

STEELE COUNTY Times

Wednesday, September 30, 2020
www.SteeleCountyTimes.com
Bloomington, Minnesota



LET THE DUST FLY

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Harvest dust is a pretty sight for many farmers as fall harvest is underway across the region. Farmers began combining soybeans last week. This combine on the O'Connor Farm west of Bloomington kicked up some dust as soybeans were picked. Yields have been reported at high bushels to the acre amounts. The corn harvest won't be far behind. We wish all farmers a safe harvest.

Elstad: District takes quantum leap in learning

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Educators within the Owatonna School District are being guided in their work through four major commitments.

Superintendent Jeff Elstad outlined those commitments Sept. 23 during his annual State of the District address,

which was held virtually this year due to the pandemic. The commitments are creating 21st century learners, providing a safe and caring community, promoting equity and providing high quality teaching and learning.

In the quest to provide learners for today, the district's

journey took a major unexpected turn in March because of the coronavirus. "This required us to take a quantum leap in 21st century learning and multiple crash courses on the tools and resources necessary to connect with students in a way that had never been done before,"

Elstad said. He added mistakes were made along the way bringing on frustration, anxiety and other emotions.

"Through this learning curve, we were able to find new ways to connect and offer our students learning and certainly new ways to teach content," said Elstad.

Elstad pointed to several examples of how Owatonna is developing 21st century learners. He spoke about the career pathways program at the high school and the exploratory courses at the middle school.

But, he noted, the biggest step is yet to come



Jeff Elstad

SEE ELSTAD, A12



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN

The Relay For Life proved to be a field of dreams for Dave and Nancy Olson of Owatonna. They proudly stand beside their car with the team of youngsters who helped decorate it. The Olsons were the first in line during Saturday's Car Cruise in Owatonna.

Cruising for cancer

Relay For Life takes a spin in a different direction

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

On a sunny Saturday evening downtown Owatonna could almost have been mistaken for another era as classic tunes echoed around the shops and restaurants and a host of cool cars, many of them classics, lined Central Park.

It was a fun alternative for this year's Relay For Life, which was originally to be held at the Steele County Fairgrounds. "That was the original plan, but COVID hit so now we are down here so we can so-

cially distance," explained Mary Boettger, who works on the committee.

The event, which was held from 5 to 10 p.m. with an awards presentation at 9 p.m., helped to raise money and awareness for cancer and recognized survivors and caregivers. "We have trophies for best classic car and best relay float, or vehicle decorated by a relay team," Boettger said of the awards.

Central Park was lined with about 1,485 luminaria bags to light up the community and honor every life touched by cancer. Folks

had the opportunity to dedicate a luminaria to a loved one lost, someone currently battling or anyone who has overcome cancer.

With the current situation many events such as Relay For Life have sought alternative ways to celebrate and raise money. "I think it's going to turn out nice, and we're getting a lot of cars out," Boettger said of the event. "It helped that we had a car show this morning at the Eagles Club and so a lot of the classics were already in town."

SEE CRUISING, A8

Jacob's Run tops expectations

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

In a year that has been anything but normal, organizers of a suicide prevention fundraiser came away with a pleasant surprise. They exceeded their expectations of participation in the ninth annual Jacob's Run.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic Robert Sikel of Open Arms Suicide Prevention program only expected around 150 people to turn out. In the end, 250 folks came

out to the Eagles Club in Owatonna on Sept. 12. Of the group, 175 went on 75 motorcycles and 10 cars for the ride throughout the area.

Their focus this year was to hit small town bars that have helped the organization over the years. Some of the stops included Waltham, Myrtle and Manchester.

The run raises funds for scholarships in memory of Jacob Sikel, 15, of Claremont. He died by suicide in 2012. The ride

SEE JACOB'S RUN, A5

Audit shows healthy BP School finances

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Handing over a copy of the 2020 audit of Independent School District 876 Bloomington, to an interested party, board chairman Rodney Krell said, "There are some good numbers in there."

Krell was reiterating what was said moments earlier by the district's audit firm, Clifton Allen Larson.

Craig Copenhagen of the auditing firm commended Nancy Clark and others for their financial work behind the scenes.

Copenhagen reported the district's general fund balance at

\$1,343,000 for the period ending June 30, 2020.

He said the district added 27 students during the year and this results in the district receiving more state revenue.

The trend of enrollment moving upward first started in 2016. Since that time, 61 students have been added.

Operating capital was listed at \$64,000. District revenues were listed at \$9.3 million with 85% of that money coming from state controlled sources.

Expenses totaled \$8.9 million, 74% being salaries and benefits, said Copenhagen.

SEE AUDIT SHOWS, A5

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AREA DEATHS

Charles Coughlin, 89,
Bloomington, Minn.
Eileen Placek, 85,
Owatonna

Serving
Bloomington
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Mayor should have vacated the chair

Procedurally, the Blooming Prairie Council was in the wrong when Mayor Curt Esplan failed to rescind a review and reprimand of the police chief. That motion was defeated.

After completing a closed meeting on a personnel issue under illegal conditions, the council resumed in general session. Both sessions pertained to an evaluation and reprimand of the Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad. It is evident that the council has discussed this matter in a previous meeting where the Open Meeting law was violated.

During the followup to the closed meeting, a motion was made by council member Mary Kittelson to rescind a review and reprimand of the police chief. That motion was defeated.

Mayor Curt Esplan then introduced a motion to uphold the evaluation and reprimand. The city's top official should have vacated the chair and allowed the acting mayor to preside. The mayor, then acting as a regular council member, could have made a motion.

The council and its staff must become more familiar with how meeting procedures are handled. The council and staff also must study the Open Meeting law closer and how it pertains to city government.

With two new council members coming on board in January and the possibility of a new mayor taking office, it is imperative that these elected officials familiarize themselves with the Open Meeting Law and meeting procedures.

There's no excuse for shabby interpretation of how city government operates.



YOUR VOICE

Return Petersburg to State Capitol

To the Editor:
I am voting for John Petersburg to be re-elected for District 24A. John has business acumen, is well-read on the issues and understands the agricultural emphasis of Southern Minnesota. John is more concerned about the next generation rather than the next election.

John is a strong voice for law enforcement which is the first line of protection for

society. He understands the Constitution when it reads in the PREAMBLE, "We the People of the United States in order to form a more perfect union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility..."

It is necessary for a peaceful citizenry to have established boundaries. Instead of proposing the defunding of our police force, we should be depending upon

them for support and security.

John is an ethical man, with good common sense and desires the greatest good for his district in Southern Minnesota. A vote for John is a vote for a continuing prosperity and a Southern Minnesota value-laden agenda.

Vote for John Petersburg.

Dr. Gary Terrill
Owatonna

Disturbed with behavior over COVID surveys

To the Editor:
On behalf of Minnesota physicians, the Minnesota Medical Association is greatly disturbed about recent events that have occurred as we try to control the COVID-19 pandemic in Minnesota.

Specifically, we are outraged over reports of door-to-door testers in greater Minnesota being met with intimidating racial and ethnic slurs to the point the CDC has decided to withdraw staff

in the state and ended its efforts to better understand the scope and impact of this virus. In addition, we are extremely concerned to hear that Minnesota has been downgraded to "uncontrolled spread" rating by the COVID Exit Strategy, non-partisan resource. We cannot overstate the severity of this virus and Minnesotans must recognize that the target of our frustration and outrage must

be the virus, not the public health experts, clinicians and others working to stop it. We urge all Minnesotans to continue to practice good health. Do your part by wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth when you're in any public space, stay six feet apart, wash your hands regularly, and limit gathering in groups.

Dr. Keith Stelter
President- MN Medical Association

CORRECTION

The Times incorrectly identified a front page photo in the Sept. 23 edition.

We apologize to 11-month-old Sterling Decker. He is the brother of

sisters Claire Decker, 3 and Emma Decker, 8. The Times identified him as a sister.

Sorry Sterling! We regret the error.

America needs journalists, papers more than ever before

Not a week goes by that we don't hear from somebody who loves our newspaper. And yes, we also hear a few gripes as well, but not as often thankfully.

It happened again last week. This faithful reader came in to buy a subscription for a friend and when it came time to pay for it, she added a few extra dollars onto it just because she loves our newspaper so much. She went on to say she speaks highly of our newspaper wherever she goes.

While getting a tip certainly isn't normal for us, it definitely was gratifying. Not so much the tip itself, but rather the compliments that came with it.

Just the week before, another faithful reader called me wanting to purchase a couple subscriptions for family members. He also lets me know regularly that he is praising our newspaper wherever he goes. I think I may have to put him on the payroll soon as my subscription coordinator.

The rewards of newspaper work seem so few at times, especially in the COVID-19 crisis that has engulfed most small businesses this year. We are not immune to the challenges facing small businesses. Our livelihood of advertising revenue has been threatened by small businesses being shut down temporarily, and in some cases permanently.

To be honest the greatest satisfaction I get out of operating a community newspaper is the positive feedback from readers. I love to hear how people cherish the local newspaper and look forward to it coming out every week.

This brings me to a special time beginning



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

next week. It is National Newspaper Week, which runs Oct. 4-10. I believe this year is more special than ever before because 2020 has shown all of us why America needs journalists and community papers at a time when the country is in crisis like never before. The theme for this year is most appropriately, America Needs Journalists.



We have all seen how our communities and lives have been transformed and changed in dramatic ways this year because of the coronavirus. Through all those changes, one thing has remained consistent—the presence of your local newspaper.

Our staff members have remained committed to keeping our communities informed. Ever since the COVID-19 outbreak began in March, we have committed at a minimum one page every week in the newspaper with coronavirus information. Many of those weeks there have been two or more pages. We have been sharing stories on where tests are available, reporting on local test results, sharing the heartbreak

ing news of deaths and alerting people about what's going on in our local economy and with local businesses.

The greatest tool we can offer is the spotlight. We shine it on problems that need to be addressed and on solutions that should be considered. More often than not we shone it on stories that are heartwarming and uplifting. And sometimes, it gets shined on things that some wish wouldn't be.

Your local newspaper provides a niche that can't be found anywhere else. And certainly not on the internet or social media. We are committed to local community news. That may mean the good, the bad and sometimes even the ugly. But we are a reflection of what goes on in Steele County and the surrounding areas.

We pride ourselves on introducing you to interesting people every week. Just this week we have a wonderful story about Robert and Judy Hansen, who will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary next week. We wish nothing but the best to the Hansens. Such a milestone doesn't come for many couples, especially in this day of high divorce rates.

The newspaper provides the stuff that finds its way into families' scrapbooks and onto the doors of refrigerators—news items about honors bestowed, awards given out, touchdowns scored, championships won, prizewinning pigs and cows shown at the fairs, and on and on.

As we celebrate our special week, we hope you will go in hot pursuit of realizing the fact that America needs journalists and local newspapers, especially now more than ever.

Dean Meshke always full of questions



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

In most elementary school classrooms, there's that little kid in the front row who is always raising his hand and asking a question.

That little kid has now grown up to be Dean Meshke, Blooming Prairie School Board member and volunteer assistant girls basketball coach.

The rotund Meshke makes his presence known as soon as he enters a room. He usually sets the tone in a humorous way. However, he can be serious too!

As a school board member, Meshke, a former Blooming Prairie classroom teacher, thinks through the most mundane subjects to the most complex issues that face the board.

"Yes, Dean, I know you have another question," retorts Blooming Prairie activities director Allison Mach while giving her routine report at a regular school board meeting.

"Yeah, how many fans will be allowed at a Blooming Prairie football game?" Meshke asks. "They're still working on that," Mach replies, directing the question to the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

"What's cyber insurance?" Meshke asks Superintendent Chris Staloch at a recent meeting. Staloch responded with a scientific answer.

This writer admires the tenacity of Meshke because he believes in the old rule that there's no dumb question, only the one that is not asked.

Meshke is serving his first term as a school board member. He has logged nearly 35 years as a coach in the Blooming Prairie school system.

Meshke, who retired as a math teacher at



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Dean Meshke, member of the Blooming Prairie School Board and former math teacher, is always asking questions and looking for answers. He is a popular volunteer coach for the Awesome Blossoms girls basketball team.

the high school in 2005, couldn't stay away from the basketball court. "I love working with kids and try to build a relationship with them," he confides.

In a Times article several years ago, Dean's wife Marilyn, said, "He loves to teach

SEE DEAN MESHKE, A10

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ETHICS: The Steele County Times editorial staff strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. Please bring any grievances against the Steele County Times to the attention of the Managing Editor.

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County Writer.....Karen M. Jorgensen
County Writer.....Chris Baldwin

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Thursdays.

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

A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
2020—9 state awards
2019—7 state and 4 national awards
2018—6 state and 1 national awards
2017—2 state and 3 national awards
2016—3 state and 6 national awards
2015—7 state and 4 national awards
2014—3 state and 1 national awards
2013—7 state and 2 national awards
2012—2 state awards
2011—4 national awards
(Awards presented by the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association)

CARES helps bring clean air for schools

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

With all the buzz these days about COVID-19, it seems like the right thing to do would be to improve our air quality.

