.

I would also like to thank everyone for all the phone chats, beautiful flowers and shower of cards. A special thank you to mom's church for the thoughts and prayers.

Thank you dearly,
The Family of Ruby Perez

SAVE THE DATE!

Blooming Prairie American Legion Auxiliary's



Flower Show and Luncheon

Cancelled Due to COVID-19

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

- Exhibitor entry categories will be similar to last year
- Several classes for the flower or plant entries
- Lunch and prizes

Don't miss our exciting Flower Show!

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- COMMERCIAL
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- SEASONAL
- DRY-RENTS
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Last of fairs pulls the plug

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

One of the last fairs to hold out for having a celebration this summer has thrown in the towel to the COVID-19 crisis.

Board members of the Mower County Fair held out until just one month before the fair was set to get underway for its annual run to cancel this year's event. The board made its decision on July 12. The fair had been

scheduled to run Aug. 11-16 in Austin.

The board expressed disappointment in making its decision, according to Denise Schneider, office manager for the fair. "The board has made every effort to hold the 2020 fair, however with concern for public health and the constraints put in place, it is not possible to hold an event as large as the fair," she said. In making its decision, the board said it

recognizes the importance of the fair for participants, fairgoers and vendors as well as the unique agricultural education and experience many people only get at the fair.

"The fair board knows and values the time and dedication that hundreds of Mower County youth have invested in projects, both livestock and non-livestock, with the intention of bringing their project to the fair," Schneider said, adding

for those reasons and more, the board made every effort and held out hope that the fair could be held.

Schneider said the board considered many factors before coming to a decision. They included the governor's executive order, current COVID-19 trends and the outlook for the near future, and of course public health.

In recent weeks, Mower County has turned

SEE LAST OF FAIRS, B2

Filings open for local, school races

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Beginning next week filings will open for various city and school board races throughout the area.

The filing period for city and school elections opens on Tuesday, July 28 and continues until Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 5 p.m. Filings take place at city halls or school district offices depending on which position you're interested in running for on this year's general election. There is a small filing fee associated with each office.

Voters will be electing city council members in every city and school board members in every school district throughout Steele County.

There are three four-year terms up for re-election on the Bloomington School Board this year. They are Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde and Steve Ile.

OWATONNA

The terms of the mayor and three council members are up for re-election this fall in Owatonna. Those

SEE FILINGS OPEN, B2



Top left: Levi Stitt, 11, of Ellendale, really got into the sidewalk chalk competition. Top right: Briella McGowan, 2, enjoys a snow cone while trying to cool off amidst 90-plus temperatures at Ellendale Days on Saturday, July 18. She is with her father, Nolan McGowan of Ellendale. Bottom left: Fire Chief Logan Busho, far left, and assistant chief Joel Adams, far right, show off one of their seven fire trucks to two Ellendale Days visitors, Abby Williams, 10 and Alanae Gutierrez. Bottom right: Tristan Simon of Ellendale buys a corn dog and a lemonade on a hot, muggy day. Selling with their masks on are Elise Pahl and Eva Tupak. Gary Wunderlich also worked in the stand.

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

4th generation firefighter leads celebration

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

COVID-19 has shut down many community celebrations this summer but one community, led by its fire chief, decided to forge ahead and have a one-day, mini celebration.

"That community is Ellendale, a community of 700 people and located on the southwestern corner of Steele County.

The fire chief, who committed his firefighters to help put on a pint-sized celebration, is fourth generation Ellendale fireman Logan Busho, 30.

Logan is the son of Whelan Busho, Jr., an Ellendale firefighter of 40 years. Logan's grandfather, Whelan Sr., was assistant chief. Great grandfather George Busho was a chief of 19 years.

Ellendale was one of the first Steele County communities to cancel its summer

celebration because of the coronavirus. A two-day Ellendale Days community celebration is typically held on the last weekend of June.

"As things opened up, we thought it would be proper to have a more subdued celebration and do it in just one day," remarked Logan Busho.

The fire department and Ellendale Community Action Group joined hands to

SEE 4TH GENERATION, B2

As I sit at my computer in the basement of my home office, I can't help but think where has this summer gone?

How can it be the end of July? 4-H Project Judging is right around the corner! When I look back at the last several weeks, well 17 weeks to be exact! Yep, that is how long I have been working remotely from my basement! 4-H has done some pretty cool things over these past 17 weeks! Let me tell you about just a few of them.

In April, we started with Super Science Saturday where 49 Steele County youth were able to join a zoom science experience. They were mailed all the supplies they needed for this 4-week adventure!



Steele Talkin'
TRACY IGNASZEWSKI

With May, came the 4-H Supper Club. Over 60 youth participated in this weekly adventure of cooking supper for their family. Every Thursday we met via zoom where we shared how to make the weekly meal and a guest speaker would visit. 4-Hers and their families had a blast making dinner for their families and we really enjoyed watching them learn cooking skills. Now that Supper Club is completed, this week we will be starting the Grilling Club. There are experiences that we would never have had if it wasn't for us finding and developing creative ways to connect with youth in their homes.

