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STEELE COUNTY Times

SWEET EXPANSION A6

UNUSUAL FOURTH B8



Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020

LOIS IS BACK

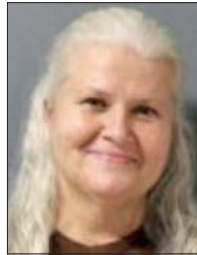
Accused killer locked up in Steele jail

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After more than two years of being away, accused killer Lois Riess is back in Minnesota facing first-degree murder charges in the death of her husband.

On Friday, deputies from the Dodge County

Sheriff's Office brought Riess to the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna where she was booked on warrants of first-degree and second-degree murder and theft, according to Sheriff Scott Rose. He said deputies flew Riess back to Minnesota before booking her into Steele County,



This is the new booking photo taken of Lois Riess Friday at the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna. She is being held there for Dodge County in connection with her husband's murder in March 2018.

which typically holds Dodge County prisoners because Dodge does not have a jail.

Since April 2018, Riess has been locked up in a Florida jail facing murder charges in connection with the death of a woman she befriended in Fort Myers Beach shortly after her husband David's death.

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed Riess' return to Minnesota for several months. Rose previously said they

had planned to bring her back earlier this year, but postponed the process once the coronavirus hit in March.

According to Kyle Christopherson, spokesperson for the Minnesota Judicial Branch, Riess, 58, was scheduled to make her initial appearance on the Dodge County charges Tuesday at 11:45 a.m. via ITV from the detention center. A prosecutor with the

SEE LOIS IS BACK, A4

"Everything is negative we're watching... let me do something positive."

Gary Terrill
Supports Local Police



COURTESY OWATONNA POLICE

Gary Terrill of Owatonna stages a one-person protest outside the Law Enforcement Center in Owatonna by urging motorists to honk in support of police. He has been marching around the LEC during the weekdays for about one hour since June 11.

A one-man crusade to support police

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Gary Terrill says it's time for the silent majority to speak up.

Like many Minnesotans, Terrill watched in horror the chaos and protesting in the Twin Cities over the George Floyd killing. He's also tired

of watching the demands to defund the police department in Minneapolis. "Everything is negative we're watching... let me do something positive," said Terrill, who is a retired school teacher and college professor.

For about one hour every weekday since June 11, Terrill has been marching

around the Law Enforcement Center in Owatonna not afraid to show his support for local police. He carries a homemade sign with a simple message, "Honk, support our police."

Terrill, 78, says the support is growing. In the

SEE A ONE-MAN, A4

COVID turns deadly in Steele

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The coronavirus has claimed its first victim in Steele County.

On July 2, Public Health Director Amy Caron reported the first death hit the county since the pandemic outbreak began in March. "Sadly, a Steele County resident has passed away and the death has been attributed to the COVID-19 virus," Caron said. "Our sincere condolences go out to the family during this difficult time. We hope someday a vaccine will be created to help combat this virus so others do not have to suffer."

Caron identified the victim as a man in his 80s living in a long-term care facility in the county. The man's death follows a statewide trend of COVID-19 deaths in which 85% of the deaths have been people in the vulnerable population, Caron said.

It's unknown how the man contracted the virus, according to Caron. In this par-

ticular case where the origin is unknown, it will be considered community spread. Caron said it's possible it came from a worker at the facility or another resident that didn't show any COVID symptoms.

Asked if she was surprised Steele County got by as long as it has without a COVID death, Caron responded, "No, I'm not surprised. The long-term care facilities have taken great safety and health precautions (since the start of the pandemic)." She added if there was going to be a death, she expected it would have been a person in the vulnerable population as this man was.

Caron said her department had already been working with the facility where the death occurred. "They have taken the precautions they need to," she said. "They have done a great job of controlling any possibility of an outbreak," she added.

Steele County showed an increase

SEE COVID, A8

The Battle of the Mascots

Spuds defeat Blossoms in nickname challenge

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was a battle to the finish in the annual Minnesota State High School League Nickname Challenge.

Combatants in the championship of the MSHSL contest were the Awesome Blossoms of Blooming Prairie and the Spuds of Moorhead.

Voting ended on June 29 with the Spuds winning the challenge of having the best nickname. With 6,782 votes cast, the results were: Spuds 50.4% to the Awesome Blossoms' 49.6%.

The total number of votes cast in the 64-nickname tournament was 87,074.

Voting was done on Twitter by following @MSHSLJohn

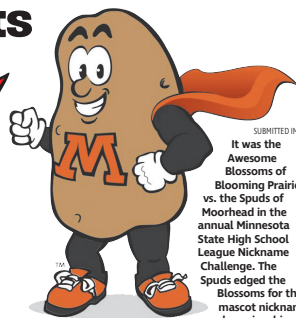
The Awesome Blossoms reached the championship match with the Spuds by defeating the Thief River Falls Prowlers, winning 52.8% of the votes to 47.2% for the Prowlers.

The Spuds reached the championship square-off by defeating the Two Harbors Agates, 54.4 to 45.6%.



The nickname contest was the creation of John Millea, media specialist of the Minnesota State High School League.

The late LeMar Nelson, a longtime educator in Blooming Prairie and writer for the Blooming Prairie Times, said the Blossoms



SUBMITTED IMAGE

It was the Awesome Blossoms of Blooming Prairie vs. the Spuds of Moorhead in the annual Minnesota State High School League Nickname Challenge. The Spuds edged the Blossoms for the mascot nickname championship.

nickname goes back to the early 1900s.

The Austin Daily Herald reportedly coined the Blossoms nickname in its sports

accounts of Blooming Prairie sports teams.

The Blossoms' nickname later became the Awesome Blossoms, which it is to this day.

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AREA DEATHS

Jim Spinler, 78, Medford

Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

The threat is still very real

For several weeks, people have been somewhat lured into a false sense of security surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. With government restrictions loosening up, businesses opening back up and people attempting to return to their normal routines, folks think the worst may be behind us.

Not so fast. And we found evidence of that last week at least in Steele County.

On Thursday, Steele County recorded its first death attributed to COVID-19 complications. Little is known about the victim, but if anything the death serves as a reminder that the threat is still very real.

Over the past month, Public Health Director Amy Caron has mentioned several times that she is worried some people, especially the younger generation, are not taking COVID-19 as serious as they should. Caron is specifically referring to people between their 20s and 60s. The bulk of the positive cases have been in that age range, not the vulnerable population.

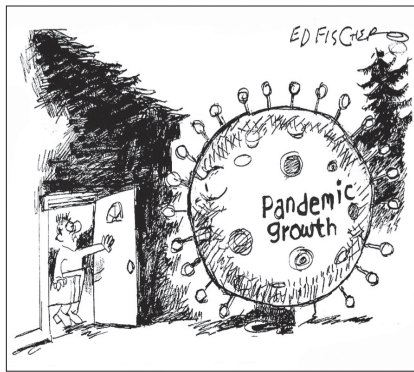
The younger population needs to do a better job of staying away and taking precautions against COVID-19. Caron said she understands how everyone wants this to be gone, but she says it's still far too early for people to return to normal.

Caron reminds people there are safe ways to still go out and have fun in the middle of a pandemic. She said if you go outside, which is the safest bet of all, spread out and practice social distancing of at least 6 feet. Other easy tips are to wash hands, sanitize your surroundings and things you come into contact with and stay home if you are sick.

In recent weeks, there has been some controversy regarding the effectiveness of cloth masks. While some may find it discomforting, it's important to wear cloth masks, Caron says. She relates that it's a small thing to do to help protect other people and slow down the spread.

As the pandemic continues on with no vaccine in sight, Caron warns people to think about our vulnerable populations, mainly older people over the age of 65. "You wouldn't want to be the cause of someone getting really ill or worse yet death," she said.

It all seems to boil down to common sense. Implementing a little common sense, along with the measures outlined by Public Health, should keep away a threat that's still very real at creating havoc in our lives.



GUEST COLUMN

Chamber has been proactive during pandemic

BY SHAWN MCCARTHY

My business joined the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce during the COVID-19 pandemic. My business was shut down for 13 weeks, but one of the first things I did after re-opening was to submit my application for membership.

Why? Well, I was impressed by how the Chamber staff kept working even though many businesses were forced to close. The Chamber Office wasn't open for a while, but the staff was still hard at work for area businesses. Hundreds of phone calls to members and non-members alike, just to check in. Their website was an

invaluable tool with links to government programs, business listings with hours open, and those with personal protective equipment. I especially enjoyed the Facebook LIVE messages that at the beginning of the pandemic were done almost daily. They were brief but informative, and it was great to hear from Congressman Hagedorn, State Senator Jasinski, State Representative Petersburg, the U.S. and Minnesota Chambers of Commerce, and many local business owners.

It was reassuring that the Chamber stayed in touch with e-mail and social media updates as well. It would have been easy

for the Chamber to hunker down during the shutdown and coast through. They did just the opposite! They have been proactive throughout the pandemic, always ready to help our area businesses.

Recently, it's been great to see the role the Chamber has taken with the Jumpstart program. What a great way to help our small businesses! I saw the value of the Owatonna Chamber even while my business was closed. Joining was an easy decision to make once my business was back up and running.

Shawn McCarthy is the owner of Irish Eyes Studio in Owatonna.

Powering my way to better health

Of all the fruits I love to eat, strawberries would have to be my top choice.

I always love this time of the year because you find fresh berries. You can either go out and pick your own or grab some at stands and farmer's markets around the area.

Last weekend, I got the chance to take my mom strawberry picking at the Miracle Farm located outside of Dodge Center. (Yes, mom is fully recovered from her fall at the gyro stand, thanks for asking.) However, I kept a closer eye on her and had her take a break from the heat to sit under the shade.

Barry Moiser has been growing strawberries for seven seasons. In talking to him, I found out his farm was overrun by people this year scrambling to find something to do as a family. On Father's Day weekend, they had 250 cars at the farm throughout one day. He estimated as many as 800 people came out to overwhelm his nearly 5 acres of strawberries.

And, as you might expect, the Moisers weren't really prepared for such a large influx of people.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

"People just swarmed us," Moiser said. "We had a double flow of normal people that come in. We had to close and had to let the berries ripen for a day," he added.

Moiser says he can thank the COVID-19 outbreak for the huge surge in families he saw coming out to the berry patch this year. "What outdoor event is left to go out and do?" he asked. "There is nothing else to do."

But Moiser isn't complaining. "We want families to come out and enjoy this," he said.

Brett and Aphten Fuller of Hayfield brought their 2-year-old daughter for the first time to pick strawberries. "I think it's a new tradition for us," Brett said as he loaded up a bucket with berries.

Besides the farm, Moiser's berries are also available at stands in Owatonna, Kasson and Rochester.

The Miracle farm was born after a near-tragedy for the Moiser family. They served for 11 years as volunteer missionaries in Africa. In 2008, they survived a deadly plane crash in Congo that claimed 47 lives. "We praise God for sparing our lives in a miraculous way," Moiser says. "Let's each thank him daily for life and draw closer to Jesus each day."

The Moisers enjoy gardening and they are particular about the food they eat. They grow strawberries and asparagus as naturally as possible to produce safe food for people to eat.

The berry patch is surrounded by beauty. It may be out in the middle of nowhere in Dodge County, but it's such a surreal place to get away from life's challenges, especially this year. And to top it off, you come away with berries packed with Vitamin C and antioxidant power.

I'm in hot pursuit of consuming more berries to power my way to better health.

GUEST COLUMN



TOM SHEA

Tom Shea, why now?

They provide. Those who choose to serve should embrace their obligation of being held to high standards and the responsibility to be a positive element of a respectful community. We should all take personal ownership of the conduct of those institutions and the leaders we elect. After all, "the government" is ALL OF US and simply a reflection of who we are.

Living up to the principles and responsibilities of self-government that is the American experiment is not an easy task. That is where true leadership comes into play. I've often asked, "which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Did the public that demanded total and complete agreement with their elected officials come first? Or did the elected official patronize their constituents, nod their head in agreement, and then cast votes knowing that what they were voting for may not be in the best interests of the community they serve?

Stephanie and I recently attended a lecture where former Pulitzer Prize winning reporter and author Bob Woodward reflected on his years of covering the Federal government in Washington. He described how leaders have changed in his 50 years in Washington. He referenced what Sen. Barry Goldwater told him was a characteristic of a good legislator, that being "a courageous truth teller." I couldn't agree more with Sen. Goldwater.

When we spoke briefly with Woodward after his presentation, I asked him if he knew what you call "courageous truth tellers" in this day and age of politics? He said he did not, to which I said, "you call them former elected officials."

To be sure, elected officials hold the primary responsibility for the breakdown of the political culture and rancor that dominates elections today. The public you and I and all our neighbors, also bear our share of responsibility for the circumstances we are in today. It is not good enough to cast one's sacred ballot simply for party loyalty or if the candidate has delivered on a particular issue. If our democracy is to survive, we cannot continue to vote for candidates who do not share our core values, candidates who demean and disrespect those they disagree with and seek to divide, politically or socially. Not only are each of us individually responsible, as members of a just society, to reject those candidates, we must also speak up to let them know their behavior is not acceptable.

So, why did I file for office? I am in a position to practice what I preach. I believe we have a unique opportunity this election cycle to take a stand, vote for respectful, accountable leadership in local elections, contests for state offices as well as Federal races. I have the experience and skills to serve in

SEE TOM SHEA, A8

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Thursdays.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Steele, Dodge,
Freeborn & Mower \$46
Elsewhere
in Minnesota..... \$49
Out of state..... \$52

A state and national award winning weekly



MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

2020 - 9 state awards
2019 - 7 state awards
2018 - 6 state and
1 national awards
2017 - 2 state and
2 national awards
2016 - 6 state and
6 national awards
2015 - 7 state and
4 national awards
2014 - 3 state and
1 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)



Mark Skrien of Owatonna is ready to hit the links after battling his way through prostate cancer treatment over the past several months.

A pandemic success story

Skrien undergoes prostate surgery in midst of COVID

Mark Skrien has a family history of prostate cancer with his father and two uncles diagnosed during their lifetimes. So he wasn't surprised in February when lab results showed his prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test, a cancer screening test that looks for signs of prostate cancer, was high.

During his annual physical, Skrien discussed his lab results and risk factors with Lynsi Komporth, a Family Medicine nurse practitioner at Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna. Because of Skrien's family history and high PSA test result, he was referred to Mayo Clinic Health System urologist Alex Sneider, M.D.