That's what the Bloomington School District 876 Board of Education is attempting to accomplish.

The board at a regular meeting held Sept. 21 in the media center of the Bloomington Prairie High School voted to grant authority to Superintendent Chris Staloch to proceed with HVAC (Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning) Bipolar Ionization.

What is Bipolar Ionization?

Bipolar ionization is created when an alternating voltage source (AC) is applied to a glass tube with two electrodes. When voltage is applied to the tubes electrodes (like electricity is applied to a light bulb's filament) an ionization field is produced around the tube (just as light is produced from the light bulb).

Bipolar ionization reportedly is experiencing a surge in popularity as the coronavirus pandemic fans concerns about air quality. It is integrated into HVAC systems, the technology utilizing specialized tubes.

The installation of ionization equipment will be financed by funds received from the CARES Act. Cost will be \$85,000 to install the system at both school buildings in BP.

The installation will be done in the next two months, said Staloch.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, is a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 116th U.S. Congress

and signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27 in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

Congress passed the CARES Act relatively quickly and with unanimity from both parties despite its \$2.2 trillion price tag, indicating the severity of the global pandemic and the need for emergency spending, as viewed by lawmakers.

Staloch said the Global Plasma Solutions needlepoint bipolar ionization is new technology placed into HVAC units.

The ionization breaks down harmful VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds), kills mold, bacteria, and viruses, improves filtration effectiveness by particle agglomeration, and oxidizes odoriferous gases.

Staloch said ionization has been around for about 10 years. "It has not been on our radar until now," he said.

The school district, Staloch said, has done extensive research with the help of mechanical companies and other school districts and businesses to determine what is best for BP.

The Business Insider publication said bipolar ionization could be a secret weapon against COVID-19.

Bipolar ionization technology emits charged particles that attach to and deactivate harmful substances like bacteria, allergens, mold, and viruses. Bipolar ionization technology emits charged particles that attach to and deactivate harmful substances like bacteria.

Board member Jenny Thurnau made motion. Steve Ilse seconded to give Staloch the authority to move ahead with the project. Motion was carried.

Bishop visit in a pandemic



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, ELCA Bishop Regina Hassannally is still out visiting congregations throughout the district. On Sunday, she visited First Lutheran Church in Bloomington Prairie and delivered the sermon, which was broadcast on KOWZ Radio and Facebook. Bishop Hassannally, center, is shown with senior pastor Heidi Heimgartner and associate pastor Mike Walerius, all, of course, with their protective masks in place.

'Each day is like a roller coaster ride'

Panel members share COVID experiences

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"I wish it would just go away," says First Lutheran Church member Crystal Studer, who also is at RN nurse manager at a local hospital.

Studer was one of five panelists who participated in an adult Zoom forum on Sept. 20 at First Lutheran of Bloomington Prairie.

Other panelists were: Lisa Sandgren, former member of First Lutheran and now interim faith information director at a sister congregation, has survived the virus; Amy Evans, daughter of First, is an incident commander in county public health who managed H1N1 in 2009; Paul Heimgartner, member of First Lutheran, is a microbiologist who was recently re-deployed to a regional laboratory diagnosing COVID; Bonnie Petrie, friend of Pastor Heidi Heimgartner of First Lutheran Church, is a medicine/bioscience journalist from Texas who hosts a weekly COVID-19 podcast for public radio.

Studer is the mother of three Bloomington Prairie Elementary School children. She said she is grateful that no one in her family has tested positive for the coronavirus. However, her family has been quarantined twice.

"Each day is like a roller coaster ride," Studer admits. She said masking, sanitation and social distancing are most important. Studer and her family are "big on camping" and have realized "that we are in a COVID marathon, not a sprint."

She believes her family is doing its part in slowing transmission of the virus. "Be kind to others and offer people grace," Studer suggests. This will create a resiliency, she added.

Studer considers herself lucky in being provided PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and being

included in pandemic planning. "We are in a really good place here and I feel good professionally and personally," she continued.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I do not wish the virus would end," says Amy Evans. "My job is to see how staff is handling the fight against the virus," Evans said.

The battle against COVID-19 is a seven-day-a-week operation, says Evans.

Paul Heimgartner works in a molecular laboratory, dealing with COVID attesting seven days a week. There have been testing changes and a need for more testing, he said.

Heimgartner said if someone is sick, stay at home and be tested. He also emphasized precautionary measures of washing hands often, wearing a mask and keeping a social distance.

"I felt like I was hit by a truck," said Lisa Sandgren in explaining her early symptoms of having the virus. "I had muscle aches throughout my body," Sandgren said. She tested positive in late May and was quarantined for 21 days.

Husband Pastor Jeff Sandgren also had symptoms but tested negative three times.

Lisa said part of dealing with COVID includes the mental distress. She said she kept thinking she would wake up and not be able to breathe. She said she never felt that way, however.

Sandgren said she was very thankful for the medical care she received. None of her family members got sick.

Bonnie Petrie says the COVID pandemic has brought about pain, grief, sadness and anger. "It's not fake news like some have suggested," Petrie emphasized. With 200,000 Americans dying from the virus, Petrie says it is not fake.

"Someone has to bear witness and tell the stories of people with COVID," Petrie says. "We are all in this together," she continues.

SMIF awards COVID grants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently approved 22 grants through its Small Town Grant: COVID-19 Response program totaling \$192,500 to support towns of 10,000 or less in SMIF's 20-county region.

Several grants have been awarded to various organizations in Dodge County. They include: Dodge County Faith in Action: \$7,500; Hayfield Economic Development Authority: \$10,000; Kasson-Mantorville Schools: \$10,000 and City of Mantorville: \$5,000.

Other grants were given out throughout southern Minnesota. There were none awarded in Steele County.

The Small Town Grant program was launched in 2017 to support smaller communities, which often lack sufficient financial resources to help them grow and address challenges. Since then, SMIF has supported 43 towns, and a wide variety of initiatives, through the grant.

This year, the grant program was entirely focused on responding to the needs that have emerged or increased as a result of the pandemic. Funding requests addressed issues including technology needs for equitable distance learning, support for food shelves due to increased demand and programs that assist businesses experiencing financial hardship.

"We are honored to be able to support the most immediate needs of some of our smallest communities during this health and economic crisis," said SMIF President and CEO Tim Penny. "We hope this funding will have a lasting impact in these towns, long after the pandemic is over."

In addition to this program, SMIF has been providing direct support to entrepreneurs, early childhood professionals and communities through the crisis, nearing \$11 million in impact with the support of many partners. For more information, visit smifoundation.org/covid-19.

The Small Town Grant: COVID-19 Response Grants are made possible with support from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Fund at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation.

COVID surveys end due to irate people

Steele reports 29 new COVID cases

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Less than a week after state health officials began making house calls throughout rural Minnesota, the practice has been discontinued because of agitated people.

Steele County Public Health Director Amy Caron said Monday that the Minnesota Department of Health has ended its effort to learn more about the COVID-19 virus by doing door-to-door surveys across Minnesota. She said health officials ran into too many "hostile situations" while connecting with people.

"There is a little fear out there," Caron said, speculating as to the reason why people are hostile. "People were just weary about it."

Caron didn't know for sure if state health officials made it to homes in southeastern Minnesota, but the plan was to canvass the entire state. Now the plan is off the tables, which Caron says is not a good thing in dealing with a pandemic. "It would

have given us a better idea of the community spread out there," she said. "It would have been good insight into the epidemiology of the virus."

Meanwhile, the virus seems to have leveled off in Steele County with 29 new reported cases over the past week, bringing the county's total to 556 confirmed cases. Of the cases, 497 have recovered. One person is currently hospitalized in the county with COVID-19, according to Caron.

Caron said the 29 new cases is "average for us over the past month." She remains in constant contact with leaders in all the schools throughout the county. She pointed out there have been some positive cases with students and staff, but the schools have done a good job at containing it.

It's a far different story in neighboring Dodge County where Caron also serves as public health director. Over the weekend, Dodge County had 21 new cases, bringing the total to 257. Eight out of the 21 new cases involved

children between the ages of 5 and 18, Caron said.

"That's a significant increase for us," she noted. The spread is so bad right now that Caron has recommended all schools in Dodge County change their learning models within the next week. Currently, Kasson-Mantorville and Hayfield schools are with all in-person learning while Triton School in Dodge Center utilizes a hybrid model at the high school level.

Caron wants K-M and Hayfield to go to a hybrid model at the very least within the next week because of widespread cases throughout the county. She said part of the difficulty right now is figuring out how the virus is spreading.

"It's affecting all the communities," Caron said. "It would be easier if we can point to one area, but we just can't right now." In Mower County, there are 1,342 confirmed cases with five deaths. Freeborn County is slightly behind Steele County with 546 cases and four deaths.



Wear a mask in public spaces.



Get tested if you have any symptoms.



Answer if your health department calls.

mn MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN

COVID-19 UPDATE

World.....33,200,000	U.S.7,150,000	MN.....96,786	Steele.....556	Dodge257
Deaths.....999,000	Deaths.....205,000	Deaths.....2,060	Deaths.....2	Deaths.....0
Recovered.....23,000,000	Recovered.....2,310,000	Recovered.....28,205	Recovered.....497	Recovered.....184

AS OF SEPT. 28, 2020

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

Police: Drugs found after arrest in chase

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A man faces felony charges in connection with a police chase and subsequent drugs found after the arrest in Owatonna.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Marcos Anthony Trevino, 28, of Owatonna with fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle and third-degree possession of narcotics, both felonies. He also faces a gross misdemeanor count of DWI under influence of a controlled substance.

On Sept. 15, a patrol officer saw silver vehicle southbound on Oak Avenue with loud exhaust. The officer said he heard the vehicle from blocks away and saw it flashing its high beams.

The vehicle initially stopped at Holy Street and Oak Avenue. As the officer called out the traffic stop on his police radio, the vehicle began to speed away. The officer said the vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed continuing southbound on Oak Avenue and turning into Cedar Avenue.

According to police, the vehicle failed to stop for a red light at Cedar Avenue and 18th Street. The vehicle made sudden movements while driving and tapping on the brakes, police said.

Police followed the vehicle when it turned westbound onto Hwy. 14. Police said the



Marcos Trevino

vehicle was traveling in excess of 100 miles per hour. The officer noted the vehicle continued to make sudden decelerations and accelerations, which led the officer to believe the driver was under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. The vehicle also turned on and off its lights while traveling at a high rate of speed.

The vehicle went northbound on 92nd Avenue and attempted to make a turn onto Crane Creek Road. Because the vehicle was traveling too fast, it slid into the ditch and came to a stop. Police arrested Trevino without further incident.

During a search of the vehicle, officers found a small bag with what appeared to be methamphetamine. Police weighed the baggie at 15 grams, the complaint said.

Trevino was transported by Mayo ambulance to Owatonna Hospital. The complaint said Trevino made several spontaneous utterances while at the hospital: "Well can I just admit that I am high. I don't know what I was doing, I (expletive) up. I was high at the time but I'm not anymore. I've been using meth for the last month."

After being released from the hospital, police transported Trevino to the Steele County Detention Center. While at the jail, detention staff found a plastic baggie contain-

CRIME BRIEF

OPD protects Air Force 1

Owatonna police officers have answered the call to protect Air Force 1.

On Sept. 18, two squads and four officers from the Owatonna Police Department responded to Bemidji to assist with President Trump's visit to Minnesota. Officers Joel Hunt, Travis Johnson, Nathan Heeren and Josh Lee were assigned to the perimeter to keep traffic from stopping within the exclusion zone for Air Force 1. Bemidji Police put a call out for mutual



COURTESY OWATONNA POLICE

Air Force 1 is shown in the shadows of the Owatonna police cruiser in Bemidji. Several officers from Owatonna provided security during President Trump's visit to Minnesota.

aid assistance from Minnesota police agencies to help with the large security detail for the president.

ing a white crystal-like substance in Trevino's genital area, the complaint said. The baggie

weighed .510 ounces. Trevino has a previous conviction of DWI in 2016.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 14 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding: Kevin Jackson, 55, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault-dangerous weapon. He was sentenced to \$3,503.98 and 57 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 14 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding: Vanessa Rodriguez, 33, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft and gross misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Rodriguez was sentenced to \$131, 25 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, obtain permission to leave the state, psychological evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation. The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 14 — 20:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kaw Hser, 28, Maplewood, speeding, \$115.

