



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The COVID-19 crisis spurs a lesson in sharing love from a distance for both teachers and students alike at Bloomington Elementary School. In a bright red convertible, the Johnson family shares some love during a Teacher Appreciation parade around the school May 14. Abbey Johnson, riding in a car with grandma Tammy, grandpa Kevin and brother Brady, shows a sign directed at her teacher: "I miss you Mrs. Lea." See Hometown Extra on page A4 for more photos and a story.

NO DAIRY BREAKFAST

Steele County American Dairy Association has cancelled its annual Breakfast on the Farm.

CURBSIDE DELIVERY

Area libraries are back to offering curbside delivery for checking out books.

GRADUATION PLANS

Area schools unveil their plans to honor the Class of 2020.

BUS CRISIS

The motorcoach industry is in crisis as buses are shut down.

Corona cases skyrocket to 111 in Steele

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

COVID-19 cases are skyrocketing in Steele County as there are now 111 new confirmed cases, up from 65 the previous week, public health officials report.

After weeks in the early stages of the outbreak with low numbers, Steele County has now jumped to the 18th highest county with positive cases in Minnesota. The good news remains there are still no deaths in the four county area, including Steele, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower.

The Times has learned one of the Steele County clusters that surfaced earlier this month is at Viracon in Owatonna. As of May 6, Viracon had 24 cases with night shift workers being unusually high.

"This is a cluster," said Public Health Director Amy Caron. "It's not an outbreak, which is more widespread."

In light of the cluster, Viracon began temperature screening in addition to the current questions being asked at shift start to detect people who are sick before they start work. Viracon has asked its employees to stay away from others whenever possible by social distancing. If workers need to be close, they are required to have masks on over nose and mouth.

Caron said Viracon is one of three manufacturers in Steele County to see positive coronavirus cases. "Public Health is working directly with them," she said, adding outreach had even begun prior to the confirmed cases.

The cases involving factory workers are counted in the county where they reside and not work, Caron said. She pointed out that there are workers commuting into Steele County from other areas, and if they are positive, the number would not be counted in Steele County's totals. Rice County, for example, has 260 confirmed cases with two deaths.

Caron noted some local manufacturers have closed down to clean their facilities. She said a shutdown typically happens for 24 hours so crews can do "deep cleaning and disinfecting."

For the first time since the pandemic began in mid-March, Steele County is report-

SEE CORONA CASES, A6

Pandemic forces county to furlough workers

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

With a significant decrease of revenue projected due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Steele County officials are being forced into the uncharted territory of employee furloughs.

County Administrator Scott Golberg confirmed Monday that some county employees will be furloughed beginning as early as next week. He declined to give a specific number of employees involved at this time, but said it will likely affect most county departments. He has met with all department heads to identify a strategic plan of which workers can be furloughed. Most of the employees affected by furloughs

have been notified, Golberg said.

"Furloughs are flexible, and we can get employees back to work right away if needed," Golberg said. Golberg is waiting for the Steele County Board to give its approval to move forward with furloughs.

That was expected to happen today (Wednesday) during a special board meeting. Based on projections done by officials, the county is anticipating \$1 million decrease in overall revenue for 2020 because of the coronavirus crisis. Golberg said the county is experiencing revenue shortfalls with fees, sales tax, reimbursements and rentals. "People aren't doing the things they could before (the pandemic)," he said.

One of the other factors will be property tax payments, which the county agreed to waive late fees and penalties for two months until July 15. Golberg said the county still doesn't know the full financial impact of that decision.

Golberg stressed that public safety and health will not be compromised by the furloughs. No furloughs are expected in the sheriff's office or public health department. "We have to keep our front liners working," he said.

The furloughs being implemented, Golberg noted, are different than layoffs. Furloughs are temporary while layoffs are generally considered permanent. "We hope it will

SEE PANDEMIC, A5

MOTOR BUS CRISIS

Owners plead for help to bail out shuttered coaches

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Ever since the coronavirus pandemic began in mid-March, the motor coach industry has come to a screeching halt, leaving anxious bus owners uncertain about their future.

Cavalier Coaches, Inc. of Owatonna is one of many motor coach companies across the country

shuttered by the COVID-19 crisis. Cavalier coaches serve customers throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa with terminals in Owatonna, Albert Lea and Mason City.

John Regan, owner of Cavalier Coaches, said the motor coach industry took its plight to Washington, D.C. last week where they staged a Motorcoaches Roaring for America

rally. Nearly 1,100 buses, including one from Cavalier's fleet, took part in the rally. Cavalier drivers Joanne Langer of Owatonna and Don Richter of Albert Lea drove a coach out to Washington for the one-day rally.

The rally, organized by the American Bus Association and United Motorcoach Association industry groups, took place on May 13. The buses received



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cavalier Coaches, Inc. of Owatonna takes part in a one-day Motorcoaches Roaring for America Rally in Washington, D.C. The Cavalier coach was one of nearly 1,100 buses involved in the rally. Joanne Langer of Owatonna and Don Richter of Albert Lea drove the bus for Cavalier.

police escort around the nation's capital. "The motorcoach industry has received absolutely zero in aid," Regan said. "Not a

penny has been given to the motorcoaches. We need some kind of assistance to get us through so we don't go out of business. It's a brutal

situation right now for motorcoaches."

Regan said the government has bailed out other

SEE MOTOR BUS CRISIS, A5

COVID-19 UPDATE

World.....	4,710,000	U.S.....	1,520,000	MN.....	15,668	Steele.....	111	Dodge.....	36
Deaths.....	315,000	Deaths.....	89,932	Deaths.....	722	Deaths.....	0	Deaths.....	0
Recovered.....	1,730,000	Recovered.....	281,000	Recovered.....	10,897	Recovered.....	14	Recovered.....	15

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AREA DEATHS

Ramon Salinas, 59, Bloomington
Jean Anderson, 87, formerly of Geneva
Madelon Collette, 83, Austin
Thomas Jelinko, 82, formerly of BP
Mary Kaplan, 90, Owatonna

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and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Pause to remember fallen vets

With this coming Monday set aside as Memorial Day, it's important for everyone to pause to remember and honor our fallen veterans.

Memorial Day is one of the most poignant federal holidays we observe every year in the U.S. It's a day where we honor those who have lost their lives in military service so that we can enjoy our freedoms.

Our remembrances will be somewhat curtailed this year because of the COVID-19 crisis going on, but we still need to reflect on those lost in service through many historic battles, including the Civil War, World War II and more recent conflicts.

Perhaps one of the greatest lessons that we can take away from Memorial Day is to never forget that freedom isn't free. As President Harry S. Truman once said, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

To all our present and past U.S. Servicemen and women: thank you for your services. We honor those who have selflessly and valiantly served our nation.

As Memorial Day approaches, remember this: "All gave some... some gave all." Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, celebrate, honor and remember on Memorial Day. Join in as we remember their sacrifice and honor their service.

We leave you with this popular poem by A. Lawrence Vaincourt, "Just a Common Soldier."

A Soldier Died Today
By A. Lawrence Vaincourt

*He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.
And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became jokes,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.
He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
He'd a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.
When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great,
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.
Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?
A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.
It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and joys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.
Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?
He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his life again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.
If cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.*

GUEST COLUMN

Faith lost in governor's COVID-19 plans

BY PEGGY BENNETT

On May 13, Governor Walz announced that his stay-at-home order would be lifted on May 18, and we have now moved to his "Stay Safe Minnesota" order. This means more, but not all, businesses will begin slowly and safely returning to work. Most notably, restaurants, bars, hair salons, churches and others will remain closed. The governor did suggest having more guidance for these businesses on June 1.

Folks, our businesses, churches, and local government centers have been ready for weeks with their own "stay safe" plans that would protect their employees and customers with proper social distancing guidelines and more. I know that because I have been talking with and working with many of our local businesses.

Why has the Governor waited so long to begin opening these businesses and now still left more in the lurch closed? These policies do not make sense!

I went along with Governor Walz's plans for the first 30 days of his peace time emergency order. He made choices that needed to be made then. We did not know much about this virus at that time and we needed time to get our hospitals prepared.

However, by mid-April, I lost faith in his plans.

By Easter, it was clear that the great majority of Minnesota deaths were taking place in long-term care and assisted living facilities - more than 80%. At that time, our Governor (who had - and still has - total control of our state) should have immediately pivoted his strategies and targeted a

good chunk of our state resources and efforts to protect these care facilities like a number of other state governors were doing.

At the same time, healthy Minnesotans should have been allowed to go back to work with proper safety protocols, while continuing to retain measures to help those with preexisting conditions who were unable to go back to work.

However, instead of pivoting our strategies to protect the facilities where we knew most Minnesota deaths were taking place, the Governor chose to ratchet down even harder with the same old tactics of locking down the entire state for another whole month. Why?

In addition, the Governor has put himself in a spot where he alone has been and continues to be picking winners and losers, choosing who can earn a living and who cannot, and selecting what activities we may do and what we may not.

Does it make sense that you cannot find a parking spot at Walmart while Lutholds clothing store remains shuttered?

Does it make sense that getting an abortion is deemed essential while getting a mastectomy is not?

Does it make sense that you can get curbside beer, but that you can't buy a beer at a golf course?

Does it make sense to tell every high school in Minnesota they cannot hold a high school graduation ceremony - regardless of their senior class size - but it's OK for 100 people to stand elbow to elbow in line at Minnesota's Largest Candy Store waiting to get in and buy a Kit-Kat?

These are the types of winner and loser choices that have left many Minnesotans shaking their heads.

I believe we should trust the people of Minnesota to do the right thing instead of micromanaging our state down to the glass of beer at our local golf course. I believe we should trust our local hospitals to manage their own surgical schedules instead of forcing them down to running at 20 percent capacity. I believe that we should always err on the side of freedom and empowering people to do what is right.

We are a country based on freedoms. If people are at-risk or are concerned about catching COVID-19, they should make the choice to avoid contact as much as possible and should not be criticized or ridiculed for their choice. But if you have healthy individuals who want to use common sense and want to reclaim a sense of normalcy in their lives, they also should be allowed to do so.

I want to thank everyone who reached out to me, to any state lawmaker, or to the Governor to urge a safe and responsible return to some normalcy in our state. Without your passion and input, I am convinced nothing would have changed.

Let's continue to fight together for common sense!

Peggy Bennett is state representative for District 27A, which encompasses Bloomington, Freeborn County, Dodge County and most of Freeborn County. Bennett, who lives in Albert Lea, is running for re-election this fall.

Faceless in a pandemic era

The jury is still out on what exactly will happen to our communities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the worst public health crisis in more than a century.

Some communities are already facing the fallout of the coronavirus infiltrating into their normal way of life. Weekly newspapers are shutting down in the face of the pandemic.

Last week two well-respected weekly publications, Woodbury Bulletin and Hastings Star Gazette ceased publication, leaving their communities deserted. Other papers that have recently shut down are Eden Prairie News, the Lakeshore Weekly News, the Lake County News Chronicle in Two Harbors, the Jasper Journal in southwestern Minnesota and the Osakis Review. Last month I did you about six other newspapers in the Fillmore County area that quit publishing. Over the past two months, the state has lost 13 weekly publications.

A national media analyst has predicted that there are 200 to 300 weekly newspapers that will not be around by the end of the year nationally. As many as 500 more newspapers are expected to reduce their publication schedule this year. Austin and Albert Lea are already in that category as they have trimmed back from dailies to two days a week.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

It's not the kind of news I like sharing. For someone like me who is dependent on the success of a newspaper, it's downright discouraging and alarming.

It has been a long struggle for the newspaper industry. The pandemic is partly to blame, but many newspapers have been struggling for years. Ad revenue for all U.S. newspapers was \$48.7 billion in 2000, but by 2017 it had fallen to \$16.5 billion, according to the Pew Research Center. Google and Facebook are largely responsible for the steep declines with the print industry.

Advertising revenue is the primary source of income for newspapers. It's not hard to figure out, but with little to no revenue coming in from businesses and organizations, there is no newspaper. And communities and their residents are the big losers when that happens.

People often comment about how they enjoy the stories and photographs we publish every week in

our newspaper. What many, especially businesses, don't realize is that there is a huge expense to providing quality local news coverage without even factoring in the steep printing costs.

On the local level, my staff and I are doing everything in our power to continue providing the kind of local news our readers demand and expect. We take great pride in providing readers with solid news reporting every week.

With what's happening in our world because of the pandemic, I think newspapers are more relevant than ever before. I hope others will agree with me and find ways to keep newspapers thriving.

We are fortunate to have great supporters who believe in what we're doing, but there are many others who are less than supportive. I hope those who don't see the value in supporting the local newspaper take notice before it's too late.

Losing a newspaper is not a good thing. Newspapers have helped build this country to what it is today. The last thing any community needs is to go without a voice. Sadly, that's happening at a rapid pace around Minnesota this year.

We all need to go in hot pursuit of not letting our communities become faceless, especially in the pandemic world we're living in right now.

John Lennon outthits Paul McCartney



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

In most respects, I count myself fortunate to have grown up in the Sixties.

It was a memorable time and one that was quite volatile at times. Many events during this decade have had a lasting effect on me. I think of John F. Kennedy's election in 1960, my high school graduation in 1963, President Kennedy's assassination in 1963, the Beatles' arrival to America in 1964, my college graduation in 1965, Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968 and Robert Kennedy's assassination in 1968.

I cling to the memories of the Beatles giving us hope to weather three assassinations.

I remember going to the Tempo department store in Austin in November of 1963 and picking up the Beatles' first album on the Capitol recording label. It was called Meet the Beatles and had their big hit, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" as the marquis song.

The Beatles helped get me out of my terrible events only days before.

I love the Beatles and their music. My love for

them was passed on to son Troy and then to his kids (my grandchildren).

I still kick myself to this day that I did not make an attempt to see the Beatles when they came to Metropolitan Stadium in 1964.

My best hope to remember the Beatles is by listening to their music with my grandchildren. I have seen several Beatles tribute groups with the Fab Four being the best in my estimation.

Another way to become closer to the Beatles music would be to see half of the group who remain alive: Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr. I have seen McCartney in concert three times, but still have Ringo on my bucket list to see some day, hopefully soon.

Judy and I have shared our Beatles affection with the grand kids by singing "Yellow Submarine" over and over as we headed down the highway.

My eldest grandchild, Kaley, now a special education teacher in Arizona, did some interesting research as a teenager. The research was to find out who wrote more songs, John Lennon or Paul McCartney.

I had forgotten the results of this research so I gave Kaley an assignment to learn who actually wrote more music.

Thanks Kaley for taking time to satisfy



my curiosity. There have been many great songwriting teams from the 20th Century but none better than Lennon and McCartney.

What are the results of Kaley's Beatles research?

A Beatles historian, William J. Dowling, revealed that Lennon and McCartney shared the workload about evenly on only 17 songs. Lennon wrote 61 songs credited to "Lennon-McCartney" entirely by himself, and McCartney composed 43 on his own.

All told, Lennon had a hand in composing 84.55 of the 209 songs recorded by the Beatles, and McCartney 73.65. George Harrison was a distant third, with 22.15 credits, and Ringo Starr fourth with 2.7. (That adds up to 183.65; the rest were covers of other artists' songs.)

Some of the Beatles' best music came from the movie, "A Hard Day's Night." Lennon wrote 13 songs from the movie.

Beatles music will live forever in my head and in the followers of all ages. Thanks John, Paul, George and Ringo.

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MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2020-9 state awards	2015-7 state and 4 national awards
2019-7 state awards	2014-3 state and 1 national awards
2018-6 state and 1 national awards	2013-7 state and 2 national awards
2017-2 state and 3 national awards	2012-2 state awards
2016-3 state and 6 national awards	2011-4 national awards

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

COVID-19 squeezes out popular dairy promotion

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A popular event used to promote the dairy industry during June Dairy Month is the latest activity to succumb to the COVID-19 crisis. Steele County's Breakfast on the Farm has been cancelled for next month, according to Gail Zollner of the Steele County American Dairy Association. The event typically attracts as many as 1,200 people to a dairy farm for breakfast and other activities both for children and adults.

Breakfast on the Farm is widely considered one of the most fun community wide events of the summer. Zollner said the event would love to have the event, but the pandemic has left the group with really no choice.

"We need to follow what's happening by encouraging social distancing and those practices," said Zollner. "There are some places where you can social distance, but there is so much happening out there to make it safe," she acknowledged.

The event had been scheduled to take place at the Aaron Schrott farm in rural Owatonna.

This will be the first time the event has ever been cancelled in its 26-year history. Zollner said only one other time was the event postponed because of a deluge of rain and moved to later in the summer as a super event. There are no plans to reschedule the event for this year.

The dairy industry has already canceled its event, but the fair remains up in the air. Regardless of the fair's decision, the malt stand

were more than 100 dairy farms in Steele County. That number has shriveled up to less than 30 today.