Dr. Sneider explained to Skrien he would need a biopsy to confirm a diagnosis of prostate cancer, which was completed on March 19, following Skrien's return from a family vacation.

Skrien's biopsy confirmed his fears — he had an aggressive form of prostate cancer. "Dr. Sneider said my

tumor was 4 + 5 = 9 on the Gleason scale," says Skrien. The Gleason Score is a 1 to 10 ranking system to determine the aggressiveness of prostate cancer. To Skrien's relief, the CT scan results showed the tumor had not spread but he would need to start treatment soon.

Skrien was referred to Mayo Clinic urologist Matthew Tollefson, M.D., in Rochester. Normally, this appointment would take place in person, but it was held using telehealth technology on March 30 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Skrien met first with Elise Tentis, P.A. and then with Dr. Tollefson via Zoom.

"It was fantastic," says Skrien. "I could see them on my screen and they could see me. They were very thorough and prepared me for what was going to happen. I got all my questions answered."

The surgical procedure was not possible at that time due to COVID-19. Dr. Tollefson informed Skrien it could be several months before surgery could be completed. He recom-

ended Skrien start with hormone therapy to slow the cancer growth. "Hormonal therapy is frequently used in prostate cancer as a treatment to sensitize the tumor to radiation and provide a way to avoid more toxic treatment (like chemotherapy) for metastatic prostate cancer," says Dr. Tollefson.

After hormone therapy, Dr. Tollefson would perform a robot-assisted radical prostatectomy to remove the tumor. During this procedure, Dr. Tollefson maneuvers four interactive robotic arms equipped with surgical instruments to remove Skrien's prostate. The robotic device allows a more precise response to movement of the surgeon's hands, reduces blood loss, lowers pain and results in a faster recovery time.

One of the questions Skrien had before surgery was how many prostatectomy procedures Dr. Tollefson had completed. "Elise Tentis explained that he performs about 300 of

SEE A PANDEMIC, A5

COVID knocks out run, but Wiemans vow to keep fundraising for MS

BY RICK BUSSLER PUBLISHER

It wasn't the outcome Carl Wieman had hoped for, but the spirit of giving appears to be as strong as ever for a worthy cause impacting nearly a million people every year.

For 18 years, Wieman and his wife, Denise, have raised money for the MS River Road Run held at the end of August. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event has been nixed. The Wiemans actually started their fundraising campaign in May prior to the cancellation

notice letting people know that the event may not happen. "We always send emails about this time of year as a thank you and reminder if they had not sent a donation," said Wieman. "People were still sending money, even knowing that the ride would probably be different in the format from previous years," he said.

Wieman has been impressed with the support he has received so far. "Of all the donations received so far, nobody has sent less than they did in

SEE COVID KNOCKS OUT RUN, A5

MS RIVER ROAD RUN FUNDRAISER

Send tax-deductible donations to:
Carl & Denise Wieman
524 Glendale St.
Owatonna, MN 55060



For 18 years, Denise and Carl Wieman of Owatonna have organized a local fundraiser for multiple sclerosis. The MS River Road Run that they have participated in has been cancelled because of the COVID-19 crisis, but they are still hoping to raise \$6,000 this year for MS.

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!

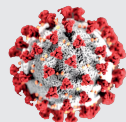
- In 200 or less words, send us details highlighting your hero and how they helped you survive COVID-19.
- Two easy ways to submit:
Email: hptimes@frontiernet.net
Mail: Steele County Times
o P.O. Box 247
o Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
- Please include: Name, Phone Number and Address and/or Email
- Submissions 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.....	11,500,000	U.S.	2,930,000	MN.....	38,569	Steele.....	231	Dodge	87
Deaths	535,000	Deaths	132,000	Deaths	1,474	Deaths	1	Deaths	0
Recovered....	6,210,000	Recovered....	879,000	Recovered....	28,205	Recovered....	173	Recovered....	58

AS OF JULY 6, 2020

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

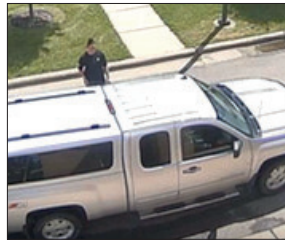
BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: At 12:18 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Truck taken with girl inside in Owatonna

A mother is breathing a major sigh of relief after some scary moments of living a parents' worst nightmare.

On June 26, a mother pulled up to the Owatonna Public Library to drop off some books. After dropping off her books and turning around to go back to the vehicle, she saw the vehicle being driven away with her 6-year-old child in it.

Witnesses saw the stolen truck pull over on Broadway near the former Washington School and the child got out of the vehicle. Fortunately, the child was safe and



Surveillance video captures a theft of a truck at the Owatonna Public Library on June 26. Police have identified the suspect as a Waseca woman and issued a warrant for her arrest.

sound. The truck continued driving on. Police recovered the stolen vehicle in Brooklyn Park on June 29. A detective from Owatonna Police was sent to Brooklyn Park to process the vehicle for evidence.

Surveillance video of the theft showed a woman stealing the vehicle. Police have identified the suspect and issued a warrant for motor vehicle theft for Emilie Perkins, 25, of Waseca. Perkins is reportedly at large and anyone with information on her whereabouts is encouraged to call police.

CRIME BRIEF

A duo faces burglary charges

Two men face felony charges in connection with a garage burglary at Gateway Apartments in Owatonna.



Alex Olson



James Schmidt

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Alex Olson, 31, of Roseville, and James Schmidt, 24, of Faribault with first-degree burglary in connection with the incident on June 24. Owatonna Police responded to Gate-

way Apartments where they learned a victim had a tool box stolen from his underground garage stall. Surveillance video captured two suspects seen in the garage and believed exiting with the stolen tool box, police said.

Police quickly identified and arrested Olson and Schmidt the next day.

A ONE-MAN: crusade to support police FROM A1

beginning days, he received about six honks in one hour. Now he's up to 40 honks in the same time period. "I average one honk a minute," he said. He has even had people stop, get out of their vehicle and thank him for what he is doing. He quickly points out the honks are for the police, not him. "I just want people to realize the importance of police officers doing

their jobs," Terrill said. "They are at risk at any given day," he added. Terrill said he has no connection to any of the local officers. In fact, he didn't even know most of their names until the past few weeks when they have been stopping by to talk to him. "My purpose is let's appreciate our police. This is just one way of doing it," Terrill says. "There is a silent majority for the police. I

wish they would speak up more." Asked about the civil unrest and subsequent protests against police, Terrill responds, "Here's my hillbilly account: people are as confused as a termite in a wooden yo-yo." Terrill shutters at the thought of defunding police. "You will have more crime and lack of justice to those who need it the most," he reasons. "Citizens

will be less safe. The purpose of government is to protect its citizens," he said. "Let's increase their budget." He points to our nation's Constitution for guidance on the matter. Terrill said when our founding fathers put the Constitution in order, one of the key items was establishing justice. "If you don't have justice, you won't have domestic peace in society," he said. He added the first

line of justice is police. Prior to moving to Owatonna, Terrill lived in a "black ghetto" of Kansas City. "I understand something that others don't," he said. He went on to say, "People have the right of freedom of speech, but they don't have the right of criminality. The goal is still the rule of law and justice for all that live under it." And, he added, it's never perfectly done.

Terrill likes to lighten the mood with a little humor. "Did you hear about the toilet paper bandit getting arrested?" he asks. "He got Scott-free." When asked how long he plans to continue marching in support of police, Terrill said, "That's a really good question." He paused for a second and said, "My sense is as long as we have turmoil, I'll keep doing it."

LOIS IS BACK: Accused killer locked up in Steele jail FROM A1

Minnesota Attorney General's Office, which is handling the case for Dodge County, also appeared remotely for the hearing. Judge Jodi Williamson was stationed in her courtroom at the Dodge County Courthouse in Mantorville. Rose has referred all media inquiries regarding the Riess matter to Christopherson.

The Steele County Detention Center is equipped to handle court hearings remotely as it has been doing so for the past three months since the COVID-19 outbreak began, according to Anthony Butters, jail administrator. While court personnel have indicated there are drawbacks to doing hearings remotely,

Butters said his staff likes virtual hearings because they provide a safer venue for in-custody prisoners and court personnel as law enforcement does not have to transport away from the facility to a courthouse. Riess comes into the local jail at a time when public safety officials are trying to keep the jail popula-

tion down because of COVID-19. Butters said Steele County's population has been at about 45 prisoners for the past several months, which is about half of what it normally is at. In a previous interview, Rose said it's also unclear where Riess will eventually end up once the Minnesota hearings are completed. Riess could request

to end up in Minnesota where her family members live. There would also have to be an agreement between the governors of both states, he noted. If she ends up in Minnesota, she would be locked up at the women's state prison in Shakopee. Riess pleaded guilty in December to first-degree murder for killing Pamela Hutchinson in

April 2018 while she was vacationing in Florida. At the time, she was sentenced to life in prison. As part of a plea deal, Florida withdrew the possibility of Riess getting the death penalty. A Dodge County grand jury indicted Riess in May 2019 on two counts of murder in the shooting death of David Riess.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 22 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Shawn P. McDowell, 42, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. McDowell was sentenced to \$131, 128 months in St. Cloud State Prison and predatory offender registration. Mary N. Paul, 41, Albert Lea, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI. She was sentenced to \$125, 180 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 22 - 28:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Miguel A. Lopez Jr., 25, Austin, invalid license and no insurance, \$375; Guadalupe Vasquez Cruz, 39, Austin, revoked license, \$275.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Tasha N. Breger, 25, Faribault, speeding, \$135; Joshua A. Davis, 30, Johnston, IA, speeding, \$215; Hien K. Dinh, 48, Lino

Lakes, speeding, \$125; David P. Flowers, 19, Rochester, speeding and no insurance, \$325; Samantha L. Fuller, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Cynthia P. Harmon-Robinson, 19, Minneapolis, speeding, \$275; Lei D. Htoo, 23, St. Paul, permit violation, \$125; Hussein M. Ibrahim, 34, 44, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Katrina E. Klocek, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Harold J. Kluge, 70, Zimmerman, unsafe lane usage, \$125; Yasmin A. Mohamed, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Tanner J. Nelson, 24, Ellendale, unsecured load, \$135; Jordan M. Netch, 18, St. Joseph, speeding, \$125; Yolanda M. O'Brien, 50, Hudson, WI, speeding, \$115; Hudson T. Pike, 24, Richfield, speeding, \$135; Kwnicia K. Robinson, 30, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$125; Brent J. Rohloff, 24, Waseca, speeding, \$115; Rachel P. Stauffer, 17, Edina, speeding, \$115; Keenan M. Young, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$115.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Durrell Blackmon, 40, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Alejandro Cruz-Vite, 41, Rochester, hands free violation, \$115; Brandon C. Froid, 34, Owatonna, theft, \$125, no trespassing at Fleet Farm and 1 year of supervised probation; Cesar H. Hernandez, 31, Austin, invalid license, \$175; Dominick L. Hernandez, 21, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia, \$125; Ashton

A. Kane, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$215; Faiza S. Muktar, 22, Owatonna, speeding and no insurance, \$335; Stephanie R. Neuhaus, 26, Owatonna, DWI, \$375 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Garland J. Olson, 67, seat belt, \$100; Brandon M. Oreskovich, 34, Owatonna, violation of order for protection and DWI, \$151, 90 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend support groups, domestic abuse counseling, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, psychological evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Travis J. Rager, 45, Lakeville, speeding, \$125; Jason J. White, 37, Waseca, stop sign, \$275.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kathryn M. Barton, 25, Princeton, speeding, \$115; Beau D. Boerner, 37, New Richland, speeding, \$115; Veronica M. Gibson, 56, Stillwater, speeding, \$115; Jacob D. Goerd, 20, Owatonna, window tint violation, \$125; Maia T. Lambert, 40, Faribault, speeding, \$115; Kassandra K. Lewis, 29, Eyota, speeding, \$115; Nicholas W. Messenger, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Donald R. Perkins, 30, Waltham Park, speeding, \$115; Milo D. Reck, 69, Waseca, speeding, \$135; Isabelle K. Robinson, 19, North Mankato, speeding,

\$115; Jose D. Solares Perez, 19, St. Paul, speeding, \$215; Cody J. Thibodeau, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$275; Lucas R. Thompson, 24, Le Sueur, speeding, \$115.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE

June 29 Animal: At 3:39 p.m., an animal bite occurred in the 100 block of 3rd Ave. NE.

July 1 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 500 block of Center Ave. N. at 12:34 a.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

June 28 Domestic: Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of 20th St. NE at 2:33 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of School St. E. at 6:54 a.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 9:46 a.m.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:30 p.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist at a traffic incident stop at Elm Ave. S. and Mill St. E. at 7:05 p.m.

June 27 Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police arrested a subject for criminal sexual conduct in the 100 block of Allan

Ave. SW at 12:43 a.m. **Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 3:36 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 6:48 a.m.

Restraint order: At 1:02 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 1800 block of Hartle Ave. SE.

June 28 Juvenile: Police received a juvenile complaint from the 300 block of 15th St. SW at 12:18 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of 15th St. SW at 9:55 a.m.

Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 300 block of 13th St. SW at 9:51 a.m.

ARRESTS
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Jose Alarcon Jr., 32, arrested at 1:03 a.m. June 27, felony soliciting a minor, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 21 - 28:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Carlos D. Charez Parra, 23, West Concord, parking

violation, \$32; Mark R. Kronbeck, 51, Rosemount, parking violation, \$32; Lamin Ndow, 43, Ramsey, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$150 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Carl E. Weis, 64, Pine Island, burning permit violation, \$105.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sarah L. Casper-Rabe, 47, Mantorville, hands free violation, \$130; Joshua L. Chapman, 30, Dodge Center, hands free violation, \$130; Patrick D. Kelley, 24, Kasson, stop sign, \$130; Zachre D. Kleckley, 20, Kasson, hands free violation, \$130; Brody W. Lamb, 16, Byron, hands free violation, \$130.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Wayne M. Adreon, 41, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Katie J. Dziengel, 26, Grey Eagle, speeding, \$220; Ken M. Jorgenson, 68, Hayfield, seat belt, stay of adjudication, \$80 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Joseph M. Rigotti, 23, Viola, speeding, \$130; Shaun M. Robbins, 44, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Andrew D. Rucker, 29, Claremont, seat belt, \$105; Daniel Severino Guevara, 28, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Justin H. Swartz, 45, Kasson, speeding, \$220; Sue A. Uhde, 54, Pine Island, speeding, \$120.