MN STATE PATROL
ROCHESTER

Kathrina M. Andersen, 34, Denver, CO, speeding, \$215; Daryel D. Bell Jr., 18, West St. Paul, speeding, \$125; Jess R. Bohman, 54, Ham Lake, speeding, \$135; Anthony J. Brown, 54, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$275; Addison C. Burcea, 20, Shakopee, speeding, \$215; Nathan R. Currier, 25, Dent, tire defect, \$125; Darrek I. Dalbec, 47, Waverly,

speeding, \$215; Larry J. Diggins, 79, Austin, speeding, \$115; Allyson D. Doll, 20, Port Washington, WI, speeding, \$115; Bret M. Fisher, 27, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Mara J. Gregersen, 23, Burnsville, speeding, \$125; Daniel J. Gulbrandson, 34, Farmington, speeding, \$115; Romero A. Gutierrez, 33, North Mankato, seat belt, \$100; Amanda S. Hafstad, 37, Northfield, speeding, \$115; David L. Hoyer, 60, Rochester, speeding, \$135; Logan P. Johnson, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Stephanie M. Kretlow, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Tyler J. Long, 22, Freeborn, speeding, \$125; Robert M. Malaski, 51, Lindstrom, hands free violation, \$125; Benjamin M. Mohs, 35, Clara City, speeding, \$135; David R. Nisi, 48, Bayport, speeding, \$115; Raul J. Perez Sanchez Jr., 19, Cold Spring, speeding, \$115; Colby J. Reich, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Idan Rodriguez Barranco, 31, Austin, no insurance, \$275; Gerardo A. Sanjuanero 21, Owatonna, permit violation, \$125; Amar J. Thomas, 19, Hastings, speeding, \$125; Rachel J. Winnes, 37, Clarks Grove, speeding, \$155; Stephanie N. Yassa, 25, Colorado Springs, CO, speeding, \$135.

OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Vi Dang, 48, Faribault, assault, \$375, no contact with victim, anger management, obtain permission to leave the state and 1 year of supervised probation; Cassandra R. Emmers, 16, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Rebecca L. Enriquez, 24, Waseca, hands free violation, \$125; Joel M. Fernandez, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, \$275; Robert L. Hagmann, 40, Owatonna, burglary, \$151, 134 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor

establishments, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Trevor D. Jensen, 49, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Diana I. Martinez Tinajero, 27, Owatonna, speeding, \$135; Michael S. Melkner, 57, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Cristofor Nolasco Alcantara, 24, Medford, window tint violation and permit violation, \$175; Wendy M. Rysavy, 41, Owatonna, hands free violation, \$125; Stephen M. Schmitz, 33, Kenyon, speeding, \$115; Cody M. Schulz, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Dawn M. Sommers, 46, Owatonna, DWI, \$375, chemical assessment, attend MAAD impact panel and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Kelli J. Sorn, 37, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100; Keondra T. Spitzack, 18, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$125; Anthony J. Villareal, 17, Owatonna, seat belt, \$100.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sarah S. Eaton, 32, Owatonna, violation of no contact order, \$125, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Julian E. Gonzales, 43, Waseca, invalid license, \$175; Thomas R. Hanson, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Mia A. Hilber, 19, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$125; Ashton A. Kane, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$125; Franklin W. Lind, 43, Rochester, speeding, \$215; Amy A. Madison, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$115; Raman K. Seshadri, 34, Columbia Heights, speeding, \$135; Leighton H. Slagel, 22, Dundas, possession of marijuana, \$575, 36 days in county jail, obtain and maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Adolfo Vargas, 52, Owatonna, stop sign, \$125; Alta E. Vick, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$135.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele CountyBLOOMING PRAIRIE
POLICE

Sept. 18
DWI: Police made a DWI arrest at Highway 30

W. and Highway 218 at 7:21 p.m.

Sept. 24
Thefts: Officers responded to a subject making threats in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 7:36 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Sept. 18
Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 400 block of 16th St. SW at 3:29 a.m.

Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 3600 block of County Road 45 N. at 8:07 a.m. Officers took theft reports in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 10:25 a.m. and the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 12:49 p.m.

Weapons: Police responded to a weapons-related incident in the 400 block of Willow Creek Dr. NE at 12:16 p.m.

Sept. 19
DWI: Officer made a DWI arrest in the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 1 a.m.

Theft: At 6:52 a.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 800 block of Willow Creek St. NE.

Sept. 20
Thefts: Police took theft reports in the 200 block of 16th St. SW at 8:10 a.m. and the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:06 p.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 2:58 p.m.

Suspicion: Officer responded to suspicious activity in the 600 block of Cherry St. NE at 4:55 p.m. They issued a citation.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:29 p.m.

Arrest: Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 700 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:20 p.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Bridge St. W. and Walnut Ave. N. at 11:50 p.m.

Sept. 21
Thefts: Police received theft reports from the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:12 a.m. and the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 1:39 p.m.

Drugs: Officers responded to drug activity in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW at 11:38 a.m.

Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 1700 block of Mosher Ave. SW at 11:58 a.m.

Sept. 22
Thefts: Thefts occurred in the 900 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 7:27 a.m. and the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 10:19 a.m.

Theft: At 8:28 p.m., a motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW.

Drugs: Drug activity occurred in the 200 block of Oak Ave. N. at 8:56 p.m.

Arrest: Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Hoffman Dr. NW and 21st Ave. NW at 10:38 p.m.

Sept. 23
Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of Academy St. E. at 2:33 p.m.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Hoffman Dr. NW and State Ave. NW at 3:42 p.m.

Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW at 8:06 p.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 9:25 p.m. and the 800 block of Willowbrook St. NE at 11:35 p.m.

ARRESTS
Steele CountyBLOOMING
PRAIRIE POLICE

James Patrick Leonard, 60, arrested at 8:01 p.m. Sept. 18, DWI, held for court. Derek Allen Dress, 27, arrested at 11:18 p.m. Sept. 19, DWI, held for court.

OWATONNA POLICE

Mario Alexandra Correa, 27, arrested at 12:09 a.m. Sept. 21, warrant arrest, body only. Joseph Maurice Davis, 35, arrested at 7:12 p.m. Sept. 21, felony domestic assault with strangulation, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY
SHERIFF

Scott Alan Carlson, 61, arrested at 6:57 p.m. Sept. 20, probation violation warrant arrest, body only. Tyler Steven Britt, 25, arrested at 8:40 a.m. Sept. 18, probation violation warrant arrest, body only. Shaundra Michelle Saufferer, 49, arrested at 4:28 p.m. Sept. 17, felony drugs and probation violation, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Sept. 13 — 20:

DODGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Erika P. Arevalo, 44, Owatonna, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without

adjudication; Georges T. Chahine, 26, Mankato, speeding, \$380; Brittany G. Crenshaw, 28, Indianapolis, IN, speeding, \$220; Reymundo Cruz, 25, Kenyon, disorderly conduct, \$180; Landon R. Koss, 34, Dodge Center, DWI, \$505, complete treatment, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Mona L. Montenegro, 33, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Juan Ortega, 43, Dodge Center, domestic assault, 23 days in county jail; Amanda M. Riehm, 36, Waseca, speeding, \$220; Kermit A. Solomon, 45, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, stay of adjudication, 6 months of unsupervised probation; Christian D. Waldner, 18, Hayfield, speeding, \$380.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nicholas H. Greenwood, 38, Rochester, DWI, 220 days in county jail, 20 hours of community service; Kurtis J. Johnson, 28, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Pedro A. Perez, 26, Kasson, trespassing and disorderly conduct, \$180; Caleb W. Styer, 25, Rochester, registration violation and theft of motor fuel from retailer, \$180 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Caleb D. Timmerman, 18, Rochester, speeding, \$220.

MN STATE PATROL

Emily E. Bermudez, 24, Kenyon, speeding, \$130; Destina A. Cavazos, 19, Owatonna, speeding and permit violation, \$170; Garmy D. Hopson, 34, Mankato, suspended license, \$280; Benjamin J. Kall, 30, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Maurice J. Mullenmaster, 61, Ellendale, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Kenneth A. Nielsen, 24, Gainsville, FL, speeding, \$380; Peter J. Ritschel, 57, Faribault, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Paige M. Wickett, 24, Rochester, speeding, \$140.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Travis L. Martinez, 23, Rochester, criminal sexual conduct, \$580, attend sex offender program, submit to polygraph exams as directed, no contact with minors and 2 years of supervised probation.

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Coronavirus Versus Flu: How to Tell the Difference



THE SAVVY SENIOR
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Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you explain the differences between the coronavirus and seasonal flu? I'm 70-years-old, and usually get a standard flu shot, but would like to find out what else I can do to protect myself this winter.

Worried Senior

Dear Worried,
Great question! Because of the dual danger of influenza (flu) and COVID-19, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently warned that this fall and winter could be the worst ever for public health. Understanding this, knowing the differences and similarities between the viruses, and knowing what you can do to protect yourself is the best way to stay healthy and safe through this difficult time.

Flu vs COVID
Because many of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, so testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. With that said, here are some similarities and differences you should know.

For starters, seasonal flu symptoms come on pretty quickly, whereas COVID-19 develops gradually over a period of a few days and then either fades out or gets worse. Common shared symptoms include fever, sore throat, muscle aches, cough, headache, fatigue and even chest pain. Pink eye and a dry cough are associated with COVID-19, while it's now thought that a fever is more likely with the flu, as are diarrhea and nausea.

Many people are having their temperatures taken these days before entering public spaces. But fever occurs in only half of COVID-19 cases. Fever does not rule out COVID-19, but the absence of fever makes flu unlikely.

You're also unlikely to have a runny or stuffy nose with the flu, but you may with COVID-19. What sometimes happens within the nose with COVID-19 is loss of smell and, often as a consequence, loss of taste, too.

To learn more about the similarities and differences between flu and COVID-19, visit the CDC website at [CDC.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm).

How to Protect Yourself
While there is currently no vaccine available yet to prevent COVID-19, the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. So, stay home as much as you can. If you have to go out, wear a mask and keep at least 6 feet away from other people. And every time you come home, wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

There's also evidence that suggests that people who are deficient in vitamin D may be at higher risk of getting COVID-19, than those with sufficient levels. So, make sure you take in around 800 to 1,000 international units (IU) of vitamin D from food or supplements daily, and get outside as much as you can.

And to help guard against the flu this year, you should consider getting a flu shot that's specifically designed for people 65 and older. The "Fluzone High Dose Quadrivalent" or the "FLIAD Quadrivalent" are the two options that provide extra protection beyond what a standard flu shot offers. You only need one flu shot, and if you haven't already gotten it, you should do it now because takes up to two weeks to build immunity after you receive it.

Pneumonia Vaccines
If you haven't been vaccinated for pneumonia, you should also consider getting the pneumococcal vaccines. Both flu and COVID-19 can lead to pneumonia, which hospitalizes around 250,000 Americans, and kills around 50,000 people each year. But these numbers could be much higher this year.

The CDC recommends that all seniors, 65 or older, get two vaccinations – Prevnar 13 and Pneumovax 23. Both vaccines, which are administered one year apart, protect against different strains of the bacteria to provide maximum protection.

Medicare Part B covers both flu and pneumonia shots.

To locate a vaccination site that offers any of these shots, visit [VaccineFinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org) and type in your location.

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

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History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago Oct. 5, 2010

RICK L. BUSSLER, PUBLISHER

Athletes of the Week: Kristin Hagen – Hagen has been one of the team leaders in kills all season long for the Blossoms Volleyball team; Adam Driessen – Driessen led the Cross-country Blossoms to their 3rd straight Blooming Prairie Invitational win.

The graduating class of the 1941 in Blooming Prairie gathered for a class reunion at the Pizza Collar on Friday, Oct. 1st. They enjoyed a lot of reminiscing before a buffet was served. Those in attendance were: Hazel (Helleck) Eggtvedt, Betty (Lien) Johnson, Jean (Erickson) Schimle, Marie (Kieseker) Warner, Virginia (Goetsch) Massey, Ester Ann (Ingvalson) Hansen, Muriel (Agre) Beal, Dorothy (Harker) Kruger, Dorothy (Daves) Johnson, Evelyn (Saiefa) Mees, Jack Shaw, Kenneth Hansen, Richard Kubista and Norman Brantly.

20 Years Ago Oct. 3, 2000

ELSIE SUNGER, PUBLISHER

On Sept. 5, St. Isidore's School of Litomysl opened its doors once again to thirty-seven anxious kindergarten through eighth grade students, as well as, nine preschoolers. The faculty and staff for the 2000-2001 school year include: Mrs. Molly Henriksen (6th and 7th grade); Ms. Jenny Iverson (kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades); Mrs. Anne Nylund (Principal and 3rd, 4th and 5th grades); Mrs. Be Anderson (secretary and librarian); Mrs. Tammy Harber (Preschool); Mrs. Mary Huff (Cook).

The 2000 Homecoming candidates announced for Blooming Prairie. Queen candidates are: Amanda Busho, Allison Trom,

Kristin Thoen, Rebecca Naata, Samantha Zweiner, Stephanie Thompson, Randi Goette. King candidates are: Kody Thurnau, Karl Hatteberg, Jeremy Wangen, Bryan Kramer and Lee Trotman.

50 Years Ago Oct. 7, 1970

VICTOR, VERNON & VYRLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

"The Stone Vine", a local rock n' roll band made up of musicians from Blooming Prairie High School, participated in Homecoming activities at two area high schools last weekend. On Friday the band played for dancing at Grand Meadow and the following evening the group played for students at Elkton High School. Band members are Doug Olson, Wayne Carlsen and Scott Gullickson on guitars; Ken Christianson, organ; Chuck Krell, drums; Dan Hunter, vocalist.