Zollner also reported that the local dairy group will not operate its popular dairy malt stand at any functions this summer, including the Fourth of July celebration in Blooming Prairie and the Steele County Free Fair. Blooming Prairie has already canceled its event, but the fair remains up in the air. Regardless of the fair's decision, the malt stand

will not be part of the fair for this year.

Despite shuttering the breakfast and malt stand, the group hasn't given up on promoting the dairy industry this summer. "We are working around ways to participate and celebrate June Dairy Month in the new world," Zollner said.

With money raised from sponsorships of the breakfast, the dairy association plans to donate money to the Steele County Food Shelf as well as the local school districts for their food plans to help feed

people, Zollner said.

The dairy princesses will also deliver cheese sticks to area daycares throughout June. The princesses typically give a presentation at the daycares, and while that won't happen, they are looking at ways to put together a video presentation on computer.

This year's dairy princesses are Sam Fredin, Lilly Zollner, Katelyn Rasavy and Kylie Kruckeberg, all of Owatonna. The dairy association has set next year's breakfast for June 12, 2021.

SMIF approves \$1M loans

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently approved 41 loans to businesses in its 20-county region through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) Small Business Emergency Loan program totaling \$1 million.

This program provides partially forgivable loans to restaurants, bars, hair salons and other public accommodations impacted by Minnesota Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-08. The loans are intended to cover up to three months of operating expenses and can range from \$2,500 to \$55,000.

SMIF is one of nearly two dozen statewide organizations that accepted applications for this program. The entirety of the \$1 million loan pool that was allocated to SMIF was utilized for the 41 loans. Statewide, more than 700 loans have been approved through the DEED program for a total of \$19.9 million.

The businesses that received loans include hair salons, fitness centers, restaurants, cafes and breweries. These businesses operate in the following counties: Blue Earth, Brown, Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Le Sueur, Martin, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona.

SMIF lenders received more than 500 applications when the program was announced, exceeding the funding that was made available. Information will be on the Minnesota DEED website if the legislature makes additional funds available for this program.

"These loan funds from the State of Minnesota are critical for helping businesses through this challenging time," said Diane Lewis, lending officer at SMIF. "We are proud to be a partner in this effort to support southern Minnesota businesses."

SMIF provides a range of additional finance and management assistance services to start and grow businesses. For questions about SMIF's lending and equity opportunities, contact Diane Lewis, lending officer at diane@smifoundation.org or Marcia Haley, SBA lending director, at marciah@smifoundation.org. Business financing information is also available at www.smifoundation.org. SMIF is an equal opportunity lender.



Bloomington Prairie Library specialist Nancy Vaillancourt delivers books curbside to another happy customer, Kathi Peterson. Curbside service is available Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Curbside books at BP Library

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Customer service is the ultimate at the Bloomington Prairie Branch Library.

With Gov. Tim Walz's executive order to close certain establishments because of the coronavirus, it meant that the Bloomington Prairie Library, a branch of the Owatonna Public Library, was closed.

A few weeks ago, the governor lifted some regulations and approved of the libraries offering curbside service to its customers.

Curbside delivery is available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The library building is locked. Customers call the library at 507-583-7750, relay their requests and then make an appointment for curbside delivery.

After the first full week of curbside delivery, the BP library served more than 50 families. Customers call in their requests and library staff find the books requested and meet the customer at the

curb, maintaining social distance.

Just last week, the BP library expanded its services by putting together some bags of kids books.

Librarian Nancy Vaillancourt says the library's customers have missed coming into the library and choosing their own books. She is hopeful that the time will be near to let customers into the library again.

"We try to find things our customers like," said Vaillancourt. "We have many customers who use our computer access, and of course, that has not been available," she pointed out. She said this fact makes the library's job more difficult.

Vaillancourt has done some Facebook story times and encourages library users to go to the BP Library Facebook page. The BP library, Vaillancourt said, is getting in on some new books with fiction books seemingly the most popular.

More videos have been requested during the pandemic, Vaillancourt related.

She said the majority of special book requests come from adults. "It's been interesting that only a few amount of children's things have been requested; the book bags might make a difference," Vaillancourt added.

Librarian Vaillancourt and her assistant, Laura Thomas, have been handling special requests.

Vaillancourt says she has no idea when the restrictions will be lifted. Plans are being drafted to handle new guidelines, she says.

"Our people at the Owatonna Library are excellent in helping us meet our customers' needs," Vaillancourt remarked. The Bloomington Prairie library is the only branch of the Owatonna Public Library.

During the pandemic, the BP library has enforced no fines for overdue books.

The BP library is looking ahead to the summer library season but cautions, there are so many unknowns created by the COVID-19 pandemic. These unknowns make it difficult to plan, she concluded.

GUEST COLUMN

What do we do now?

BY JOHN PETERSBURG

As of this writing, I've received hundreds of emails asking to have the state shutdown lifted and only 3 saying they are OK with the continuance. There is a growing sense of dismay, frustration and even anger from people feeling like they aren't being heard. Here is my perspective.

Minnesota law gives the Governor the authority to call a State of Emergency when he feels circumstances dictate it. That original declaration is good for five days and gives him fairly unlimited authority. It can then be extended for another 30 days through approval of the Executive Committee, made up of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State and the State Auditor. There are only two ways the State of Emergency can end: governor's decision or a joint resolution approved by the House and Senate. The House brought this resolution forward twice recently, and both were voted down along party lines.

This authority was set up so the Governor could react quickly when an emergency arises and provide needed orders to minimize the effects of that emergency. Because the legislature is not in session for a majority of the year, it also makes sense that he can make these unilateral decisions without legislative input. However, when the legislature is in session there's certainly debate on how co-equal branches of the government should work together. Because the Governor's executive orders often require legislation and financial support, most believe in legislative involvement. It also makes sense that during times of emergency, if possible, being governed by elected representatives is better than by one person.

I believe the Governor prudently acted within his authority as the COVID pandemic hit Minnesota. We were not as prepared as needed to deal with any surge in COVID victims numbers. And I believe the residents of Minnesota agreed with that. But as this pandemic

SEE WHAT DO WE DO NOW?, A5

Allina Health launches Safe Care Commitment

COVID-19 shouldn't keep patients from getting the care they need

Allina Health is launching a *Safe Care Commitment* campaign to assure consumers that it is safe to receive the care they need, whenever they need it.

Allina Health, which operates Owatonna and Fairbault hospitals, has taken important steps to ensure people feel safe continuing to address their on-going health care needs. These include:

- Increasing the capacity for virtual patient care that includes visits with your provider and navigation to safe and appropriate in-person care settings.
- The creation of respiratory and non-respiratory clinics, as well as creating separation in our urgent cares and emergency departments to protect patients.

All patients are greeted by a staff member who is stationed outside of each of our facilities to screen patients and visitors before they enter. If a patient screens positive for symptoms of COVID-19 they are taken to a room vs. waiting in the lobby.

- Practicing social distancing in all of our lobbies.
- Requiring everyone to wear a mask.
- Patient-facing staff wears a mask and face shield

• Patients (and visitors) are provided with cloth masks

• The enhancement of our already rigorous cleaning practices by our dedicated Environmental Services staff.

"Research has shown consumers are delaying seeking care because of fear they may contract COVID-19 at a medical facility. Even their most familiar routines, like going to the doctor, can seem unsettling right now," said David Slowinski, Allina Health senior vice president operations. "We are here to guide them to the right care options, whether that is virtual

or in-person, and protect their safety every step of the way."

If patients aren't sure about what kind of care they should seek for their specific health care needs, they can feel confident in the guidance available from the Allina Health Get Personal Now web page.

Virtual Care
Patients can schedule a virtual visit to talk to a provider face-to-face using a mobile device and the Allina Health Account app. The cost is the same as a regular office visit depending on your insurance.

Allina Health offers Everyday Online which

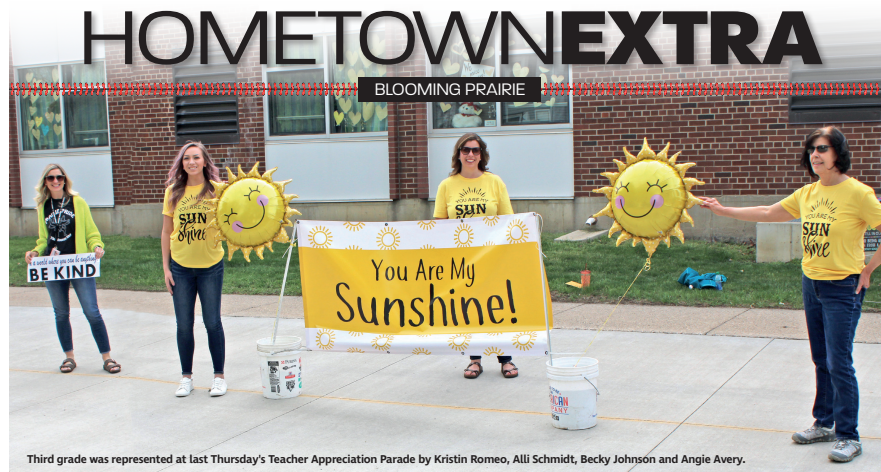
is just a click away. Our team of providers can treat a variety of common everyday conditions virtually. Just complete a short online interview and we'll send you a diagnosis and treatment plan within one hour.

In-person Care
Safety is our top priority for in-person care in our clinics, urgent cares and emergency departments. We have made changes to keep our staff and patients safe, including physically separating care at Allina Health Clinics and Urgent Cares for patients with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, headache, un-

explained muscle aches, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, or diarrhea) and those without.

If you need in-person care, call your clinic or 1-888-4ALLINA (1-888-425-5462). We will ask about your symptoms and guide you to the best option for your specific need.

"Allina Health is here to support our patients through their health care journey during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Slowinski. "We want our patients to be comforted knowing we have taken every precaution to ensure getting the right care is safe for everyone."



Third grade was represented at last Thursday's Teacher Appreciation Parade by Kristin Romeo, Alli Schmidt, Becky Johnson and Angie Avery.

Love from a distance

BP students, teachers miss one another

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It was bumper-to-bumper appreciation between Blooming Prairie teachers and students on a beautiful Thursday night.

Vehicles completely encircled a square block that includes the school and its playground.

The appreciation parade started at 5:30 p.m. and lasted until 7 p.m. Students and teachers carried the same message: "We miss you."

Blooming Prairie's teaching staff and students have been participating in distance learning since March 30 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Some appreciative parents arranged for a Teacher Appreciation Night, which saw most of the teaching staff, homemade signs in hand, waving to students and parents as they passed by on this late sunny afternoon.

A sign for each of the BP Elementary School's teachers had been placed on the school's front yard one week earlier. Now, on this weather beautiful night, teachers took their signs and placed themselves in position on the school sidewalk.

Most of the parade participants were in vehicles but some were on bicycles, in strollers, or on foot.

Third grade teachers Kristin Romeo, Alli Schmidt, Becky Johnson and Angie Avery created a "You Are My Sunshine" theme with a banner, special t-shirts

and sunshine balloons.

Pre-schooler Morgan Slowinski showed off a banner she had created. It read: "Ms. Laura, I miss you!" It was signed by Morgan with love.

and bicyclists were also in the parade. Traffic was actually stopped many times as the parade continued around the school.

Schwarz said the parade was originally



The Romeo kids brought their personal signs for their teachers during a Teacher Appreciation parade at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School Thursday night, May 14. Shown from left are: Mark Romeo (Mrs. Schiller), Bella Romeo (Mrs. Volgarino) and Charlie (Ms. Henslin).

"It gave me goose bumps. It was good for the soul."

Jacob Schwarz
BP Elementary Principal

Riding in a bright red muscle car, the Johnson family expressed their message, "I miss you, Mrs. Lea."

Kevin Johnson was the driver, accompanied by wife Tammy and grandchildren, Abbey and Brady Johnson.

Oh yeah, there's a little puppy in the car, too. "It was an awesome turnout," said Principal Jacob Schwarz. He was informed that 85 vehicles, some pedestrians

planned for Wednesday night, May 13 but was moved to May 14 because of a threatened rain.

"It was a bitter sweet night because teachers are missing the kids, and the kids miss them," remarked Principal Schwarz. "It gave me goose bumps," Schwarz confessed while standing on a corner of the elementary school campus.

"It was good for the soul," Schwarz said, explaining that many

teachers and students had not seen one another for weeks and were only connected by electronic devices.

Teachers, students and parents were "choked up and tearing up" when reunited after weeks away from one another.

Schwarz said families were drawn to the special night for social reasons. "The social part has been missing," Schwarz said.

"It's fun to step back and think about the relationship we have between staff, students and parents," Schwarz said.

It was a perfect night, attested teachers, students and parents.

Staff, students and parents now look ahead toward returning to school behind the four walls. "There are still so many unknowns," Schwarz said. He said the school is directed by the guidelines set forth by the Minnesota Department of Health and by the Minnesota Department of Education.

Schwarz says the normal keeps changing all the time. He said he is "100 percent confident" in the teachers getting the job done. He said families are flexible and extremely dedicated to education.

Schwarz said the appreciation day resembled a first day of school and a last day of school all rolled into one. "There were lots of emotions but it was all positive," he believed.



Special education teacher Mackenzie Cornell created this special sign to encourage students to use their outside voices.



"We miss you first graders" reads a sign made by first grade teacher Karlee Ruen.



Pre-schooler Morgan Slowinski made this special sign for Ms. Laura. She and sister Madyson were some of the early participants in the teacher appreciation parade at Blooming Prairie Elementary School on Thursday, May 14.



Second grade teacher Diane Pfeiffer brought a two-sided sign to share with her second grade students during a Teacher Appreciation Night parade. The other side reads: "Miss You 2A."

What Older Diabetics Should Know About Coronavirus



Dear Savvy Senior, My husband and I are both in our late sixties and have diabetes. We would like to find out if our diabetes increases our risk of getting the coronavirus.
Concerned Diabetics

Dear Concerned,
Currently, there's not enough data to show that people with diabetes are more likely to get coronavirus (COVID-19) than the general population. But the problem for diabetics is, if you do happen to contract the virus, your chance of developing serious complications are much higher. This is especially true if your diabetes isn't well-controlled. Here's what you should know.

Diabetic Risks
Health data is showing that about 25 percent of people who go to the hospital with severe COVID-19 infections have diabetes. One reason is that high blood sugar weakens the immune system and makes it less able to fight off infections. Your risk of severe coronavirus infection is even higher if you also have another condition, like heart or lung disease.

If you do get COVID-19, the infection could also put you at greater risk for diabetes complications like diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), which happens when high levels of acids called ketones build up in your blood.

Some people who catch the new coronavirus have a dangerous body-wide response to it, called sepsis. To treat sepsis, doctors need to manage your body's fluid and electrolyte levels. DKA causes you to lose electrolytes, which can make sepsis harder to control.

How to Avoid COVID-19

The best way to avoid getting sick is to stay home as much as you can. If you have to go out, keep at least 6 feet away from other people. And every time you come back from the supermarket, pharmacy or another public place, wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

Also wash your hands before you give yourself a finger stick or insulin shot. Clean each site first with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.

To protect you, everyone in your house should wash their hands often, especially before they cook for the family. Don't share any utensils or other personal items. And if anyone in your house is sick, they should stay in their own room, as far as possible from you.

The CDC also recommends that you stock up on medications and diabetes testing supplies to last for at least a month. The same goes for grocery supplies and other household necessities.

Also know that Medicare is now covering the cost of telehealth visits, so if you have questions for your doctor, you can ask by video chat or phone instead of going into the office.

If You Get Sick

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are a dry cough, fever, or shortness of breath. If you develop any symptoms that are concerning, call your doctor about getting tested.

If you find that you have contracted COVID-19, the first level of care is to stay home and check your blood sugar more often than usual and check your ketones too. COVID-19 can reduce your appetite and cause you to eat less, which could affect your levels. You also need more fluids than usual when you're sick, so keep water close by, and drink it often.

You should also know that many over-the-counter medicines that relieve virus symptoms like fever or cough can affect your blood sugar levels one way or the other. So, before you take anything check with your doctor.

And be aware that if you start experiencing severe shortness of breath, high levels of ketones or DKA symptoms like severe weakness, body aches, vomiting or belly pain, you need to see your doctor or get to an emergency room right away.

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.

PANDEMIC: FROM A1

be short term," said Golberg. "We have great employees, and we want to keep them working," he said. But, he added, the county needs to be responsible with the budget and work within the revenues coming in.

The furloughs are expected to last up to 90 days, Golberg said. Workers will have the opportunity to file for unemployment benefits. "It doesn't terminate employment with the county," he said.

In his 38 years with

the county, Golberg has never seen furloughs taken place. "It's another new thing for this new administrator to work through," said Golberg, who has been administrator for about 2 years.

Because furloughs are not specified in any collective bargaining agreements, county officials have met with all the unions involved. Golberg said they have agreed to the furloughs as outlined by the county.