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Can I Stop Social Security if I Go Back to Work?



Brought to you by:
 Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
 230 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
 583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
 I lost my job last month because of the coronavirus crisis. With little savings, I've been thinking about starting my Social Security benefits early to help me get by. But my question is, if I find a new job can I stop my Social Security benefits and restart them at a later date so they can continue to grow?

Dear Almost,
 Yes, there are actually two ways you can stop your Social Security retirement benefits (once you've started collecting them) and restart them at a later date, which would boost your benefits. But in order to do this certain rules and conditions must be met. Here are your options.

Withdraw your benefits: One way to pause your Social Security benefits is to simply withdraw your Social Security application. But this must be done within 12 months of starting your benefits and you'll also have to repay what you've received so far. If you choose this option, Social Security will treat your application for early benefits as if it never happened.

To withdraw your benefits, you'll need to complete Form SSA-521 (SSA.gov/forms/ssa-521.pdf) and send it to your local Social Security office. Also be aware that you can only withdraw benefits once in a lifetime.

Suspend your benefits: If you aren't eligible for withdrawal, but you've reached your full retirement age and have not yet reached age 70, another option is to voluntarily suspend your retirement benefits. With the suspension option you don't have to repay the benefits you've received, and you can restart them anytime you wish, or they will be automatically be reinstated at age 70. (See SSA.gov/planners/retire/ageincrease.html to find your full retirement age.)

By suspending your benefits you'll earn delayed retirement credits, which means your benefit amount increases for every month of the suspension. Your payment will go up by two-thirds of 1 percent monthly or 8 percent annually. A benefit of \$1,500 monthly, for example, increases by \$10 for each month you have benefits suspended.

You can request a suspension by phone (800-772-1213) or in person at your local Social Security office.

Working and Collecting Benefits
 If you start collecting Social Security and you do go back to work, but your income is modest, you may want to continue drawing your benefits while working at the same time. But if your earnings are higher, it makes sense to stop your benefits.

Social Security has a "retirement earnings test" that says if you're under your full retirement age and you earn more than \$18,240 in 2020, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn over that amount. Those who reach full retirement age in 2020 a less stringent rule applies. In this case, \$1 gets taken out for every \$3 you make above \$48,600 until you reach the month of your birthday.

It's also important to know that if you were to lose some or all of your Social Security benefits because of the earning limits, they aren't lost forever. When you reach full retirement age, your benefits will be recalculated to a higher amount to make up for what was withheld.

Also, if you do decide to work and collect Social Security benefits at the same time, you need to factor in Uncle Sam too. Because working increases your income, it might make your Social Security benefits taxable.

Here's how this works. If your combined income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000 as an individual or between \$32,000 and \$44,000 as joint filers, you will pay tax on up to 50 percent of your Social Security benefits. If you earn above the upper limit of these ranges, you will pay tax on up to 85 percent of your benefits. To help you calculate this see the IRS publication 915 at IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf.

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 13, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

SKM Riding LLC is a dream come true for Stephanie Madsen of rural Austin. Opened in April and business is already picking up for the 2007 graduate of Blooming Prairie. "I am already maxed out with lessons and have a waiting list for training," Stephanie said. She offers training, lessons and will also train and sell client horses. Types of training offer are Western, Hunt Seat and Dressage. Madsen credits her in-laws, Doug and Ann Bruggeman with helping her get the company started. SKM is located seven miles south of Blooming Prairie on Hwy. 218.

The Blooming Prairie Times has two interns helping out this summer. Angela Noble has been with us for a few months and has been a great addition to our team. She is putting together the information for graduation tab and written a few articles. She is required to complete a 120-hour internship to graduate with a mass communications major from Mankato State University. Her future plans are to move to Denver. Kailey Brown started with the Times in early June. She will be a junior at Century High School in Rochester in the fall. She has helped revitalize the history section of the paper, written two news stories and so much more behind the scenes. Although she is still in high school, she is very mature and a hard worker.

Kaylin Wolf was the recipient of the \$600 Donald Peterson Scholarship, given by the Dodge County Township. She is the daughter of Bruce and Tami Wolf of Blooming Prairie. She was chosen by her outstanding essay on the topic of "Why it is important to vote and what affect does it have on local government." Timothy Boecker, Blooming Prairie received the Chester Fritz Presidential Scholarship from the University of North Dakota. He is the son of Tom and Tiffany Boecker. Ed is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Butler and a student at BPHS. The five-day conference will include studies in leadership skills, investigation of agricultural careers, visit to the Capitol and tours of national monuments. In addition, Butler has made arrangements to meet with Congressman Albert Quie and have an opportunity to meet several national leaders from

with the BP Fire Department co-sponsored the July 3rd Teen Dance at the Servicemen's Club. Music provided by our local DJ's, The Luminators and was attended by about 200 teens. HCYC would like to thank the Fire Department for helping make this event happen.

It certainly didn't lack for entertainment during the Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration this year. Whether you were a participant, spectator or volunteer, there was plenty going on. New events, weather shenanigans and traditional events helped fill the atmosphere with enthusiasm and excitement. Three new events this year caused many laughs - and some pain - as chamber committees came up with Tug-O-War contest, Couch Potato Race and the Iron Man

Obstacle Challenge. All this helped to make it a wonderful celebration.

Even if you've been high and dry before, this past weekend's rain may have caught up with you. With almost 7 inches in a 30-hour period, most coming down in two drenching amounts - Blooming Prairie and the surrounding area residents found themselves bailing out. If it wasn't rain rushing down into basements, it could have been sewer backups or rising creek or river water closing in on property for the first time. City administrator, Mike Rietz and Police Chief, Paul Way found themselves touring the town in the wee hours of the morning surveying rising waters. "There really wasn't much we could do but assess the situation and put out barricades and cones where they were needed," said Mike Rietz.

50 Years Ago July 8, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

Ed Butler, 16, president of the Blooming Prairie FFA Chapter, will be in Washington, D.C. to attend a National FFA Conference. Ed is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Butler and a student at BPHS. The five-day conference will include studies in leadership skills, investigation of agricultural careers, visit to the Capitol and tours of national monuments. In addition, Butler has made arrangements to meet with Congressman Albert Quie and have an opportunity to meet several national leaders from

government, industry and agricultural organizations.

SP-4 Francis A. Kuhlman, Blooming Prairie, left June 1st for service with the U.S. Army in Vietnam and is now stationed in Saigon. Mrs. Kuhlman and son are making their home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Trom while her husband is overseas.

The Blooming Prairie FFA will hold its annual tour Monday, July 13th. The tour will begin at 8 a.m. at the Leroy Schuch farm and proceed to the Edward Natz farm, Veryl Lord farm, Elmer Rubter farm and the Christy Olson farm. They will also stop at Blooming Prairie Vo-Ag, Weed Control Plot at the George Heikes farm. Judging classes are also planned at each stop. A potluck dinner will be held at Brookdale Campgrounds.

75 Years Ago July 12, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Thomas Henry Oswald, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Oswald, left Tuesday for Navy receiving station at Minneapolis to get his assignment. He has been in the service for 2 1/2 years and in the North Pacific the past six months. Four of the six Oswald brothers in the armed forces are now back in this country. Lt Earl Oswald is stationed in England.

"Smitty" Muller can thank his lucky stars that his lost pocketbook fell into honest hands. Smitty lost his purse last Friday containing \$7.00. The wallet was found by young John Brainerd. Instead of sticking the money in his jeans pocket and throwing the empty purse away, young Brainerd promptly brought it to the Times office and gave us instructions to advertise for the owner. A short time later he learned of Muller's loss and made him feel pretty happy by returning the money to him. The lad was given a \$1.00 reward. Young Brainerd's gesture in turning the money in should be taken as an example by other boys and adults as well. He is to be commended for his honesty.

The following births have been reported from Goetsch Home Hospital:

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Houtum are the proud parents of 1 1/2 pound daughter, Ann Marie, born July 6th. Mr. and Mrs. Kaubien Trotter became parents on July 6th to a daughter, 8pounds, 3-ounce daughter. The little miss will be called Karen Ann.

20 Years Ago July 11, 2000

ELSIE SUNGER, PUBLISHER

Teen Dance was a big success. Healthy Community/Healthy Youth of Blooming Prairie along

COVID: knocks out run FROM A3

the previous years," he said. "Many sent more dollars than they had in previous years," he added.

Over the past 19 years, the Wiemans have raised nearly \$77,000 for the MS run, which aids in the search for a cure for multiple sclerosis. As of June 29, the Wiemans have raised \$1,460 so far this year. Their goal is \$4,000.

Wiemans said he isn't about to let the pandemic interfere with raising funds for MS. "After 18 years of fundraising, we are not going to let this stop us now," he said with determination.

"We ride for one reason-to help those with MS," Wieman says. The Wiemans have a personal stake in the ride. Denise's niece, Lori Serbus, had MS for about 23 years before passing away in 2004. "We want to help others like Lori that have this devastating disease," he said.

MS is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, but the unpredictable physical and emotional effects can be lifelong. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatments are giving hope to those affected.

New research has shown that nearly 1 million people are living with MS in the U.S. The Wiemans had designed the route for this year's ride. They had planned to go through parts of the south metro and into western Minnesota before ending up in St. Cloud for the night.

The ride would have come back to the metro the next morning. Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to Carl and Denise Wieman, 524 Glendale St., Owatonna, MN 56060. They can also be reached at deniseandcarol@yahoo.com.

A PANDEMIC: success story FROM A3

these procedures each year and has been doing so for 10 years," says Skrien. "That was very reassuring at the time. I knew I was in good hands."

The day after meeting with Dr. Tollefson, Skrien received the first hormone therapy injection in Owatonna and waited for his surgery to be scheduled. He did not need to wait long, as he received a call just nine days later from Dr. Tanner Miest, Chief Resident in Urology at Mayo Clinic, Rochester.

"Dr. Miest said that they had a surgery opening on April 15 or 17 and I just needed to pass a COVID-19 test before," says Skrien. "I jumped at the chance for a high praise for the team. "Everyone did a fantastic job in Owatonna and Rochester. I have so many positive thoughts and memories of the staff, from schedulers to nurses and doctors to the staff who served my lunch," says Skrien. "In light of COVID-19 and everything, the whole process was done very professionally and safely."

"Prostate cancer treatment and even screening is very safe today - probably safer than going to the grocery store," says Dr. Tollefson. "Patients should feel reassured that they are entering a very highly screened setting."

on that day but received updates from staff throughout the day. Restrictions have since been modified to allow one visitor.

Dr. Tollefson reported that Skrien's surgery went well and he remained in the hospital one night. Since returning home, Skrien is feeling well during his recovery and walking up to two miles a day. Skrien will return to the Mayo Clinic in three months to repeat the PSA screening. If his levels are in the normal range, he does not expect needing any additional treatment.

When reflecting on having surgery during a pandemic, Skrien has high praise for the team. "Everyone did a fantastic job in Owatonna and Rochester. I have so many positive thoughts and memories of the staff, from schedulers to nurses and doctors to the staff who served my lunch," says Skrien. "In light of COVID-19 and everything, the whole process was done very professionally and safely."

"Prostate cancer treatment and even screening is very safe today - probably safer than going to the grocery store," says Dr. Tollefson. "Patients should feel reassured that they are entering a very highly screened setting."

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Focusing on the sweet side of things Costas' Candies to retire restaurant, expand candy operation

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Tucked neatly within Owatonna's downtown is one of the most iconic shops within the region, a historic candy store and restaurant, the cozy Costas' Candies.

The shop celebrated its 100th anniversary last fall, and now, with the current situation presenting them a unique opportunity, the owners have decided to focus solely on the candy side of their business. This means that their restaurant, which has become a lunch and breakfast staple for downtown Owatonna, will be retired.

"It's something that has been in the discussion for the past five years," explained co-owner Julie Schultz, who runs the business with her husband Grant. "We were at capacity and couldn't make enough candy to keep up with demand."

Since purchasing the business in 2009, the candy has slowly become the focal point. "When we started here the restaurant was the majority of the business, but over the last 10 years either what we've done or the way things have gone, the candy side has been the vast majority of our business and our customers," Grant Schultz explained.

"We knew we needed to expand the candy side of it and the current situation gave us a unique opportunity," Julie said. "This is something that has been a long time coming and we're excited to move forward."

Costas is currently looking to do a remodel of the entire store to

"We were at capacity and couldn't make enough candy to keep up with demand."

Julie Schultz
Costas Candy Owner

better suit their candy operations. "We are excited to see where this will take us and it will also give us the opportunity to experiment with new flavors," Julie explained. "We can also start an online store, which will expand our sales."

Founded in 1919 as George's Candy Kitchen, the quaint candy store has become an essential part of the local community. "My dad had his office next to the store, and so I remember in the winter we'd come and we'd shovel the sidewalk for Costas and he'd usually give me a milk chocolate turtle for shoveling his sidewalk," Grant said.

Although both Grant and Julie are looking forward to the next stage, the restaurant will always hold a special place in their hearts. "It's bitter sweet to say goodbye to our restaurant and our customers," Julie said. "Many of them started the day with us."

"Costas has been a tradition in Owatonna and Steele County and part of that is it has a small-town feel and a handmade feel to our products and the time we spend mak-



Grant Schultz stands behind the counter at Costas' Candies in Owatonna. Costas recently announced that they will be retiring the restaurant to focus solely on the candy.

ing quality candy and getting to know our customers goes into that," Julie explained. "So far the support for this transition has been tremendous."

While the restaurant side might now be a thing of the past, a sweet future lies in store for Costas' Candies. "We are thankful for all the support of our customers and they have led us to this expansion," Julie said. "When the time comes, we will be excited to show off our remodel."

Costas' Candies is currently serving up sweet treats in downtown Owatonna as they look to remodel their store. The candy shop is located at 112 N. Cedar Ave.



Co-owners Grant and Julie Schultz celebrated the 100th anniversary of Costas' Candies in Owatonna last fall. The Schultz' recently announced that they will be closing the restaurant to focus on the candy side of their operation

Star Tribune names Federated Insurance a top workplace

For the third consecutive year, Federated Insurance was named one of the Top 150 Workplaces in Minnesota by the Star Tribune. Federated Insurance was ranked No. 6 on the large company list, up one spot from last year.