There have been many project kits mailed to our 4-H families. We started an Outdoor Explorer Backpack Club, where 49 4-Hers participated in this weekly adventure of exploring the outdoors. They were mailed their backpack filled with books and equipment

SEE NOT MUCH, B2

Exploring the gardens of Owatonna

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday the Owatonna Arts Center invited local residents to get a peek at some of the beautiful gardens of Owatonna during its Annual Secret Garden Tour.

The tour was held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and featured a collection of local gardens. "Our gardeners are real people who do all of the gardening themselves," Arts Center Director Silven Durben said.

Each year the Arts Center tries to find a fresh group of gardens to feature. "We don't repeat the same garden

unless it's been awhile and the garden has drastically changed," Durben explained. The gardens are often chosen by recommendation.

Mark and Kari Kortz were one of the hosts on this year's tour with their expansive backyard garden. Their garden features a meandering path tucked between colorful flowers, a homemade shed, a vegetable garden, and a dry creek bed.

"My husband built the shed from my grandfather's old red barn," Kari Kortz explained of the uniquely utilized shed. "The barn was probably around

120 to 130 years old." Kari said that she has been gardening since 2000. "It's very therapeutic. I love being outside in the sunshine with the birds and I love spending time in our backyard and in nature," she said.

Both her and her husband Mark enjoy inviting their friends and family over to see the results of their labor and were excited to welcome their guests on the tour. "I think it will be fun to make friends and find other people with similar interests," she said.

"My favorite part is

SEE EXPLORING, B2



Mark and Kari Kortz stand at the preamble to their backyard garden ready to welcome guests at their home in Owatonna. They were one of four houses showcasing their garden during the Annual Secret Garden Tour.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

Owatonna economy remains steady despite COVID setback

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During last week's regular county board meeting, the Steele County Board of Commissioners received an update from the Owatonna Partners for Economic Development. OPED is an organization that builds on the strengths of five partners within the region to meet the development needs of existing and locating businesses. These organizations work together to coordinate services,

accommodate requests, and fast-track decisions. "Prior to the COVID-19 crisis we had six big projects," Brad Meier with OPED explained. "At this time all of them are moving forward and we have an additional one as well." These projects are part of an overall agenda for strengthening the local economy. "Three new businesses are moving to town totaling \$130 million in investment including the Cosco Depot, which their plan is to open in October," Meier noted.

"We also have three big expansions totaling around \$20-plus million and those are all essentially done," Meier said. "So, we're in a very enviable position of adding close to 370 jobs in this environment right now because of those projects." Owatonna's economy has remained steady, despite the current pandemic. "Most of our industries have maintained pretty good levels of production and employment," Meier explained. "We're positioned well, especially

if we can bounce out of this in a strong way." With new jobs comes new demands, including for housing. "Housing has been a problem, we have 39 single-family houses on the market and we should be over 150 in a normal environment for our size," said Meier. "For us, as I look at it, we have to continue to grow this community at a faster rate than we have been over the last decade plus," Meier opined. "If our pace continues as is, we need to be closer to a 2% growth

rate rather than a 1% rate which we are at." While the economy has stayed afloat, Owatonna has still experienced some blowback from the pandemic. "Independent small businesses are really being hit the hardest and that is also part of our role with OPED," Meier said. "We've distributed \$62,500 to 33 small businesses. This is a concerted effort over a short time to get some dollars to small businesses." "It helps, and they are feeling it but they're

optimistic and they're open now," Meier said at the end of his update. The county and the city will continue to look to stabilize the economy as this crisis continues to wear on. In other business, the board approved Sheriff Lon Thiele's request for a K-9 unit for the sheriff's office. (See related story elsewhere in this edition.) Chairman Jim Abbe voted against the measure, citing the need for additional information regarding insurance costs.

4TH GENERATION: fire-fighter leads celebration

FROM B1

arrange some activities for the day, aimed at the children and their families. The mercury soared and the heat index reached 112 on the day, but it did not keep some people from attending this shorter version of Ellendale Days.

The fire department utilized its ladder truck to hoist an American flag up and over the railroad tracks on Main Street. All seven Ellendale fire rigs were placed outside the fire hall. Visitors were encouraged to view the trucks and then head into the fire hall where a sidewalk chalk coloring contest was held. Three top winners were selected by members of the fire department. They received Ellendale bucks.

Four food stands offered some delicious offerings to Ellendale Days visitors. The stands included: Milo Dahl's kettle corn, Schroeder's Concessions of Faribault, Sugar-sweet mini donuts of Ramsey and Vinnie's Shaved Ice of Ellendale.

Local Ellendale business establishments were also part of the one-day event. They included RJ's, Lerberg's and the Ellendale Cafe.

A garage sale was also staged in the Ellendale Municipal Building. Hunter McMann, 10, was all smiles as he found two pairs of shoes to his liking. A freewill offering was asked.