10 Years Ago May 25, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Earning the No. 1 seed in the sub-section tourney gives the Awesome Blossoms softball team the opportunity to play the first two games of the playoffs on their home diamond. If they can win those two games the tourney will move to Austin for the finals and first-round action in the section. The girls open play today by hosting either Lyle-Pacelli or Alden-Conger. Should they win their first two games they will head to Austin on Saturday May 29. It will be an exciting week for the Blossoms.

Two structures on a rural Blooming Prairie farm were destroyed in a fast-moving fire on May 19. The blaze also killed some animals being housed in the buildings. The fire started around noon on the Delmar Ehlers' farm in Westfield Township. The flames spread quickly from a fire to dispose of grass clipping. The first structure to catch fire was a small hog barn and within a few minutes spread to the larger barn and silo. The fire departments had to park on the road because of the intense heat from the fire. This caused the firefighters to drag more than usual hose. Ehlers tried to save some of the animals, sheep, kittens, chickens and a cow but with no success. Fire crews stayed on the scene for several hours to watch for hotspots. Mutual aid was sent from Hayfield Fire Department.

Athletes of the week May 25 are as follows: girls track, Kristin Hagen; boys track, Jeff Gwilt; girls golf, Maggie Sorenson; boys golf, Pat Jones; baseball, Zach Herdina; softball, Anna Peterson.

20 Years Ago May 23, 2000

ELSIE SINGER, PUBLISHER

Blooming Prairie Elementary and High School staff once again participated in the annual Shape Up Exercise Challenge from April 3 to May 14, sponsored by the American Heart Association. Prize winners were drawn each week from those turning in points for exercise and healthy habit. Thirty staff members participated in the program this year. High point winner was Jill Lantsberger, fifth grade elementary teacher, who received a sweatshirt donated by Sport

stitch. At the end of the six-week challenge, each participant was awarded a certificate and incentive prize.

Although wrestling is far from most people's mind this time of the year, many participants are still involved in the sport. Several local young wrestlers competed at the State Freestyle Wrestling Tournament held in Rochester and some excellent results were attained. Grant Johnson 8th grade took first place and Luke Nelson, also 8th grade, came back with a fifth place. Two other local wrestlers, Billy Lindquist and Brad Klemmensen, also participated in the tournament.

Riverland Community College has announced the institution's 2000 spring graduates. The following Blooming Prairie students and their respective degrees are: Scott Anderson, Construction Engineer; Don Borchert, Construction Electrician; Shannon Cochlin, Law Enforcement; Sheila Donnelly, Associate in Arts; Stacy Fischer, Information Processing Secretary; Daniel Kaplan, Ag Diesel Mechanic; Seth Louks, Law Enforcement; Benjamin Powers, Associate in Arts; Jean Schwartz, Associate in Arts and Theresa Wondra, Cosmetology.

50 Years Ago May 20, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VYRLY KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The Society of Outstanding American High School Students announced this week that the honor of membership for 1970 was bestowed upon five students of Blooming Prairie. The students are: Colleen Tonolli, Paul Brakke, Dale Janke, Susan Johnson and Kristi Hoel. These students were among 21,000 of the nation's top high school students to be listed in the 1970 Outstanding American High School Students. They are chosen on the basis of excellence in scholarship, leadership and civic contribution.

LeMar Nelson, Blooming Prairie High School senior, was appointed to serve on the executive board of the Southeast Division of Minnesota Secondary School Principals at the spring meeting of the organizations on May 6 in Rochester, Minn. Nelson will represent District 11 and serve as an advisory member to the division officers for a two-year term.

The Blooming Prairie High School closed a highly successful season on Monday, May 18th by winning a nine-hole match at

Waseca. The local golfers had 158 strokes while Waseca had 166. The 158 tea, score was a new record for the BP team. The team completed the regular season with an 8 - 1 record in dual and triangular meets and finished second in a nine-team field at the Blooming Prairie Invitational. Individual scores at Waseca match were: Carl Peterson, 39; Steve Heinz, 38; Bill Schaffer, 41; Dave Thorn, 40; Jon Olson, 41; and Larry Iverson, 41.

75 Years Ago May 24, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Pfc. Ralph Horecka returned to his home on Saturday evening. Horecka, who was reported killed in action, was later found a prisoner of war in Germany. He had been gone three years in April. He will enjoy a 60-day furlough before he will again report for further assignment. Ralph looks well and is looking forward to seeing all his old friends and family. Many family members and friends were guests for dinner on Sunday.

Darlene Berg lead the senior class with an average of 3.88 which entitles her to be named Valedictorian. Joan Johnson was named Salutatorian with an average of 3.41. Darlene has been drum major for the past five years, her junior year she was a reporter on the Red and Black Chronical staff and became editor-in-chief her senior year. She will be spending her summer working in Chicago and then a trip to Oklahoma. In the fall she plans to join the cadet nurses corps.

Joan has been very active in extra-curricular activities, playing flute in the band and singing soprano in the chorus and sextet. Joan has also been a reporter for the Red and Black Chronical and assistant editor her senior year. Joan will be spending her summer working on her father's farm and intends to go University of Minnesota in the fall. Her studies will include learning different languages and later go into diplomatic work.

Birch's announced this week from the Goetsch Home:

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fiebigler proud parents of a 9-pound boy, John Franklin on May 17th.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Cox of Hollandale became parents of 11-pound son, Lawrence George on May 21st.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Barros welcomed a son, 8 pounds, Donald Gilbert May 23rd.

MOTOR BUS CRISIS: Owners plead for help FROM A1

travel industries like the airlines and cruise ship companies, but not the motorcoaches.

Motorcoach industry groups are pushing lawmakers to provide the sector with \$15 billion of grants and loans to save jobs and prevent businesses going under amid the coronavirus.

There are 3,000 bus companies who employ nearly 100,000 people across America. According to research, bus companies across the country stand to lose a combined \$4.7 billion and more than 27,000 jobs even if shutdowns are

largely lifted by the end of May. In a worst-case scenario projection that lockdowns continue until the end of the year, the American Bus Association estimated that more than 82,000 jobs would be lost along with \$14.2 billion in sales.

Regan said Cavalier is luckier than most bus companies because it also has a school bus operation to supplement overall revenue. The company also operates school buses in Owatonna, Medford, Blooming Prairie and Hayfield.

Districts are under contract with the

company for busing through the end of the school year, which means the bus company continues to receive revenue even though schools have switched to distance learning and do not need transportation. The school bus drivers have been paid throughout the pandemic.

"Our school bus operation is pulling us through," Regan acknowledged.

As for the Cavalier operation, most of the business comes from high schools, community colleges, tour groups and senior citizen

groups. Cavalier operates 14 charter buses, which feature up to 56 passengers in a contained environment.

Regan says it's an "uncertain future" right now for motorcoaches. "It is dead in the water until social distancing is relaxed," he said. He added it could take up to 18 months before they are up to full speed again if motorcoach companies can even survive that long.

"I don't know when we're going to come out of this," Regan said. "I have more questions than answers."

In the meantime, there's plenty of work to do at the Capitol. Many have questions about the Capital Investment/Bonding Bill. "I believe we'll have one, but I think it's unwise to put one together until we know the financial impact of the COVID pandemic and what funding will be needed to recover. Many important infrastructure projects need funding, but increasing our debt should be done prudently and prioritized for maximum impact."

John Petersburg is state representative for District 24A, which encompasses Steele and Waseca counties. Petersburg, who lives in Waseca, is running for re-election this fall.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW? FROM A3

has progressed, our understanding of the virus has changed and the statistics are nowhere near the original projections.

A few weeks ago the Governor shared the modeling program he used to formulate and implement his executive orders. It included four scenarios, ranging from doing nothing to full shelter at home. The results of the third and fourth scenarios predicted identical numbers for ICU hospitalizations and deaths. The third scenario sheltered the most vulnerable with peaks at June 8, while the fourth forced everyone to stay home and peaked July 13.

The Governor chose Scenario 4, locking down the state and its financial recovery for an additional month with no appreciable improvement. I now believe we can lift the shelter at home safely and I'll be glad to work with the Governor to do just that, understanding that we must protect the vulnerable as we lift the shelter at home. But I also believe people have the right to be accountable for their own safety and health decisions, including wearing masks and using hand sanitizer. If they feel safe going about their normal business, they should have the right. If they feel unsafe, they may remain

sheltered at home and everyone should support their decision.

It was never the intent of either the U.S. or Minnesota Constitution to restrict the free movement of its citizens. But that is where we are at. Until a majority of the Minnesota House disagrees with the governor, we are bound by that decision. In the meantime, I'm trying to convince the majority and the Governor to change his State of Emergency stance. When that happens, I'll be happy to work with the Governor in providing the legislation needed to help and support our state's recovery.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Members of the Minnesota National Guard have begun mobile testing for the coronavirus in the state's long-term care facilities.

National Guard starts COVID-19 testing

The Minnesota National Guard has begun mobile testing in the state's long-term care facilities. In coordination with Minnesota Department of Health, 21 members of the Minnesota National Guard will start actioning Gov. Tim Walz's plan to increase testing throughout the state by using mobile testing teams at long-term care facilities. This mobile testing is part of the Five-Point Plan laid out by the Governor to combat COVID-19 in Minnesota's long-term care facilities.

"The Minnesota National Guard has been assisting state agencies with logistics and planning efforts up to this point," says Major General Jon Jensen, Minnesota National Guard Adjutant

General. "With these new missions our efforts shift to more directly assist those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 fight."

The mobile testing teams will be made up of a combination of Army and Air National Guardsmen, each team will have ten members assigned. The Minnesota National Guard will start with two teams this week and will expand those numbers as needed in weeks to come. Locations will focus on long-term care facilities where they will test residents and employees.

This testing is designed to reduce the spread by identifying those that are infected so they can be isolated. This isolation will decrease the risk of spread in these facilities of greatest concern.

CORONA CASES: FROM A1

ing COVID-19 cases in long-term facilities, Caron said. There are three cases in separate facilities throughout the county, according to Caron.

"We are working with them to make sure they are taking the right steps," Caron said of the long-term care centers. "There has been no spread at this point," she added.

Caron noted the long-term facilities are "sitting good right now" with personal protective equipment. However, she worries that there could be a shortage if the virus spreads.

Overall, Caron attributes the increased cases in Steele County to the rise in widespread testing. "Unfortunately, I don't think our numbers are going to look real great for a while," she said.

Cases in neighboring counties remain fairly consistent. Dodge has 36 cases while Freeborn has 61 and Mower 65.

The stay-at-home order that had been in place since mid-March

expired on Monday. Last week, Gov. Tim Walz announced the state would be moving to a Stay Safe order. Minnesotans are now welcome to gather with friends and family in groups of 10 or less with safe social distancing practices in place.

Non-critical businesses like retail stores and main street businesses, can reopen if they have a social distancing plan and operate at 50% capacity. The governor is assembling guidance on how to safely reopen bars, restaurants, barbershops and salons beginning June 1.

By staying home, Minnesotans successfully pushed out the peak of the pandemic and bought the state time to get ready to treat those who fall ill. During the past two months, the state has built out hospital capacity, increased ventilators and ICU beds and launched a landmark testing strategy with Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota to test every symptomatic person.

DIALING DOWN COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Changes

Effective May 18

- More retail with restrictions
- Gather in small groups
- Leave house more
- Faith gatherings of 10 or fewer
- Outdoor sports with distancing

Allowed to open June 1

- Bars
- Restaurants

- Gyms
- Theaters
- Barbershops, salons

Still cautioned

- 65+ advised to stay home
- Vulnerable should stay home
- Wear mask when shopping
- Work from home if you can
- Limit travel, stay close to home

SEEING THE GOOD

The Times continues its "Seeing the Good" feature in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are profiling stories of hope and encouragement of friends, neighbors and others doing extraordinary acts of kindness during a bleak period in our nation's history. If you have any ideas of stories we can feature, please reach out to us at bptimes@frontier.net or call our office at 507-583-4431. Your ideas will help make this an interesting segment for our readers.

Spreading local support



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
US Bank of Blooming Prairie continues its "Support Local" campaign by donating gift cards to the employees of the Blooming Prairie Post Office. Accepting the cards from US Bank branch manager Becky Josephson, right, are Postmaster Michele Lawson, left, and Eileen Loverink. The gift cards are for Nick's Prairie Cafe.

It pays to shop local

Fundraiser benefits businesses during crisis

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

For four hours on a Thursday night, traffic was heavy at the Blooming Prairie City Center.

Why were so many vehicles coming to the City Center parking lot? The building had actually been closed for two months because of the coronavirus.

These vehicles were piloted by people who believe in shopping local and believe in supporting their local businesses during this time of uncertainty. People were stopping by to pick up their t-shirts they had purchased to support local business.

The fundraiser for the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce and for area businesses shut down by the coronavirus, was the brainchild of Sportstitch owner Linda Klemmensen and Jamie Klemmensen of Klemmensen Creative.

Linda distributed the shirts in the City Center parking lot from 4-8 p.m.

The Klemmensens designed a special logo for the fundraiser. It reads: "One small purchase can make a big difference." The shirt commands "Shop Local, Shop Loyal." T-shirts were sold at \$20 each with \$2 per shirt going to the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce and \$10 donated to the business of choice as long as they are current members.

As of early last week, Linda Klemmensen had sold 240 shirts. She then received orders for 85 more shirts. "I am very, very happy," said Linda. "It makes me feel good to give back," she said.

The chamber will receive \$510, Emily's Beauty Bar, \$230; First Lutheran Church, \$190; BP Servicemen's



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Council member Mary Kittelson, right, stopped by the City Center parking lot last Thursday night to pick up a t-shirt designed by Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch and Jamie Klemmensen of Klemmensen Creative. Linda presents the shirt, one of 325 sold as part of this fundraiser for local businesses affected by the coronavirus.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch was wearing one of the t-shirts designed to help area businesses struggling because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Club, \$170; and the BP Cue Company/ Pizza Cellar, \$160. The balance will be divided between 38 other chamber businesses as designated by those who purchased t-shirts.

Because of the volume of sales she donated an additional \$350 to the BP Chamber. The additional sale of 85 shirts brought in almost \$1,000. She was still selling shirts as of Monday.

"People wanted to participate and support their local businesses," said Klemmensen.

Thanking the many people who donated to a benefit for Klemmensen and The Bakery owner Gregg Fristedt in mid-February, Linda said this was a way to further say thank you.

The Bakery and Sportstitch burned in a fire on Jan. 28.

A new recreational venue coming to BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A remote control car race track is coming to Blooming Prairie.

In about a month, it is hoped that remote car racing will be in action east of Arkema and Highway 218 at 124 Mill Ave. South. The property is owned by James O'Connor.

Following a public hearing, a conditional use permit was granted to the car track at a regular Blooming Prairie City Council meeting on Monday, May 11. The council voted 4-1 to approve the conditional use permit.

Nathan Schumacher will be manager of the

recreation venture. He says property owner O'Connor wanted to provide some entertainment for the family.

Schumacher said plans are to have races on Saturdays, maybe three Saturdays a month. The race events last about four hours. Racers bring their own cars to the track. Event fees have yet to be established.

Some opposition to the venture appeared in a petition signed by 44 individuals. Schumacher said the track will adhere to all of the rules outlined by the city.

"We will not have a permanent structure,"

said Schumacher. He said there will be a driver stand and a pit stand. Majority of the track will be dirt. A fence will be installed to mitigate noise.

Schumacher became involved in remote control car racing at a track in Clarks Grove. He and son Justin have raced at the Southern Minnesota Remote Control track in Clarks Grove. This track has been open for three years and is owned by Justin Dokken.

The Blooming Prairie track does not yet have a name, said Schumacher. He said a name will be chosen and a Facebook

page will help promote the track.

Schumacher said the track is not like a circle course. It has turns and jumps on a dirt track, similar to a mini moto cross event. The cars are 1/10th scale. Different classes and styles of cars will be featured in age categories: kids, sportsman, pro and mini 1/14th or 1/16th.

Each class features about 14-15 cars in competition.

Schumacher and his son have a dozen cars that have been racing at the Clarks Grove track.

"I didn't know I would enjoy it this much," commented Schumacher.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

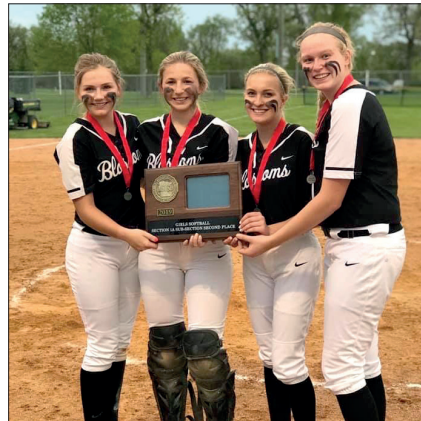
This type of remote control race car will be featured at the Blooming Prairie Remote Control Race Track when it opens, hopefully about a month from now.