"This honor is a reflection of our incredible workforce living out our four cornerstones - equity, integrity, teamwork, and respect," said Jeff Fetters, chairman and CEO of Federated Insurance. "Every one of our more than 2,600 employees contributes to the collaborative and

supportive culture that makes us successful."

The Top Workplaces program recognizes Minnesota companies with outstanding organizational health based on employee opinions on company vision, leadership, benefits, satisfaction, connection, and more. Top Workplace rankings are based on survey information collected by Energage, an independent company specializing in employee engagement and retention. The analysis included responses from more than 76,000 employees at Minnesota public,

private, and nonprofit organizations.

"The companies in the Star Tribune Top Workplaces deserve high praise for creating the very best work environments in the state of Minnesota," said Michael J. Klingensmith, publisher of the Star Tribune. "My congratulations to each of these exceptional companies."

To qualify for the Star Tribune Top Workplaces, a company must have more than 50 employees in Minnesota. Nearly 3,000 companies were invited to participate. Rankings were com-

posite scores calculated purely on the basis of employee responses. A complete list of companies selected is available at startribune.com/topworkplaces.

Founded in 1904, Federated Insurance is a national insurance and risk management organization that serves the property, casualty, and life insurance needs of clients in select industries. The organization has more than 500 recommendations from state, regional, and national associations and buying groups and is rated A+ (Superior) by industry analyst A.M. Best.

New in-frame tool box from Minimizer hits aftermarket

Minimizer's line of poly tool boxes has seen its fair share of expansion over the past 12 months, highlighted by its biggest offering yet - a 50-inch box.

"This time, however, Minimizer says it is focusing on solving a unique issue with the release of a new in-frame tool box.

"With increased environmental regulations, space is limited under the hood, and not everyone has room along the outside of the frame," Minimizer Director of Marketing Steve Hansen said. "No matter what you need to store - whether it's batteries or traditional tools - our in-frame tool box is located behind the cab and out of the way."

Minimizer's new in-frame box fits on 27 to 28.5-inch frames and

has clearance for the driveshaft built into the bottom of the box.

"Our engineering team put a lot of time and thought into this new product, thinking of every potential issue," Hansen said. "And like all of our tool boxes, the in-frame box won't rust, crack, break, or need paint. Best of all, it comes with a lifetime guarantee."

The Minimizer in-frame tool box can hold up to two group 30 or group 31 batteries and comes exclusively in black.

"With frames being overwhelmingly black, the box will blend in nicely," Hansen said.

You can learn more about Minimizer's new in-frame tool box by visiting <https://www.minimizer.com/product/in-frame-toolbox/>.

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Nobles help people who want to keep living

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a knockout punch to some businesses and an uplift in business to others.

Noble RV owners Pat and Mike Noble have felt both effects of the coronavirus, but they have fought hard to become heroes to those people wanting to escape the stresses caused by COVID-19.

The months of March and April are typically good months when people begin to lean toward RV purchases. Since COVID-19 struck in March and continued beyond April, this business was taken away, the Nobles said.

Business started to rebound because of restrictions being loosened up by Gov. Tim Walz in May. Business in May and June began to be similar to good years in the past, Pat Noble said.

"People wanted to keep living and that's why they came to our stores," reasoned Pat Noble. "You can social distance easily with an RV, and it's a dynamite way to enjoy the summer," he added.

The Nobles own four stores: Owatonna, Rochester, Madelia and Minneapolis. Their first store was opened in Owatonna in March of 2006.

Noble RV's business sense is to offer empathy to the families who



Brothers Mike and Pat Noble have been trying to meet their customers during a stressful time caused by the coronavirus. Business slowed in March and April but picked up in May. The Nobles have stores in Owatonna, Rochester, Madelia and Minneapolis.

have been affected by COVID-19, either first responders or those who actually contracted the virus.

That empathy comes in the form of a credit given on an accessory, or a credit on various supplies. "We give our general managers the authority to go over and above," said Mike Noble.

The Nobles said one of their customers, a

nurse, bought a camper to allow for social distance.

"People were scared in the early days of the virus," said Pat.

Noble RV is considered essential, thus their doors were open in the beginning and to the current time.

"We worked with the customers and our employees to find their comfort zone," Pat said. "This as out

of respect to both," he explained.

Noble RV has seen a huge uptick in business from out-of-state customers. "Our goal is to make the inventory go away," Pat remarked.

Noble RV's majority of business centers around travel trailers and fifth wheel units. The Noble RV stores sell a fair amount of motorized vehicles, too. Class B includes the

smaller units. Class C covers the units on a van chassis and with an overhead bunk. Class A units are the bus style.

RV parts and repair have been swamped, the Nobles attest. "It's good but it can create some tension, too," Pat admits. Much of the Noble RV repair is done through appointments.

Some people were nervous because camp grounds were not

opened up and they delayed their purchases because of that.

Pat said he saw no sense to the camp grounds being shut down. "There's no easier way to escape than to be at a camp ground in front of the fire and enjoying a glass of wine," he continued.

Noble RV's success has been because of dedicated customers and also because of the Nobles' history of being community minded, donating to many local causes. "We donate to education and to cancer causes amongst others," said Mike.

The Nobles have seen more out-of-state business because inventories were low across the country.

The RV business appeals to the Nobles and their staff because it's gratifying to help people enjoy their friends and family, they contend. "We also can make a living doing this," Pat said.

The RV business has become a family business for the Nobles. Mike's son Zachary and son-in-law Steve Dow work in the Minneapolis store. Pat's son Lucas works in sales and finance in Rochester.

"We're starting to come out of it," says Pat.

Noble RV stores are typically open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

SMIF awards paint to spruce up towns

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) awarded \$9,620 worth of paint from Ace Hardware to eight communities across the region through its Paint the Town Grant Program.

This program is a partnership between SMIF and 12 local Ace Hardware stores and is designed to engage volunteers and build collaborative efforts that beautify communities through painting community murals, welcome signs, or historic structures.

Eight projects received a total of 260 gallons of paint. The grant is awarded to projects that will have a visual impact, provide a public benefit to the community, and involve volunteer participation.

The 2020 Paint the Town Grant award recipients are:

- 15 gallons to Amboy Area Community Club to repaint the Amboy Train Depot.
- 84 gallons to Cancer Sucks Charities of Kellogg for a mural that honors cancer victims and survivors.
- 11 gallons to the City of Winnebago for a mural downtown as part of the Bring Back Downtown Winnebago program.
- 26 gallons to the Goodhue County Fair to repaint the 4H Building on the Goodhue County Fairgrounds
- 35 gallons to Preston Historical Society to preserve historical properties located on the Fairground/Trailhead Park campus.
- 24 gallons to St. Charles Area Community Foundation for a

community mural that represents St. Charles.

• 26 gallons to Tri-City United Public Schools for a welcoming mural in the Early Childhood building in Montgomery.

• 36 gallons to Truman Historical Association to paint Americana Barn Quilts.

"By 'Painting the Town' these communities are building a sense of pride, creating opportunities for volunteer engagement, and adding to the vibrancy of their town," said Tim Penny, SMIF president and CEO. "We are thankful to once again have Ace Hardware as a partner in this program."

For more information on SMIF's grant programs, contact Jennifer Helen, Grants Coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

Rochester men purchase vacant building in Dodge County

BY KAREN M. JORGENSEN
COUNTY WRITER

After months of speculation as to what will move into the closed Shopko building in Kasson, it is now official that the structure will be remodeled into a commercial retail center.

Brad Clemens and Pat Adamson, both of Rochester and the owners of A.C.S. of Kasson bought the former Shopko building on Mantorville Avenue.

The deal on the 36,000 sq. ft. building closed in late May, Clemens said. They purchased it from First Commonwealth Bank of Pennsylvania that acquired the property after the Shopko corporation filed for bankruptcy in 2019.

Clemens said he and Adamson are planning on dividing the building into about nine individual retail locations and will take up about half the building. Six of those stores will have their own entrances from the outside while the others will be accessed from inside the mall.

Clemens declined to name the businesses that might be going into the structure until the agreements are finalized but did indicate one of them is a specialty ice cream shop. The owners are also hoping to finalize deals with a restaurant and other retail businesses.

A storage facility is anticipated for the portion of the building that is not remodeled for retail.

Clemens said work on the remodeling will

begin this month and will include remodeling the interior as well as constructing outside entrances for the retail stores.

Clemens said that he and Adamson have had "our eye on this for a while." The Rochester resident said they have been hearing good things about Kasson and have decided it is a good move.

The building has been empty since Shopko filed for bankruptcy and closed down all its stores last year including the one in Kasson and two in Rochester.

Information from the Minnesota Department of Revenue lists the sale price of the structure at \$1.2 million. Clemens said he anticipates they will be putting another million into the renovations.

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lanlbo@gmail.com

James Spinler, 78, Medford



James Spinler

James Peter Spinler, age 78 of Medford, passed away June 8, 2020 in Rochester. Jim was born to parents Peter and Cora (Taylor) Spinler in Owatonna. He attended school in Medford, and then worked at the canning company. He got married in 1959 to Thora Lin the two later divorced. He had his own garbage hauling business in Medford and the surrounding area. He also worked for his brother Dave in Owatonna. He saved and collected aluminum cans and can tabs he was known as "Can Tab Man." He loved all things Medford and especially enjoyed being in the Medford parade. He is survived by children, Curt (Suzanne) Nampa, Idaho, Doug (Natalie) Sewell, N.J., Christine (Steve) Bartsch, Owatonna, Diana (Jon) Noller, Excelsior, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; one brother, Dave Spinler, Owatonna. Jim was preceded in death by his parents. Funeral arrangements were handled by Medford Funeral Home.

COVID: turns deadly in Steele FROM A1

of 16 cases over the past week, bringing the total since March to 231. Of the confirmed cases, 173 have recovered and no one is currently hospitalized. The two people who were hospitalized last week with COVID-19 have since been released, Caron said. The confirmed cases in Dodge County rose by eight over the past week. There have now been 87 cases in Dodge with 58 recovered and no hospitalizations or deaths. Most of the positive cases, Caron said, are coming from people in their 20s to 50s. What Public Health is seeing with positive cases in both counties is that they are connected to cases in other counties. People may not be contracting the virus in their home county, but picking it up from work places and places in other counties, Caron said.

home the importance of people continuing to protect themselves, even though restrictions have loosened up in recent weeks. "There's much we do not know about this virus," Caron says. "However, there are things we can do to protect ourselves, our family members, our neighbors and our vulnerable populations," she said. Public Health urges people to wear face masks when they are out in public. The mask will not protect the person wearing it, but it will protect others in case the wearer is carrying the virus unknowingly. Another precaution people can take is practice social or physical distancing from others by keeping a distance of six feet. Some other precautions include: do not gather in large groups, stay home if you are sick, cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, avoid touching your face and clean and disinfect your home to remove germs. Caron said if you have symptoms of COVID-19, stay home until all three of the following things are true: You feel better, it has been 10 days since you first felt sick and you have no fever for the last three days. The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread primarily by respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, according to Caron. It can also spread when people touch surfaces that have been contaminated by an infected person and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.

Hy-Vee partners to end summer hunger

Hy-Vee, Inc., in partnership with Kellogg's and Keurig Dr Pepper, has announced its End Summer Hunger campaign to provide food for children and families in need. During the month of July, for every quality purchase at a Hy-Vee grocery store, one meal will be donated to Feeding America food banks in Hy-Vee's eight-state region. The program has a goal of donating 1.5 million meals. For each participating product purchased at Hy-Vee stores between July 1st, Keurig Dr. Pepper and the Kellogg Company will donate the monetary equivalent of at least one meal (\$0.10) secured by Feeding America on behalf of member food banks - up to a maximum donation of \$150,000. "We know that many families in our communities struggle with hunger, which is compounded this year by the effects of COVID-19," said Donna Tweeten, Hy-Vee's executive vice president, chief of staff and chief customer officer. "Having access to the proper nutrition is essential to strong, vibrant communities. Hy-Vee, along with our partners, are dedicated to doing our part to end summer hunger and are proud to support Feeding America to ensure children and families have access to meals no matter what time of year it is."

Donations will be made through the purchase of qualifying products at Hy-Vee's more than 265 retail grocery stores. Products include: Kellogg's Frosted Mini-Wheats, Kellogg's Club crackers and Town House crackers, CORE Hydration (six-pack), select Bai Antioxidant infusion (six-pack), and evian Natural Spring Water (six-pack). The products are part of Hy-Vee's One Step program, which helps provide food to those in need. There is no limit to the number of product purchases per customer. "Kellogg is proud to be a part of this meaningful program," said Oli Morton, Kellogg Company chief customer officer. "As a company with a heart and soul, our mission is to nourish families so they can flourish and thrive. We hope that together with Hy-Vee, Keurig Dr Pepper and others, we can reach our shared goal of ensuring more meals reach children facing hunger in these communities." "Hy-Vee has been a valued partner of Keurig Dr Pepper for many years, and we are proud to participate in their campaign with Kellogg and Feeding America to help deliver meals within our local communities, especially during the critical summer months when school is out and more families and children are in need," said Andrew Archambault, chief customer officer at Keurig Dr Pepper. "More than 11 million children face hunger in America and this number could escalate to 18 million as a result of the pandemic," said Lauren Biedron, Feeding America Vice President of Corporate Partnerships. "When children are struggling with hunger, their families are too. We are thankful to Hy-Vee, Kellogg and Keurig Dr Pepper for helping to provide meals for children and families who need them most. We encourage everyone to help their neighbors in need through the End Summer Hunger campaign."

BOOK NOOK

Book drought is over



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

During the total shutdown of the Blooming Prairie Branch Library in March and April, the library did not receive any new books. When we were able to partially open for curbside delivery, we expected the ordered books to arrive. That didn't happen; weeks passed and no new books were received. Well, our book drought ended this week. In one day we received 19 boxes of books! The staff (Laura and I) are busy getting the books cataloged, stamped, entered in the computer, labeled, and covered so that they are ready to be checked out. That means that if you requested a book, you can hope to get a phone call soon. Fair warning: some of the books have a lot of people waiting for them. Call us if you wonder where you are on the list. We have plenty of books to share with you - order online or give us a call!

COLLEGE NEWS

Medford student achieves Dean's List

India Elizabeth Enter of Medford has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the spring 2020 semester. Enter, a junior music major, was named to the Dean's List for the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. She was one of nearly 7,500 students named to the top group.