The Stitt family including, Keela, Alecheia, Levi and Jack, participated in the sidewalk chalk competition. Little Keela, 4, did not let a full-leg cast interfere with her creation of a sidewalk chalk mural. Even though the crowd was small, Logan Busho was pleased with the turnout. He said the Ellendale Fire Department was a way of life for him. "I grew up with the guys," he remarked. "I was still in diapers when I would go on runs," Logan laughs, noting that the rules and regulations were not so strict years ago. The Ellendale department consists of 18 men and two women.

Is equipment includes three tanker trucks, a pumper, a brush/grass rig, a rescue truck and a ladder truck.

Busho said the department hopes to build a new fire hall. He said some possible locations are being researched.

In addition to being fire chief, Logan has a real job. He is an auto body technician at the Motor Inn in Albert Lea. He is single but has a girl friend, Jackie Proman of Ellendale. Jackie played a key role in the planning for Ellendale Days.

All proceeds from the mini Ellendale Days were directed to the Ellendale Food Shelf.

A kick ball tournament was planned but was cancelled due to the hot temperatures.

FILINGS OPEN: for local, school races

FROM B1

terms expiring are Jackie Berg, Jon Sutherland, Betsy Chambers and John Anhorn are all up at the end of 2020.

There are also three four-year terms up on the Owatonna School Board. They are Eric Schuster, Timothy Jensen and Christina Ingvaldson. Schuster currently serves as the district's clerk.

MEDFORD

Voters in Medford will be selecting a mayor and two council members this fall. The terms of Mayor Lois Nelson and council members Matt Sexton and Matt Dempsey expire at the end of the year.

Four members will be elected to the Medford School Board this year. The

four-year terms of Jackie Berg, Jon Sutherland, Betsy Chambers and John Anhorn are all up at the end of 2020.

ELLENDALE

Filing will be open for mayor and two council members in Ellendale. Mayor Russ Goette and councilors Steve Engel and Duane Goebel are up at the end of the year.

The terms of four school board members expire this year in the NRHEG School District. They include Dan Schmidt, Karen Flatness, JoAnn Maloney and Neil Schlaak. All are four-year terms.

Filings for other federal, state and local races, including county board, took place in early June.

The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 3.

EXPLORING: the gardens of Owatonna

FROM B1

every spring when everything starts coming up fresh and new," Kari explained. "We wait all winter long to be able to get outside and see everything grow!"

To Kari gardening is very much an art form, one which she has honed in order to embellish her yard with a little extra flair and an array of colors. "I'm pretty much self-taught," she said, explaining that there

was much to learn at the outset.

The tour was a great chance for local residents to share their passion for gardening and get to take a look at the hidden gardens of Owatonna. "I love to share and give people my plants, it's fun to go back and forth and trade with other gardeners," Kari said.

The proceeds from this year's tour benefit the Owatonna Arts Center.

LAST OF FAIRS: pulls the plug

FROM B1

into a hotbed of coronavirus cases. Mower has the ninth highest total number of cases in the state.

As of July 15, Mower had 990 confirmed cases with two deaths.

In place of the fair, the board has vowed to work with the 4-H program to provide the space needed to allow

members the opportunity to show their projects and have them judged in a format that is allowed.

"The fair board and staff would like to thank all those that have expressed support for the fair," said Schneider. "The board will start planning for a bigger and better 2021 fair."

NOT MUCH: with 4-H?

FROM B1

to catch insects, test rocks, identify birds, and much, much more. Every week they are given challenges to get outside and explore!

We have held Dog Training, Babysitting Clinics, Cloverbud Day Camp, Horseless Horse Camp, 4-H Summer Camp, we even had a create your own video game workshop all from the convenience of our homes. So, when I look back over the

past weeks, I just think WOW look at what 4-H has done! Just for the month of June, we had 294 youth participate in 4-H activities!

So now we are on to the County Fair - WELL! This year's County Fair as we know it will not be happening. BUT! Yes, we will still be having livestock judging and general project judging. This judging will be happening the week of

what the county fair would have been, and it is happening at the county fairgrounds, but it will not be open to the public, only the 4-Hers and their family will be able to attend. It will be an opportunity for youth to showcase their livestock and get their projects judged. They will earn ribbons and champion selection will take place. Some will even advance to state competitions.

So, when people ask or you hear people say "Not much happening in 4-H this summer," you can reply with "Oh NO, let me tell you..."

Tracy Ignaszewski is the 4-H Youth Development coordinator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2019 Buick Enclave that has been parked for over four months without being started. Due to circumstances I stopped driving the car for a while and it may sit for another few months. I am concerned about the vehicles health. Do I have to worry about anything specific? The battery is dead and nothing inside will light up at all. I have been told I will need to have it towed to the dealership and they will have to change the gas because its old and that I will need a new battery and possibly some of the fluids changed. I listen to your radio show and trust your advice.