Boy Scout Troop No. 261 of Blooming Prairie participated in the Fall Jamboree at Rice Lake State Park on October 2nd and 3rd. Friday activities consisted of erecting tents, having super, building campfires, telling stories and playing games. Saturday the 1st and 2nd class scout hiking requirements were completed by 19 boys. Other activities included cooking, games and camp inspections.

75 Years Ago Oct. 4, 1945

FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

Cpl. Joseph Ressler arrived Friday evening from Hot Springs, ARK, where he received a discharge from the Army after serving 3 1/2 years, 3 of which were spent in the Pacific. He has now returned to the Ressler Bros. store in Owatonna.

An emergency has arisen in Steele County. The dreaded polio has struck in five homes. Last week the Times reported on the death of Lloyd's passing from the epidemic. Three cases are in Owatonna, one in Ellendale and one in Merton Township. This is the first time that polio has hit our county so hard. New cases are expected to develop before this disease is under control. Four of the cases are at Kenny Institute, Minneapolis, and one is in Rochester at Mayo Clinic. The Steele County Infantile Paralysis committee is raising more money to care for this emergency. This money will be used for helping hospitalization for polio victims needing aid in the costs.

Owatonna Photo News –

31 Years Ago Sept. 28, 1989

TOM SHEA, PUBLISHER

The Somerset Club, an Extension organization of Steele County, marked the 50th anniversary of its charter last week. Four of the charter members were gathered for the celebration. Those members are: Mary Kaplan, Doris Vaith, Agnes Kasper and Elsie Ringhofer. The group meets once a month at the home of one of the members.

Birthis celebrated this week are: John and Tonette Skala, a boy September 20; Robert and Naomi Dominguez, twin boys; Daniel and Laurie Torgerson, girl; Brian and Paula Deml, boy. Homecoming royalty was named last week at Ellendale. Homecoming Queen, Patti Stadhelm; King, Scott Homes; Princesses: Amanda Patterson LaNell Leak, Melanie Goslee, Michelle Eaker and Shannon Peterson. Princes: Cory Bailey, Chris Deml, Troy Sommers, Dan Nesdahl and Shawn Hearn.

AUDIT SHOWS: healthy BP School finances FROM 1

Administrative and support services expense per student was reported at \$1,094.

Regular instruction expense totaled \$4.3 million. Expense per student was said to be \$5,382, Copenhagen said.

Special education expense totaled \$1.1 million, \$1,499 per student. The state average is \$2,380 per student.

"It's nice to hear that we are financially in good shape as a school district," said district superintendent Chris Staloch. "We will spend our money where it will have the better impact on student learning," he remarked.

The audit was approved unanimously by the board.

In other business, principal reports were given by Jacob Schwarz, elementary principal

and by John Worke, high school principal.

"We're off to a great start," said Schwarz. "Our staff is up to the challenge," he said. Schwarz praised parents saying they are "very accommodating" in dropping off students and picking them up.

Schwarz said the city has approved the school utilizing Central Park for elementary activities. This provides for more safe social distance.

In respect to masks, there are not many issues, said Schwarz. "Our students and staff are diligent and safe," he concluded.

Principal Worke credited the kids with helping make the first days of school "a great start." He did admit there was "a lot of anxiety" with the students.

"Everybody is doing their part," he said.

Activities Director Allison Mach commented on the reinstatement of football and volleyball for the fall. She said football will start with games on Oct. 9 and will have a six-game schedule with two weeks of playoffs. Volleyball's first matches will be on Oct. 8. The season will include 14 games.

Mach said there will be no fans allowed for volleyball. She said football will have an opportunity for fans since it is outside.

COVID-19 will have its effects on the school musical. Mach said she is awaiting further guidance from the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

"There's a lot of extra on us but we will make it work and provide

opportunities for all," said Mach.

Other board action included:

- Board approved the hiring of Sandra Basness as a high school special education paraprofessional; Tina Quail was hired as an elementary school special education para; Eric Hanson was hired as a custodian at the elementary school; Monica Anderson was hired as a part-time clerical at the high school and Cheri Krejci was hired as a district secretary.

- Ryan Slack was hired as an assistant cross country coach.
- Board approved maximum levy as provided by law.

- School enrollment showed elementary enrollment at 445, high school enrollment at 385 for a total of 830.

JACOB'S RUN: tops expectations FROM 1

got put together as a way to help Robert whose motorcycle crashed on the day of his son's death. "To me that's blood money and I'm not going to use it," he said, adding he used insurance money instead for his cycle and turned the proceeds for the ride into scholarships.

As of late last week, Robert Sikel said the group was still totaling up the money raised from this year's fundraiser. The group usually pulls in around \$10,000. "Our goal is to give one more scholarship than the year before," Sikel said,

noting that Open Arms gave out 14 \$500 scholarships last year. Seniors in Owatonna, Triton, NRHEG, Hayfield, Blooming Prairie and Grand Meadow are eligible for the scholarships.

Sikel is convinced the group is making a difference in many communities. "The best thing about our group is 100% return back to the community," he said. "It all goes back to the community," he stressed.

To illustrate how important community is to the group, Sikel pointed out how members of Open Arms initially got

trained several years ago by the national association in Colorado. The local group is refusing to go back to get recertified because of the cost, which has nearly doubled. "We want the money to go to scholarships," Sikel said. "To us that's five scholarships instead of sending five people to get trained."

Sikel can't believe the success Open Arms has experienced over the past nine years. "It's pretty amazing that it can be going this long," he said.

The group was initially worried about how COVID-19 may affect this year's run. "Several members didn't know if we would have the ride, but we believe it has to happen. We need to get awareness out there," said Sikel. And judging by the number of participants, COVID didn't hurt at all. "We aren't slowing down for not-

ing. We are necessary," he added.

The ride, Sikel said, is a great way for Open Arms to get awareness regarding suicide prevention out to others. He credits the 25 volunteers who help put on the ride every year.

"They want to help," he says. "Sometimes they have lost someone and just need to be around someone," he said.

He reminds people that there is help for those struggling with mental illnesses that often lead to suicide. "It's OK to ask for help," Sikel said. "You are somebody's one and only."

Sikel wanted to give a big shout out to the Owatonna Eagle's Club. "They took us on at the last minute and did a fantastic job," he said. He is already looking forward to next year, which will be a big milestone as Open Arms celebrates its 10th anniversary of Jacob's Run.

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It's all about "give and take" for couple married 70 years

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

What's the secret for a happy marriage? Just ask a loving couple, Robert and Judy Hansen, who reside on a farm five miles northwest of Blooming Prairie.

The Hansens will tell you that it's 70 years of being together for one another. "It's all about give and take," says Robert, called Bob by his family and friends. The Hansens will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on Thursday, Oct. 8.

Asked who has been the boss in the family the past 70 years, silence erupts. Then, Bob and Judy look at one another and say it is a shared

responsibility. "He has been pretty good to me," Judy confides.

Judy says she has some health issues that have caused her balance problems and this condition has forced her to not being as active. "When you get older, things change, but I still get out and putz around," Robert smiles.

The Hansens met more than 70 years ago when Bob was farming near Blooming Prairie and Judy was working at Wilson & Co. in Albert Lea.

Judy said she moved in with a girl from Hayfield. She was a beautician. Bob came to Albert Lea with a friend and ended up dating Judy and her friend at the same time. "Our



Robert and Judy Hansen of rural Blooming Prairie will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020. Both are 91.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

toes, squash, pumpkins, tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, onions, peppers and apples.

Judy says Robert's mother Ina had a green thumb and passed on that talent to Robert. When he's not helping with the garden or farm chores, Robert is reading westerns and mysteries.

The Hansens have seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Faith is very important to the Hansens who were members of Little Trinity Lutheran Church until it closed two years ago. Bob was the oldest living member of the church. He served on the church council and Judy taught Sunday School at Little Trinity.

The Hansens joined First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie in January.

How are the Hansens going to spend their 70th anniversary? With COVID-19 still controlling our every day activities, Judy answers matter of factly: "I don't know."

Bob says the celebration will be "more or less with family." It likely will be more because of their strong relationship to one another.

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kids really laugh about that," Judy relates.

Robert was born on the Dean Knutson farm in Dodge County. He moved to the present location of the Hansens' home when he was 4 years old. The two-story house was built in 1916.

Both Robert and Judy are 91. Many disbelieve the Hansens when they reveal their ages. They become believers when they learn the Hansens have been married 70 years. Bob will turn 92 on Oct. 17.

Robert is the third oldest in a family of 14 children. Ten of his siblings are still living.

Judy was the baby of her family. She has two siblings. Judy was born in Jackson County on a dairy farm, which also had sheep and chickens.

The Hansens have four children and loved raising them in the country. Their children are: Brenda Thorpe, Owatonna;

Joan Clark (Dennis), Chanhassen; Audrey Horan (Rick) and Roland, Blooming Prairie.

Son Roland farms their land, which is 160 acres. He is single. Bob says he still gets on a tractor and helps out once in awhile. Judy is a gardener and loves to read fiction.

Judy gardens with daughter Audrey and Rick. They grow pota-



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Robert Hansen, 91, of Blooming Prairie has lived in this house since he was 4 years old. The Hansens were married 70 years ago on Oct. 8, 1950.



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CONGRATULATIONS

2020 Minnesota State 4-H Showcase winners from Steele County



Jace Katzung of Meriden Meadowlarks earned first place with showmanship and reserve champion senior at the recent State 4-H Showcase, which replaced this year's Minnesota State Fair.



Joshua Katzung of the Meriden Meadowlarks showed his dairy steer at the State 4-H Showcase.

Miley Ahrens, Owatonna Victory Boosters, Junior Meat Breeding Doe Kid - First Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence and Finalist
Grace Arthur, Meriden Meadowlarks, Market Lamb Black Face - Second Place with Sheep Showmanship Award of Excellence, Reserve Champion and Finalist

Nicole Behne, Happy Hustlers, Rabbit Mini Lop Junior Doe - Third Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence and Home Environment, Blue

Ezra Buck, Owatonna Victory Boosters, Swine Market Barrow Crossbred - First and Eighth Place
Anna Cox, Pratt Commandoes, Elements of Photography - Blue

Kelton Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks, Dairy Holstein Registered Winter Yearling, Second Place and Aged Cow Five Years and Older - Fourth Place with Champion Registered Holstein Production

Kiya Erler, Meriden Meadowlarks, Dairy Holstein Registered Fall Yearling - Second Place and Dairy Holstein Registered Four Year Old Cow - First Place with Overall Cow Senior Champion, Senior Champion Registered Holstein, Showmanship Award of Excellence, Champion Senior and Finalist

Lexie Ignaszewski, Lemond Snappy Boosters, Rabbit Mini Rex Senior Doe - Second Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence, Rabbit Mini Rex Junior Buck - Third Place, and Swine Market Gilt - Fourth Place

Arica Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks, Dairy Holstein Grace Jr. 2-Year-Old - First Place with Overall Cow Reserve Senior Champion, Senior

Champion Grade Holstein, Showmanship Award of Excellence, Reserve Champion Advanced and Finalist
Courtney Kath, Meriden Meadowlarks, Dairy Holstein Registered Spring Yearling - First Place with Champion Registered Holstein Genetics and Reserve Junior Champion Registered Holstein, Dairy Holstein Registered Senior 2-Year-Old - First Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence and Finalist, Swine Crossbred February Gilt - Third Place and Swine Market Gilt - First Place with Third Place Overall Market Gilt

Jace Katzung, Meriden Meadowlarks, Beef Dairy Steer Pure Breed - First Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence and Reserve Champion Senior

Joshua Katzung, Meriden Meadowlarks, Beef Dairy Steer Pure Breed - Second Place with Third Place Overall Dairy Steer

Alex Kindseth, Lemond Snappy Boosters, Rabbit Mini Rex Senior Buck - Second Place and Rabbit Mini Rex Senior Doe - First Place with Champion Mini Rex, Overall Breeding Honorable Mention Best of Show and Showmanship Award of Excellence

Allison Krohnberg, Merry Lane, Dairy Guernsey Winter Yearling - First Place with Reserve Junior Champion Guernsey and Showmanship Award of Excellence

Evan Melby, Ellendale Hustlers, Turkey Market Pen - Second Place with Reserve Champion Market Turkeys and Showmanship Award of Excellence, Champion Senior and Finalist

Kayden Melby, Ellendale Hustlers, Chickens Bantam Breeding Pen - Second Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence and Finalist

Kendra Melby, Ellendale Hustlers, Chickens Egg Production White Egg Layers - Fifth Place
McKenna Melby, Ellendale Hustlers, Geese Market Pen - First Place with Champion Market Geese, Reserve Champion Market Geese and Showmanship Award of Excellence

Madi Murphy, Meriden Meadowlarks, Dairy Jersey Jr. 2 Year Old - First Place with Reserve Senior Champion Jersey

Afton Nelson, Pratt Commandoes, Dairy Brown Swiss Sr. 2 Year Old - Third Place

Kaden Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters, Market Lamb Black Face - First Place with Reserve Champion Lightweight Market Lamb and Showmanship Award of Excellence and Finalist and

Market Lamb Black Face - First Place with Reserve Champion Lightweight Market Lamb and Showmanship Award of Excellence