A pair of BP students on Mankato's honors list

Two Blooming Prairie area students have been named to the Dean's Lists for spring semester 2020 at Minnesota State University Mankato. They are McKenna Hein and Ayren Ingvallson. Both earned spots on the honor's list. There were 2,805 students that earned a 3.5 to 3.99 GPA to qualify for the honor list. To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

Hamline honors 2 Owatonna students for academics

A pair of students from Owatonna has been named to the Dean's List for spring 2020 semester at Hamline University in St. Paul. They are Ibrahim Abdullahi and Jalisa Mathews Schmidt. They are undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts. Students who achieved this honor held a 3.5 GPA or higher while maintaining a full course load.

TOM SHEA: FROM A2

I will maintain my current status as a retired, former elected official with a better than average golf handicap. **Tom Shea is a former Steele County Commissioner and served as the county administrator for several years. He is running against Rep. John Petersburg for District 24A, which encompasses Steele and Waseca counties. He lives in Owatonna. He may be reached at TomShea24a.com, Box 187, Owatonna, MN 5600, TomShea24a@gmail.com or 507-451-9716. He also has a website at TomShea24a.com.**



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Recipe Corner

Zucchini-Pineapple Bread

3 eggs
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup oil
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 tablespoons vanilla
2 tablespoons cinnamon
2 cups zucchini, grated & drained
1 5-oz can crushed pineapple, drained
2 cups flour (may need to add another 1/2 C)
1/2 cups raisins
1 cups walnuts (optional)

Mix in order given. Makes 2 large or 3 small loaves. Bake approximately 1 hour at 325 degrees.

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It's not Easter, but it is!



Pastor Paul Hauschild
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAYFIELD

Trinity Lutheran in Hayfield held an outdoor worship service on June 21, with masks on and social distances kept. It felt like summer under the shaded trees in the park but, for us that morning, it was Easter! Yes, we had an Easter service well past the posted date of the holiday. But the thing is, it's more than a holiday. It's more than

a date on the calendar. Easter is a lifestyle. A lifestyle of hope! Jesus asked Martha (the sister of Lazarus who had recently died): **"DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?"** This was and is today a key question about our faith. Martha and Mary were grieving heavily at the death of their brother. There is nothing wrong with grieving; we all must

go through it in life. But the question Jesus asked in John 11:25-26 had to do with the level of their foundation of HOPE. The question was based on this statement: **"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."** It is true that our

hearts will ache many times when we lose loved ones, or when we go through horrible circumstances. But Jesus wants us to remember EASTER. There's hope in eternal life for the future... but also experiencing God's kingdom on earth now can be enough to support us when we feel weak. Tomorrow morning when you wake up,

proclaim to yourself: He is Risen, He is Risen! Indeed! Claim your identity as a child of God who will live in hope this day. When we believe that Jesus is the present resurrection and life, our response to any circumstance will be hopeful. We are not worldly people. We are Easter People. And this changes everything!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6328 SW 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Men's Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church: 9 a.m. and Confirmation: 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Senior Pastor: Rev. Heidi Hemgartner
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Walzerius
507-583-6621
firslutheranpb.com
Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN - LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN - LCMC
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Gröbel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Kruemerk
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Mass: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
2781 SW 62nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tcowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor: Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Opregal
Worship: 5 p.m. Saturday: 8:15 a.m.,
9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School:
8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN - LCMC
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Bieghausen
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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

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

ZION LUTHERAN - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

CHRISTIAN

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

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-4353
Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 4th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.org
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month
Litomysl Summer Festival has been
cancelled for 2020

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
1501 Second St., Hayfield
Father John Wilmut
507-477-2256
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sam, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m., 8:10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m.
First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna

Father James Starasinick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
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CECILEE CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cecileecreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across the
freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford (Seven
miles west of Medford on CR 21)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

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

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

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valleyviewofowatonna.com

Family makes its own Fourth celebration

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Many communities throughout the country either canceled Fourth of July celebrations, or put together a replacement tribute to our nation's patriotic observance.

"There's no Fourth of July celebration in Blooming Prairie this year, so we made our own," remarked Gary Lofthus of Alabaster, Ala. He is the brother of Mary Wacek of Blooming Prairie.

The Lofthus family makes it a routine every year to come visit family in Blooming Prairie and enjoy the community's Fourth of July bash.

Even without a giant-sized Fourth of July celebration, the Lofthus family still wanted to come and celebrate with the Tim and Mary Wacek family.

The celebration for the Lofthus-Wacek families began at the Wacek residence, which features a large above-ground swimming pool. Many of the family members hung out at the Wacek pool during the long Fourth of July observance.

Learning of the Lofthus visit to Blooming Prairie, Denise and Doug Kvell thought it would be fun to do an old-fashioned hay ride. Doug was the tractor driver, piloting a John Deere 2440.

The hay rack was jammed with 27 riders. The ride continued around town for about an hour, Denise said. "People came out to observe and to wave," she added.

Music was provided on the hay rack, too. Evan Riley Lofthus, a cute, little 7-year-old blonde sang some Patsy Cline songs.

"I thought it was a recording," said one parade watcher. "She loves to sing," said Heather and Gary Lofthus.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Evan Riley Lofthus, 7, of Alabaster, was entertaining her fellow hayride participants as they traveled Blooming Prairie streets on Thursday night. She sang some Patsy Cline songs. Her family came to BP to create their own Fourth of July fun.

Gary and Heather's four children, Ben, Matthew, Patrick and Melanie, were in attendance for the special Fourth of July observance in Blooming Prairie.

Five grandchildren were also enjoying Blooming Prairie hospitality. They were Alaina, 7; Madelyn, 5; Dylan, 9; Evan Riley, 7 and Isaac, 3.

The Wacek and Lofthus families played kick ball, bocce ball, lawn games and swam and hot tubbed at their leisure.

Not having a shortage of games, the family members also played candy bar bingo and participated in a frozen t-shirt contest.

The adults had a fun time doing the marshmallow toss. The women threw marshmallows at their husbands who were supposed to catch them in their mouths. If they did not catch the marshmallow, the third toss was an egg. Oops! Also visiting the Waceks were mother and son, Lois Gordon of New London, Minn. and Kent Gordon of London, England.

No celebration on the Fourth is complete without a birthday. Greg Pursa turned 60 on July 4.

THIRD GENERATION FARM OPERATION THE JOHNSONS

Chad Johnson not only farms the land, but he also helps other farmers maximize their harvests every year.

The Johnsons raise corn and soybeans as well as turkeys for Jennie-O. And as if farming isn't enough to keep Chad busy, he also operates a chemical, seed and fertilizer dealership for Titan Pro.

Chad keeps busy with his dealership as well as the farm, which is now in its third generation.

Joining Chad with his farm operation are his fiancée, Allison, and three children: Kendall, 17, Aubri, 14 and Brixton, 6. "The entire family works on the farm," Chad said.

The Johnson farm is located south of Ellendale on the Steele and Freeborn county line.

"Farming is very unique," says Chad. "Watching a years hard work hopefully pays off every harvest."

Chad says he went into farming for one important reason. "I enjoy taking care of crops or livestock for the growing season and making changes to do better next year," he said.

Asked what the greatest joy he gets out of farming, Chad responds, "Being my own boss and in farming you have several job titles throughout the year."

Chad may be reached for his Titan Pro dealership at 507-391-2757. He pointed out he has a diverse seed line up and chemical programs to help farmers realize their greatest potential for harvest.



The Johnson farm family operation includes, from left clockwise: Allison, Brixton, 6, (being held by Chad), Chad Johnson, Kendall, 17, and Aubri, 14.

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Faith guides Leandra Anderson's life

She takes over as new pastor at Red Oak

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Who is the new Lutheran pastor in town? It's someone who was raised as a Southern Baptist and someone who was a competitive clog dancer for 15 years.

This newcomer, who has been called to serve the Red Oak Grove Church congregation, is Leandra Anderson. She preached at her first church service last Sunday during an outdoor setting.

She says her Christian faith guides her daily life's decisions. "Everything comes back to my faith in Jesus Christ," remarked Anderson.

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, located seven miles south of



Leandra Anderson, husband Jesse and their two small dogs, Willow and Salem, now reside in the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church parsonage. Leandra began her pastoral duties on July 1.

Blooming Prairie, is Anderson's first church.

Not afraid to show her excitement about the call to Red Oak Grove, Anderson said she sent a profile to Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

"Red Oak Grove seemed like a ministry site where I could work with kids and also stay involved with a rural congregation," Anderson remarked. "The spirit was working," she added.

"I was told that Red Oak was an extremely loving congregation," Anderson said. "I have already found that to be true."

"Red Oak congregation members have been super helpful and kind, helping us fix a dryer in the parsonage," she said.

The soon-to-be Red Oak pastor, her husband Jesse and their two small dogs arrived at the Red Oak parsonage in late June. Willow is a pug mix and Salem is a chihuahua-wiener dog mix. Both are rescue dogs.

Anderson was raised in Wilkesboro, N.C. on a family farm. Her brother, Nathaniel Staley, is rebuilding the farm, which is home to his wife and two children.

"He has the farmer gene," she smiles. Anderson's parents are Danny and Becky Staley, with residence in North Carolina. Her mother, now retired, was a special education teacher for 31 years. Her father was director of public health for

SEE FAITH GUIDES, B2



Carissa Nappin, left, Carol Pirk and Phil Ramsey take a break while spray painting a LGBTQ pride flag on the side of the garage of Carol's mother on July 1 in Blooming Prairie. A flag pole was stolen from the residence earlier in the day.

A symbol of pride

Woman fights back after flag stolen

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It didn't take long for anger to set in for a Blooming Prairie woman after she witnessed her pride flag being stolen during the early morning hours of July 1. But she quickly turned that anger into something more meaningful to her in an effort to ease the pain.

Just hours after the flag was stolen, Carol Pirk, along with other family members and friends, made an even bolder statement by painting the entire side of her mother's garage with the rainbow flag, which features a red stripe on top as it would be in a natural rainbow.

"I plan to use it as a way to speak up and

speak out," said Pirk, who graduated from Blooming Prairie in 2016 and identifies herself as being asexual.

Pirk was at her mother Anne Pirk's residence in the 500 block of Center Ave. N. when she heard "the ominous sounds of someone running away and a car taking off" around 12:30 a.m. July 1. When she went outside to investigate, she discovered her LGBTQ pride flag had been ripped off the pole and taken. LGBTQ pride flag is a symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer social movements.

She called Blooming Prairie Police, which responded to the scene to investigate the theft. However, Pirk did not



After someone ripped a pride flag out of the holder on Anne Pirk's house in Blooming Prairie last week, the family responded by spray painting a pride flag on the side of their garage in the 500 block of Center Avenue.

see anyone or get any vehicle description, leaving police with very little they could do.

This is the second time in about a year that a pride flag has disappeared from

Pirk's residence. It also happened last summer, but Pirk wasn't certain if it had been taken because it came up missing

SEE A SYMBOL OF PRIDE, B2

Interim director named at Family Unity

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After serving on the board for two years, Jim Barnes has stepped up to fill the role of interim director for the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity in Owatonna.

The vacancy recently was created with the departure of Annette Duncan, who served as director. She accepted a new position with the United Way of Steele County beginning June 1.

The board had hired a new permanent director to replace Duncan, but it did not work out, according to Barnes. At that point, Barnes



Jim Barnes

stepped up to take over the temporary position and began in the role on June 28. The board plans to continue searching for a permanent director.

"I like what the organization does for the community," said Barnes. "I'm always big on education and giving

SEE INTERIM DIRECTOR, B2

Cloth masks prevent COVID spread



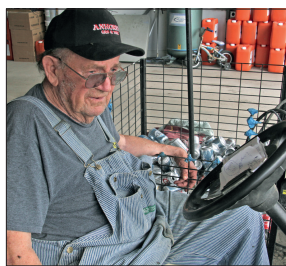
Steele Talkin' ANDREA MARSHALL

With so much talk about COVID-19, what do the experts recommend as the best ways to reduce the spread? As scientists and medical professionals continue to learn more about the spread of COVID-19, social/physical distancing and the use of cloth face masks for the general public has become two of our most effective

practices to slow the spread of illness.

Current research indicates that if most people wore cloth face masks, we could significantly lessen the likelihood of spreading the virus. Wearing a mask is most beneficial when social distancing of at least 6 feet is difficult. Keep in mind that wearing a mask is one of several practices that the general public can do to help protect themselves and others. Layering these protective practices—social distancing, good hand washing, staying home when sick, working from home, avoiding large indoor gathering, and wearing a mask

SEE CLOTH MASKS, B2



Jim Spinler, who became known as Medford's Can Man, died June 8 in Rochester. He was 78.

Spinler became known as Medford's pop tab king

For decades, he became known as Medford's pop tab king collecting aluminum cans and cashing them in to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

On June 8, Jim Spinler died in Rochester. He was 78.

In June 2019, Spinler turned in a collection of an estimated 3.5

million pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. His gift was the single largest tab donation to be ever received by the Rochester chapter.

Spinler's idea to utilize the House for his donation came 30 years ago when a friend of his had a boy who stayed there. Spinler decided

at that time he wanted to donate his collection to the house as a way to help other families in need.

"I thank the Lord my kids never had to be in the hospital or have to stay there," he said after last year's donation.

Throughout his effort to collect pop tabs,

Spinler advocated for others to help important causes. "Everybody should do some kind of charity work. I'm glad I could do it so that I could help somebody else out," he said.

Spinler was a retired garbage hauler in Medford.

A full obituary can be found on page A8.

Spindlers chosen as Farm Family of the Year

The Spindler family of Owatonna has been named Steele County's "2020 Farm Family of the Year" by University of Minnesota Extension.

Families are selected as the Farm Family of the Year by their local county selection committee for demonstrating commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture and agricultural production.

Eugene and Marian Spindler purchased

their farm in April 1955, were married in June and moved onto the farm in November all in that same year. Their family consisted of six children, three boys and three girls. Over the years, they raised dairy, dairy steers, swine, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and rabbits on the farm. As family members moved on, the farming operation changed, as each family member had an

enterprise growing up and worked with each other as needed.

Currently, the farming operation is dairy and dairy beef. Eugene and Marian's son, Dale, manages the farm with a full-time hired man and part-time help for milking and baling hay. They milk 44 cows in a tie stall barn, raising all the calves. They have heifers for replacement or possibly selling as spring

heifers and finish out bull calves as steers. They produce corn, oats, and hay on their 160-acre farm with most of the crops going for animal feed.