Carter in Highland Park Michigan
We do not know who is giving you that advice, but we are glad you trust us and have asked us for advice because we are going to save you some cash. If this car were going to sit for more than a year it could have some bigger issues but sitting six months or so is not going to make much of an impact on the car. To avoid a dead battery, we would suggest that next time and even now as you wait to drive again that you install a battery maintainer on the car and leave it connected when not in use. Gasoline should not go bad that fast and the other fluids other than an oil change should not be needed either.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JULY 28

10:30 a.m. - Storytime Online, Facebook Live

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

JULY 24

10 a.m. - SEMCAC,
Community Building

JULY 29

10 a.m. - SEMCAC,
Community Building

JULY 27

10 a.m. - SEMCAC,
Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JULY 24

GEM Days
Owatonna Sidewalk
SalesTime, Owatonna
Library10:30 a.m. -
Storytime Online with
Darla, Facebook Live

JULY 25

GEM Days
Owatonna Sidewalk
Sales5 p.m. - Steele
County BoardMeeting, County
Admin Building

JULY 27

7 p.m. - Medford
City Council Meeting,
City Admin Building

10:30 a.m. -

Storytime Online with
Darla, Facebook Live

JULY 28

9:30 a.m. - Garden

7 p.m. - 7/8/7
Concert - Barefoot

Winos, Central Park

AMVETS Post 23 to meet

The AMVETS Post 23 will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 27. In addition to the meeting, there will

also be a speaker. The meeting takes place at the VFW Post 3723 at 135 Oakdale St. in Owatonna.

BIRTHDAYS

July 23
Nels Lee
Sylvia Myre
Evelyn Kubisa
Teresa Swenson

July 24
Betti Johnson
Sevin Creameans

July 25
Vern Dennis
Jayden Van
Amelie Grace
Johnson

July 26
Frank Henefeld
Mary Ann Worke

July 27
Braden Farr
Emily Rogers

July 28
Rachael Kramer
Elchoff
Luis Taphorn

July 29
Emily Jo Kasperik
Chessa Brown
Jason Vorlick

ANNIVERSARIES

July 23
Heather & Tony
Schiller
Shirley & Harlan
Hinzmann

July 24
Chuck & Marilyn
Wagner
John & Anita Angell

July 25
Roger & Rhonda
Toquam
Brennan & Stacie
Toquam

July 26
Pete & Mary
Kittelson

July 27
Scott & Sandy Basness

July 28
Allan & Harriet
Severson
Ethan & Leah Jensen
Harold & Vivian Ulrich

July 29
Allyson & Greg
Skillestad

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Sudoku Corner

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

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

Some brotherly fun



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRID

Brothers Camden and Charlie Heimerman had fun throwing the Frisbee on the Fourth of July. People made their own fun after the Blooming Prairie Fourth activities were canceled because of the coronavirus.

U of M Extension to host farm financial webinar for dairy farmers

The University of Minnesota Extension will be hosting a webinar Tuesday, July 28 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to discuss the 2020 financial programs available for dairy farmers.

COVID-19 caused significant agricultural market upheaval, with milk prices experiencing some of the most dramatic swings. Dairy farmers are eligible for several financial programs to help recoup some of the price lost during 2020. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Advances, Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), and other low-interest farm loans are some of the major programs this webinar will address. The webinar concludes with a discussion of Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC).

Megan Roberts is an Extension educator for the Ag Business Management team based in Mankato. Since the start of COVID-19, Rob-

erts has focused much of her work on the farm financial impacts of the pandemic. Outside of her job with the University, she is actively involved in her husband's farrow-to-finish hog and crop farm in southern Minnesota.

Nathan Hulinsky is an Extension educator for the Ag Business Management team based in St. Cloud. Hulinsky teaches programs on land rent, dairy risk, farm bill, agricultural taxation, and farm transfer. He grew up on a dairy farm in central Minnesota and lives near Brainerd with his wife Amanda.

Pre-registration is required. Please register at x.umn.edu/dairy-finance2020 by 9 a.m. on Monday, July 27. You will be emailed the Zoom link to join the webinar after registration has closed. If you are unable to attend the live session, you will receive the recording via email. Any questions please contact: Adam Austing at austing@umn.edu.