Kalli Nelson, Lemond Snappy Boosters, Market Lamb Black Face - First Place with Champion Lightweight Market Lamb, Reserve Champion Market Lamb and Showmanship Award of Excellence, Champion Intermediate and Finalist and Market Lamb Speckle Face - First Place with Champion Speckle Face Market Lamb, Honorable Mention Market Lamb and Showmanship Award of Excellence

Erin O'Brien, Merry Lane, Dairy Holstein Grade Jr. 2-Year-Old - Third Place

Claire Oswald, Pratt Commandoes, Flower Gardening - Blue
Hannah Parrish, Owatonna Victory Boosters, Performing Arts - Blue

Brooke Purrier, Medford Go Getters, Rabbit Havana Junior Buck - First Place with Reserve Champion Havana and Rabbit Havana Junior Doe - First Place with Champion Havana

Mariah Schrodt, Meriden Meadowlarks, Swine Crossbred January Gilt - Second Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence and Finalist

Isabella Schultz, Pratt Commandoes, Illustrated Presentation - Blue and Health - Purple

Cody Shaw, Meriden Meadowlarks, Food and Nutrition - Blue
Ali Slater, Meriden Meadowlarks, Dairy Holstein Registered Fall Calf - Second Place and Dairy Holstein Registered Four Year Old Cow - Second Place

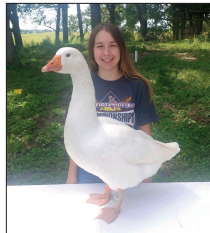
Brenna Sommer, Straight River Stars - Wether Dam Black Face Ewe Lamb - Third Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence

Alexis Steckelberg, Merry Lane, Swine Market Barrow Crossbred - Second Place with Showmanship Award of Excellence and Finalist and Swine Market Gilt - Fifth Place

Grady Steckelberg, Merry Lane, Swine Market Barrow Crossbred - Sixth Place

Kennedi Wagner, Meriden Meadowlarks, Dairy Holstein Registered Fall Calf - Fifth Place

Rachel Winzenburg, Merry Lane, Food Preservation - Purple.



McKenna Melby of the Ellendale Hustlers achieved first place with Champion Market Geese, Reserve Champion Market Geese and Showmanship Award of Excellence.



Evan Melby of the Ellendale Hustlers earned second place with Reserve Champion Market Turkeys and Showmanship Award of Excellence, Champion Senior and Finalist.



Kayden Melby of the Ellendale Hustlers exhibited chickens at the State 4-H Showcase.



Kendra Melby of the Ellendale Hustlers was one of four members from her family that took part in the State 4-H Showcase.

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Steele County District 3 Commissioner

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Let's keep your tax dollars working for you, not the other way around!

CRUISING: *for cancer* FROM A1

When asked if herself and those on the committee were worried whether or not they could hold an event this year, Boettger had one word: "absolutely." She said, "Every meeting we'd change our mind." She recalled

that she went through a notepad's worth of ideas before realizing that they still hadn't decided on an alternative. "That was about a month and a half ago," Boettger explained. "There were so many different ideas trying

to adhere to the limits of the social distancing and large gatherings. We had talked about doing a drive through at the fairgrounds as one of our options and then we decided to do a car cruise after noticing that they've been going on

throughout the summer." Not exactly a gear-head herself, Boettger and her fellow committee members wrangled some outside help to give the event that authentic feel. "We got Tom Sweet from Sweet Towing and Mike Law-

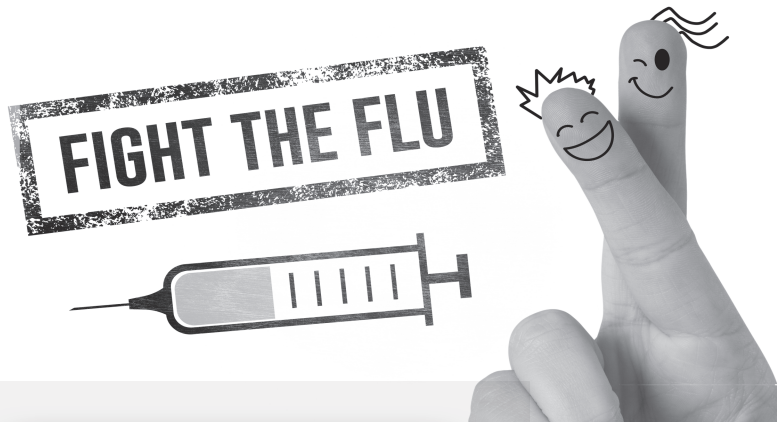
son from Ron's Repair and they came on board to help us organize the cruise since they're into the car scene," she said. "They helped us a lot."

The Steele County Relay For Life's current funding raising goal is \$75,000. "We're about

halfway to our goal right now," Boettger said. With beautiful weather and avid drivers lined up the event went off without a hitch, proving that not even a pandemic can stop the community from rallying around a worthy cause.

PREVENT A DOUBLE WHAMMY!

Public Health urges people to get their flu shots, especially this year with COVID-19!



Upcoming Drive Thru Flu Clinics:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 7- 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**
Ellendale Fire Department
- **Thursday, Oct. 8- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
Steele County Public Health
635 Florence Ave., Owatonna
- **Friday, Oct. 9- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
Heather Haus Assisted Living
Bloomington Prairie
- **Monday, Oct. 12- 12 to 2 p.m.**
Medford Funeral Home
310 Central Ave. E., Medford

- Wear short sleeves
- Face coverings required
- Must remain in vehicles

"This year more than ever is the time to get a flu shot.

We're worried about people getting influenza and COVID at the same time."

Amy Caron

Steele County Public Health Director

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Board approves BP school insurance

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Insurance coverage is a must for school districts.

That was the message brought before the Blooming Prairie School Board at its regular monthly meeting Sept. 21 at the high school media center.

The district's current coverage for property

and casualty insurance is with Wright Specialty in the amount of \$47,255.43 plus an additional \$3,250 for "cyber liability" coverage with a \$1 million limit.

The district's coverage for workers compensation insurance is with Midwest Insurance in the amount of \$13,729.

The following quotes were received from the district's representative

Trevor Jensen with the Jensen Agency:

- EMC \$58,645.94 (\$43,139.94 property and casualty plus \$15,506 workers compensation)
- Wright Specialty \$62,937.45 (\$49,899.45 property and casualty plus \$13,038 workers comp through AmTrust)
- Workers compensation quotes received are as follows: \$13,038 Wright/AmTrust;

\$13,215 SPM; \$13,275 Midwest Insurance and \$15,506 EMC.

Cyber liability coverage is optional through Wright Specialty as a stand-alone policy no matter with policy is elected. The cost for \$1 million coverage is \$2,400 while the cost of \$500,000 coverage is \$1,875.

Board member Dean Meshke introduced a mo-

tion to accept the quotes that were presented. Kelly Braaten seconded. Motion was carried.

In order to have liability coverages comparable, the EMC commercial umbrella could be increased to \$2 million from \$1 million, which increases the cost by \$1,111.

Staloch recommended accepting the EMC quote of \$43,139.94 for

property and casualty insurance, along with increasing the umbrella to \$2 million at a cost of \$1,111 for a total of \$44,250.94 plus accepting the workers compensation bid from Wright/Am in the amount of \$13,038.

Meshke made motion to approve the recommendation. Steve Ile gave the second. Motion was carried.



Steele County CARES RELIEF GRANT PROGRAMS

Steele County is here to help!

Steele County received funding through the CARES Act and has allocated \$1.1 million for relief grant programs for all nonprofits and businesses in Steele County.

Grants are available up to \$10,000

for all unincorporated small businesses and all nonprofits through Steele County's CARES Relief Grant Programs.

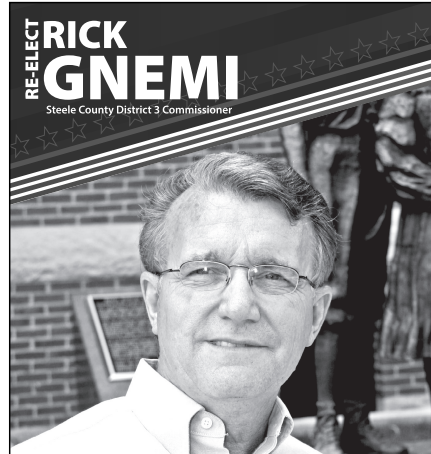
Applications will be accepted through Oct. 2, 2020.

Program guidelines and applications are available at www.co.steele.mn.us.

Questions please email us at CRFApplications@co.steele.mn.us or call Steele County Administration at 507-444-7400.



For businesses located within the city limits of Medford, Ellendale, Blooming Prairie and Owatonna, please contact the local city government for their program information and application deadlines.



RE-ELECT RICK GNEMI

Steele County District 3 Commissioner

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When re-elected I will focus my energy on:

- Work Force in Steele County
- Drug and Veteran's Courts
- Completion of Highway 14
- Senior Care and Protection
- Listening to You, the Citizens of Steele County

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

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

I would love to hear from you:

Home telephone: 507-451-3813 • Steele County phone: 507-444-7427
Email: rgnemi@rickgnemiforcommissioner.com

RickGnemiForCommissioner.com

Prepared and Paid for by Rick Gnemi for County Commissioner

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Charles Coughlin, 89, Bloomington

Charles Martin Coughlin, age 89 of Bloomington, passed away Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020, at Prairie Manor Nursing Home in Bloomington.

He was born Nov. 30, 1930, to his parents Thomas and Mary (Martin) Coughlin at home in Freeborn County. He was raised and confirmed in St. Columbanus Catholic Church. He attended country school through 8th grade and graduated in 1949 from the Bloomington High School.

After graduation, he worked at the Supper Club in Bloomington, and then the Newry Store. In 1951, he began his career with Minnesota Telephone Company as a lineman. On Jan. 4, 1951, Charles married Loretta Simon at St. Columbanus Catholic Church. Their marriage was blessed with 12 children.

In February 1951, he enlisted with the United States Navy, and served in the Korean War. Charles was honorably discharged in 1955. He continued his job with Minnesota Telephone Company and worked his way up to Central Office Supervisor and retired on Dec. 19, 1986 from Central Communications.

In 1989, Loretta and Charles moved to Bloomington from Milaca and returned to Loretta's childhood home in Bloomington. The couple wintered in Arizona for 17 years. He enjoyed dancing, traveling, and gardening. He was a member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, VFW, and American Legion. Charles will be deeply missed by all. Charles is survived by his wife, Loretta Coughlin of Bloomington; children, Ann Rapp of Cannon Falls, Thomas (Linda) Coughlin, Cotapaxi, Colo., Brian (Dawn) Coughlin of Brooklyn Park, Jane (Dave) Hart of Apache Junction, Ariz., Carol Coughlin of Bloomington, Charles (Amy) Coughlin of Maple Lake, James (Stacy) Coughlin of Milaca, and John (Amy) Coughlin of Richfield, Joseph Coughlin of Denver and Peter (Dawn) Coughlin of Andover; many grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; brother, Clair (Pauline) Coughlin of Osseo; sister, Kathleen Murphy of Faribault, many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Mary Coughlin; son, Adrian Coughlin in infancy; daughter, Jennifer Bishop in 2013; seven brothers, one sister.

A private memorial mass will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Bloomington, Minn. Public visitation was held on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020 at Worleim Bloomington Funeral Home in Bloomington, Minn. with the Knights of Columbus Rosary Service held 30 minutes before the visitation. Interment will be in St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery in Bloomington with Military Honors by the Bloomington Prairie Honor Guard.

Memorials preferred to St. Columbanus Catholic Church. Services are prearranged and performed with Worleim Funeral Home in Bloomington, Minn. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worleim.com.



Charles Coughlin

Eileen Placek, 83, Owatonna

Eileen Lorraine Placek, 83, of Owatonna died Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020 at Traditions II of Owatonna.

Mass of Christian Burial is set for Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Owatonna. Friends may greet the family on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020 from 5-7 p.m. at Brick-Meger Funeral Home in Owatonna and one hour before the funeral mass on Thursday. There will be a Catholic Daughter's rosary at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. An additional Catholic Daughter's rosary will be said on Thursday at 10:40 a.m. at the church.

Eileen was born March 6, 1937 in Rochester, the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Kruger) O'Connor. She attended high school in Bloomington and was a member of the graduating class of 1955. After high school, Eileen attended teacher college in Little Falls. Eileen taught country school for a few years in Steele County.

She was united in marriage to Eugene Placek in 1957 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Bloomington. Eileen was a farm wife alongside her husband. Together the couple raised six children while farming. Eileen continued to run the farm after the tragic death of her husband Eugene in 1980.

Eileen was a devoted catholic and member of Sacred Heart Church, Catholic Daughters of America, Sweet Adeline's and sang in the church choir. Her life interests included: snowmobiling, bowling, bird watching, gardening, flowers, caring for her cats and her family.

She is survived by her children, Teresa (Steve) Neptstad, Dodge Center; Randy (Diane) Placek, Allan (Brenda) Placek, Renee Placek all of Owatonna; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, sisters, Patricia Kernes and Fran Njos.

Eileen was preceded in death by husband, Eugene, parents, daughters, Linda Lahr, and Valerie Placek, and one brother Tom.