Appreciation, despite a season that never happened



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Senior Julia Worke was surprised at her Blooming Prairie home when a car caravan pulled up to thank her for being part of the Awesome Blossoms softball team. The 2020 season was never played.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

These four senior Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom softball players display their Section 1A trophy won during the 2019 season. Shown from left are: Marti Snider, Maya Lembke, Riauna Bishop and Julia Worke.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Marti Snider, left, shown with softball coach Jenna Volgarino, was surprised at her Blooming Prairie home when a car caravan pulled up to thank her for being part of the Awesome Blossoms softball team. The 2020 season was never played.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Riauna Bishop was surprised at her Blooming Prairie home when a car caravan pulled up to thank her for being part of the Awesome Blossoms softball team. The 2020 season was never played.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Maya Lembke, right, is shown with sister Macy after a car caravan pulled up to thank her for being part of the Awesome Blossoms softball team. The 2020 season was never played.

Awesome Blossom softball seniors honored

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

What's there to do on a Thursday night?

Stay home! That's what four Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossom softball seniors did recently. Julia Worke, Marti Snider, Riauna Bishop and Maya Lembke were told to stay home and wait on this Thursday night, May 14.

Quiet then turned to

noise as a car caravan, horns a blaring, stopped at the homes of the four seniors to tell them they were appreciated during a season that never was.

The coronavirus took away the spring sports season for senior athletes throughout Minnesota.

Awesome Blossom softball coach Jenna Volgarino, who was entering her second year as head coach, coordinated the car caravan

in paying thanks to the four seniors.

Activities director and former softball coach Ali Mach and Coach John Bruns were also part of the caravan.

Participants in the caravan included current underclassmen. They met in a Blooming Prairie High School parking lot just one block away from their first stop, Julia Worke's house. Unaware of the caravan,

Worke was shooting baskets on her front yard.

The caravan then proceeded to the homes of Marti Snider, Riauna Bishop and Maya Lembke.

Each senior softball team member was given an engraved softball, a team photo and a bouquet of flowers.

It was a Thursday night that these four senior softball players will never forget.

BP volleyball league may open on May 28

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A third volleyball court has been added to the recreational area just south of Victory Field.

It is hoped that the Blooming Prairie 18-plus Co-ed Summer Sand Volleyball League can begin play on Thursday, May 28, says League

Commissioner Rachel Blaetern.

The start date for the volleyball league depends on what direction the governor gives in respect to social distancing, said Blaetern.

The league will feature eight adult teams, each team allowed 12 players. Games will be played on Thursday nights and

will run for 14 weeks. The 2020 season marks the fourth year that a volleyball league has existed in Blooming Prairie.

Cost to join the league is \$180 per team.

For more information on the Blooming Prairie 18-plus Co-ed Summer Sand Volleyball League, check out the volleyball league Facebook page.

Elstad named finalist for Triple A award

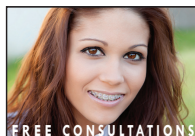
An Owatonna student competed as a finalist for the 2020 Academics, Arts and Athletics award, also known as the Triple A awards.

Kaia Elstad was a finalist in the Region 1A A division.

Established in 1988, the award recognizes high school

seniors from across Minnesota for their achievements in the classroom, arts and activities and athletics. To qualify for the award, students must have a 3.0 or better GPA and participate in league-sponsored athletic and arts activities program.

Schools are invited to nominate one boy and one girl for the award. The recipients are selected through a multi-level process involving the League's administrative regions and a committee of educational, athletic and arts activities leaders.



Dr. Deborah J. Lien
DDS, MBS
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

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Blooming Prairie

www.drdeborahtlienorthodontics.com

OBITUARIES

Obituaries Sponsor:
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Thomas Jelinke

Thomas Jelinke, 82, formerly of BP

Thomas Richard "Dick" Jelinke passed away peacefully at his home in Pequot Lakes after a short illness with stomach cancer on Friday, May 1, 2020. Dick was born on Jan. 3, 1938 in Austin to Tom and Christy Jelinke. Dick was raised in Blooming Prairie where he resided most of his life. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1956 and loved working on the reunion committee.

Dick met Connie Fread when she moved to Blooming Prairie in July 1951. They married Aug. 18, 1956. Dick served in the U.S. Navy stationed on the destroyer USS Dally in Newport, R.I. They returned to Blooming Prairie where he eventually became employed with Contel working for them for 30 years.

Dick and Connie raised two daughters on a beef farm near BP. They enjoyed traveling and camping in their various RVs. They retired from farming and moved to the lake near Backus in 1998 and spent 20 years wintering in Welton, Ariz. They moved to Pequot Lakes eight years ago.

Dick enjoyed his old cars, woodworking and traveling. His past time was visiting with anyone he could strike up a conversation with.

Dick is survived by his wife, Connie; daughters, Ginger (Mark) Hoffman of Pequot Lakes and Tracey (Bob) Bengson of Litchfield; two grandchildren, Carley (Noah) Neuhaus and Kyle Hoffman; step grandchildren: Renae (Joe) Schleicher, Robin (Tim) Hoffmann, Robert Jr (Michelle) Bengson and Bradley (Jackie) Bengson and their families; his siblings, Jon (Sandy) Jelinke, Jerilyn (Lyle) Noble; sister-in-law, Harriet Fread; and many nieces and nephews.

No service is being held due to COVID-19. A graveside memorial service will be held later at the Blooming Prairie Cemetery. Arrangements are with Kline Funeral Home, Pequot Lakes.



Jean Anderson

Jean Anderson, 87, formerly of Geneva

Jean (Robertson) Anderson was born on Feb. 27, 1933, in Albert Lea, the daughter of John and Emelia (Untied) Horan. She grew up in rural Geneva-Hartland area with three brothers and two sisters. She attended school in Albert Lea.

She began working at Northern Valley, where she met Ralph Buringa. They married and had three children, Sandi, Bob and Dan. After they divorced, Jean began working at the Cottage Caf? in Geneva. She met and married Neil Robertson and they added children Debb and James to their family. She was happy to get back to her farm roots and they lived on several farms in the Geneva-Elendale area. Tragedy struck and Neil died in a car accident in 1965. Jean began working at the Geneva Market to support her family, and continued working there until 1978.

She later found happiness again and was united in marriage to Harold "Wimpy" Anderson. He preceded her in death in 1992. Jean remained in Geneva until 2004 when she moved to Kasson to be closer to family. Jean has been a longtime faithful member of the Community Lutheran Church in Geneva. Her faith and her family meant the world to her.

Jean was lovingly known as Gran to not only her family, but to so many more people whom she loved and loved her.

Jean was a "magnet" for children. She cared for many, they were all considered family, and all called her "Gran." This could have something to do with the fact that she was funny, a good listener and a great foundation to lean on.

She loved puzzles, animals (especially her feline companions), watching gold finches, family reunions, and making amazing Special K bars. She volunteered at the food shelf and the clothes closet in Kasson. If she could help someone, then she would, no questions asked. She supported her family in any way she could, with words and actions.

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, Jean, loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother passed away at the age of 87.

Jean will be lovingly missed by her five children: Sandi (Steve) Kroeger of Madison Lake, Bob Robertson of Dodge Center, Dan (Norma) Robertson of Lenexa, Kansas, Debb (Ron) Head of Dodge Center, James "JR" Robertson of Lenexa, Kansas; grandchildren: Shane, Amanda, Heather, Nathan, Shawna, Jennifer, Erin and Ryan. 12 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Ralph Buringa, Neil Robertson, and Harold "Wimpy" Anderson, grandsons, Justin Robertson and Alex Hare, siblings, Merle Horan, Alma Thompson, Leroy Horan, Charlyne Wangsness and Duane Horan.

Jean was the epitome of a role model, a great friend to many, a great teacher in life, a loving wife, a wonderful mother, grandmother and great grandmother. We will miss her!

Private family graveside services will be held. These services were livestreamed at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, May 18, 2020 at www.bonnerup-funeralservice.com.

Condolences may also be left on our website, or cards sent in care of the Anderson family to Bonnerup Funeral Service - 2210 East Main, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Madelon Collette, 93, Austin



Madelon Collette

Madelon M. Collette, age 93 of Austin, died Sunday, May 10, 2020, at St. Mark's Living in Austin.

Madelon Mavis Wilson was born March 22, 1927 in Floyd, Iowa to Debert and Leona (Rowe) Wilson. Madelon and her two sisters lost their father when Madelon was three. When Leona remarried Harry Miller of Albert Lea, Madelon was excited to welcome three new siblings to the now blended family. In time, a new brother arrived to complete their family unit.

Madelon was graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1945. On Oct. 26, 1946, she married Donald Lostegaard. Madelon took a job at the Wagon Wheel in Austin, but eventually joined the secretarial pool for the Hormel Foods Corporation. During her tenure, she held positions in the insurance, personnel, transportation, purchasing, and grocery products divisions. She formed lifelong friendships with her many bright, creative, vivacious colleagues. In another era, they would surely have run the place.

Together Madelon and Don raised two daughters. Madelon designed, sewed, and created the family wardrobes. Date-nights, family nights, and social get-togethers often included square-dancing. Madelon created elaborate cakes - at least one or two may have garnered media attention. The family belonged to Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church where Madelon volunteered with the Sunday school program, the youth groups, and as president of the Dorcas Mission Circle.

When Don became ill, painting became good therapy for both. During this therapeutic process, Madelon discovered a true talent she developed in the ensuing years. Don passed away in January 1977.

On Oct. 4, 1980, Madelon married Wesley Collette of Austin. Madelon joined Wes in "retirement" from Hormel Foods March 1983 after 34 years. Both loved arts and crafts. Together, they operated Collette's Country Corner for 18 years and participated in craft shows throughout the region. They sold more than 200 of Madelon's oil paintings and thousands of figurines and statues created by both. Most importantly, they made new friends wherever they landed. Throughout, Madelon and Wes remained active at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. Madelon served as both vice president and president of WELCA. She served on the Board of Directors of the Mower County Senior Center, and she volunteered with Wes at the J.C. Hornel Nature Center. One year they were crowned Spam King and Queen. Wes died Nov. 18, 2001.

After 46 years on the farm, Madelon moved to Austin in 2005. She remained active and engaged right through the "stay at home" whether at Carriage Homes Drive, Primrose Retirement Community, or St. Mark's Living.

Madelon's love was universal and inclusive. She loved adults, children, and animals. Family was especially important to her but was not defined by blood. Her favorite hobby was making friends. She enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, friends, strangers, cousins, caregivers, delivery drivers, et. al. She also enjoyed reading, journaling, dancing, and playing cribbage, pinocle, and the occasional lucky slot machine. She loved her cats, Kodiak and Hunter.

Survivors include her children Shari (Cary) Gode of Vadnais Heights, Julie (Tony) Razdilo of Austin, Sal? Crutaire of Foley, Frank Collette of Champion, Mich.; her precious grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; her sister Lucille Carlson of Inver Grove Heights; many of her cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Madelon will be dearly missed by all.

Madelon was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband Don Lostegaard, her second husband Wes Collette, one son and one daughter at birth, her siblings Avis Johnson, Phyllis Morris, Wayne Miller, Marvin Miller, and Jerald Miller, her grandson Steve Collette and numerous other beloved family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Private family interment will be in Red Oak Grove Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials can be directed to Red Oak Grove Church, or recipient of donor's choice. Services are prearranged and performed with Worlein Funeral Home in Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



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BOOK NOOK

Smiling behind our masks



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

At the Blooming Prairie Branch Library, we are so grateful for the community support and patience that have been shown as our services have changed due to the pandemic. Now that curbside delivery is again available, patrons can get fresh books in their hands.

During the month of April, our library patrons were able to get new items through our online databases. In fact, they set records in the number of online eBooks and items! Our statistics are included with Owatonna Public Library, so these numbers reflect use in both libraries. In April, 515 patrons downloaded 1,620 eBooks through Overdrive, also under the name Libby. This

was an average of 54 books per day and broke the monthly record for number of patrons and eBook checkouts! Our newer online service, HOOPLA, provides eBooks, eAudiobooks, movies, and more. (If you haven't tried it yet, go to owatonna.info to do so.) During April, 213 patrons checked out 757 items on HOOPLA, over 200 more items than the previous month, and another record.

Your increased use of these online resources shows that you want and need the books and services that the library offers to all. Even though we love the feel of the books in our hands, when we have to, we will adapt to eBooks. Thank you for doing so, and thank you to the Owatonna Public Library Foundation for providing the funding for these extra resources.

Our curbside delivery is available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Park near the outside book drop and give us a call at 507-583-7750. We will bring your things to you. And we will be smiling behind our masks!

COLLEGE NEWS

BP area students graduate from MSUM

Minnesota State University, Mankato Awards 2,367 Degrees at End of Spring Semester

Three Blooming Prairie area students achieved degrees from Minnesota State University, Mankato, at spring graduation.

They are Beatrice Michaud, BS, RN baccalaureate completion, Leah Schiefert, BS, dental hygiene, Magna Cum Laude and Abby Wayne, BS, psychology.

The three were among 2,367 degrees given out at spring graduation with this spring's graduates celebrated through a special website that launched Saturday, May 9, the day on which the University's three traditional graduation ceremonies were scheduled but cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each graduate also received personalized URL video messages by email on May 9, and "commencement-in-a-box" packages were shipped to each graduate the week before graduation.

Advanced degrees awarded by Minnesota State Mankato at the conclusion of the spring semester included seven

doctor of education degrees and three doctor of school psychology degrees.

Graduate degrees awarded included 91 master of arts degrees, nine master of accounting degrees, five master of arts in teaching degrees, nine master of business administration degrees, 16 master of fine arts degrees, one master of music degree, 10 master of public administration degrees, 256 master of science degrees, 15 master of science in nursing degrees, one professional science master's degree and 27 specialist in educational leadership degrees.

Degrees awarded at the undergraduate level included 68 bachelor of arts degrees, 35 bachelor of fine arts degrees, 1,632 bachelor of science degrees, 21 bachelor of science in integrated engineering degrees, 26 bachelor of science in civil engineering degrees, 17 bachelor of science in computer engineering degrees, 25 bachelor of science in electrical engineering degrees, 40 bachelor of science in mechanical engineering degrees, 39 bachelor of

SEE BP AREA STUDENTS, A10

Recipe Corner

Rhubarb Pie

Combine flour, powdered sugar and butter in mixer. When blended press into sides and bottom of a 10" greased glass pie pan.

1 cup flour
5 tablespoons powdered sugar
1/2 cup butter

Mix together the following.

3 eggs, slightly beaten
2 cups sugar
1/2 cup flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
Stir in 3 cups diced rhubarb

Pour into crust. Bake 60 minutes at 350 degrees.

Sponsored by

Krejci Ford

16th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie, 583-2046

HAVE A RECIPE TO SHARE?

Email to hptimes@frontiernet.net
OR Send to: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie



Pastor Paul Hauschild
TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
HAYFIELD

"To everything there is a season... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).
"Remember this, my dear friends! Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).
Most communication researchers contend that the first step in effective communication is "gaining attention." In order to establish lines of communication with

When relationships feel strained

your children and spouse, you first must "attend" to them — really see them, really hear them, really listen to them, really feel what they feel.

The Hebrew word for *attend* has several meanings. Two of them paint a vivid description about the listening process:

***A sharpened ear.** Such ears are like those of an animal listening to an unusual sound. Imagine a dog's ears being *perked* up to listen. That's the picture of a sharpened ear. As a parent or spouse, you are challenged to tune in to your family, to listen to them with a heightened awareness.

***A bent ear.** This is the ear that is "cocked" in a certain direction — the ear positioned so that it hears fully and clearly, without distortion. As

a parent or spouse, put away anything that might distract you from listening to your family with your whole heart, mind and spirit. *Bend* your ear in your family member's direction.

Of course, this type of active listening takes effort. It can be far more draining than talking. But it is also the foremost key to communicating well with your family. God wants this for our relationships, even when they feel strained these days. And perhaps the best way to put all of this into action is to start listening to Jesus through prayer, devotion and meditation. As we receive the peace, love, and forgiveness from our Father, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, we can, in turn, give it away.

God Bless you all!

OBITUARIES

Ramon Salinas, 59, Blooming Prairie

Ramon Salinas, age 59, of Blooming Prairie, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by many loving family on Saturday, May 9, 2020, after a four-year battle with cancer. Ramon was a fighter and fought cancer on his terms. His family and friends supported him through the battle of cancer. He entered heaven as a champion.

Ramon was born Nov. 10, 1960 in Dimmitt, Texas, to Juan and Matilda (Lopez) Salinas. He attended school in Plainview, Texas. In 1984, Ramon moved to Blooming Prairie, where he stayed the rest of his years. He worked at Koster's Car Kormer in Blooming Prairie for 28 years, doing body work on vehicles. Ramon was well known for auto-body repair and had a strong passion for it. Ramon loved spending time with his grandchildren and liked to spend his afternoons with his family watching his favorite TV shows Judge Judy, Family Matters and Mike and Molly. He enjoyed bonfires, dancing, listening to Tejano music, and never missed a street dance. Ramon was very sociable and loved walking around town talking to people.