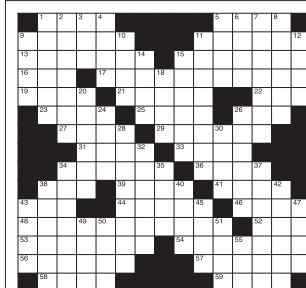
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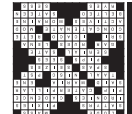


CLUES ACROSS

1. Methuallone pill (slang)
2. Afrikaans
3. Religious service
4. No instruction set computing
5. Pacific Standard Time
6. Link together in a chain
7. Confidantes
8. Gladys Knight's fellow performers
9. "Great Expectations" character
10. Winesap
11. Takes place in a series
12. Spoke
13. Freshwater fish of N. America
14. Laments
15. "Girls" creator Dunham

CLUES DOWN

1. Rope used to lasso
2. Idyllic places
3. Field force unit
4. Guitar great Clapton
5. Slung for type of skirt
6. Figure skating jump
7. Innocent
8. Mathematical ratio
9. Slowly drinks
10. Line where edges meet
11. Offices of the pope
12. Dry or withered
13. "The Man" Musical
14. Difficult situations
15. Greek goddess of discord
16. Bids
17. Geological times
18. Consumed
19. Annoy constantly
20. Full of life
21. Great energy
22. BBQ and soy are two
23. Virtuous
24. Not fatty
25. Foes
26. Merchandiser
27. Dishonest scheme
28. Repents
29. Protective crust
30. Native American people
31. Any place of bliss or delight
32. Bring up
33. Birds
34. Geological times
35. Consumed



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Scoop up some bargains this week in Owatonna

An old-fashioned sidewalk sale will highlight Crazy Days this week in Owatonna. Downtown boutiques and retailers will have wares on tables outside their storefronts Thursday through Saturday. Many of the shops will be open later

on Thursday.

Also on Thursday will be the concert series at Central Park at 7 p.m. Crazy Days has been scaled back from previous years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the community events will not take place this year.

Kitchen project begins at Ellendale Community Center

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After several years of fundraising, the kitchen renovation project at the Ellendale Community Center is finally underway.

Work began on the \$47,000 project around July 1 and will continue for the next couple weeks, according to Stephanie Kibler, who serves on the city council. In the meantime, the community center will be closed to the public.

Once the dust settles, the kitchen will have been totally gutted and replaced with new lighting, flooring, appliances, fresh paint, a stainless steel work station and some new electrical, Kibler said. "It will be commercial kitchen ready," she said.

The Community Foundation of Ellendale has worked jointly with the City of Ellendale in raising money for the project. The city has chipped in \$12,000 while the rest has come through fundraising efforts. About \$5,000 is still needed to hit the \$47,000 goal, Kibler noted. "We're very close," she said.

City officials said an

overhaul of the kitchen has been long overdue as most of the contents is original from the early 1970s. The only things that have been replaced during that time are the appliances. Kibler said some community members have been donating their time to help with the renovation in an effort to keep costs down on the project.

The kitchen project is the final phase of a three-tier renovation of the community center over the past several years. During the first year, the front doors were made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act while handicapped rest rooms were installed in the second phase.

Because of the current COVID-19 crisis, Kibler said the plan is to not use the facility until August or September. All city facilities have been locked down during the pandemic.

Donations can still be made to the CFE, which strengthens and enhances the Ellendale area for the future. The group is touted as investing in people, programs and organizations that transform lives in the community.

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Owatonna Parks and Recreation

Calendar of Events

Parks and Recreation
Contact Information
Email: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Office & Cancellation Line: 507-444-4321
Fax: 507-444-4299
Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation
River Springs Water Park: 507-774-7370

Tennis & Fitness Center: 507-444-4290
West Hills Social Commons: 507-444-4280
Brooktree Clubhouse: 507-444-2467
Park Maintenance: 507-774-7086

Our Mission

The City of Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department provides a diverse system of green spaces, trails, facilities, programs and services to enhance the quality of life for the community.



Mental fatigue is found to be substantially relieved by park-like surroundings, according to a study of young adults published in the Journal of Environmental Psychology. If you've noticed you're experiencing more mental fatigue right now, visit one of Owatonna's parks or trails to help reduce stress and mental fatigue.

Thank you, Park Board Members!

Greg Posch, Angie Malo, Greg Louis, Nicholas Elsner, Jonathan Thiel, David Christiansen, and Andi Arnold

July is National Parks & Recreation Month

We're celebrating Parks & Recreation Month with a variety of activities and challenges to keep you active and have fun!

• Adventure Race – July 13-31:

Teams consisting of a group of people ranging from one person to five people complete challenges and earn points. The five challenges include: play a 9-hole round of golf at Brooktree Golf Course, catch a fish at Lake Kohlmier or Chase Lake, rent equipment at Lake Kohlmier, order food from the Broken Tee at Brooktree Golf Course, and walk/bike/run the trails in Owatonna. There are also bonus points which can be earned by finishing quickly and posting pictures on social media. Visit the Park and Rec website's special event page for scoring and additional details.

• **Virtual Escape Room – July 13-31:** Escape Kaplan's Woods before Mosquito Hour! It's summer in Minnesota and you know what that means...it's time to get outside! Minnesotans love outdoor recreation more than any other state. There is no better place to enjoy the great outdoors and all of nature's beauty than Owatonna's own Kaplan's Woods Regional Park! After a long day at Lake Kohlmier and biking the parkway, you're finishing up with a hike in Kaplan's Woods checking out what nature has to offer. The only problem is, you're deep in the woods and the sun is beginning to set. That can only mean one thing, it's almost Mosquito Hour...the time



the pesky little things are the hungriest! All you want to do is get back to the car before you become a giant mosquito bite! Lucky for you, the trees at Kaplan's Woods have some magic. You're about to embark on a challenge with one of the woodland creatures! You must answer questions as you make your way back through the woods going from one sign to the next. Visit our website for the Virtual Escape Room link and to make your way out of Kaplan's Woods. Just for completing the Escape Room you'll be entered into the drawing for \$100 in Chamber Dollars.