For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.megercare.com.



Eileen Placek

BOOK NOOK

How about StoryWalk in the park?

NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

It's time for another StoryWalk with the Bloomington Branch Library!

During the summer months we placed pages of three different books in the windows of the businesses downtown. Children and their adult friends were able to go up and down Main Street to read the story. Thank you to those businesses who were so accommodating by letting us use their window space. We hope to plan more of these StoryWalks next year.

The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vt. and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard

Library. StoryWalk is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. Hundreds of libraries across the country have adapted this idea to their own communities.

This new StoryWalk will be a one-day event on Sunday, Oct. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Central Park in Bloomington. Beginning at the corner by the water tower, you will be able to read the book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff as you walk around the park. There will be activities, surprises, and maybe a cookie (or two)?

We are happy to be collaborating with the Owatonna Public Library Children's Services to offer this opportunity. Fingers crossed for good weather that day. If it rains, we will try again on Sunday, Oct. 25.

We have one more StoryWalk planned for later this year: I'm not going to spill the beans, but bring your flashlight for the next one!



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Bloomington Veterans Memorial Breakfast co-chairs Marilyn Meshke and Jackie Schlichter draw three winners of a raffle. This 90 by 105 quilt was pieced by Meshke and quilted by Bev Wack. Ninety customers attended Sunday's breakfast benefiting the memorial.

Paige Vaith wins quilt at fundraiser

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A hand sewn, patriotic quilt was the prize for Paige Vaith at a Bloomington Veterans Memorial breakfast at the BP Servicemen's Club Sunday morning. Ninety hungry customers ate breakfast and most bought raffle tickets on the Americana quilt pieced by Marilyn Meshke and quilted by Bev Wack.

STAFF PHOTO
BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Sisters Emily and Shelby Kasparek were two hungry customers attending a Bloomington Veterans Memorial breakfast on Sunday at the BP Servicemen's Club.

DEAN MESHKE: FROM A2

kids skills and uses his coaching sports with parallels of life."

Dean becomes sort of philosophical at times saying kids are fortunate to have the opportunity to be on a team.

"When you get married and have a family, that's a team," he believes.

In that same story by this writer, Meshke said, "I used to be crazy in my early days of coaching." He quickly adds, "I've settled down."

Meshke has coached over two generations of athletes. He smiles widely when saying he coached high school principal John Dale Worke. Worke later became girls basketball coach and retained Meshke as an assistant.

"He (Coach Worke) told me to shut up one time and I told him that I bet he didn't sleep for a week after that."

Meshke played three sports in high school, football, basketball and baseball. "I was a gym

rat," he says. His father also played sports and was a junior high coach at a Catholic grade school. Meshke came to Bloomington as a new teacher in the fall of 1970, 50 years ago.

Meshke usually greets someone by asking a question, "Howard, what do you think of those Minnesota Twins?"

Meshke loves to strike up a conversation with a young student athlete.

"Did you find my golf ball?" Meshke asked an Awesome Blossom cross country runner after he just completed a varsity run at the Bloomington Prairie Country Club. Meshke is an avid golfer.

When told by this writer that he had recently interviewed Lisa, Dean asked: "Did she mention her father?"

Meshke's constituents as a school board member can be happy he is serving them. He is definitely protecting their interests. Just ask him.

Elect Shea 24a Minnesota House

Prepared and paid for by Elect Tom Shea 24a Committee
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Oct. 1 Tim Wurst Dianne Hammenberger Brianna Howard Melissa Weiss Truh Alexis Steckelberg Jacob Bumgarner Kristi Fleibiger	Oct. 4 Mark McDonald Jennifer Nantz Cate Staloch Cathy Janning Veronica Thompson
Oct. 2 Josh Dale	Oct. 5 Jennifer Johnson Blaise Scheve Kevin Keweenaw Jason Johnson Lake LaMotte
Oct. 3 Carla Anderson Samantha Wurst Colette Lea Chris Butler Carric Thompson Elizabeth Iversen	Oct. 7 Brad Klemmensen Rebekah DeYoung
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Recipe Corner

Apple Upside-down French Toast

1/2 C butter
 1-1/4 C packed brown sugar
 3 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, sliced
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 1 loaf whole wheat French bread cut into 1-1/2" slices
 1-1/2 C 1% milk
 6 eggs
 1 tsp vanilla
 1 tsp ground nutmeg
 1 C toasted sliced almonds or chopped walnuts

- Combine butter and sugar in sauce pan. Heat on medium heat until bubbles appear. Stir frequently. Pour into 9x13 pan and spread evenly. Let cool. Place apple slices in rows close together on top of the sauce in the pan. Place bread slices of top of apples.
- Combine milk, eggs and vanilla. Pour over bread in pan. Sprinkle nutmeg on top. Cover and put in refrigerator overnight.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Uncover pan and put in oven. Bake 1 hour or until golden brown and crispy on top. Scoop servings so apples are on top. Spoon sauce on each serving. Put nuts on top.

Serves 8
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So let fall begin



Pastor Lisa Vick
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OWATONNA

Well, fall is finally here, even though as I write this it is 80 degrees outside. The leaves are turning, our nights are getting cooler and pumpkin spice is everywhere. Pumpkin spice air-freshener, pumpkin spice candles, pumpkin spice lattes and of course pumpkin spice communion wafers. Ok, I made the last one up but you get the point. It just isn't fall until "pumpkin spice" products hit the shelf! So let fall begin!

Fall is my favorite time of year, because like many of you, this is the time when we settle back into a routine. The unscripted days of summer give way to a more ordered way of life. For, it is human nature to crave normalcy and normal is certainly in short supply this year. The things we count on, like the kids being back in school, is uncertain and/or very different. Here in Owatonna the school district is using a hybrid model. Football and volleyball games, homecoming, and all

other school related events are in a state of uncertainty. Things are also very uncertain in our churches. Back in March when all this (COVID-19 shut down) started we thought for sure we would be in church by Easter. Easter has come and gone and we are now wondering if we will be able to stand together and sing "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve. As a pastor, it breaks my heart to say "sorry, we can do 'that' right now." That being congrega-

tional singing, fellowship time, and passing the peace. Yet in the midst of this uncertainty we are reminded of how much we all need a message of hope. Our churches may be physically closed but our hearts and arms must always be open. The prophet Isaiah spoke to the people of Israel who were in exile in Babylon to "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing praise to God from the end of the earth!" (Isaiah 42:10a). Even though we are called

to "sing a new song" to worship God in a new way, we can never forget that God has already promised to deliver us, to never let us go, to hold us in the palm of God's hand, and to lift us up as on eagle's wings. AMEN! In this uncertain time, we can be certain that God is God and we are loved beyond measure. We are held in the palm of God's hand and God will never let go. That whatever happens we can be rest assured we are never alone. So let fall begin!

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
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106 Third St. SE, Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
FIRST LUTHERAN - AFLC
503 Radt Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Men's Bible Study: 8 a.m. Saturday
Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
(Kids church: 9 a.m. and Confirmation: 10:15 a.m.)
Jesus and Me: 3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
Call to Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday
Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday School: 6:15-7 p.m.
followed by Youth Group: 7-9 p.m.

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434 First St. SW, Blooming Prairie
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Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: Adult Ed.: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN - LCMC
2500 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Greg Schlicker
507-451-4125
goodshepherdowatonna.com
Indoor: Worship:
Sundays 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Online: Worship: Sundays 9 a.m.
or anytime on website

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

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN - ELCA
9651 SW 7th 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 Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun.

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-520-2404
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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN - LCMC
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse 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., Mendota
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
507-451-2165
Worship: Sunday 10 a.m. Outdoors
only, weather permitting

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN - ELCA
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Haenschel
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 Bieghauser
507-451-0447
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. in Sanctuary
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. outdoors south
side lawn, bring lawn chairs

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

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
ZION LUTHERAN - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor: Rev. Dean Smith
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday
9 a.m. outdoors only, weather
permitting

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John Wickertinger
Associate Pastor: Lisa Carlson
507-451-4853
oursaviorsowatonna.com
Worship: 8:15 a.m. - Traditional,
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School/Adult
Education
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary

CATHOLIC

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

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9948 SE 24th Ave. Owatonna
Father John Wilmut
507-583-2784
www.litomysl.org
Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
2nd Thursday
Litomysl Pastoral Council:
2nd Thursday every other month
*Litomysl Summer Festival has been
cancelled for 2020*

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father John Wilmut
507-477-2256
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday
Reconciliation: 3:45 pm Saturday
SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Thurs.

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

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

Father James Staranick
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass:
8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri.
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel available
Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Key left required after hours or
weekends

CHRISTIAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED 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
43089 180th St., Medford (Seven
miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors: JTB & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-4726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

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

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Dong Jones
507-363-3009
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer:
7 p.m. Friday

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

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across the
freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Landgren
507-451-5641
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 70th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

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

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
551-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE., Owatonna
Pastor Brian Beavers
551-955-4032
Worship: 11 a.m. Sat.
Bible Stud: 9:30 a.m. Sat.

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Rev. Richard Waters
507-451-4596
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

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

FIRST BAPTIST (Owatonna's oldest church)
123 E. Main St., Owatonna
Pastor Carla Nelson
507-272-8834
www.firstbaptistowatonna.com
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Victory Life
105 2nd St NE Geneva
Pastor Diane Butler
507-402-0960
Worship on Sundays
Prayer Service: 7:30 a.m.
Church Service: 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:45 a.m.

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ELSTAD: District takes quantum leap FROM A1

as the new high school is constructed beginning next spring. Elstad said the final stages of designing the building are taking place. In the coming months, the next step will move from design to technical drawings. Construction bids are expected to go out in early 2021.

Elstad said he will be inviting the community to the ground breaking in either March or April. The school is expected to open in August 2023.

"I am proud to report that this project is on time and on budget," Elstad said. "We owe many thanks to our community for supporting our vision through their yes votes last November," he added.

Owatonna Schools remain committed to providing a safe and caring community. Elstad said. He noted that the district provided 160,000 meals along with child care over the summer months. He shared how schools have provided invaluable services for the communities they serve for more than 200 years.

"Our commitment to a safe and caring community has driven our staff to find ways to not only find community focused students but contribute to a greater cause themselves," Elstad said.

Safety has become a top priority for the district. "We are vigilant in our efforts to keep our buildings safe while working hard to mitigate the pandemic with clear procedures for cleaning and disinfecting," Elstad said.

The superintendent also took time to focus on the district's efforts with equity. He pointed out how tragic events like the George

"Our schools serve as a microcosm of our society and have not always reflected the kind of social justice progress necessary."

Jeff Elstad
Owatonna Superintendent

Floyd killing serve as a constant reminder of the work needed to do to eradicate systematic racism that exists in every community. "Our schools serve as a microcosm of our society and have not always reflected the kind of social justice progress necessary," Elstad admitted.

Elstad shared how Owatonna Schools have embarked on a Courageous Leadership program for school leaders to identify racial bias and develop an action plan. "This program has certainly been eye opening and has been a watershed moment for our school district," he said.

Currently, there are 80 school district employees involved in the program

in addition to another 40 from within the greater community, according to Elstad. He called for an end to racism while forging a better path forward for the future of children.

The district is also committed to high quality teaching. Elstad said two-thirds of the staff has master's degrees. "Owatonna Schools are committed to be life long learners," he said. "I am proud how we have stepped forward to put our children and their futures first," Elstad said. "Strong schools truly do make strong communities and that is why I am Owatonna proud."

To watch Elstad's entire address, go to www.isd761.org/our-district/state-of-district.



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October 8, 2020

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Steele Historical Society picks new director

The Steele County Historical Society has a new leader.

Kellen Hinrichsen has been named executive director of SCHS. He took over the role at the history center in Owatonna Monday.

Hinrichsen comes to Steele County from Monmouth, Ill., where he was the director of the Warren County

Historical Society.

He received his undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University in anthropology and his masters degree from the University of Denver in museum studies and anthropology.

During the course of his education and career, he has served as a museum assistant

at the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology, the Molly Brown House Museum, the Denver Botanic Gardens and museum manager at the Amache Historical Society Museum in Granada, Colo., and the Dallas Holocaust Museum. With his experience in the multiple disciplines of collection

management, exhibit development, fundraising, grant writing, community relations and non-profit management, the SCHS looks forward to his leadership and collaborative efforts in growing the society's effectiveness for Steele County in its stated mission of "preserving and sharing history today for tomorrow."

Hinrichsen, his wife Megan and 1-year-old son Lars moved to Owatonna earlier this month.

He replaces Jerry Ganfield, who served as interim director for most of this year. Ganfield took over after James Lundgren left in December for a position with the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Missouri.



Kellen Hinrichsen



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Emily Glaser, shown with 4-month-old Kymberly, some day would like to be running a bakery in downtown Blooming Prairie. But, for now, she will be baking under a cottage food license.

JUST BECAUSE...

Emily Glaser wants to make people happy

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Emily Glaser, a young mother of 4-month-old daughter Kymberly, is excited about her latest adventure.

She recently filed a Certificate of Assumed Name with the State of Minnesota, choosing the name Just Because Bakery.