Over the years, he collected NASCAR items and Native American miscellaneous. He was an avid fan of the Minnesota Vikings and never missed a game. Ramon always had a way of bringing laughter into the room! His favorite catch phrases were "Yo Baby Yo" and "My way or the highway," if you heard them you knew Ramon was around. He was loved by his family and friends. As they say, "Everybody loves Ramon!"

Survivors include his mother, Matilda Salinas of Kress, Texas; significant other, Susan Silva; four children; nine step-children; many grandchildren, siblings, Linda Juarez of Tulsa, Texas, Rogelio "Roy" (Deb) Salinas of Austin, Mary (Fidel) Torres of Kress, Texas, Roberto (Gloria) Salinas of Blooming Prairie, Christina (Angel) Valentin of Kress, Texas, Yolanda (Tony) Morales of Kress, Texas; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Juan Salinas; brother, Ramiro "Ram" Salinas; step-son, Oscar Martinez; and niece, Linda Torres.

Private family interment will be in St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery, Blooming Prairie. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



Ramon Salinas

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6259 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5686
Worship: Sunday at 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN ELCA
106 Third St. SE, Geneva
Pastor Kristine 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. Sunday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church: 9 a.m. and Confirmation: 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN - ELCA
434 First St. SW,
Bloomington
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Heminger
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mike Valerius
507-583-6621
firstlutheran.org
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
2900 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 Edverson
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 Grubel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN - ELCA
30456 Mower-Frederick Road,
Austin
Rev. Suzanne Frodlich,
Interim Pastor

507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.rglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School:
(Sept. - May): 10:15 a.m.

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN - ELCA
1301 Lincoln Ave. Owatonna
Pastors Dave Klawiter and Jackie
Richmond
507-451-7293
stjohnowatonna.org
Worship: 5 p.m.
Thursday & Saturday:
8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Summer Services:
8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Sunday
507-477-2474

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
507-451-4520
tlowatonna.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Buegler
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Amanda Floy
Deacon: Kris Oppgaard
Worship: 5 p.m. Sunday: 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 Buehler
507-451-0447
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

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

ZION LUTHERAN - ELCA
7125 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

CHRIST THE KING
205 Second Ave. NW, Medford
507-451-4533
Father James Starasnick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sat.
Mass: 9 a.m. Mon. & Fri.
507-451-4533

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
507 First St., New Richmond
Father Antony Anokiyam
507-234-6244
Mass: 7 a.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LUTOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Wilnot
507-583-2784
www.lutomysl.org
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
with Children's Church Sacrament
of Reconciliation Wednesdays at
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation classes
for K-8ers Confirmation
Second Sunday of month:
Family Faith Formation
Litomysl Finance Council:
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father John Wilnot
507-477-2256
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday
8:00 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Parochial Vicar
507-451-5588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday:
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor John Wilnot
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 Starasnick
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.
(Communion Service
8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon., Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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hours or weekends

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

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

METHODIST
BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
4500 190th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR 23)
Pastors J & S Stefania 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 Nadia Cirksena
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST
815 E. University, Owatonna
Rev. Scott Jakel
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate 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.

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

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

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

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

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

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

MENNONITE
PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13637 75th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-587-7332
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE,
Bloomington
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.
(Owatonna's oldest church)

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

BETHEL BAPTIST
1611 Hemlock Ave.
Owatonna
Pastor Michael Simmerman
507-451-4548
www.bethelowatonna.com
Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD
VICTORY LIFE
105 2nd NE
Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
50

OBITUARIES



Mary Jean Kaplan

Mary Jean Kaplan, 90, of Owatonna, died Saturday, May 16, 2020 at Owatonna Hospital. Mary was born Feb. 2, 1930 in Nevada, Iowa the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Cartin) Kotlaba. She was also baptized in Nevada. They moved to Blooming Prairie in June 1930 where Mary attended school from 1936-48. She received her college education from Winona State University and graduated in 1950 with a degree in elementary education. Mary taught 4th and 5th grades from 1950-52 in Murdock. She worked at Jostens Yearbook Company for two years. Mary met Lawrence Kaplan in 1952 and they married Nov. 10, 1953. They moved to a dairy farm near Blooming Prairie and then to a dairy farm near Ellendale in 1955. Mary and Lawrence had six children before he passed away on March 13, 1970. Mary continued to run her successful farm until 1986, moved to Ellendale for a year and then to Owatonna, where she made her permanent home. She worked at Nelson's Bakery and Prange Way before retiring. While living in Ellendale, Mary was a member of St. Aiden's Catholic Church and Altar Society and the Ellendale-Geneva Schools PTA. In Owatonna, she was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and its women's sewing group. Mary's interests and hobbies included reading, sewing and

traveling. She enjoyed her trips to Alaska, Virginia, Texas, and nine trips overseas to Europe, Israel and the Panama Canal.

Mary's children send a very special thank you to our family and friends who were able to attend Mary's 90th birthday party on Feb. 1. This meant more to her (and the six of us) than you'll ever know and turned out to be the celebration of her life that we are unable to hold now due to gathering restrictions. We love you all.

She is survived by her six children: James (Sharon Ringhofer) Kaplan of Owatonna, John (Nancy) Kaplan of Elysian, Richard (Minerva) Kaplan of San Antonio, Texas, Gregory (Celine) Kaplan of Anchorage, Alaska, Kathleen (Peter) Mikkelsen of Christiansburg, Va., and Brian (Aleta) Kaplan of Madison, Wis.; 15 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence; sister, Phyllis; brother-in-law, Howard and grandson, Philip.

Private funeral services will be held at Michaelson Funeral Home with Father John Sauer officiating. Interment will be in the Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery in Litomysl.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Mary's name for an elementary education scholarship can be sent to: WSU Foundation, P.O. Box 5838, Somsen 204, Winona, MN 55987, or www.alumni.winona.edu/ give. Choose "Other" and note "In Memory of Mary Kaplan."

BP AREA: FROM AS

science in social work degrees and 20 associate of arts degrees.

Undergraduate students receiving recognition included 183 students graduating summa cum laude (3.8 grade point average and higher), 254 students graduating magna cum laude (minimum grade point average of 3.5 for students admitted before fall 2015; minimum grade point average of 3.6 for students admitted fall 2015 or later) and 258 students graduating cum laude (minimum grade point average of 3.3 for students admitted before fall 2015; minimum grade point average of 3.4 for students admitted fall 2015 or later).

More information about the Minnesota State Mankato spring 2020 commencement is available at <http://mnsd.edu/mavgrad2020>.

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Old bus garage makes way for affordable housing

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

When Bill Regan came to Owatonna in 1968, he took over the bus company, which included a bus garage on Cherry Street.

For years, the garage provided shelter for school buses. However, it didn't take long for Regan's bus company to outgrow the space, and he moved the buses to the current garage located on the west side of Owatonna in 1975.

"It was so crowded before we moved," Regan recalls. "We had buses backing into driver's cars because there was no room," he said.

He has kept the 1.25-acre property on Cherry Street next to the railroad tracks for all these years renting out the garage as storage and an office space for Central Heating & Air Conditioning of Owatonna, but that will soon come to an end.

Regan is in the process of selling the property, including the old garage and two single-family homes, to the City of Owatonna. The structures will be demolished to make room for a 36-unit apartment building known as Eastgate Apartments. It will be deemed as workforce affordable housing.

Under the terms of the sale, the city would clear the property and clean up the site, according to Troy Klecker, community development director for Owatonna. The city has received about \$139,000 from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to help clean up the property. Once the site is ready, the city would transfer ownership to LWO Properties, a Twin Cities developer, he said. Klecker expects construction to begin on the property by fall. The complex would

SEE OLD BUS GARAGE, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Bill Regan of Owatonna looks over his property on Cherry Street that once housed his bus company. Regan has sold the 1.25-acre site to the City of Owatonna for workforce affordable housing.

CLASSES OF COVID

It will be a memorable BP commencement

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Because of the health and safety threat posed by the coronavirus, this year's 2020 Blooming Prairie High School commencement will be like none other.

The Class of 2020 graduation is planned for 11 a.m. Sunday, May 31 on the grounds of the high school.

If raining, the time will be pushed back, stated commencement organizers.

The virtual ceremony will be a drive-thru ceremony with a special solo walk in front of the high school for each graduate.

The seniors will then receive their diploma, will have their photo taken by yearbook photographer Becky Severson and will return to their vehicle.

It will be a virtual graduation with most of the action centered on a radio broadcast on KAT COUNTRY 105.

SEE IT WILL BE A MEMORABLE, B2

Medford offers parking lot ceremony with flair

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It will be a parking lot graduation with some flair for Medford seniors this year.

High School principal Kevin Babcock finalized plans last week for graduation, which will take place Friday, May 29 at 7 p.m. in the high school parking lot. An alternate weather date is Saturday, May 30 at 7 p.m.

The commencement ceremony will be broadcast live on OwatonnaLive.com and radio stations 106.3 FM and 170 AM KPWW.

"We will adhere to social distancing guidelines," Babcock stressed in revealing the plans. "Even though this situation is not ideal, we are planning to honor our seniors through these safe and special events," he said.

Babcock noted that both the Minnesota Department of Education and Department of Health recommend the safest way to observe graduation is to stay home.

The school district is mandating all participants, seniors and families, to stay at home if there are underlying health conditions or COVID-19 symptoms are exhibited, according to Babcock. No



Graduation with a bang at NRHEG

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

School officials at NRHEG High School are set to send their graduates out with a bang.

Though the COVID-19 crisis has put graduation plans into a tailspin this year for all schools, NRHEG has come up with a unique way to end graduation. They will be shooting off fireworks after the ceremony.

Principal David Bunn worked with a committee last week to finalize plans for graduation at NRHEG. It will be Sunday, May 31 at 8 p.m. with a drive-in style ceremony in the school parking lot or green space behind the school depending on the weather.

Pictures of the graduates will be taken prior to the event so that a photo can be displayed on a large screen during graduation.

There will be three student speakers as picked by the senior class. They are Maggie Maloney, John Hoelscher and Mia Williams. Two others, Jayna Domeier and Alexander Combs, will do a special parent appreciation speech.

The ceremony will be limited to one vehicle per family, according to Bunn. He noted school staff members will be available to help with parking to get the vehicles where they need to be.

FM transmission will be available for everyone to hear the ceremony on their vehicle stereos. The ceremony will also be live streamed for those who can't attend to watch graduation.

Bunn said graduates will

not be allowed to come out of their vehicles during the ceremony. They will be given the diplomas when they leave their pictures taken. "They will be in the car the entire time," he said. "It's not our preferred choice, but it's pretty clearly stated in guidelines set forth by the Minnesota Department of Health and Waseca County Public Health," he added.

Asked if he ever thought graduation would take on this kind of look, Bunn responded, "Never in my wildest dreams." He noted the coordination of this event has been "pretty extensive" over the past few weeks.

"We will try to make it the very best that our seniors deserve," Bunn said. "I wish we could do it a different way, but we are going to make the best of it. We are trying to make it a quality graduation."

The ceremony will conclude with a small fireworks show. Bunn said donations from the American Legion and the PTO as well as some other community donors are providing the fireworks. "We want fireworks at the end to make it special," he said.

Along with Bunn, some of those involved in the graduation planning were the Superintendent Dale Carlson, administrative assistant Teri Korman, the district nurse, senior class advisor and New Richland police chief.

Bunn stressed that all graduation plans had been communicated with Waseca County Public Health and fall into the guidelines set forth by state health officials.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

NRHEG senior Elizabeth Karl enjoys the graduation sign that was recently delivered during a Senior Surprise Caravan.

A full day of celebration for Owatonna grads

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It has been a rocky ending to the school year, but seniors graduating from Owatonna High School will be offered a full day of celebration.

This year's graduation will offer four components throughout the day on Sunday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The first will be cap, gown and diploma professional photos and breakfast. All graduates and their families are scheduled to come to the Foundation Building on the east side of the fairgrounds to get a professional photo with their diploma in their cap and gown. The school will have free breakfast treats and honored guests who want to congratulate the seniors on their accomplishments.

Since there will not be a processional at commencement, seniors will be allowed to decorate their caps for the picture to honor the very unique year they graduated, said Kory Kath, Owatonna principal.

The second component will be the commencement, which will offer drive-in ceremony at the parking lot of Federated Insurance, 1929 South Cedar Ave. The ceremony will be broadcast live on radio on AM 1390 KRFO and FM 100.9 KOWZ.

"We will honor all seniors, hear commencement addresses by members of the Class of 2020 and receive recognition from honored guests," Kath said.

Families will be limited to one car for the ceremony. Kath stressed that everyone must be inside the car during the entire ceremony. "To adhere to social distancing rules, only driver side windows may be rolled down and no restrooms will be available," he said. "We ask for your respect and willingness to honor these expectations as we know how important the ceremony is to our senior class," he added.

The third part of graduation will be local businesses honoring seniors. Several businesses are offering deals on great food and treats. Coupons will be given to seniors for

AREA

MEMORIAL DAY

Remembrances

★ ★ ★ ★

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
11 a.m. - Small ceremony at city cemetery
ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA
8:15 a.m. - Holy Trinity Cemetery at Litomysl
8:45 a.m. - St. Ansgar's Cemetery
9:15 a.m. - Geneva Cemetery
9:45 a.m. - St. Aiden's Cemetery
10:15 a.m. - Ellendale Lutheran Cemetery
10:45 a.m. - Berlin Cemetery

For more information on Memorial Day programs, see page B7.

Blessed by an amazing community



Steele Talkin'
JESS STROMLEY

First and foremost, we would like to thank you all for your amazing support during this difficult time. The donations that have come in this past month have been such a blessing. We have been able to purchase canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, and rice from our local grocery stores. These items are being added to our monthly food packages to round them up to our standards. Your donations have also helped with our nearly doubled food cost of purchasing pre-packaged boxes. We are so blessed to have such an amazing community who steps up and rallies around our neighbors in need.

Not much has changed in last month here at Community Pathways. Our Thrift Store (Unique Finds) is still closed, and we are uncertain of when we will open. Our number one priority is the health and wellbeing of our customers, volunteers, and employees. We are in the process of coming up with a plan and process for when we can open our store.

Marketplace continues to offer monthly food packages curbside to registered cus-

SEE A FULL DAY, B2

SEE BLESSED, B2

SEE MEDFORD OFFERS, B2

A FULL DAY: of celebration for Owatonna grads

FROM B1

S'cream, Taco John's, The Blast, Old Town Bagels, McDonald's and others.

Graduation day will conclude with the light the night for the Class of 2020. The high school will be lit up in a special way just for the senior class. Community residents are also encouraged to turn on their outside lights in honor of the graduates.

At 9:30 p.m., the stadium, scoreboard and front of the building will be lit up to honor the senior class. It will be lit for only 20 minutes marking 2020.

Kath said with the future being bright for the graduates, they want the entire community to honor it. He asks people to respect social distancing if they leave their car to see the special lighting. "We are excited to do all of this in honor

and hope that the graduates know how deeply we care about them," Kath says. "Their journey has been like no other, so our celebration must be as well."

In preparation for graduation, the seniors participated in a survey. One of the overriding messages that came out of the survey was that the seniors wanted the formal opportunity to get their diploma.

The seniors also said they wanted to come together to hear the speeches. "We can't do it in person, but we can do it in vehicles," Kath said. He encourages people who can't attend the ceremony to listen on the radio.

"We hope they feel their community is coming together to say thank you and congratulations," Kath said.

BLESSED: by an amazing community

FROM B1

tomers. Marketplace Delivery has been going strong adding new customers to their delivery schedule every week. This program has helped so many and we are grateful to be able to offer this service.

Channel One Food Bank has been delivering 200 pre-packaged boxes and fresh produce every

week, they have done an outstanding job making sure food shelves like ours are stocked with healthy nutritious food. They have also waived the charge for these during the month of May.

The kindness, encouragement, and support from our customers, volunteers and neighbors has kept us going.

We miss you all and cannot wait to catch up and see your smiling faces. We are all in this together and together we can overcome anything. Keep up to date with changes by visiting our website www.communitypathwaysSC.org or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/communitypathwaysSC.org.

Jess Stromley is the fund development and marketing coordinator for Community Pathways in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

OLD BUS GARAGE:

FROM B1

feature "a lot of amenities of market rate" apartments, Klecker said. Some of them include underground parking, laundry in each apartment and balconies. However, the rent would be about \$200-\$300 less than a market rate apartment because of tax credits the city has been able to obtain.

LWO has done about five other housing projects in Owatonna, Klecker noted.

Another 36-unit apartment complex is proposed to go at 660 Mound Ave. SW, which is located behind the building that houses Starbucks and Papa Murphy's Pizza on West Bridge Street. Unlike Eastgate, this project would be available as market rate as no tax credits are in place. The developer on the project is Schrom Construction located in southern Minnesota.