• **Clue – July 20 – 31:** Can you solve the murder mystery? This social distancing has finally gotten to the Parks and Recreation Department staff! They are tired of all the cancellations and modifications in their fun activities. Enough is enough! We are done with the evil Dr. Covid who started this pandemic! He must be punished! Are you a good enough detective to figure out which Parks and Recreation employee finally snapped? Who did it? Where did they do it? What weapon did they use? Clues will be hidden along trails and in parks. Visit our website for more information and to submit your guess.



• **Movie in the Park – Friday, July 24 at Brown Park:** Watch the Secret Life of Pets 2 under the stars. Movie will begin at sunset, approximately 8:45pm. Movie is free but pre-registration is required, sign up on the Park & Rec website. Rain date is July 25.

• **Cardboard Boat Regatta – Saturday, July 25, 10:00am at River Springs Water Park:** The Cardboard Boat Regatta challenges amateur boat builders – youth and adult – to design, build and navigate boats made entirely of corrugated cardboard. The crafty cardboard creations then sail (or sink!) in River Springs Water Park Activity Pool as they compete for a variety of trophies. Spectators have just as much fun cheering on the courageous crews and soaking up the sun. Registration is required, sign up on the Park and Rec website.







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LOOK FOR US ON:     

River Springs Water Park – Open Swim

River Springs Water Park is now open for open swim. Open swim times vary each week, and pre-registration is required. Visit our website for open swim times and to register.

Lake Kohlmiere • 1550 Mosher Drive, Owatonna • 507-774-7372

The Lake Kohlmiere beach house is open Thursday through Sunday for aquatic and trail equipment rentals and concessions. Rentals are \$6 per hour and rental options include: kayak, canoe, paddle board, paddle boat, hydro bike, tandem bike, electric assist trike and trail-a-bike. Lake Kohlmiere will be stocked with adult, child and infant sized lifejackets which are included and required with each aquatic rental. If you have your own Coast Guard Approved Life Jacket it is recommended that you bring your own during the 2020 season. The beach is open daily and ropes are placed to indicate swim areas. There are no lifeguards on duty - individuals will swim according to beach rules and at their own risk. Please visit the Lake Kohlmiere page on our website for more information.

2020 Rental/Concession Hours • June 4 - September 7

Thursday-Friday 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday noon – 7 p.m.

Brooktree Golf Course • 1369 Cherry Street, Owatonna • 507-444-2467

Brooktree Golf Course is located in beautiful Owatonna, MN.



The course is owned by the City of Owatonna. It is known for its well-manicured fairways and exceptional greens. The course rating is 72.5 and has a slope rating of 128 from the blue tees. This challenging golf course is a beautiful parkland course that is characterized by Maple Creek meandering through and along 8 of the last 9 holes. Its multiple tees accommodate the novice yet challenge the most accomplished golfer. Brooktree is regarded as one of the finest courses in Southern Minnesota.

Broken Tee serves delicious burgers and sandwiches, soft drinks, cocktails, beer, wine and weekend dinner specials. The Broken Tee Bar & Grille is the perfect complement to a great day of golf.

HOURS:

7 days a week - 7 AM – 7 PM for Broken Tee Bar & Grill

7 days a week - 7 AM - 8 PM for Brooktree Golf Course

Stay Connected

We offer a variety of ways for you to stay updated and connected.

- Follow us on **Facebook** on the following pages
- Owatonna Parks and Recreation
- West Hills Social Commons
- River Springs Water Park
- West Hills Tennis and Fitness Center
- Owatonna Dog Park
- Visit our **website**:

www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation

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COUNTY OF STEELEPROBATE COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICTProbate Court Division
Court File No.
74-PR-20-1055In Re: Estate of
RODNEY L. NELSON
DeceasedORDER AND NOTICE
OF HEARING ON PETITION
FOR ADJUDICATION OF
INTESTACY, DETERMINATION
OF HEIRSHIP AND
APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of August, 2020, at 8:55 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship and for the appointment of Courtnee Boettcher, whose address is 1275 Havana Rd. Owatonna, MN 55060, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in an unsupervised administration with no bond, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 07-14-2020

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
/s/ **Danielle Herrlich**
Deputy Clerk

PATTON, HOVER-
STEN & BERG, P.A.
Perry A. Berg, #135999
150 W. Park Square,
PO Box 506
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: 507-451-9000

7/22, 7/29

SMIF invites small towns to jumpstart

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation is seeking applications for the second round of its Rural Entrepreneurial Venture program, which supports long-term economic growth. Three communities will be selected for this three-year program. Communities with populations of 5,000 or less in SMIF's 20-county region are eligible to apply.