"I'm really excited that I get to create and make people happy for no other reason than "just because," remarked Glaser.

She says husband Ryan, a Mayo pulmonary technician, is supportive of her drive to become a baker for hire.

She has to go through some procedural hoops with the BP Planning and Zoning Commission and with the BP City Council. She hopes

to be open to the public by mid-October.

Glaser is seeking approval for a certified cottage producer's license, similar to what is held by Karen Peterson of Confections in Blooming Prairie.

Glaser says she has been in contact with Peterson to learn the procedures to follow.

She desires to bake cupcakes and cakes in the early stages of her business venture. She then is hopeful to expand her business and some day hopes

to open a bricks and mortar business effort in Blooming Prairie. At this moment, Glaser is making standard cupcakes and deluxe cupcakes. She has been providing samples of her baking expertise to her family and friends.

Standard cupcakes would include white, chocolate, red velvet, chocolate chip, peanut butter, chocolate chip, cookies and cream, nutella, lemon raspberry, lemon blueberry and two fall favorites, pumpkin pie and chai tea.

Her deluxe cupcakes would include German chocolate, coconut pecan, strawberries and cream and apple pie, a vanilla cupcake with apple pie filling and cinnamon frosting.

Glaser says her goal is to always be adding new flavors. She hopes to use football and Halloween as motivators for new products.

She has been drawn to baking ever since she was little and in the kitchen with her grandmother, making apple pies.

A former music teacher, Glaser said she was going "stir crazy" during the COVID-19 pandemic. "I wanted to create gifts and make people smile," she says.

Glaser's husband has been an active promoter of her baking abilities by taking samples to his work.

There's always a need for a bakery downtown, Glaser says, and she hopes to be successful like Karen in the cottage food industry.

Her early baking efforts will be concentrated in the "sweet treat" areas, she says. "You can have dessert and sweet treats during any part of the day," she emphasizes.

Glaser hopes everyone will get back to some type of normalcy...just because.

County proposes 2.9% tax hike

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

During last week's regular session, the Steele County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the preliminary budget and tax levy for the 2021 year.

The preliminary tax levy for 2021 is set at \$36,439,592 and the total preliminary budget is set at \$53,185,315. The board will hold a public hearing for the levy and budget on Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. at the county administration building. "This is a 2.9% increase," Commissioner Greg Krueger noted.

The board also accepted the Highway Capital Improvement Plan for 2021-2025. "One of the highlights for this draft is we're proposing a new roundabout at 18th Street SE and Bixby Road as part

of the traffic impact study for the new high school," County Engineer Greg Ilkka informed the board.

"We feel that's the best solution out there," he said. "We're still in discussion with the school district and the city as to how that cost split would ultimately play out, but we're still moving forward with the planning and design."

Due to the current pandemic, State-Aid funding is down roughly 15%. The Steele County Highway Department is expected to receive approximately \$3.2 million to help ameliorate construction costs. After accepting the Capital Improvement Plan, the board set a public hearing to discuss the plan with residents on Oct. 27 at 5:15 p.m.

SEE COUNTY PROPOSES, B2

Auction brings in \$40K for 4-H



Steele Talkin'
MISSY KOCH

Where did the summer go? This year was a different one for many of us from the changes in the way we had to adjust personally, professionally, and organizationally. Going into summer, we knew that 4-H was going to have a different look with project learning, camps, and even our county fair. This summer youth spent time learning virtually and in-person and were able to come together to celebrate with a county fair showcase. Over 900 projects were

showcased through static exhibits, public presentations, and our livestock projects. We also held the 75th Annual 4-H Market Sale Ribbon Auction.

In traditional form, our county fair ended with a 4-H Market Sale, although it did look a little different. We held our first on-line auction wherein we had 85 youth in the Steele County 4-H program participate in the sale.

Champion market animals were able to be showcased first in the sale lineup to acknowledge their placings. All 4-H'ers, 3rd grade and older, were pictured with their animal and a smile of success during the 3-day on-line auction. Bids started to come in Sunday afternoon and kept coming through Wednesday following the showcase events. Buyers from the surrounding areas

SEE AUCTION BRINGS, B2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Elected to the SWCE board of directors on Sept. 21 were incumbents, from left: John Beal, District 7; Ron Sommers, District 8; and Renee Malecha, District 9.

Steele-Waseca Electric conducts first-ever drive-thru annual meeting

Three unopposed incumbent directors were re-elected to the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) board Sept. 21 during the co-op's 84th annual meeting at its headquarters in Owatonna.

Re-elected to three-year terms were District 7 Director John R. Beal, Faribault; District 8 Director Ronald D. Sommers, Northfield; and District 9 Director Renee J. Malecha, Dundas.

The co-op's first-ever drive-thru annual meeting had 726

members and guests navigate through one of four reception areas to cast their ballot and receive a variety of Steele-Waseca gifts for their attendance.

The drive-thru annual meeting was scheduled as a result of the coronavirus pandemic postponing the co-op's original in-person annual meeting, June 2. At the conclusion of the annual meeting, the co-op's board of directors met for their reorganizational meeting. The following officers

were elected: Gary W. Wilson of Owatonna, president; John Beal, vice president; Renee Malecha, secretary/treasurer; Rodney D. Krell of Blooming Prairie, assistant secretary/treasurer; and Duane R. Edwardson of Ellendale, chaplain.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has over 11,500 service locations in a nine-county area including: Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, LeSueur, Rice, Steele and Waseca counties.

Annual Blooming Prairie FFA Plot Day held

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the Blooming Prairie FFA officer team had its Annual FFA Plot Day. Plot day is where the farmers come out to the

FFA Test Plot. We set up a big tent and picnic tables just west of Victory Field.

The BP FFA Officer Team fed the farmers

and then there were speakers to talk about the different kinds of seed and how the crops looking and what they think the yield will be.

This year we didn't have as many farmers come out to the test plot due to COVID-19.

We had three speakers, Kalya Nantz from

CFS, Justin Krell from LG, and Noah Engels from Windfield. This year there is corn planted in the test plot.

The test plot was

planted on May 4. It should be a good year for the corn.

- Submitted by Madeline Stoen, BP FFA Reporter

AUCTION BRINGS: in \$40K for 4-H

FROM B1

stepped up to support Steele County 4-H and the youth involved in the program.

The auction brought in approximately \$40,000 this year, which isn't comparable to previous years, but as we all know, 2020 is not a typical year. The funds brought in are split 60/40 with the individual 4-Hers and the 4-H program. We greatly appreciate all our buyers who were able to donate to the market sale this year.

Steele County 4-H has three fundraisers that support our programming year-round, the 4-H Market Sale being the largest fundraiser. Funds raised help support youth enrolled in the program with costs to attend camps, youth leadership events, and project workshops. This summer alone, over 200 youth in Steele County participated in project workshops such as cooking, outdoor adventures, livestock, photography,

agronomy, healthy living and others.

As we close out our 2020 4-H year at the end of September, we are taking time to reflect on our successes and will prepare to build on our new experiences of 2020 to engage youth with more project learning both virtually and safely in-person in the future. Thank you to all who took time to provide financial support or gave of their time to volunteer with showcases and project areas, without you our 2020 4-H Summer would not have been possible.

For more information, please contact us at the Steele County Extension Office at 507-444-7655.

Missy Koch is the 4-H program coordinator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column featuring authors representing various organizations throughout Steele County.

COUNTY PROPOSES: 2.9% tax hike

FROM B1

The meeting also yielded some news from the Owatonna Library. During a presentation, Director Mark Blando informed the board that the library will not be issuing any fines starting in 2021. It's a decision that was manifested in part from the current situation.

"While we were closed, we were not charging any fines for our materials," Blando said. "This was something that myself and the staff were looking at before any of this even happened." What Blando and his staff noticed was that fines can deter people from returning due to their inability to pay them.

The goal of transitioning away from fines is to ensure that all members of the community are able to enjoy the library without worry. "Certain people are able to pay their fines more than others and we have found that people would stop coming because of a \$1 fine," Blando said.

While Blando and his staff are taking steps to reopen if and when that is a possibility, a full open is still not in play at this point due to current state restrictions. Starting Monday appointments can be made by the public to use the internet or browse materials.

The Owatonna Foundation will celebrate Owatonna Foundation Week Oct. 4-10. Due to the pandemic and in consideration of the safety and well being of everyone, the activities will be virtual this year.

The week celebrates all that has been accomplished in the past 62 years through the generosity of the Owatonna community and their support of the Owatonna Foundation whose mission is: "to improve the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education."

"Even though we are in challenging times, we are still very excited for this year's Foundation Week," said Laura Resler, executive director. "For 62 years, through the incredible generosity and vision of many civic-minded citizens, businesses and organizations, the Foundation has made a positive impact on the quality of life for everyone who lives in Owatonna. From the beginning, the Foundation Trustees, alongside our local citizens, have worked to create a community that we can all be proud of. A place that will serve both the Owatonna citizens of today and be a legacy for our children and their children in the future."

Established in 1957, the Owatonna Foundation has enhanced Owatonna with a focus on capital projects. Some of the projects financially supported by the Foundation have included: the Central Park Bandstand, the Parks and Trail System, Soccer Complexes, Softball Diamonds, Steele County Free Fair, Hospitality House, Owatonna Public Library, ISD #761, Homestead Hospice House, River Springs Water Park, the Steele County History Center, Owatonna Arts Center,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Owatonna Foundation will be honoring Jeff and Marty Feters as this year's Spirit of the Community Award winners.

Community Pathways, "We All Play" Miracle Field, Let's Smile, Steele County Free Clinic, Owatonna Fire Department, and many others. Since its beginning, over 280 projects, and more than \$12.2 million dollars has been given back to the community.

This year, at a private luncheon instead of the usual Legacy Lunch, the Owatonna Foundation will be honoring Jeff and Marty Feters as the 2020 "Spirit of the Community Award" winners. For nearly 20 years, Jeff and Marty Feters have been proudly serving the Owatonna community. And for more than 100 years, Federated Insurance - where Jeff Feters serves as chairman and CEO - has been intensely involved in supporting the community it calls home.

Jeff and Marty are actively involved in helping guide the next generation. In fact, they were Bigs to an 11-year-old girl through Big Brothers Big Sisters. While their match officially closed when their Little Mackenzie turned 18, the three remain close. The Feters' are also leaders of the yearly fund-raising event Federated Challenge, which has raised more than \$41 million over 16 years for Big Brothers Big Sisters. During this unprecedented time, this year's event was no exception. Jeff and Marty helped guide the event - held virtually for the first time - to a record-break-

ing \$3,087,000. Every dollar will be donated to Minnesota's three agencies, including Owatonna, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America - helping create powerful mentoring relationships between Bigs and Littles.

As part of the Owatonna Forward initiative, Jeff volunteered his time as a civic steward - believing leadership alignment, community engagement, and partnerships are key to progress. Under his leadership, Federated committed \$22 million to a new high school in the Owatonna community.

Federated also contributes annually to the Owatonna Foundation. And because they care deeply about the future of the community, Jeff and Marty are donors and members of the Foundation's Legacy Society.

The Feters also count Feed My Starving Children, Community Pathways of Steele County, Owatonna Young Life, and United Way of Steele County among the list of community organizations they support.

From their gift of time to their financial contributions, the Feters' unwavering philanthropic efforts will continue to have a lasting impact on the Owatonna community.

Other recipients of the "Spirit of the Community Award" are: 2018: Bob & Bev Seykora 2013: The Lange Family

2014: The Buxton Family 2015: The Wenger Family 2016: The Kottke Family 2017: Jerry & Carol Deetz 2018: Ken & Norma Wilcox 2019: Jean & Edith Zamboni

New this year! Coloring Contest: Go to the Foundation's webpage at: www.owatonnafoundation.org to download the information for our coloring contest. Draw one of the many Foundation projects shown then take a picture, post it on Facebook or Instagram (#OFoundColor) and you may win one of 50 value baskets from Culvers. Limit one per person, two per family, and first come, first served.

Virtual Toast to the Foundation: Instead of the Foundation's usual Beer and Wine Tasting this year we will be hosting a virtual toast. Get together with some friends and share a toast to the Foundation. Take a picture or selfie, post it to our Facebook or Instagram using the hash tag #OFoundToast and you will be entered into a drawing for two gift baskets sponsored by Cashwise Liquor and the Owatonna Foundation. The grand prize will be valued at \$150 and the second prize will be valued at \$100.

"We invite everyone to join us in a new way to celebrate the Owatonna Foundation-your Community Foundation," Resler said. "The Owatonna Foundation is more than granting funds to worthy projects, it's about investing in the ideas and visions of the people in our community to ensure a better Owatonna for all of us now, and in the future."

For more information, visit the Owatonna Foundation website at www.owatonnafoundation.org, follow on Facebook or call at 507-455-2995.

ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS
By Shannon Nordstrom and Russ Evans

Dear Motor Medics,
I own a 2013 Chevrolet Camaro Convertible. Its an SS with the 6.2 engine and I have added a super-charger and nitrous oxide to it. I have 50k miles on the car. The problem I am having is with the top. When I put it down it seems to drag and when going up it will also drag so bad that it will stop and I have to wait a few seconds and try again unless I help it up. The problem first started about a year after I added the horsepower upgrades and started running it at the track. That has been about 3k miles.