The city has also approved a 71-unit apartment complex on Lemond Road.

Klecker said these latest projects will help with the housing supply in Owatonna. "As soon as a building goes up, they fill up right away," he said. "There is definitely demand."

Construction closes County roads

Two Steele County highways are closed for construction.

County Highway 60 from County Highway 45 to Highway 218 in Owatonna Township will be closed for construction starting May 18. A detour will be posted using County Highway 45, Highway 14 and Highway 218.

County Highway 17 from County Highway 7 to Highway 14 in Meriden Township will be closed for construction starting Wednesday, May 20. A detour will be posted using County Highway 7 and County Highway 2.

This work is part of a two-year project

to rehabilitate the roadways. Last year, crews replaced culverts. This year, crews will mill and pulverize the existing pavement and place a new bituminous surface on the highways. Work is expected to be completed by fall.

Steele County officials advise motorists to drive with caution and slow down through work zones for their safety and for the safety of the construction crews.

For updates on this or other Steele County Highway construction projects, visit: www.co.steele.mn.us/highway_construction/.

MEDFORD OFFERS: parking lot ceremony with flair

FROM B1

restrooms will be available for graduation.

Vehicles will be directed to an assigned parking space in alphabetical order. Each graduate will receive an eco-friendly helium balloon to be released at the presentation of the Class of 2020 portion of the ceremony.

Prior to the ceremony, selected pieces of previous Medford Band and Choir performances will be played over the sound system. At 7 p.m., Pomp and Circumstance will be played. Several speakers will be introduced during the ceremony.

Babcock will be offering the presentation of diplomas. Cars will be directed to drive up

to the stage in order to receive their diploma.

The graduate will be allowed to get out of their vehicle and walk across the stage. As they walk across the stage, graduates will stop halfway for a short period of time, flip their tassel, hold up their diploma and then exit the stage. Graduates will reenter their vehicle and return to their original parking spot.

After everyone receives their diplomas, graduates will be allowed to release their balloon.

Medford Fire and the Steele County Sheriff's Office will lead the seniors on a parade throughout Medford.

Babcock said graduates and family members will be able to

decorate their vehicles and graduation caps.

While Babcock is aware not all parents like the graduation plans as they are, he said school officials have tried to do their best with what they have to work with. Just a month ago, Babcock wondered if they were going to be able to do anything at all.

"We are going to make it as memorable as possible," Babcock said. "We are really trying to honor our kids."

Babcock said this year's graduation will definitely be one for the history books. "What other grade will be able to talk about this 10 years from now," he said. "This will be memorable."

IT WILL BE A MEMORABLE:

BP commencement

FROM B1

"We want to make the graduation of members of the Class of 2020 as memorable as possible," remarked Superintendent Chris Staloch.

The school, Staloch said, is thankful for the partnership it has had with families of the Blooming Prairie seniors. "The parents have been patient and supportive of us," he said.

Most Minnesota high schools have planned virtual commencement ceremonies. Gov. Tim Walz and the Minnesota Department of Education two weeks ago ruled that no indoor or stadium/athletic field ceremonies would be allowed because of the gathering restriction of 10 or less.

Letters went out last week to families of the 50 graduates. The letters detailed parameters for the graduation.

Here's a summary of activities planned for the virtual ceremony:

- Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 11 a.m. (if raining, the time will be pushed back).
- Ceremony will be in front of Blooming Prairie High School.
- Pre-recorded speeches will be delivered by Superintendent Staloch and by Blooming Prairie honor students.

• Graduation Ceremony will be pre-recorded and played during the live ceremony on the radio station KAT COUNTRY 105. Share this with your extended family members so they can listen.

• One vehicle is allowed per family. Reach out to Mary Worke if you have any questions regarding this.

• Group photos will not be allowed on school grounds.

• No spectators will be allowed on school grounds.

• The Graduation Ceremony will be pre-recorded and played during the live ceremony on the radio station KAT COUNTRY 105. Share this with your extended family members so they can listen.

• Blooming Prairie yearbook editor, Becky Severson will be at the ceremony to take a photograph of graduates receiving their diplomas. These photos will be available at a later date.

• The ceremony is also being video taped from the ground and the sky. This video will also be available at a later date.

• Due to sound issues, there will be no live stream of the graduation ceremony.

• Please let Mrs. Worke know if you are not participating in the Graduation Ceremony.

• More specific details about the day (Drive thru order & parade route) will come out closer to the Graduation Day.

• Questions about the ceremony may be directed to Mrs. Worke at the high school at 507-583-4426, ext. 428.

• NOTE: Proceedings are subject to change due to the direction of The State of Minnesota.

"Planning has been extensive and now, we just hope the weather will cooperate," said Superintendent Staloch.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Channon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
I just got my first classic car, a 1958 Ford Fairlane and I have questions. I am wondering about some basic car care in the line of fluids. My 2018 Mailbu is simple, just fill up the tank and go to the box store for oil changes but I have heard that you cannot do either on the classics. I plan to put about 2000 miles a year on this car. Should I worry about the battery staying charged?

Ted in Attica Indiana
The 58 Fairlane is a beautiful car. Retractable hardtop, great lines, and a big V8 engine. Who could ask for more... You are correct about the fluids, they are specific. The engine oil today does not contain the zddp or zinc that older oil once did, and the newer cars have special bearings to compensate but yours will be damaged if you use standard oils. You need to either use and additive in the oil to replace the zddp and zinc or use a special oil formulated for classic engines. As for gas, you need to use a lead substitute if the engine has not had modifications made to run on no lead gas. Using regular no lead fuel can damage the engine over time. Along the lines of the battery you will find that when a car sits for extended periods it will tend to go dead. To get the longest life from it use a battery maintainer.

Take care, The Motor Medics

Dear Motor Medics,
My Jeep has problems starting but not every day. Sometimes I can go a week with no issues and other times it will not start twice a day or more. It is very frustrating, and I do not feel secure anymore. When it will not start the is a picture of a key on the instrument panel and the engine just will not turn over. I know it is going to start ok when I turn the key on, and that light is off. I have had it to two different shops, and it starts for them so they both charged me \$100 to look at it and said they cannot find anything. What can I do.

Sherie in Scotland South Dakota
Having a car that will not start always gives a sense of uneasiness. The light indicates Security issues. The situation you are in is very common. You go to a shop and they cannot find anything, but they charge you anyways. They charge for their time even if your car will not cooperate, but the question is, are they going the full distance and just turning the key and saying it starts ok. When we see one like this in our shop we verify the no crank and also go further by looking at basic electrical connections and vehicle computer data as well as looking to see if the vehicle has any recalls for the condition or past service bulletin's.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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

Governor signs Tobacco 21 into law

Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation on May 13 thanked Gov. Tim Walz for signing Tobacco 21 into law. Raising the state tobacco age will align Minnesota with federal law and keep tobacco products out of middle and high schools.

"Minnesota's Tobacco 21 effort started with a few concerned residents and physicians and has grown into 75 local policies and thousands of youth, parents and supporters across the state united behind raising the tobacco age," said Molly Mollanen, vice president at ClearWay Minnesota and co-chair of Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation. "Thank you to Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan for listening to Minnesota's youth and working with them to take on an industry that continues to profit from addiction and disease. It will take a bold, comprehensive effort to truly combat the health crisis of youth vaping, and Tobacco 21 is a very important first step toward this goal."

"This is great news," said Andrea Marshall, health educator with Steele County Public Health. "Although the City of Owatonna already passed a local ordinance on raising the tobacco age to 21, we are extremely pleased to see the state following suit."

Marshall pointed out getting this accomplished didn't come easy. "It was a long and difficult journey, but one that will potentially save many of our youth from a lifelong addiction to tobacco," she said.

The Tobacco 21 bill HF331 gained strong bipartisan support in the House and Senate, and was championed by lawmakers from across Minnesota. Congress passed national Tobacco 21 in December 2019, and the discrepancy between the state tobacco age (18) and federal law (21) was causing confusion and tying the hands of local law enforcement. In addition to aligning with the federal tobacco age, the bill updates relevant state tobacco definitions, penalties and signage requirements to ensure strong compliance and enforcement.

Raising the tobacco age to 21 will help keep tobacco products out of schools, since there are many 18-year-olds but few 21-year-olds in high school social circles. Nearly 95% of addicted adult smokers started before 21. The National Academy of Medicine estimates that Tobacco 21 would lead to enormous health gains, including a 25% reduction in smoking initiation among 15-to-17-year-olds.

Action is needed to combat rising youth tobacco use. The 2019 Minnesota Student Survey found that more than a quarter of 11th-graders and more than one in 10 8th-graders used e-cigarettes in the past month. From 2016 to 2019, 8th-grade vaping rates nearly doubled. E-cigarette use has erased two decades of progress to reduce youth tobacco rates and the U.S. Surgeon General calls youth vaping an epidemic. Health experts are concerned about e-cigarette use because nicotine

in any form harms the developing adolescent brain and can prime youth for addiction to cigarettes and other substances.

The COVID-19 pandemic added urgency for adopting stronger tobacco prevention policies. Early studies have found COVID-19 may be particularly dangerous for people with lungs weakened by chronic disease, asthma and tobacco use.

The Tobacco 21 movement has gained tremendous momentum in Minnesota. In May 2017, Edina was the first Minnesota community to pass Tobacco 21. Today, 75 Minnesota communities have local Tobacco 21 policies. Senator Carla Nelson (R-Rochester) first introduced the Senate Tobacco 21 bill in May 2017. Sen. Nelson is a longtime supporter of tobacco prevention and championed other historic policies including securing funding for smoking cessation services and adding e-cigarettes to the statewide smoking ban. In 2018, former Representative Dario Anselmo first introduced the House version of the bill and in 2019, Representative Heather Edelson (DFL-Edina) took the lead as chief author, continuing Edina's trailblazing leadership. Before her election to the Minnesota House, Rep. Edelson helped pass Edina's local Tobacco 21 policy. Over the last two sessions, Rep. Edelson has served as a tenacious champion of the House Tobacco 21 bill.

Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation is a coalition of more than 60

organizations that share a common goal of reducing youth smoking and ending tobacco's harm for good. The coalition is united behind four major policies that reduce youth smoking and nicotine addiction, including raising the tobacco sale age to 21, increasing tobacco prices, prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products and investing in tobacco prevention programs.

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan have shown strong support for these policies. In March, they released a supplemental budget proposal that would have increased the tax on e-cigarettes and invested in youth tobacco prevention and cessation. Earlier in the session, the Governor and Lt. Governor are also holding Big Tobacco accountable for its role in the youth nicotine epidemic. In December, they joined Attorney General Keith Ellison in announcing Minnesota's lawsuit against JUUL for illegally marketing to youth.

Several legislative proposals to reduce youth tobacco use - including prevention funding and ending the sale of flavored tobacco products - advanced this year in the committee process. These bills were understandably halted by the legislature's focus on the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CRIME BRIEF

Man leads police on chase through 2 counties



Brandon Henriksson

A man faces felony charges in connection with a high-speed pursuit through parts of two counties. Brandon Henriksson, 21, of Owatonna has been charged with fleeing police in a motor vehicle, motor vehicle theft and driving after revocation. The charges stem from a chase that started in Owatonna and ended in Faribault May 11.

Owatonna Police attempted to stop a vehicle for speeding on State Avenue during the early morning hours of May 11. As the officer initiated the stop, the vehicle sped off at a high rate of speed eventually leading to northbound I-35, police said.

During the chase, police noted the vehicle had an alert on it for the driver having two felony warrants.

The chase ended near Highway 60 and Lyndale in Faribault where officers utilized stop sticks in the roadway to deflate the fleeing vehicle's tires. Once the vehicle stopped, officers conducted a high-risk stop.

Officers arrested Henriksson, who was the driver. However, he was not the person wanted in the alert. Police said he was operating the vehicle without consent.

One of Owatonna's squads suffered tire damage during the pursuit.

**COURT NEWS
Steele County**

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 4 through May 10:

Presiding: Irving Mixteco, 39, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of narcotics. Mixteco was sentenced to \$131, 44 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 5 years of supervised probation.

Dak L. Ret, 24, Wasasca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of firearm. Ret was sentenced to \$131, 114 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, attend support groups, 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 May 4 - 10:

**MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER**

Prudence D. Bouge, 31, Fargo, ND, speeding, \$215; Andrea R. Brookman, 41, Faribault, speeding, \$135; Jazmin W. Chavez Montano, 22, Austin, speeding, \$125; Heaven L. Clausen-Taft, 46, Andover, speeding, \$115; Ron S. Doughty,

44, Shakopee, speeding, \$125; Safe D. Elghorab, 20, Richfield, speeding, \$125; Mason L. Evans, 20, Waterville, no license, \$175; Michael M. Floyd, 30, New Brighton, speeding, \$115; Kasandra A. Gomez-Duran, 20, Bloomington, speeding, \$115; Elsie M. Gray, 20, Maple Grove, speeding, \$135; Courtney R. Hanson, 22, Shakopee, speeding, \$135; Jamie K. Jodarski, 41, Phoenix, AZ, speeding, \$135; Franklin H. Klecker, 26, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; George R. Leist, 48, Forum, OK, speeding, \$115; Kara R. Mallara, 25, Fayetteville, AR, speeding, \$135; Alexander D. Morris, 28, Kearney, NE, speeding, \$115; Nicholas R. Olson, 23, Burnsville, speeding, \$215; Owen A. Owell, 41, Austin, speeding, \$135; Bennet W. Ruhland, 17, Dodge Center, speeding, \$135; Isauri G. Sonnada, 35, Golden Valley, speeding, \$275; Adam L. Stegeman, 37, Winthrop, speeding, \$135; Sidney D. Tomes, 23, Woodbury, speeding, \$275; Amanda M. Torgerhagen, 23, Richville, speeding, \$215; Austin T. Underdahl, 19, Faribault, speeding, \$275; Courtney J. Waters, 33, Elmore, unsafe tires, \$125.

**OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Susan R. Brein, 48, Owatonna, theft, stay of adjudication, \$179, psychological evaluation and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Melissa Carrasco, 39, Owatonna, DWI, \$150, 1 day in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, chemical assessment, do not enter liquor

establishments, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 5 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Nicholas M. Graupmann, 43, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$381, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Alonso Hernandez, 65, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Brian A. Johnson, 49, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Esmeralda Sanmiguel, 20, possession of marijuana, \$125; Rachel C. Schroeder, 31, Owatonna, DWI, \$150, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, substance abuse screening inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Caitlin L. Valdez, 24, Medford, expired tabs, \$105; Harlan M. Vasquez, 50, Owatonna, DWI, \$400, 1 day in county jail, no trespassing, substance abuse screening inventory and 1 year of supervised probation.

**STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Angela K. Ballstadt, 40, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$75, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state, 180 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Payton J. Bauer, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Courtney J. Bremer, 23, Claremont, speeding,

\$115; Eric L. Davis, 47, Ellendale, interfere with 911 call, \$125, 2 days in county jail, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms and 6 years of supervised probation; Randy P. Hoffus, 58, Austin, violation of no contact order, \$125, 9 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms and 2 years of supervised probation; Joseph E. Janiga, 52, Almont, MI, speeding, \$121; Gina B. Pullar, 25, Albert Lea, speeding, \$115; Carlos M. Rivera Perez, 46, Woodbury, speeding, \$115.

**POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County**
OWATONNA POLICE

May 11 Arrest: Police responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 700 block of Academy St. E. at 9:35 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 4:19 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 5:56 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

May 12 Pursuit: Police pursued a subject at State Ave. NW and 26th St. NW in Owatonna Township at 1:49 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1000 block of 22nd St. NE at 7:24 a.m.

Restraining Order: At 11:25 a.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 1000 block of St. Paul Road NE.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 800 block of Wilson Dr. NW at 11:42 a.m.

Shoplifting: Police arrested a juvenile for shoplifting in the 200 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:11 p.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 500 block of Vine St. E. at 8:14 p.m.

May 13 Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 3:29 a.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 100 block of Augusta Place NE at 12:50 p.m.

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 300 block of Cedarvale Dr. SE at 3:09 p.m.

Harassment: At 3:23 p.m., a harassment incident occurred in the 400 block of Kirk Place NE.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 4:29 p.m.

May 14 Theft: Police took theft reports in the 700 block of 20th St. NE at 11:34 a.m. and the 100 block of Allan Ave. SW at 5:52 p.m.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:27 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 2100 block of 26th St. NE at 6:25 p.m.

**STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF**

May 12 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 4100 block of St. Paul Road in Clinton Falls Township at 1:23 p.m.

**ARRESTS
Steele County**
OWATONNA POLICE

Jose Hernandez Jr., 36, arrested at 6:15 p.m. May 11, drug court warrant arrest, held for court.

**COURT NEWS
Dodge County**

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 3 - 10:

**DODGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Claudia Arevalo Linares, 28, Dodge Center, 26, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Chad M. Johnson, 47, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Braeden C. Oakers, 20, Hanfield, careless driving, \$180.