The REV program helps rural communities create more vibrant economies by finding and supporting local entrepreneurs – from business startups to existing businesses that want to grow. Each community will develop a leadership team and be matched with a coach to guide them through goal setting and action steps. They will also participate in cohort learning with other REV communities.

"SMIF recognizes the need and opportunity to approach economic development from a systems-perspective so that even our smallest communities can be resilient in the face of inevitable challenges," said Pam Bishop, vice president of economic development at SMIF.

"We look forward to supporting three new small towns in this innovative way." The inaugural REV program launched in 2018 and supported the communities of Blue Earth, Lake City, Lanesboro, Le Sueur, Spring Grove and Spring Valley. A variety of approaches to economic growth have been implemented in these communities, including business succession programs and youth retention initiatives. The REV model is based on the

e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems framework which is hosted by Net-Work Kansas, formerly the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. The framework has a proven track record of accelerating entrepreneurial activity in rural communities. SMIF also partners with Region Nine Development

Commission and University of Minnesota Extension for coaching support. This program is made possible by support from Blandin Foundation.

SMIF invites all interested communities to join them for an informational webinar at noon on July 21. Applications are due on

Sept. 1. The three REV communities will be announced in November 2020 and will begin work in January 2021. For more information on SMIF's Rural Entrepreneurship Venture Program, visit smifoundation.org/rev or contact Pam Bishop at pamb@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7013.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
May 18, 2020

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center via teleconference on May 18, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL – CLERK Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, Member of the BPTA, School Patron, Member of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the agenda with the addition of the May payroll amount and preliminary budget for fiscal year '21.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Principal reports given by Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Donations

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the school board minutes, bills, treasurer's report, and donations as presented. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

B. Employment

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the employment of Alexis Shaw as a second grade teacher effective August 24, 2020 with placement on BA, step 0. Alexis will also coach junior high volleyball (step 0) and science fair coach/advisor (step 1). Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the employment of Alexandria Schmidt as the ninth grade volleyball coach for the 2020-21 school year. Placement on step 0 of the prevailing Extracurricular Schedule. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

C. Volunteer Coaches None to be noted.

D. Staff Development Waiver for FY '21

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve waiving the 2% general education staff development set-aside for fiscal year '21. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

E. Preliminary 2020-21 Budget

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve a preliminary FY '21 budget. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

F. Technology Lease

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve a four year technology lease from Apple, Inc. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

G. Distance Learning

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve distance learning grading covering the fourth quarter of the 2019-20 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay. Motion carried.

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Committee Reports

A committee report update was given for the following committees: Ag/Industrial Trades, Negotiations, and ZED.

B. Enrollment Data

Enrollment for the 2019-20 school year as of May 12, 2020 is 426 at the elementary school (Grades K-6) and 369 at the high school (grades 7-12) (358 attending BPHS and the equivalency of 11 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 4 seniors and 5 juniors with attendance being full-time plus 4 juniors with attendance being part-time.

C. Dates to Note The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

1. MDE guidelines for Graduation.
2. Youth Club seeking facility space.
3. FFA participants will drive their tractors to school which has been an annual tradition. Social distancing applies.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Pam Hameister to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School.

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Meeting will be Monday, June 15, 2020, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister | Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756 | Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

7/22

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**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA • May 14, 2020**

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2020 in the Board Room at the High School via teleconference.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; Member of the BPTA

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the May 18, 2020 regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister | Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756 | Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

7/22

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GARAGE SALE

MANTORVILLE:

24722 618th Street. Thursday, July 23 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Friday, July 24 from 8-2 p.m. Car tires, suitcases, girls clothing (8 to 18 yrs.), two Barbie houses,

es, knick-knacks, and lots of misc. items. Something for everyone.

WEST CONCORD:

110 Concord Street. Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Steelers, Eagles, and Twins apparel. Clocks, pictures, and frames. Much more, priced to sell. All proceeds to Alzheimer's Association.

WEST CONCORD:

57302 State Hwy. 56 (1.5 miles south of WC). Mike and Kim Jones' residence. Friday, July 24, 8:30 to 4 p.m. and Saturday, July 25, 8:30 to 3 p.m. Sofa, 2 recliners, Amish oak dining tables and chairs, china hutch, white dresser and nightstand, stroller, toddler balance bike, girl's bikes, portable BB hoop, adult water skis, kids and adult clothing (all exc. cond.), toys, and household. Social distancing and masks encouraged.

WEST CONCORD:

ANNUAL SALE: 409 5th Street. Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25.

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Baby boy clothes, kids to adult clothes, shoes, flea market items, bird houses, stamping items, and a lot of misc. items. Randy Dessner residence.