Dale is responsible for most of the milking, caring for calves, and working the ground. He plants the crops, cuts hay, chops feed, and works to coordinate tasks with the hired man, Kyle, who serves as the mechan-

ic, mixes TMR, watches over silos, breeds cows, and oversees the older young stock.

Eugene and Marian have retired but still reside on the farm. They both manage to stay plenty busy. Eugene's chief interest is the raised garden and other gardens on the property. He works with canning pickles and helps with problem solving on machinery and crops. Marian is

active in household and gardening tasks, cooking, cleaning and weeding the gardens.

The farm actively supports dairy production agriculture. Dale is an active member of the Steele County American Dairy Association Board. He oversees the malt stand for the board. This duty comes with many responsibilities

SEE SPINDLERS CHOSEN, B5

A SYMBOL OF PRIDE: FROM B1

during the middle of a storm. After last week's incident, she is convinced she is being targeted by someone and believes it may be a hate crime against her.

"I feel it's direct discrimination of two communities at war: the Blooming Prairie community where I was born and raised and the LGBTQ communities where I have found myself being welcomed by after leaving Blooming Prairie," Pirkl said. "We didn't want to believe that our community would be capable of this aggression and malicious behavior. It's unacceptable by law to vandalize my symbol of pride."

Police Chief Greg Skillestad said it's possible this incident could be considered a hate crime, but that can't be determined for sure without knowing a motive behind it. "We would need to know why they stole it," he said, noting his department has no suspects and no leads to investigate. He added there have been no other similar incidents reported in town.

The flag itself is only worth about \$15. But Pirkl says the cost has nothing to do with what took place.

She is convinced it is a hate crime. The pride flag, Pirkl said, was flying next to two other flags—the American and the State of Minnesota flags. The pride flag

was the only one taken during the incident.

"There is no doubt it was purposely stolen and vandalized," she said.

"It doesn't surprise me that there are dissenters to LGBTQ, but it does surprise me that someone would make a move to steal the flag," Pirkl said.

For Pirkl, the flag is a way for her to identify with the LGBTQ community. "People were forced to keep who they were inside of them. A lot of people were trapped inside," she says. "Being able to wave that flag is a way to say I'm not stuck inside. I am proud of myself."

The flag had been flying in front of her mother's place for about a month prior to last week's theft. June is LGBT Pride Month, which is celebrated annually to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots and works to achieve equal justice and equal rights for LGBTQ Americans.

Pirkl said her mother is fearful for her dogs and safety of others at her residence. "For my mother, this is scary," she said. "Personally, I'm more angry than anything," she added.

But she's not angry enough to splash paint across her mother's garage in the form of a pride flag to send a strong message back to whoever did this and the greater community.

CLOTH MASKS: prevent COVID spread FROM B1

is the best way to do your part.

How and why do cloth face covering work? Cloth face coverings may prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading respiratory droplets when talking, sneezing, or coughing. If everyone wears a cloth face covering when out in public, such as going to the grocery store, the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 can be reduced for the community. Since people may spread the virus before symptoms start, or even if people never have symptoms, wearing a cloth face covering may protect others around you.

Face coverings worn by others may protect you from getting the virus from people carrying the virus.

Cloth face coverings are recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air. This is called source control.

This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows cloth face coverings reduce the

spread of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of cloth face coverings is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Who should wear a face covering? The CDC recommends all people 2 years of age and older wear a cloth face covering in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to do.

COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected. That's why it's important everyone to wear cloth face coverings in public settings and practice social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from other people).

Cloth face coverings are strongly encouraged to reduce the spread of COVID-19. CDC recognizes there are specific reasons to wear a cloth face covering may not be feasible.

Who should not? Cloth face coverings

should not be worn by:

- Children younger than 2 years old

- Anyone who has trouble breathing

- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

- There are other situations and conditions in which it may not be feasible to wear a mask and CDC recognizes that wearing cloth face coverings may not be possible in every situation or for some people. In some situations, wearing a cloth face covering may exacerbate a physical or mental health condition, lead to a medical emergency, or introduce significant safety concerns. Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading if it is not possible to wear one.

What about surgical masks? Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or respirators. These should continue to be reserved for health care workers. What are some general considerations for the use of cloth face coverings? When using a cloth face covering, make sure:

the mouth and nose are fully covered; the covering fits snugly against the sides of the face so there are no gaps; you do not have any difficulty breathing while wearing the cloth face covering; the cloth face covering can be tied or otherwise secured to prevent slipping and wash your cloth face covering after each use in the washing machine or by hand using a bleach solution. Allow it to completely dry.

Where can I get a mask? Several small local retailers offer masks for purchase. Please consider purchasing them locally. Masks can also be purchased through some larger retailers and on-line. If you need a mask, the United Way of Steele County has masks free of charge, please call 507-455-1180 or email unitypresent@unitywaysteelecounty.org and a mask and care kit will be delivered to you. Stay safe and healthy! We are all in this together!

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

Sunnarborg elected to 761 Foundation Board



The 761 Foundation Board of Owatonna recently elected Melanie Sunnarborg to serve a three-year term on its board of directors.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that administers scholarships and funds educational opportunities and programs in Steele County not usually supported by tax dollars.

Sunnarborg is a 2007 graduate of Owatonna High School and a 2011 graduate of Winona State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in mass communication. She is currently a commercial underwriter at Federated Insurance.

Sunnarborg and her husband, Joe, are residents of Owatonna and have been involved in many community organizations. They have two children who are eager to join the Owatonna Public Schools.

Other 761 Foundation Board members include Bruce Paulson, Jan Mittelschmitt, Tippet, Mary Larson, Greg Stroik, Mark Dietz, Samona Grubish, Paul Knutson, Mark Sebring, George Dow, Charlie Herrmann, Barbara Judd, Sara McKay and Lucas Arndt.

The Independent School District 761 Foundation has awarded nearly \$3.5 million for programs and scholarships since its inception. Its goal has been, and still is, to provide resources for programs not funded by tax dollars and to provide for post-secondary scholarships.

More information about the Foundation and its grants and programs may be found at 761foundation.com or by calling 507-444-8610.

INTERIM DIRECTOR: FROM B1

back. This fills two of my major needs.

The organization educates and supports families and communities in the prevention of child abuse. The center also provides supervised visitation for children going through custody situations between parents.

Family Unity has been restructured recently and is currently staffed with three other positions, including a full-time parent mentor coordinator, a part-time training coordinator

and a part-time supervised visitation coordinator.

During the transition, the roles of the current staff members have been expanded, Barnes said. "Everyone got more responsibility, and they are happy with that. They can continue doing their great work," he added.

The director's job is no longer servicing families as Duncan did before leaving. In the newly revamped role in director, Barnes will be largely responsible for admin-

istration, grant writing, budgets and creating policy. He will be working about 18 hours per week.

Barnes said he may be interested in the position on a permanent basis. "I am a big proponent of the organization," he said.

As part of its services, the center offers a parent mentor program, which provides in-home services for families at risk of child abuse and neglect. Barnes noted they are currently in search of parent mentor volunteers. Anyone interested can email their interest to forfamilyunitymn.com.

Barnes moved to Owatonna in 1999. He has worked in various jobs around the area, most recently with McNellis in Dodge Center. His contractor position with McNellis ended when COVID-19 hit. He is also a travel agent planner.

He has a background in accounting and business administration finance from the University of Wisconsin at Superior. He also has an education degree from Winona State University.

Family Unity's board is currently made up of 11 board members.

FAITH GUIDES: FROM B1

the state of North Carolina. He currently works for a non-profit attached to the Center for Disease Control.

As a 10-year-old, Pastor Leandra switched from Southern Baptist to the Lutheran faith. This was a decision made by her parents. Anderson was baptized in the Baptist faith at age 9.

She graduated from West Wilkes High School in North Carolina in 2012. She then attended Furman University in Greenville, S.C., graduating with a BA degree in religious education in 2016.

Her next step was to attend the Lutheran

Theological Seminary of Gettysburg. It merged with a seminary in Philadelphia and became United Lutheran Seminary. That's where she met her husband, Jesse. They were married in 2017.

Jesse is a graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He majored in philosophy and minored in creative writing. He is a freelance private tutor.

While at seminary, Anderson interned for a year in Naples, Fla. "The year in Naples was a learning experience for me because the congregation size fluctuated

from 800 members in the winter to 150 members on a regular basis," she says.

She graduated with her Masters of Divinity in 2020. Anderson interviewed twice with the Red Oak Grove call committee, via zoom. The call committee voted unanimously on May 17 to call Anderson to serve Red Oak Grove.

Her early goals as pastor at Red Oak "are to connect with members to find out their hopes for the future of Red Oak Grove and how I can best accompany them to get there," she says.

She will be ordained as Pastor Leandra on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. Her installation

likely be that same day. She said her parents are planning to bring their RV from North Carolina to Blooming Prairie.

"Hopefully, we can set up zoom for my friends to watch the ordination on zoom," said Anderson.

"It will be an exciting day," she believes.

Anderson loves playing the acoustic guitar and the mountain dulcimer, a four-string instrument. She also competed 15 years as a clog dancer. Chuckling, she says she can still do it.

She is a painter, creating projects with acrylic and water colors. Anderson also likes to read, choosing fiction as her likes.



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JULY 10 10 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building
JULY 13 10 a.m. - SEMCAC, Community Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JULY 11 7 a.m. - Farmers Market, Central Park
JULY 13 4:30 p.m. - Owatonna Park & Rec Board Meeting
JULY 14 9:30 a.m. - Garden Time, Owatonna Library

BIRTHDAYS
July 8 Tim Amberg, July 9 Liz Heiber, July 10 Skylar Coughlin, July 11 Elle Master, July 12 Amanda Hocking, July 13 Sandy Dallman, July 14 Josh Walerius, July 15 Heidi Helmgartner

ANNIVERSARIES
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1 8 7 9 1 2 6 9 5
1 6 9 5 8 7 1 9 2
5 9 2 9 1 6 8 7 1



Reflections HOWARD LESTRUD

His year marks the 150th anniversary of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. History was made on Sunday, July 5 when worshippers drove into the First Lutheran parking lot for a Sunday service.

A historic worship service at First Lutheran

Visitation pastor Richard Hegal was recognized for his 50th anniversary of his ordination. The car horns began to blare!



Pastor Heidi Helmgartner of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie, tours the church parking lot during a drive-in worship service on Sunday, July 5.

Pastor Heidi and Pastor Mike performed the worship service in front of a wooden cross that is typically on the altar inside the church.

"What will we do with our freedoms?" Pastor Heidi asked. "We are not only saved from sin but also saved from our weariness," she said.



First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie had its first-ever drive-in worship service on Sunday, July 5. The service also featured communion. Church members were asked to bring their own elements. Here, Carol Kirkebon displays her juice and bread chosen for the service.

AAUW picks scholarship winners

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Owatonna proudly announces its 2020 scholarship recipients.

AAUW Owatonna Scholarship. Lenz is pursuing a degree in biochemistry with minors in environmental sustainability as well as theology.

Kendra Donkers and Amny Puello were each awarded the \$800 Riverland AAUW Owatonna Scholarship.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

LIFE Mower County cancels programming through end of August

LIFE Mower County has announced some changes with its programming due to the COVID-19 crisis. The organization is following the news very closely and taking every precaution to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Following the recommendations from the State of Minnesota around social distancing, and with an abundance of caution and concern for our entire community LIFE is canceling all in-person activities through Monday, Aug. 31.

will not be any in-town or out-of-town trips in July or August.

Mower County Special Olympics - All Special Olympics practices and tournaments have been canceled until further notice.

Our Place Recreation Center - All regular in-person activities have been canceled until Aug. 31.

Self Advocacy - People First Aktion Club and Self-Advocates Minnesota will continue virtually through the end of August.

will affect this vacation. All registered participants will be notified immediately if anything changes.

Virtual Programs - Will continue through the end of August. Virtual program information can be found on LIFE's website.

These changes are precautionary and are not due to any known exposure to COVID-19 in our building. The health, safety, and well-being of our community remain the No. 1 priority.

LIFE's lobby opened beginning on Monday, July 6, but any access to offices, bathrooms and the rest of the building will be restricted.

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Monday - Friday • 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday • 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday • Closed
Thank you for your patronage.

Chateau Speedway finally gets underway

BY MATTHEW GRAGE
RACING CORRESPONDENT

Delayed by two months the 2020 racing season finally took the green flag Friday Night at Chateau Speedway in Lansing.

A great crowd and a solid field of 104 cars kicked off the Fourth of July Weekend with an exciting seven class field of cars tearing up the one-third mile oval as the track kicked off its 64th anniversary season.

Several improvements greeted fans not the least of which was a brand new deck

featuring 10 new season rental decks. Fans also saw all the new paint spread around the facility and the new siding on the beer stand and pit concession stand as well as the ticket booth. The revamped bleachers that sat where the new deck was were moved down closer to the action and featured access from both the front and back. A wheel chair deck in front of the main tower was added as well with increased handicap parking spots nearer the ticket windows. Some new

fencing and many other repairs were noticeable throughout the grounds as owner Mark Wytaske, his crew, and many volunteers put a lot of time and work in during the extended off season.

Leading the way with 20 car fields were the Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds and the Kruckeberg Services WISSOTA Hornets.

In The USRA B Mod Class, Kadden Kath of Owatonna, a three-time track champion,



Kadden Kath of Owatonna earned the top spot in the USRA B Mod Feature division Friday night at the Chateau Speedway in Lansing. It was the first racing of the season as COVID-19 delayed the start by a couple months.