**KASSON POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Brekke Schlichting, 17, West Concord, speeding, \$140.

**MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER**

David D. Charles, 40, Faribault, suspended license and speeding, \$340; Whitney J. Floren, 24, West Concord, stop sign, \$130; Andrew C. Miller, 40, Owatonna, seat belt, \$105; Xavier S. Ortiz Ruiz, 32, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Abdulkadir A. Robley, 44, Rochester, no license, \$180.



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Milkweed doesn't have to be a weed



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

As somebody who likes insects, I've been monitoring my perennial pollinator plants to make sure they made it through winter and will provide food for pollinator insects this year. I've been pleased to see that my bee balm, cardinal flowers, and asters are thriving. I've also found many small, new common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) plants in my yard and garden. Common milkweed reproduces vigorously, while gardening and attempting some transplants, I found one tuberous rhizome (root) with eight milkweed plants coming up off of it. I knew that milkweed was prolific, but seeing so many plants off of one tuber was fascinating. Those things can really reproduce!

Actually, milkweed's ability to spread so quickly is one reason it's often considered a weed. But, I find it easier to tolerate their abundance knowing that some so-called weeds, like milkweed, are the main food source for some beneficial insects. This means that it is ultimately to our benefit to tolerate some of these aggressively reproductive plants.

Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) will only lay their eggs on milkweed, and one other plant closely related to milkweed called smooth swallow-wort. Monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweed and this one close relative. Milkweed is important to monarchs because monarch butterflies become toxic to predators by storing toxins from the milkweed plants that they ate during their caterpillar

stage. These toxins can be distasteful and harmful to predators, meaning that eating milkweed has become an important defense mechanism for monarchs. Adult monarchs, the butterflies, consume nectar from a diversity of flowers, but again, the caterpillars can only eat milkweed. But monarchs aren't the only insects for which milkweed is a useful food source. Many insect species consume nectar from milkweed's flowers and some insects will eat other parts of the plant, too.

Although some milkweed species can inhabit disturbed areas and spread quickly, which are common characteristics in many plants we consider weeds, milkweeds are not listed as noxious weeds in any state or at the federal level. In fact, there are over 100 species of milkweed, which are native to the United States. Legally, it's okay to tolerate them on your property.

I do have some tips for slowing or mitigating their spread, should you wish to do so. You can pull off the seed pods before they turn brown, or mow unwanted plants. These methods will limit their spread via seed. You can sever a rhizome so that you have fewer plants coming off it, but you will continue to get new plants from that root in the future. Another option is to try to transplant the milkweed rhizomes to a place on your property where you wouldn't mind them spreading.

Overall, if you can tolerate some milkweed in your yard, field, or garden, just know that you are helping feed our monarch caterpillars and some other insect species as well.

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

Pair of FFA seniors say goodbye

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The 2019-2020 school year will be one to remember.

And, especially it will be memorable for two Blooming Prairie High School seniors, who are members of the BP Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter.

Kaiden Finley was this year's FFA president. He participated in many events throughout the years from ag mechanics to small engines. Finley said that some of his highlights are meeting new people and seeing new places.



KAIDEN FINLEY

He is very passionate about agriculture. His future plans are to continue in that industry with a deep commitment. Finley said that his advice to underclassmen is to "never be afraid to do something or to try something."

Cortney Espe is the other Blooming Prairie



CORTNEY ESPE

FFA chapter member who is a senior. She is secretary of the local FFA.

She came to Blooming Prairie as a junior and was a part of FFA in her previous school at Southland. Espe participated in a variety of events from horse judging to talent.

She said her highlights in FFA are getting to experience going to state convention with her friends and being introduced into the world of agriculture.

Her future plans include attending South Dakota State University. She will be majoring in both art education and theatre. Espe's advice to underclassmen is "try out one of the contests that you aren't really interested in."

"Thank you for all you have done for FFA, Kaiden and Cortney, you both will truly be missed," remarked FFA advisor Bill Rinkenberger.

Gardening in a different world



Mastering Gardening
LORRIE RUGG

Wow! Has our world changed. I received an email on March 12, 2020 from the University of Minnesota Extension Dean, Bev Durgen, that said "all Extension sponsored face-to-face meetings, courses and events were to be canceled beginning Monday, March 18 through March 31."

We had a Master Gardener program at the Owatonna Public Library that evening, and we all asked ourselves just what does that mean? It meant simply our events and meetings were to be put on hold until March 31. Since then it has been extended until June 30. I will speak to how it has changed our Master Gardener world, but 4-H, the Agricultural programming and all the programming under the umbrella of University of Minnesota Extension has changed drastically.

Our monthly Master Gardener meeting was to be held that Monday night the 18th along

with the sign up for the Community Garden. So the emails began to cancel those events. Then as the week progressed we were told to begin working remotely from home. That is doable, so I grabbed all the materials I was working on at the office to make the transition. Trying to think of anything I might need in the next couple of weeks to complete my work.

Here we are two months later and still working from home and will continue to do so until June 30. Our events, face-to-face meetings and courses are still canceled. The University is looking out for not only our health and safety, but also the people that we serve. We are not a part of the solution to this pandemic, not part of the problem.

How has this changed the way we work? As master gardeners, we do a lot of face-to-face meetings and events with the people we serve. Our Annual Plant Sale canceled, speaking to a Ladies Luncheon at a church canceled, Christian Women's Club speaking engagement canceled to name a few. So how have we changed our thinking to still serve our public?

We have a University of Minnesota Extension - Steele County Master

Gardeners Facebook page. I have been doing short videos about things happening in my yard. Since we can't visit each other's gardens, I am inviting all of you into my garden. I am sharing information about plants and what kinds I have that might be of interest to gardeners. I have had some great successes as well as some failures that I have pointed out. So I invite all of you to find our Facebook page, Like it, and begin to follow along with my garden tour. There has been a lot of work done around educational videos from master gardeners around the state. They are all available for you to watch and learn. Some are available through the University of Minnesota Extension page. Also if you google, gardening videos, University of Minnesota, there are some of them on U-Tube. So there are lots of educational opportunities out there for you.

We have our Community Garden up and running. We as master gardeners sponsor the garden, and per University guidelines we physically can't be involved in the garden, yet. But I have great volunteers, who have practiced social distancing, get the garden tilled, plotted out and ready to go. I greatly thank them for

their help. Talk of Victory Gardens has been the buzz word this year, and I have had more people interested in gardening than ever before.

Gardening, for me, is therapy. With the stay-at-home order, I have had my gardens to keep me sane. I have been able to get a huge jump start on my outside work this year, especially with some of the nice days we have had. I hope for the gardeners out there your gardens have been your comfort in these crazy times. I have been able to watch my perennial beds come alive this year, like never before.

Even though our office has been closed and we are working from home, we are still available to the people we serve. I can retrieve messages left for me at the office, remotely and I am always reachable by email. The office phone number is 507-444-7887 and my email is brow329@umn.edu. If you have any garden questions, please reach out to me and we will find the answers to your questions. Stay safe everyone as we return to our new normal.

Lorrie Rugg of Owatonna is the master gardener coordinator for Steele County. She writes a column for this newspaper regularly.

BP approves remote control car track

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A conditional use permit was approved by the Blooming Prairie City Council on May 11 for a remote control car track at a location just east of Highway 218 at 124 Mill Ave. S.

The council approved a six-month conditional use permit for a remote control car track. After six months, the permit will be reviewed before it is extended.

The vote was 4-1 with council members Mary Kittelson, Bill Newman, Tara Gimbel and Mayor Curt Esplan voting to approve the conditional use permit. Brad Clark cast the only "no" vote. The race track will feature remote control cars on a race track. The request for a conditional use permit was made by Nathan Schumacher.

A public hearing was held with 24 letters

received on the request for a conditional use permit. City administrator Andrew Langholz said the race track vehicles are no wider than a bicycle and create 83 decibels of noise.

The permit request was for seven on-site parking spots. Interim use was approved for six months. The parcel is zoned industrial.

Noise level for this track is said to be 83 decibels. Lawn mowers are more at 95 decibels. A petition in opposition was received from 44 residents. Concern was expressed about extra noise and traffic.

Council member Clark, the lone dissenting vote, said one item was not mentioned, dust.

Langholz said, typically, the use permits are issued for a year. This one is for six months. It expires in November.

"After that time, we should have a good idea how it is going," said council member Newman. He said if the venture doesn't work out, it's only for six months.

The track will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and from 12 noon to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Other council business at Monday's meeting included:

In a COVID update, it was reported that the library is doing curbside pickup. Parks are open; they are not sanitized daily. Bathrooms remain closed until further notice. Pavilions are not being rented.

Liquor license fees were discussed. Mayor Esplan recommended liquor fees be cut in half.

The Pine Springs swimming pool will be closed for the season.

Most neighboring communities have closed their pools for the summer, according to Langholz.

A third volleyball court has been added to the area just west of the hockey rink. Plans were to open the courts for league play on May 28. League play may be suspended by Gov. Tim Walz, or could start at a later time. Council voted to table action on this matter.

Tentative plans are for the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation to have its annual auction Saturday, June 27 at Victory Field. Rain date would be June 28. State guidelines must be followed.

City Attorney Jason Iacovino said court hearings will resume through ZOOM.

A second interview is planned with finalists for a permanent part-time police position.

Pavement marking begins on Oak Avenue

Work to reconfigure the traffic lanes and pavement markings on Oak Avenue from Coolidge Street to Rose Street in Owatonna has resumed after being interrupted by winter weather.

The road will be open to traffic, but there will be lane closures.

Crews will reconfigure the traffic lanes from two lanes of traffic in each direction to one lane in each direction and a left turn lane in the center. Removal of the existing markings and painting the new markings is expected to last about a week.

Reconfiguring the traffic lanes is expected to improve pedestrian safety, reduce crashes and improve traffic flow.

All dates are subject to change due to weather or other factors. Steele County officials advise motorists to drive with caution and slow

down through work zones for their safety and for the safety of the construction crews.

For updates on any other Steele County Highway construction projects, visit: www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/public_works/transportation/construction_projects.php.

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OWATONNA

PARKS AND RECREATION



Calendar of Events

Parks and Recreation Contact Information

Office & Cancellation Line: 507-444-4321
 Fax: 507-444-4299
 Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation
 Email Address: parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
 River Springs Water Park: 507-774-7370

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

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



Being physically active on a regular basis improves sleep, relieves symptoms of depression and anxiety, and improves mood. Owatonna has over 12 miles of paved trails, making it easy to get in regular physical activity. Make biking, walking or running on the Owatonna trails part of your daily routine and experience the benefits of regular physical activity.

THANK YOU PARK BOARD MEMBERS! Greg Posch, Angie Malo, Greg Louis, Nicholas Elsner, Jonathan Thiel, David Christianson, & Andi Arnold.

Since many of our programs and events have been cancelled or postponed, we wanted to provide you with resources to make your time at home as fun, healthy and enriching as possible. Below you'll find activities, contests and resources to help keep you and your kids active, engaged and having fun! Check our website and Facebook for updated information.

Stronger Together 50K Virtual Competition - Let's JUMPSTART Owatonna and get fit!

- Any age and location can compete. (If you don't live in Owatonna, don't worry, we will ship your medal). A \$5 shipping fee is required if you'd like your medal shipped.
- You can do any workout or activity you want at your own pace.
- Sign up to participate on the Park & Rec website and to receive your commemorative medal between May 18th and May 31st. Once you sign up, you can begin logging your activity.
- \$15 per person
- Track your mileage/minutes of activity from the time you sign up through June 30
- Submit your log to oaact@owatonna.org by July 10
- Earn a STRONGER TOGETHER Medal
- Who does this benefit? Proceeds from this competition will go to Jumpstart Owatonna. Your donation will help stabilize Owatonna's small business owners facing significant financial challenges and help bridge the gap for small local business facing economic hardship as a result of this pandemic

Park Passport

- Signs will be up for 4 weeks at 10 different parks and trails beginning May 20.
- Get your passport and trail maps on the Park & Rec website.
- Visit the parks listed and find the hidden password. Parks will have a small sign mounted to a post along the trail. The signs are approximately 2'-4' from the ground. Each sign has a word on the back. All signs will be up from May 20 through June 17.
- Reveal the phrase! Write the hidden password for each park/trail in the appropriate box to reveal the message. Submit your completed passport by June 19.

Owatonna Fish Tales: Fish the waters of Lake Kohlmier and Lake Chase through May 31 and share your catch for a chance to win a \$10 Caleba's gift card. Email your photo to Maryjo.Knudson@ci.owatonna.mn.us

COVID-19 Crazy Hair Contest: Show us your COVID-19 crazy hair for a chance to win a free mini photography session from Lauren Everhard Photography and a \$25 gift certificate from Bella Vita Salon! Contest will start May 25th and go through June 8th, the winner will be voted on through Facebook. Simply post your crazy hair photo on our Facebook page or email it to: jessica.abrahams@ci.owatonna.mn.us. Check our Facebook page for more details.

West Hills Social Commons: West Hills Social Commons is offering many virtual activities such as BINGO, poker, cribbage and more to keep you engaged and active. Visit their Facebook page for current activities.



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PARKS AND RECREATION



Cancellations and Closings Updates:

The following are our most current closings and cancellations. To stay updated on our closings and cancellations, and for program cancellations and/or postponements, visit the Cancellations & Closings page on our website (<http://www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/291/Cancellations-Closings>) and like us on Facebook. Please note, this article is as of May 14, 2020. These are subject to change at any time and without notice.

- Brooktree Golf Course - open. See below for COVID-19 protocols.
- City Parks - open. Playgrounds, tennis and pickleball courts are open. Practice physical distancing. No groups.
- City Trails - open. Practice physical distancing.
- Dog Park - open. Practice physical distancing.
- Archery Park - open. Practice physical distancing.
- Parks & Recreation Offices - closed until further notice.
- West Hills Social Commons - closed until further notice.
- West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center - closed until further notice.
- All programming is suspended through May 31.

Brooktree Golf Course COVID-19 Guidelines:

- Tee times and registration will be done by phone and/or online. Credit Card will be the only method of payment at this time. The Proshop number is 507-774-7123. Tee times can be made on our website: brooktreegolfcourse.com. Individual players and twosomes will need to call the proshop to make a tee time. As there will be fewer tee times available, players may get paired, depending on the amount of play that day. Players must have a tee time to play. There will be no walk-in tee times.
- The Clubhouse is closed. Food and Beverage will be available for pick up by calling: 507-774-7130. No outside food or beverage will be allowed. No coolers will be available or allowed on the course. The only restroom facilities available will be the portable bathrooms.
- Carts: One golfer per cart, unless the players are from the same household. Carts will be sanitized after each use. There will be sanitizing wipes available to players who want extra care in sanitizing the carts.
- Touchpoints: On-Course touchpoints will be eliminated as much as possible, this includes rakes, ball washers, scorecards, pencils, water coolers, towels and seed bottles.
- Cups will be modified to restrict golf balls from going fully into the hole. Do not remove flagsticks. Leave the pin in at all times, if your ball crosses the cup or hits flagstick it's considered holed, if it stops within 3 feet. Gimmies are encouraged.
- Bunkers will be considered ground under repair. Play as it lies or without penalty drop the ball outside the bunker without penalty.
- Golfers will be responsible for their own trash. Receptacles will be placed throughout the course and by the clubhouse. Please help keep everyone safe and dispose of your own trash.
- Social distancing guidelines must be followed at all times. Intentional and deliberate failure to abide by these rules will be subject to expulsion from the grounds without a refund.