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GIANT TWIST

S'Cream delights all ages with ice cream treats

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

If you've noticed a lot of S'Creaming coming from downtown Owatonna this summer, you're not imagining things. It's not anyone screaming for help, but rather S'Creaming with excitement and enjoyment of the giant twist and ice cream treats.

The S'Cream shop located along South Oak Avenue is the home of the giant twist. And it's not only the kind you eat. S'Cream is in its second year of displaying a 20-foot giant ice cream cone statue.

"It's one of the largest twists known," said Gale Crandall, who owns the S'Cream with his wife Nancy. "It's the uniqueness of it all. It's like Paul Bunyan and Babe."

Crandall calls the statue "one of a kind." It was handmade 49 years ago. He often worries about something happening to the cone. "You don't go out and replace it," he said.

The cone is featured on RoadsideArchitecture.com, which features buildings, signs and statues. It has become one of the most recognizable cones in the Midwest. "There isn't a week that goes by that people don't recognize the cone," Crandall said. "We definitely use that cone to our advantage."

The giant twist was located for years at the Barrel Drive-in in Clear Lake, Iowa before the drive-in was demolished in 2018. Crandall saved the iconic statue three years ago. After some extensive repairs, the Crandalls made the statue a signature of their shop. It features a large base designed to withstand 115 mph winds. The statue weighs 8,000 pounds.

Crandall finds the statue so popular that he says any time he looks out from inside the ice cream shop, he finds someone sitting or climbing around on it. He often notices parents trying to move their kids away from the cone, but he smiles and is just fine with them climbing all over it. "That's what it's there for," he says.

Since making the giant twist an attraction last summer, Crandall has been surprised by all the attention it generates. "I'm dumbfounded by who shows up and looks at it," he said. He recently came across a group of four people from Korea traveling across the U.S. Being at the home of the giant twist was "on their bucket list of things to do." He added some people even show up at midnight and take pictures with it. The S'Cream owners hope the giant twist will be a draw for years to come. "Communities need something like this," said Crandall. "It's all about creating memories."

The statue is only part of the lure of hanging out at the S'Cream. The shop offers a variety of ice cream novelties, including soft serve treats, homemade waffle cones and hard ice cream. It's the second season for hard ice cream, which has proven to be the top seller this year. S'Cream features Cedar Crest Ice Cream made in Wisconsin. There are 12 different flavors with Super Man being the most popular.

"When you look out our window, there is always a smile. It's like Disney World."

Gale Crandall
S'Cream Owner

them ice cream? It's just pure joy, it's the best thing," she said. "Everyone loves ice cream."

The coronavirus pandemic has proven to be a windfall for the Crandalls as sales have doubled over last year. "When everything else was doom and gloom, people were still coming to get ice cream," he said. "When people are stressed out with COVID-19, this is their comfort food."

At the height of the pandemic earlier this spring, S'Cream found itself in a somewhat awkward position. "The police called and told us we had to break up the mob of people in our lot," Crandall said, adding too many people flocked to their shop for treats and police were worried about social distancing. S'Cream has made some changes inside the shop to address the on-going safety through the pandemic. Crandall said every surface is wiped down with "rigorous cleaning" all the time. "We sanitize everything every day," he said, noting workers always wear gloves and do not touch credit cards.

In April as part of its pandemic coverage, National Geographic from New York stopped by the S'Cream. Crandall said what made the photographer David Guttenfelder stop is seeing the giant twist cone.

The greatest satisfaction Crandall gets from running the shop is seeing kids hang out and interact with their families. "Where else do you see that and where else can you find something better than eating ice cream?" he asks. "When you look out our window, there is always a smile. It's like Disney World."

Crandall notices some people come through for ice cream two or three times a day. "For me, it's extreme, but we love those customers," he said with a smile.

Besides providing fun for families of all ages, the Crandalls pride themselves on supporting the local community. Some of the programs they help

are football camps, After Prom and St. Mary's School. The shop currently stays open as long as it can in the fall depending on the weather. During the summer months, S'Cream is open daily from 12 to 8 p.m. while the hours are more limited after Labor Day.

Crandall hopes to some day make it a year around shop. After all as he points out, "What better is there than ice cream? This is where I unwind."



The McCampbell brothers of Owatonna love the giant twist statue at S'Cream. Shown are, from left: Turner, 7, Aidan, 5, and Tucker, 7. They came to the S'Cream with their mother, Angie Terpstra.



Providing folks of all ages with ice cream treats is Audrey Revier of Owatonna. She has been working at the S'Cream shop for six years.

And don't forget about the 1919 root beer. "We go through one keg of 1919 every five days," Crandall said.

For Audrey Revier of Owatonna, the S'Cream has provided her with summer employment through high school and now college for the past six years. She started working when she was 14 years old.

"It's so much fun," Revier says of working at the shop. "Have you ever seen a kid's face when you give



Turner McCampbell enjoys a scoop of burst soft serve.



Ashley Kellar of Owatonna scoops up some hard ice cream for a cone at the S'Cream shop.