Congrats, Huskies H

The following students achieved outstanding academic

A HONOR ROLL

Grade 9

- Haley Abrahams
- Kaitlyn Ackerman
- Teagan Ahrens
- Brianna Amitt
- Aspen Aschman
- Cassidy Baedke
- Lauren Bangs
- Isabella Barrie
- Abigail Beaver
- Nicole Behne
- Alexandria Bentley
- Victoria Bentley
- Katelyn Bentz
- Riddhi Bhakta
- Aaron Bissonet
- Andrew Bong
- Layla Borchert
- Kalina Boubin
- Kaitlin Brussel
- Pedro Bueno Trentin
- Blake Burmeister
- Garrett Buryka
- Taylor Busho
- Kinzie Carlson
- Gavin Caron
- Jonathan Clubb
- Brianna Dawley
- Laura Deml
- Mckenna DuFrene
- Elen Eckert
- Ava Eittrheim
- Mikah Elstad
- Aiden Engel
- Sevy Enter
- Kaylie Esquivel
- Kaelyn Frear-Boerner
- Nilis Gantert
- Klara Gentz
- Justin Gleason
- Patton Glynn
- Alexis Haggerty
- Kassidy Hart
- Kate Havelka
- Ella Hayes
- Calli Hedlund
- Joseph Hellerud
- Jocie Hendricks
- Ella Heyne
- Trevor Hiatt
- Lily Highfield
- Ashley Holm
- Emily Jacobs
- Riley Kalbach
- Isabella Katuin
- Alyssa Klefer
- Haley Kjersten
- Derek Kiecker
- Emmie Krause
- Drew Kretlow
- Callie Kreutter
- Eminette Krueger
- Natalie Krumholz
- Brooke Kunkel
- Jonathan LaDuke
- Braden Leonard
- Samantha Liebl
- Chase Martin
- Mikayla McCurrain

- Liam Melgaard
- Emilee Moffett
- Annika Moran
- Jedidiah Munch
- Emma Myer
- Haley Nelson
- Kalli Nelson
- Josaphine Nguyen
- Lileigh Nguyen
- Maxum Nguyen
- Dezmond Nichols
- Grace Niik
- Logan Norrid
- Ezra Oien
- Brianna Pastika
- Angana Patel
- Chiyenne Petersen
- Paraleez Peterson
- Ryan Peterson
- Cole Piepho
- Macleaen Pilcher
- Rohit Poduval
- Makylee Prokopoc
- Rebekah Ranstow
- Tatum Rau
- Coda Richardson
- Dawson Risser
- Milana Risser
- Cael Robb
- Korah Rocha
- Elizabeth Roensner
- Jack Ruiter
- Karim Sackett
- Caleb Schlie
- Emily Schmidt
- Anton Schroeder
- Beckett Seykora
- Savannah Shermo
- Amelia Shives
- Madelyn Simon
- Andrew Skov
- David Smith
- Lainey Smith
- Sarah Snitker
- Macy Stanton
- Jillian Stauffer
- Makayla Stenzel
- Carter Strawmatt
- Ty Svenby
- Ethan Tolman
- Charles Tucker
- Natalie Vesterby
- Abby Vetsch
- Collin Vick
- Riley Vieths
- Gabriella Voltz
- Ayden Walter
- Allison Wasielecki
- Kaitlyn Wasielecki
- Lauren Waypa
- Hannah Wright
- Anna Youngquist

Grade 10

- Avery Ahrens
- Zoe Anderson
- Addison Andrix
- Jenna Bauman
- Alexander Beadell
- Elijah Bissonette
- Ethan Boerner

- Damian Boubin
- Adelaide Broughten
- Holly Buytert
- Julia Christenson
- Jacob DeHaan
- Naval Dierrie
- Abigale Dirks
- Mackenzie Donahue
- Cael Dowling
- Branden Drever
- Mirrah Eichten
- Fardouza Farah
- Samera Fearn
- Estela Fernandez
- Evan Fosness
- Ryan Gander
- Connor Ginskey
- Brody Ginter
- Elizabeth Granowski
- Max Guenther
- Hillary Haarstad
- Jack Helget
- Jackson Hennann
- Olivia Herzog
- Ava Hess
- Claire Heyne
- Alexis Highfield
- Brienne Hinchley
- Noah Hodgman
- Ethan Hoffman
- Anna Holcomb
- Alex Huemoeller
- Audrey Hylle
- Maria Ilgayte
- Grace Jacobs
- Landen Johnson
- Dakota Kath
- Preston Katzung
- Aaron Kess
- Kyvia Kinkenber
- Eli Knutson
- Jaden Knutson
- Madeline Koslosky
- Noah Kubicek
- Samuel Lange
- Hannah Lantsberger
- Anna Leckner
- Onyka Lopez
- Emma Maeyaert
- Cassandra Maine
- Bailey Manderfeld
- Emelia Marks
- Alyssa McGinn
- Jasmine Medina
- Prestine Meier
- Dylan Meiners
- Haley Meiners
- Jack Meiners
- Makayla Mendez
- Leif Michaelson
- Celina Mims
- Madison Moen
- Khalid Mohamed
- Maria Mollenhauer
- Tyler Mollenhauer
- Janessa Moore
- Sophia Muir
- Zachary Nechanicky
- Lexi Nelson
- Lydia Nelson
- Joshua Neuman

- Walker Nielsen
- Moriah Noeldner
- Zara Ogle
- Emerson Omani
- Daniela Ortiz
- Katelynn Paape
- Aiden Packard
- Evan Parker
- Jessica Parsons
- Lainie Rahn
- Ivan Rodriguez-Sanchez
- Dylan Roush
- Catherine Sager
- Ashley Schlauderatf
- Jacob Seykora
- Kate Seykora
- Olivia Shaw
- Arianna Shornock
- Audrey Simon
- Alexandra Smith
- Camryn Smith
- Liam Smith
- Savannah Smith
- Logan Spaar
- Eli Spurgeon
- Reid Stauffer
- Cayanna Stoltz
- Andrea Storm
- Aiden Stowe
- Cade Strawmatt
- Lauren Thiamert
- Cassandra Thiul
- Annie Thurnau
- Kaven Torabpour
- Sydney Urbaniak
- Anora Vang
- Caleb Vereide
- Madison Voracek
- Gavin Walerius
- Susan Walker
- Scott Weckman
- Leah Welker
- Jacob Wieman
- Annika Wiese
- Madeline Wilker
- Nicholas Williams
- Ava Wolfe
- Emma Wolff
- Luke Wottreng
- Elizabeth Wunderlich
- Max Zirnigle

Grade 11

- Hudson Aase
- Gabriel Adams
- Alexis Akemann
- Asad Ali
- Igra Ali
- Emma Anderson
- Isabella Anderson
- Annika Andrix
- Brianna Bailey
- Lindsay Bangs
- Cora Barrett
- Lauryn Bateman
- Chloe Beede
- Jenna Bergeron
- Joseph Betti
- Alix Bettin
- Klara Blacker
- Lauren Borgerding

- Jocelyn Brooks
- Annika Brown
- Madelin Brussel
- Evan Buck
- Samuel Buegler
- Nolan Burmeister
- Emily Christjansen
- Tyler Cobban
- Megan Copeland
- Katie Cottingham
- Abby Crandall
- Garet Dahlen
- Emma Dahmert
- Emma deBruin
- Julia Dietz
- Sky Dube
- Emilia Ediel
- Elise Egbert
- Emily Engebetson
- Brody Erola
- Elizabeth Fisher
- Hailey Fox
- Laura Gebur
- Alexis Gleason
- Tristan Groh
- Emily Hagen
- Oliver Hansen
- Faith Hanson
- Elizabeth Harber
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- Caden Hedlund
- Anna Herzog
- Sean Heselton
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- Zachary Liebl
- Grace Linders
- Evan Little
- Maxwell Liverseed
- Sabella Maas
- Lucy Marcus
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- Hunter Meehan

- Jacob Meiners
- Talus Meyer
- Muna Mohamed
- Evan Moore
- Abbigail Moran
- Haylee Mullenbach
- Abigail Munns
- Dominic Nelson
- Kaden Nelson
- Maggie Newhouse
- Brianna O'Connor
- Hailee Olson
- Jonathan Perez
- John Pfeifer
- Lauren Phelps
- Arian Piepho
- Mason Piepho
- Nicholas Pilcher
- Calbey Podein
- Maya Ratzloff
- Frija Reinert
- Wendell Relacion
- Alexis Ringhofer
- Danielle Robertson
- Aidan Ruiz
- Hailey Rysavy
- Brittany Sackett
- Lily Samppson
- Alexis Sanderson
- Sara Sangare
- Mason Saufferer
- Isabella Schroeder
- Caleb Schuler
- Maya Schultz
- Jetcher Schultz
- Alivia Schuster
- Lanie Schuster
- Matthew Seykora
- Alexis Smith
- Cheryl Smith
- Grace Smith
- Nathan Smith
- Samuel Snitker
- Blake Sommers
- Jenna Spatenika
- Abe Stockwell
- Ella Stockwell
- Zacharia Stransky
- Nora Thompson
- Jack Titchenal
- Gabriel Tratz
- Brayden Truelson
- Madilyn Trupe
- Calschia Vang
- Evelyn Vasquez
- Lane Versteeg
- Trace Walderson
- Jonathan Wall
- Abigail Webster
- Joby Werk
- Connor Whalen
- Morgan Writer
- Grace Wolfe
- Cade Woltman
- Angela Zaccaria

Grade 12

- Melinda Abernathy
- Alexis Allen
- Sara Anderson
- Marcus Andrist

- Jerz Autridge
- Camryn Bartz
- Rachel Benson
- Rebekkah Boubin
- Adrien Breuer
- Seith Brewer
- Joseph Bruggemeier
- Emma Burns
- Asia Buryka
- Brynn Butler
- Viviana Cantu Sanchez
- Dalies Carlson
- Victoria Cassen
- Carly Christenson
- Kyle Christenson
- Wyatt Clausen
- Julia Dallenbach
- Hunter Dallman
- McKinzie Davison
- Carson DeKam
- Brooke DeLaew
- Mikayla Dinse
- Colton Drache
- Liam Dublin
- Kala Elstad
- Ethan Engel
- Kaleb Enter
- Stephanie Esquivel
- Samantha Fredin
- Josef Friesen
- Landon Fumo
- Leo Gantert
- Logan Gauthier
- Isaac Gelfre
- Holly Gerdtz
- Angel Gonzalez
- Tyia Graupmann
- August Grubish
- Jackson Grunwald
- Mackenzie Haberman
- Lisabet Hanson
- Max Hanson
- MaKayla Hedberg
- Samuel Henson
- Ethan Hettling
- Isiah Hinrichs
- Lydia Hoffman
- Kallen Hoffmann
- Julia Holt
- Hailee Homeier
- Charly Jackson
- Zachary Jorpbak
- Brad Johnson
- Brendan Kath
- Annika Kilanowski
- Skyler Kopeczy-Johnson
- Evan Krueger
- Magdaly Krumholz
- Ryan Krumholz
- Alison Kubista
- Miles Kuhn
- Cole Larson
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CHATEAU SPEEDWAY: finally gets underway FROM B4

drew the pole and lead flag to flag for top honors on opening night. Meanwhile in the Hornet Division, Daniel Knish of Kilkenny started off the season with a pair of wins. After starting on the pole in his heat, Knish worked out of row three for his run to the front in the feature. Fans were particularly excited to see the return of the WIS-SOTA Super Stocks which are sponsored this season by Brauer Roofing. Car count was a bit down for their return but they put on a good show

for the fans with Dan Nissalke of Winona running away with the show as he took top honors in both the classes heat and feature events. A solid field of 18 Adams Graphix WIS-SOTA Street Stocks once again showed there skills as they spread out three wide as they raced for the first feature win of the season. Defending track champion Zach Edward of Hayfield picked up where he left off last year as he started off the 2020 season with his first. In French's Repair USRA A Mod action

it was a front row show at Feature time as Jason Cummins of New Richland and J.T. Wasmund of Pine Island led the field to the green and to the checkers. Some new faces were in the field for action for the Power 95 WIS-SOTA Pure Stocks but it was one of the familiar faces who showed the way. Coming off a season with seven feature wins last year, Brady Krohnberg of Walters started off the 2020 season with his first. Action Builders WISSOTA Midwest

Modifieds saw a four-time track champion at Chateau rise to the top of the list on opening night. Kyle Kath of Claremont joined the list of drivers who put on a good show working through the field. After starting in row four Kath picked his way to the front and out ran the classes three heat winners to the checkers. Next Friday is another special night for the kids. Kids Night will feature rides for the kids in the cars before the show and then multiple bicycles given away during intermission.

SPINDLERS CHOSEN: as Farm Family of the Year FROM B2

including clean up in spring, inspections for electrical, coordinating set up and take down at events, seeing that any maintenance to the stand gets done, coordinating with managers to order product, and managing the stand itself, if needed. The Spindlers will be recognized during a virtual, statewide recognition ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 6 at 1 p.m. "These farm families are a major driver of Minnesota's economy and the

vitality of Minnesota's rural communities," said Bev Durjan, Dean of the University of Minnesota Extension. "The University of Minnesota is proud to recognize these farm families for their contributions to agriculture and their communities." 2020 honoree profiles and additional information about the recognition events will soon be posted on the University's Farm Family website, www.mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu/.

Honor Roll Achievers!

honors at Owatonna High School for 2019-2020 school year.



- | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| Ashwini Manokar
Hunter Martin
Ransom Maslinski
Mariah Mason
Kathryn McDermott
Isabella Melgard
Brayden Bentley
Camryn Miller
Ian Moffett
Kayla Mollenhauer
Nicholas Mullenbach
Elyssa Munch
Austin Mundt
Bryce Murry
Benny Nguyen
Isaiah Noeldner
Isaac Oppgaard
Erica Pales
Collin Pederson
Ashley Peterson
Joshua Probstroff
Grace Randall
Benjamin Reiver
Logan Risch
Ethan Rohman
Katelyn Rysavy
Oscar Sanchez
Elise Sande
Rhianna Sarac
Tessa Schirmer
Chloe Schmidt
Abigail Schroeder
Nikolai Schue
Ethan Sellers
Kelsie Simon
Nicole Skalicky
Ava Sletten
Shannon Smith
Gavin Sommer
Jason Spatenka
Grace Spekers
Karingtan Stanford
Logan Steckelberg
Nicholas Steel
Brandon Steiger
Ethan Stockwell
Azalea Story
Kaitlyn Strusz
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Anna Vetsch
Tatum Walkingstick
Ethan Walter
Caleb Wanmarka
Morgan White
Matthew Williams
Grace Wright
Ellie Youngquist
Aleighya Zak
Jennifer Zeltso-Ramos
Jasmine Ziegenhagen
Madison Ziegler | Anisa Ali
Mahamed Ali
Angel Anderson
Ethan Anderson
Paige Anselmo
Henry Bell
Madison Berrier
Alexander Black
Mason Blum
Mariana Boelter
Katrina Butler
Alfonso Cantu
Anastasia Carreon-Sorensen
Devan Cavazos
Aidan Charles
Kaitlyn Cobban
Evan Cole
Taylor Concannon-Born
Diego Cruz Estrada
Audra Enger
Damon Erickson
Alexa Esplan
Amina Fakrudin
Sabriye Farah
Kali Finne
Trayton Fisher
Anna Fox
Caden Hanson
Alec Harris
Jenna Harris
Mya Heinz
Briley Higdon
Christina Hiller
Christopher Homuth
Makenna Hovey
Carter Johnson
Dawson Johnson
Jocelyn Johnson
Oscar Johnson
Carter Keck
Jonathan Kinneberg
Jason Klecker
Samuel Kleeberger
Lesionna Klemmensen
Owen Korbel
Skylar Krenzlok
Porter Kuchenbecker
Haley Larsen
Morgan Lien
Reagan Lindholm
Isaac Lorence
Makayla Mahiman
Jayna Martin
Rolando Maya Pimentel
Olivia McDermott
Ava McMains
Collin McShane
Jaemi Medina
Lydia Mensing
Austin Meyers
Brooke Miles
River Miller
Devin Montanye
Katherine Morales
Kaeden Mullenbach
Amber Nelson
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Ruthy Nowak
Dakota Petersen | Majesta Pickett
Nevaeh Pitts-Nelson
Braeden Pool
Gabriella Poole
Elijah Prissel
Aiden Reuter
Alexander Rhodes
Noah Roberts
Kylie Rumlir
Trevor Schirmer
Haleigh Schmidt
Grace Schroer
Kaitlyn Schubert
Cole Sheehan
Jack Simmons
Morgan Simon
Sierra Spindler
Kaitlyn Cobban
Haylee Stephenson
Joshua Sterling
Morgan Suarez
Peter Swihala
Jayden Villarreal
Jackson Vogt
Noah Wellnitz
Jaxon Wells
Tyonna Winch
Abbigayle Wright
Olivia Yates | Jake Gronli
Rian Grunwald
Kanin Hable
Paige Hagel
Sydney Hall
Mathieu Hanson
Thomas Hanson
Avery Hartman
Javelle Higgs
Ashton Hoffman
Michael Hofmaster
Justice Holmes
Jasmine Ihrke
Fardowsa Ismail
Alec Jarvis
Lucas Jensen
Auna Johnson
Carly Johnson
Gavin Karow
Grace Karsten
Kerryn Keller
Sam Knoll
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Andrew Laatsch
Gabriella Lamont
Trenton Lower
Dylan Maas
Kavleen Manning-Wallace
Natalie Matejcek
Abigail Mathison
Oscar Mazariego
Abigail Medo
Lexi Mendenhall
Ian Miller
Morgan Miller
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Ruviana Skaalierud
Abigail R. Smith
Hannah St Martin
Laura Stevens
Korban Stricklin
Chloe Talley
Annah Thurnau
Dominique Timmerman
Samuel Tolzman
Mackenzie Turley
Charlea Underwood
Izaya Vazquez
Erika Vortherms
Nyagan Wat
Hailey Wegener
Evan Weippert | Niveah Welch
Kennedy Wilker
Andrew Williams
Brayden Williams
Kya Wright
Edina Zamaron
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Mason Zirngible | Richie Lee
Elissa Macias
Logan McGaheran
Natalie Morrow
Jacob Nelson
Emmanuel Ojulu
Gage Olson
Logan Olson
Wiljo Omot
Emani Palacios
Shrina Patel
Succi Abdullahi
Ismail Abdulle
Hamza Ahmed
Katelyn Arndt
Grace Arthur
McKenna Baker
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Angelina Bartz
Joseph Bellomy
Caleb Belting
Payton Beyer
Tea Boerner
Carter Breckenridge
Joseph Brein
Ava Brett
Connor Budach
Haley Clear
Skylar Manning-Wallace
Matthew Cook
Nicholas Cummins
Chase Dallman
Riley Davis
Anna Tiller
Joseph Earl
Madison Effertz
Ethan Engels
Parker Erickson
Kayla Eschenbrenner
Lesley Esquivel
Jacob Fast
Thomas Frandle
Marco Garibay
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Umi Hussien
Derek Husford
Tylana Jackson
Keezia Rud
Sahyme Salinas
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Abigail Schwartz
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Abigail Smith
Samantha Spears
Alexander Stenzel
Janelyn Stenzel
Grant Stovus
Ashlie Tesch
Kobe Thomas
Jay Thompson
Sepaturna Thompson
Anna Tiller
Cameron Tracy
Zamara Valen
Dominic Valento
Riley Voracek
Jamie Wells
Jeremiah Wencil
Jordan Wimbush
Sydney Winch
Chase Zak
Haley Zempel | Mathew Gardner
Madeline Garwood
Abbie Granquist
Jessica Gregory
Dylan Grobner
Mannisa Gronli
Emily Haas
Jade Hanson
Wilo Omot
Solomon Havelka
Mackenzie Hoffman
Erin Holtzbrand
Hunter Huebke
Evan Huemoller
Molly Hulbert
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Tylana Jackson
Keezia Rud
Sahyme Salinas
Skylar Sawesky
Mariah Schroit
Abigail Schwartz
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Grant Stovus
Ashlie Tesch
Kobe Thomas
Jay Thompson
Sepaturna Thompson
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Zamara Valen
Dominic Valento
Riley Voracek
Jamie Wells
Jeremiah Wencil
Jordan Wimbush
Sydney Winch
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Haley Zempel |
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B HONOR ROLL
Grade 9
Omarian Adams
Ivan Aguilar Valdespino

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NOTICE STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

JUDICIAL DISTRICT THIRD DISTRICT COURT PROBATE COURT DIVISION Court File No. 74-PR-20-549 ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of Elvina Leone Anderson, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS: It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of August, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at 111 E Main St., Owatonna, MN 55060, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, date June 13, 1996, and for the appointment of both Krebs, whose addresses is 421 NW 3rd Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That if proper, and no objections are filed, said co-personal representatives 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 co-representatives shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons therein 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 co-personal representatives or to the Clerk of the Court within four months after the date of this notice or said claim will be barred.

/s/ Karen R Duncan Judge of District Court Jason J. Iacovino Attorney at Law HENEFIELD & IACOVINO LAW OFFICE 415 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 (507) 583-6663 Attorney Registration Number 0386770

6/24, 7/1

NOTICE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917 JULY 20, 2020 HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020 *Regular School Board Work Session - High School Media Center 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 20, 2020 *Open Public Forum - High School Media Center 7:15 p.m. Monday, July 20, 2020 *Regular School Board Meeting - High School Media Center Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRPERSON II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE III. ROLL CALL - CLERK IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

- A. Consent Agenda Minutes Bills Treasurer's Report Resignation Donations B. Employment C. School Board Meeting Dates D. Work Sessions E. School Board Per Diem F. Public Hearing on Property Tax Levy Payable 2021 G. Cheer and Fine Arts Fees H. Health & Safety Policy I. LTFM Ten Year Plan J. Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the MDE External User Access Recertification System K. Policy and Procedures for Speech Telepractice Services L. District Audit M. Student Activity Fund VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY A. 2020-2021 School Year Plans for All Three Scenarios (MDE) B. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act C. Committee Reports D. Enrollment Data E. Dates to Note VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS IX. ADJOURNMENT *Agenda may be subject to changes

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NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 756 shall begin on July 28, 2020 and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 11, 2020. The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. At that election, three members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four years each. Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the School District Clerk, 202 4th Avenue NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917. The filing fee for this office is \$2.00. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same general election. The Affidavits of Candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 11, 2020. Dated: June 15, 2020 By Order of the School District Pam Hameister, School District Clerk

WEEKLY CROSSWORD 1. Make ale 2. Residue 3. Female parent 4. Succulent plants 5. Of's judge 6. Each year 7. Embarrassing predicament 8. NHL legend Bobby 9. Sunfish 20. One who claims 21. On the __, running away 22. Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital" 23. The Golden State 26. Merrymake 30. Siberian nomads 31. Rock-marked 32. Baleen whale 33. Leaf-footed bug genus 34. Treasure 39. Tanzanian shilling 42. Changed 44. Intestinal pouches 45. Walked in a celebratory way 47. South American mountain chain 49. Air sport 50. Consumed 51. Firm 56. Pubs 57. Leafy drink 58. Cured 59. Northern wind of France 60. Tax collector 61. Respite from the sun 62. American spy Aldrich 63. Central Standard Time 64. Myanmar ethnic group 68. A handsome youth loved by Aphrodite 10. Tree genius in the mahogany family 11. Israeli city 13. Formed a theory 17. Remove 24. Type of light 25. Repeats 26. Certified public accountant 27. River in eastern France 28. Returned material authorization (abbrev.) 29. Special - military group 35. Ribonucleic acid 36. Not even 37. Power transmission belt 38. Doctor of Education 40. Type of nerve 41. Types of tops 42. Large primate 43. Flooded, low-lying land 44. Gritty 45. Gets up 47. Stake 48. Not the most 49. Swedish rock group 52. Expresses pleasure 53. Expression of boredom 54. Queen of Sparta 55. Where Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation

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ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Owen Dear Motor Medics, I am an avid camper and I have been towing around the tri-state area for years going as many as 400 miles one way on a trip. I started small with a tent then graduated to a pop-up then a travel trailer and now a fifth wheel camper with a boat behind. I have always had great luck while towing until I did not and was never left stranded. On my last trip my transmission went out suddenly and there I was on the side of the road not moving with traffic buzzing around me not moving over and in a panic. What is the best way to handle this kind of situation? Jim in Montevideo MN Any time you have a vehicle break down you need to have a plan. The first part is in prevention. Have the vehicle inspected regularly so you have the best chance of catching a problem before it occurs. Next be prepared for a sudden breakdown. That means being aware of your surroundings at all times watching the road for potential "landing spots" if you will, that is what pilots do. When a breakdown occurs get stopped as soon as possible in a safe spot where traffic will be minimized around you and where rescue equipment like a wrecker can get to you safely. Visit a site like carcare.org where the folks at the car care council have great safety tips and check into RV towing insurance. Take care. The Motor Medics 709

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SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415

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CLAREMONT RENTALS 1 & 2 bd apts. Rent based on income! Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524. www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity

GARAGE SALE

MANTORVILLE GARAGE SALE 521 N. Main St. (in alley behind Mantorville Art Guild). Collectibles, antiques and misc household items. July 9, 10, and 11.

DODGE CENTER GARAGE SALE 406 4th St NW, July 8 and 9, 3-7 p.m., July 10 and 11, 9-12 p.m. Barbie dolls and accessories, girls clothing sizes 8 to 12, toys, games and miscellaneous household items.

KASSON MEGA YARD SALE 406 2nd Ave NE, Thursday, July 9, 4-7 p.m., Friday, July 10, 9-7 p.m., Saturday, July 11, 9-noon. Holiday decorations, hundreds of books, 50 cents each or 3 for \$1. Toys, plus size clothing, tons of misc., something for everyone.

HUGE BLOWOUT SALE! AT DANO'S CONSIGNMENT STORE located at 32 E Main Street, Dodge Center (right next to Harold's bar). Held Friday, July 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 11, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., (1/2 price sale off most items). Most video games \$2 each, all CDs \$2 each. Cassettes, DVDs \$1 each used, or \$2 each new. Blue-ray \$3 each or 2/\$5. All LPs and CDs 50% off both days! Plus, over 100 VHS tapes for FREE, some are new! PLUS, Scruples Home, Bath and Beauty is offering a FREE car air freshener with any candle purchase!

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A different kind of Fourth

30 tractors carry banners in BP



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Ron Jannings piloted a Farmall 460 to lead the 4th of July tractor parade in Blooming Prairie on Saturday. Since the 2020 BP 4th of July parade was canceled because of COVID-19, Ron thought it would be fun to have a tractor parade. The parade begins with this long lineup of 25 tractors.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie area resident and businessman Ron Janning had a crazy idea, not really so crazy, to have a Fourth of July tractor parade to replace the usual parade in BP.

Blooming Prairie's usual Fourth of July activities, including a huge parade, were canceled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jannings' goal was to get 9-10 tractors to participate. He was overly pleased when he saw 30 tractors join a parade around Blooming Prairie last Saturday morning, July 4.

Janning was the engineer of the idea and thus, he was the perfect gentleman to lead the parade as a type of grand marshal (not official). He had many of his grand kids behind him on a hay wagon he was pulling. Tractors were of all ages and their passengers were also of all ages.

The parade began forming up at 9 a.m.

with the start promptly at 10 a.m.

"Oooh, I hope I don't crunch that bicycle on the corner," Janning said as he turned toward Main Street. The parade then continued down Main Street and angled over to the Prairie Manor Care Center where residents were able to get a peek at the BP Fourth of July parade.

Little kids came out of their houses and waved small American flags at the parade participants.

It was really a different Fourth celebration in Blooming Prairie on this day. It was rather quiet.

Families gathered in their yards to enjoy the fruits of the holiday. Swimming pools got their workouts as people tried to escape the humidity and hot temperatures.

A rousing fireworks display Saturday night drew a large crowd, with most of them watching from their vehicles.

Sunday was a special day at two of our local churches. First Lutheran Church of Blooming



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Carter Bartsch, 6, and Cadence Bartsch, 8, wore some patriotic attire for the tractor parade in Blooming Prairie on the 4th of July last Saturday.

Prairie had the first-ever drive-in worship service. Each household arrived in a separate vehicle. About 25 vehicles entered for the 9 a.m. service.

First Lutheran President Donna Maixner and Vice President Tom Peterson greeted worshippers and directed them to church parking lot spaces.

Senior Pastor Heidi Heimgartner and Associate Pastor Mike Walerius led the church services.

Pastor Leandra Anderson, new pastor at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, delivered an outdoor sermon, her first sermon at Red Oak. She began her pastoral duties on July 1.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Jenny Hendrickson is dwarfed by a large eagle blowup found on her yard in Blooming Prairie on the 4th of July. Uncle Sam also made it to the Hendrickson lawn and is ready to be shot out of a cannon.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It takes teamwork to pull off a successful fireworks display and these six men are the experts behind the scenes of the Blooming Prairie fireworks on the 4th of July. Shown from left to right are: Larry Reynolds, Zach Reynolds, Steve Wuger, Steve Reynolds, Bill Ahlers and Rex Harriman.

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