Owatonna
Parks & Trails

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BR - BIKER REPAIR STATION
D - DISC GOLF COURSE
DP - DOG PARK

W - WATER
PARK
M - MUSEUM

NAME	ADDRESS	AGES	SWIMMER	RESTROOM	WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE	PLAYGROUND	CRAB/2 WOOD CHAIR TRAILS	MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS	BIKE/BOAT PARK	SOCCER	SOFTBALL BASEBALL	TENNIS COURT	MINI GOLF	HORSHOES	SAND VOLLEYBALL	SWIMMING	BOAT ACCESS	POOLSIDE / POOL / BOAT ACCESS	OTHER MEMBERS	UNDEVELOPED
NORTH BLUFF PARK	2965 RYDBRIDGE LN NE	4																		
ARCHERY PARK	711 ELM AVE N	2																		
BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE	1369 Cherry St	128																		
BROWN PARK	400 16TH ST SW	7																		
BUCKSLER PARK	2755 SMITH AVE	5																		
CASHMAN PARK	455 26TH ST NW	8																		
CENTRAL PARK	100 MAIN ST E	2																		
COUNTRYVIEW PARK	2420 TIMBERWOOD LN NE	1																		
CROCUS PARK	465 Glendale St	6																		
DARTS PARK	600 Cherry St	23																		
FAIRGROUNDS PARK	450 18th St SE	16																		
FALKLAND MEADOW	DAVE RD	7																		
FREMONT PARK	505 N GROVE AVE	6																		
HAMMANN PARK	1225 RICE LAKE ST	11																		
HAZEL PARK	425 KELLY ST	6																		
JAYCEE PARK	831 RICE LAKE ST	5																		
KARLAN'S WOODS PARK	1205 SW 18TH ST	154																		
KARLAN'S WOODS PARKWAY	1205 18TH ST SW	122																		
KRIESEL'S PARK	167TH ST NE	20																		
KRIESEL'S WOODS PARK	DIANE RD	10																		
LAKE CHASE	1915 STATE AVE NW	15																		
LEO RUDDOLPH NATURE RESERVE	855 YOUNG DR	58																		
MANTHEY PARK	225 24TH ST NE	30																		
MAPLE CREEK	1015 ELM AVE N	21																		
MINERAL SPRINGS PARKWAY	1025 MINERAL SPRINGS PARKWAY	43																		
MOOREHOUSE PARK	550 SCHOOL ST	28																		
OWATONNA SOCCER COMPLEX	1300 RICE LAKE ST E	12																		
OWATONNA SOCCER COMPLEX	14TH ST SE	16																		
RIVER SPRINGS WATER PARK	1905 ST PAUL RD	10																		
SID KIRKON TENNIS COURTS	895 HANNA RD	1																		
STRAIGHT RIVER PARKWAY	NORTH ST W / 26TH ST NW	42																		
SUMMER PARK	3125 CEDAR AVE N	8																		
WALTER H. GAINEY PARK	451 Solby Ave	3																		
WEST HILLS	502 DUNNELL DR NW	39																		
WILLOW PARK	305 HIGHLAND AVE	6																		





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Kicked to the curb at Berne Pizza

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

It's not exactly what organizers envisioned for the summer, but Berne Pizza has been kicked to the curb, at least for June, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic.

The annual summer pizza and music series will go on next month, but with some major changes. Berne Wood-Fired Pizza will go curbside beginning Wednesday, June 3. Each Wednesday throughout June, Berne will offer pizzas by curbside pick-up from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., which are reduced hours.

Members of the Zwingli United Church of Christ at Berne host the event along with help from hundreds of volunteers throughout the area.

According to coordinator Angela Organ, the process will be simple and safe. Pizza lovers will be able to drive up and order

from their car. They will then be able to pick up pizza on a table while safely social distancing and drop \$20 in a payment box.

"This is really safe with no contact and no exchange of money," Organ said of this year's new twist. "We hope people will find it enjoyable."

Organ said they came up with this idea after their Facebook page became flooded with people hoping the summer tradition would continue. "People now more than ever are looking forward to some normalcy and escape from their homes," she said.

Once pizza has been picked up, people will have the opportunity to listen to music from the comfort of their vehicle. Musicians are still scheduled to perform every week just as they have in previous years. "And they will provide the summer pick-me-up we all crave," Organ said.

The entire concept, Organ said, is still in the developing stages. The group is looking into options where people would be able to "listen from a distance" to the concert performers. At this time, she is unsure whether the musicians will perform from the main stage or a portable stage that would be moved closer to the parking lot.

She indicated the group's more than 800 volunteers expressed disappointment to deviate from what has worked well in the past, but they understand the current situation. "It's always disheartening to let parts of this go," she said. "We are looking at several options that we can provide a fun summer night."

There will be only one pizza offered each week, Organ said. The June Curbside-to-Go specials include meat lovers on June 3 and 17 and bacon cheeseburger on June 10 and 24. There

will be no desserts or beverages for sale and no trash cans or bathrooms will be available.

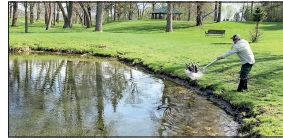
Performers in June will be Ray Coudert from Fred the Bear on June 3, Dino & Vito on June 10, Scott Jasmin on June 17 and Nathan Davidson on June 24.

Organ said she doesn't know for sure how this will work, but she remains hopeful. "Everyone's safety is our priority," she said.

Organ said no decision has been made beyond June. However, she said it's unlikely that the event will be taking place like it has in past years for the rest of this summer.

Berne Pizza has been a staple of Wednesday nights for 12 weeks throughout the summer months for nine years. Berne makes hundreds of pizzas during each event with two wood-fired grills. Proceeds are donated to nonprofit groups throughout the region.

DNR stocks more trout in Austin



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Minnesota DNR crew member stocks rainbow trout Wednesday morning in Todd Park's spring-fed pond that feeds cold water into the adjacent Wolf Creek. The trout were among 300 overall placed Wednesday in the northeast Austin creek and 900 total since mid-April.

With one more round of fish, Austin's Todd Park now has received 900 rainbow trout since mid-April for local anglers to seek in the cold waters of Wolf Creek.

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources crew stocked Wolf Creek with 300 rainbow trout in several areas within Todd Park, the largest park in Austin. Although initially expected this year to get up to 600 rainbow trout overall, Wolf was stocked with a total of 900 rainbows transported from the Lanesboro State Fish Hatchery and stocked in Austin by the DNR's fisheries division out of Waterville.

"Anglers can anticipate a similar opportunity at Wolf Creek next year," said Craig Soupir, the DNR's Waterville area fisheries supervisor. "Rainbow trout destined for Wolf Creek already are in the production schedule at Lanesboro, with plans in place for stocking Wolf during spring 2021."

Minnesota's catch-and-take trout opener April 18 launched the new angling opportunity at Todd Park, which previously was stocked with young trout by the DNR more than 30 years ago but was stopped in the late 1980s due to predator fish, such as bass and northern pike, thwarting those efforts.

Rainbow trout stocked this spring are a "catchable" size, making them the DNR's goal of a "put-and-take" fishery in Wolf Creek and keeping the trout too large for predator fish. DNR wants anglers to catch and take or harvest trout caught in Wolf, a Cedar River tributary that flows through the nearly 150-acre Todd Park in northeast Austin. Trout stocking in Wolf – the only waterway in Mower County stocked by the DNR for trout – is the result of a proposal made to the DNR by Cedar River Watershed

District technician James Felt, who collected water-temperature data in 2017 and 2018 at an unshaded part of the creek in Todd Park. Felt also believed the creek could host trout given the springs in its watershed, large amount of woods and increasing areas of conservation land.

In August 2019, Felt and Soupir joined Austin Mayor Tom Steinhilber at Todd Park to announce the new trout partnership. Felt and the DNR staff also surveyed the creek for habitat and existing fish population to ensure it would be suitable for trout.

Wolf Creek's water temperatures through Todd Park are conducive to trout in large part thanks to an artesian well – the pond in the park – that feeds the stream. Even on the warmest days of the year, the creek's temperature rarely exceeds 65 degrees, resulting in a suitable, low-stress environment for trout.

Trout anglers – in addition to the state's yearly angling license (\$25) – need to purchase a trout stamp (\$10). Minnesota's trout season opened April 18 and runs through Sept. 14. The catch-and-release season runs Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesotans are advised to recreate close to home and follow the social-distancing practice of staying at least 6 feet from others. Todd Park offers nearly 9,000 feet of public shoreline on Wolf Creek for trout anglers, helping with social distancing.

CRWD and the DNR want to see how people are using the new trout fishery in Wolf Creek. Anglers are encouraged to share photos from their fishing experiences at Todd Park this year by emailing images to tim@cedarriverwater.com or posting on CRWD's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cedarriverwater.

Austin ArtWorks to honor area graduates with festival

Austin ArtWorks Festival is focusing on using the arts to boost community spirit in a year when a large community gathering is not possible. From May 19 to May 29, the Austin ArtWorks (Graduation) Festival will honor the class of 2020 with two activities: Chalk the Walk and Lighting Up the Marquee.

The public is invited to come downtown Austin and create a sidewalk chalk message for seniors on 4th Avenue or Main Street. The Austin

ArtWorks (Graduation) Festival has commissioned a local artist to create some inspiring panels. Seniors are invited to stroll (with appropriate social distance) and read the messages any time.

High school seniors are invited to make an appointment to have their name put on the Paramount marquee for a one-of-a-kind photo opportunity. This year's 2020 graduates will be the only class to get this opportunity since the Paramount is dark during the COVID-19 health crisis, freeing up the marquee for messages. Appointments are free but must be reserved online at austinearworks.org. To date, over 60 area graduates have registered for appointments from Austin High School, Paelelli Catholic Schools, Southland High School, Lyle High School, Blooming Prairie High School and the University of Minnesota. The Austin ArtWorks Festival committee will announce more arts activities for the summer months as well.

Area communities remember Memorial Day despite COVID-19

Blooming Prairie ceremonies to be abbreviated

An abbreviated Memorial Day service is planned at the Blooming Prairie Cemetery

on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

Ceremonies will be cut back from the norm, said representatives of American Legion Post 52 and Auxiliary, VFW

Post 878 and Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 52.

Representatives of all five service groups will participate in an abbreviated ceremony at the Blooming Prairie Cemetery.

Flags will be put up at the Blooming Prairie Cemetery where a small ceremony begins at 11 a.m. A color guard and rifle squad will participate. The chaplain will offer a prayer.

American Legion Commander Bruce Kubicki will also say a prayer. Those attending the service must maintain social distance, he said.

Ellendale Honor Guard to visit cemeteries

Ellendale American Legion Post 296, VFW Post 8941 will lead cemetery ceremonies on Memorial Day.

American Legion Post 296 and VFW

Post 8941 of Ellendale will lead area cemetery ceremonies on May 25.

Legionnaire Roger Shaunce is in charge of the ceremonies, which will include rifle squad firing and playing of Taps. There will be no speakers or program.

The Ellendale Honor Guard will visit the Holy Trinity Catholic Church Cemetery at Litomysl at 8:15 a.m.

Next, the Ellendale Honor Guard will visit St. Ansgar's Cemetery on Highway 30 at 8:45 a.m.

Third stop will be at 9:15 a.m. at the Geneva Community Cemetery.

From Geneva, the Honor Guard goes to St. Aiden's Catholic Cemetery at Bath at 9:45 a.m.

Next stop for the American Legion 296 Honor Guard will be at 10:15 in Ellendale at the Ellendale Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Final stop will be the Berlin Cemetery, north of Ellendale, at 10:45 a.m.

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Sudoku Corner

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

MAY 21
Jessica Kruckeberg
Dawn Ingvalson

MAY 25
John Welch
Porter Francis DeYoung
Maddie Broten Anderson

MAY 26
Alyssa Ressler
Sean Ingvalson
Connie Williamson
Josh Dahl
Justin Kormann

MAY 27
Darrick Schewe
Mary Malberek
Amy Simon
Jenny Haugen

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 21
Rick & Cheri Krejci
Fran & Cheryl Coughlin
Emma & Stephen Bassess

MAY 22
Per & Andrea Kvalsten
Sheryl & Chris Mans

MAY 23
Greg & Laura Thomas

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

MAY 25
Mr. and Mrs. L. Dean Christianson

MAY 26
Steve & Nellie Wollenburg
Sarah & Adam Bumgarner

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Please complete an application on-line at www.kometz.k12.mn.us and include a resume, application letter, transcripts and 3 reference letters. 5/21



will be hiring an
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Industrial Technology or Agriculture Teacher.

All postings and applications for Triton Public Schools can be found at:

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EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Mahindra Finance USA will offer the following repossessed equipment for sale to the highest bidder for certified funds, plus applicable sales tax.

Equipment	MAD 2555H C CAB TRACTOR S/N 55HCL01242 MAD 2555CL LOADER S/N 55CLL00168
Date of sale	06/03/2020
Time of Sale	11:00 A.M.
Place of Sale	Minn Ag Group 601 8th St. SE KASSON, MN 55944

Equipment can be inspected at place of sale. The equipment will be sold **AS IS, without warranty.** Final sale of equipment will be contingent upon winning bidder meeting all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements. We reserve the right to bid.

For further information please contact
Steve Jaeger (612) 801-3366
Reference Number: 2054776. 5/21/20

BREMER BANK**CONSUMER BANKER**

(Job ID #6129) Bremer Bank is seeking a full-time Consumer Banker to join our team at the Kasson branch location. Manage a consumer banking portfolio to ensure the delivery of exceptional client service and the achievement of benchmark standards and individual performance objectives, while minimizing credit risk exposure. Support clients' banking needs by completing a variety of teller transactions in compliance with all applicable standards, policies, procedures and regulatory requirements, ensuring client service standards and appropriate staffing levels are achieved. Key responsibilities include promoting and cross-selling consumer banking products and services in compliance with all applicable standards, policies, procedures and regulatory requirements, and identifying referral opportunities to business partners. The Consumer Banker 3 is responsible for completing loan transactions, which requires successful registration with NMLS.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Combination of education and experience generally acquired through the attainment of a High School Diploma or GED and 3+ years relevant experience or related banking experience. Experience in sales or promotion of products and services is preferred. Ability to demonstrate and consistently model Bremer values, Bremer Leadership Competencies and foster an inclusive work environment. Must be eligible to hold NMLS credentials; must complete all required training in order to apply for NMLS credentials.

Interested and qualified applicants may apply by completing an online employment application at www.Bremer.com.

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MEMORIAL DAY

**Honoring all who served
our great country!**

*Here is a list of deceased veterans as provided
by the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club:*



Neil Zwienen	Nathan Christenson	Edward Walsh	Ronald Reese	Vernon Paulson
Donald Peterson	Francis Marchwicki	Lloyd Schoer	Joanne VanWyck	Kenneth Baumann
Denis Sime	Robert Dandeleit	Leslie Hoffman	John Ulland	Frank Thissen
Otto T. Lund	Gordon "Spencer"	Duane LaMaack	Donald Brown	Roland Dahl
M. John Christensen	Lindquist	Gale Leek	Maurice Basness	Howard D. Underwood
Terry Wold	Ralph Trom	Harris Peterson	Charlie Ressler	Paul J. Ingvaldson
Rayfield Phillips	Ralph Berg	Keith Colee	Roger Braaten Sr.	William "Bill" Bailey
Harold Hanson	John Haubenschild	Ralph Stoen	John Ryan	Bernard Coufal
Manley Westing	Lynwood Ditlevson	Donald "Red" Trom	Daniel Emanuel	Marvin Bennett
Marlyn Dodge	Ray Bass	George Tonolli	Robert Grooters	John Dwain Todalen
Clair Johnson	Everett Carlsen	Arden Wold	James Pechacek	Samuel Dandeleit
Gordon Trom	Harrison Oswald Jr.	James Thom	John Cashman	George O. Jacobson
Marvin Pfeiffer	Merlin Madsen	Al Jorde	Francis Jenio	Gordon H. Diesch
Frank Betlach	Helmer Peterson	Milton Kaplan	David Sponheim	Stanley Gronseth
Franklin Burke	Raynold Knudtson	Dale Njos	Allen Michaelson	George Clunis
Robert Oswald	Robert Hunter	Dean Johnson	Leo Coughlin	Edmund Wurst
Robert Rasmussen	Edward Habberstad	Lyle Jensen	Hubert Pelinka	Joseph Wurst
Howard Lysne	Arnold Hanson	Richard Ilk	Darrel Trom	Dale A. Hanson
Richard Trom	Vyrl Krejci	Robert LeBeau	Robert Becker	Maylon Heinz
Lowell Ingvalson	Helen Lee (Gold Star	Raymond Wendl	Floyd Sorenson	Holger Robertson
Ronald Underwood	Mother)	Lawrence Lysne	Robert Lenort	Lloyd Wobbrock
John Smith	Hubert Swenson	Obert Christiansen	William Walsh	Herman Grunklee
Carl Fiebigger	Kenneth Lea	Harlan Kittelson	Milo Hoel	Eugene Kaplan
Allen Peterson	Joseph Wacek Sr.	George Davis	Roger P. Johnson	James W. Johns
Edgar Bock	Rev. Ernest Johnson	Arthur Helleck	Derwin Hillson	Donald Anderson
Harold Miller	Donald Nordine	Benjamin Bishop	Raymond Seaton	William Angell
Orville Williamson	Ronald Anderson	Col. Roger Ingvalson	Willis (Bud) Miller	Donald Bakke
Darrell Rasmussen	Warren Iversen	James Maxfield Jr.	Gerth (Bud) Anderson	Ray Delgado
Richard Peterson	Victor Jirele	Burton Ingvalson	Ronald Malecha	Lee Folkens
Jerry Peterson	Harvey Ille	John M. Christenson	Jerome Severtson	George Ressler
Howard Butler	Edward Possin	Donald "Gus" Nordine	Edward Lindquist	William Underwood
John Cashman	Donald Kaplan	Ronald Anderson	Loren Rasmussen	Chip Decker
Mark Coughlin	Lyle Hanson	Darrell "Pickle" Johnson	Vince Thoreson	John Dean Olson
Kenneth Lysne	Roger "Nip" Peterson	Henry Halstenson	Marvin Jensen	Lerald Farrow
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