Tommy in Onida South Dakota
The binding can be caused by many things but the problem you are describing can be a mechanical binding issue. In our shop we would start the diagnosis by removing the power component from the top over verification of the bind. We would then operate the top manually with two persons and verify the spot of the bind. At that point we should be able to see either a twist or a worn spot on the top mechanism which we would repair. It is very possible that all the added horsepower has caused the car to twist and damaged the top mechanism if you have not added suspension stiffeners or a roll bar. Once it's repaired if the damage was caused by the horsepower the frame support issue should be addressed.

Take care, The Motor Medics

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

OCT. 6

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

ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

OCT. 2

10 a.m. — SEMCAC,
Community Building

OCT. 7

10 a.m. — SEMCAC,
Community Building

OCT. 5

10 a.m. — SEMCAC,
Community Building
6 p.m. — Ellendale
Fire Department
Meeting, Community
Building

OCT. 8

7:30 p.m. —
Ellendale City Council
Meeting, Community
Building

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

OCT. 3

7 a.m. — Farmers
Market, Central Park

OCT. 5

7 p.m. — Steele
County Planning
Commission Meeting,
County Admin Building

OCT. 8

10:30 a.m. —
Storytime Online with
Daria, Facebook Live
11 a.m. — 7 p.m. —
Youth 1st Pigskin &
Pork, Cash Wise
5 p.m. — Airport
Commission Meeting,
Airport Lounge

OCT. 6

9:30 a.m. — Garden
Time, Owatonna
Library
10 a.m. —
Genealogy Club,
History Center
10:30 a.m. —
Storytime Online with

OCT. 8

10:30 a.m. —
Storytime Online with
Daria, Facebook Live
11 a.m. — 7 p.m. —
Youth 1st Pigskin &
Pork, Cash Wise
5 p.m. — Airport
Commission Meeting,
Airport Lounge

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Sudoku Corner

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

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

Help fight COVID-19 by donating blood

Plasma from whole blood donations made through the American Red Cross that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Donors are encouraged to make an appointment to give blood now to help ensure coronavirus patients and others who depend on transfusions have needed blood products this fall.

In April, the Red Cross began collecting COVID-19 convalescent plasma from previously diagnosed individuals, who could only give at one of approximately 170 Red Cross blood donation centers across the country. Convalescent plasma contains COVID-19 antibodies that may help the most critical patients actively fighting this virus. Now, whole blood donations made at any Red Cross blood drive or blood donation center could be helpful in this effort.

"Donations that come back positive for COVID-19 antibodies now undergo secondary testing to confirm antibody results, and that enables the Red Cross to then potentially use the plasma from those

donations for COVID-19 patients," said Dr. Erin Goodhue, executive medical director of direct patient care with the Red Cross Biomedical Services. "With approximately 2% of the U.S. population testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies, every donation is important to ensure patients with coronavirus have access to every treatment option available to them."

The Red Cross encourages eligible individuals to schedule an appointment, download the free Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-739-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

In thanks, the Red Cross is offering a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card to five lucky winners who come to give in October. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/unity. Additionally, those who come to give by the end of September will receive a free haircut coupon by email to participating Sport Clips Haircuts locations. More information is available at RedCrossBlood.org/SportClips.

About antibody testing

Antibody testing may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual experienced COVID-19 symptoms. Donations are tested using samples pulled at the time of donation and sent to a testing laboratory where they will also undergo routine infectious disease testing.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test.

Important COVID info

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions — including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff — have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an

appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities, Sept. 23-Oct. 15:

Dodge
West Concord
Oct. 5: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., West Concord Historical Society, 600 W. First St.

Freeborn
Albert Lea
Oct. 1: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Bridge Community Church, 2016 Bridge Ave.

Mower
Austin
Oct. 2: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Austin Eagles Lookout, 10711 St. NE

Steele
Blooming Prairie
Oct. 13: 1 p.m.-6 p.m., City Center, 138 Highway S.

Owatonna
Oct. 2: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Hy-Vee, 1620 S. Cedar
Oct. 7: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Buffalo Wild Wings, 1100 Frontage Road
Oct. 9: 12 p.m.-6 p.m., Anytime Fitness, 1010 Hoffman Drive NW

Waseca
New Richmond
Oct. 7: 1 p.m.-6 p.m., City Hall, 203 Broadway Ave. N.

Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary gift shop open

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop is now open to all wishing to visit. The gift shop is open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The gift shop has incorporated complete sanitizing and safety measure procedures

to make your shopping experience safe. The goals of the Auxiliary are to continue supporting scholarships for those pursuing a medical career as well as assisting the hospital with unbudgeted equipment and supplies.

Mental Illness Awareness Week is Oct. 4-10

National Mental Illness Awareness Week is Oct. 4-10. This week is marked by community education efforts in all 50 states to raise awareness that mental illnesses are treatable medical conditions, and that there is help and hope for children and adults with mental illnesses and their families.

To learn more about anxiety disorders, depression, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, or to find online support groups and family educational classes and other resources, contact NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) go to namimn.org or call 651-645-2948, or 1-888-626-4435. You are not alone.

PET TIP OF THE WEEK



How do you keep cats stimulated?

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OWATONNA PROUD

B4 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

OWATONNA SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Brody Erola of Owatonna High School helped transform the gardens at Lincoln Elementary School. He was recently honored at a school board meeting.



Eli Knutson of Boy Scout Troop 253 has been recognized for his efforts in recreating a garden area at Lincoln Elementary School in Owatonna.

Boy Scouts honored for their projects at Lincoln

Each month at its regular meeting, the School Board of Owatonna Public Schools recognizes individual students and/or staff members who exemplify the district's mission of inspiring excellence – every learner, every day.

In September, Owatonna High School students Brody Erola and Eli Knutson, both members of Boy Scout Troop 253, were recognized for their work in transforming the gardens at Lincoln Elementary School.

Erola worked with Dr. Meagher on one of the school's entrance areas where drainage during heavy rains was a problem. They created a plan that would improve the drainage problems, be aesthetically pleasing,

and provide additional outside learning spaces for our Lincoln students. Knutson worked with Dr. Meagher to recreate a garden area that was removed due to the construction of the new gym, music

and art wing of the building. Their plan incorporated raised beds, mound gardening along with root viewers, and an outdoor learning area with benches and work tables. Many of the learning standards in

science can be explored by Lincoln students in these new areas. These Eagle Scout projects proved to be a win-win for all involved. Brody and Eli are two high school students who truly inspire excellence, every day!

An attitude of gratitude



With face masks in place, several Owatonna High School students hold signs expressing their appreciation and gratitude for teachers and staff within the school district.

3 OHS students named to National Merit program

Principal Kory Kath of Owatonna High School announced that Nicholas Filcher, Jenna Gleason, and Elise Egbert have been named Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from Owatonna High School and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2021 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the

top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2021 competition by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

The ABCs of referendums

Bonds are for buildings, levies are for learning

Last November, Owatonna voters approved bond funding to build a new Owatonna High School. This November, voters are being asked if they will renew and increase operating funds for all district schools, through an operating levy. The reason these votes are separate is that bond funds can only be used to build or repair buildings, by law they can not be used to pay for school or district operating costs.

School districts rely on operating levies to support classroom instruction, staff and other costs of running schools.

Question 1 on the Nov. 3rd ballot requests a straight renewal of the existing operating levy, which is about to expire. Question 2 requests a phased-in increase to the levy – with one



increase in 2022 and another in 2023. To help reduce the levy request to voters, the School Board approved a shared solution that included budget cuts on the district side. This fiscally conservative and respectful approach also means there is no tax increase for Question 2 in 2021. Learn more about

the Owatonna Public Schools operating levy requests at an informational session on Monday, Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m. You can attend in-person at the Owatonna High School Small Group Forum, or watch online from the comfort of your own home. The livestream link will be available on the Levy 2020 website: isd761.org/levy. And remember to flip your ballot to the back side and vote on Nov. 3.

HOW'S OUR COMMUNITY FEEL?

Our community recognizes that **strong schools help build strong communities***:

94% rate the job performance of teachers and instructional staff as excellent or good
93% rate quality of Owatonna Public Schools education as excellent or good
91% agree the community receives a good value from its investment in our schools

*Fall 2018 community survey

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Ready, happy and excited

Coaches, athletes embrace return of fall sports

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Coaches and student athletes at Blooming Prairie High School are like many of their namesakes throughout the state.

They are ready, happy and excited to play football and volleyball this fall, says Allison Mach, activities director for the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms.

"We fully support the decisions the MSHSL has had to make during this difficult time," remarked Mach.

Seniors Maggie Bruns and Megan Oswald reported for cross country since the volleyball season was initially moved to the spring. Both are now participating in two sports for the fall.

"The decision to bring volleyball back means the world to me," said Bruns. She explained that it's a tight schedule to do cross country, practice volleyball, eat and then do homework.

Oswald said she is "pretty excited" to have volleyball back. "It would be hard not to play a sport that I have devoted so much time to," she said. "It will be really crazy but the coaches and Ms. Mach have made it easier for us," she continued.

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) board just over a week ago reversed a previous decision to play football and volleyball in shortened seasons next spring. The vote reversal now



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

With the assistance of some Blooming Prairie football players, custodian Lee Peterson stripes the football field at McFarlin Field in Blooming Prairie. The 2020 football season starts on Friday, Oct. 9.

means that football and volleyball will now have shortened fall seasons.

The vote to reverse the football decision was 14-4 and for volleyball, the vote was 15-3.

Official practices for the two fall sports began on Monday. The football team is led by head varsity coach Chad Gimbel and the volleyball varsity is coached by Jennifer Wayne.

The schedule for both football and volleyball was still unknown at press time.

The first football game will be played on Friday, Oct. 9 and the first volleyball match is

scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 8.

There will be a six-game schedule for football with a two-week playoff, culminating with a section championship. Volleyball reportedly will have section playoffs but no state tournament.

"I'm especially happy for the kids, more so for the seniors," remarked Coach Gimbel. "I am looking forward to working with this team as we prepare our athletes to defend their title," he said.

"The best thing is it brings some normalcy to everyday life even though practice may

look a little different, it's two hours that we can forget about everything else and just focus on a game we love to play," Gimbel continues.

Coach Gimbel says he believes his team is "off to a good start," but obviously there is a lot for the football players to learn, he pointed out.

The area which the team is farthest behind is on conditioning, Gimbel believes. He said the kids missed out on their two weeks of captains' practices which hurt the team. The players also did not have the two-a-days they typically have.

The players have been asked to do some

extra conditioning at home, said Gimbel. "Scheme wise, we have about 70% of our X's and O's put in but there is still a lot of uncertainty. But, with a lot of repetition that part will come."

Coach Wayne said she received a heads-up notice from Mach about the fall seasons coming back. "It was still a shock when I found out," she said.

"I'm still on the fence about the decision, personally," admits Wayne. "I'm praying we all stay healthy because that will throw a big wrench in things. I also wonder if we had waited until

March if we would have been able to have fans in the stands."

No fans will be allowed into volleyball matches because of state guidelines.

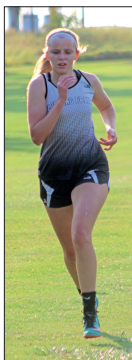
Wayne says her players are on schedule for player development. She says she is happy with the experience returning from seven letter winners.

This year marks Coach Wayne's first year as head varsity volleyball coach. Her daughter Abby has joined her as a volunteer coach. "It's been awesome to have her knowledge of the game," Wayne said.

Blossom girl runners win triangular

Strong Medford wins boys triangular

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Junior Bobbie Bruns had a solid effort and led the Blooming Prairie girls cross country team on Tuesday, Sept. 22 with a second place finish in 24:22.0. The Blossom girls won the meet over Medford and Hayfield.

Coach John Bruns' Blooming Prairie High School varsity girls cross country team picked up its first triangular win of the season on Sept. 22 at the Blooming Prairie Country Club.

The boys varsity team finished third behind a powerful Medford team (first) and Hayfield (second).

The Awesome Blossom girls scored 26 points, defeating Medford with 35 points and Hayfield with 69 points.

The girls took six of the top nine places in the race.

Junior Bobbie Bruns had a solid effort and led the team with a second place finish in 24:22.0.

Sophomore Chloe McCarthy turned in her best time of the season, finishing in fourth place with a time of 25:23.0.

She had been Blooming Prairie's fourth runner

last week, but made the jump to No. 2 on Tuesday "with a great run," said Coach Bruns.

Other Blossom girls varsity results included: Emily Miller, fifth in 25:26.3; Megan Oswald, seventh in 26:04.6; Abby Smith, eighth in 26:31.3; Maggie Bruns, ninth in 27:21.0; Asha Lighthizer, 11th in 27:42.8; Ashleigh Alves, 12th in 27:59.6; Haven Carlson, 14th in 28:04.3; Lila Quail, 15th in 29:26.1; Rose Michaud, 16th in 31:00.8; Lauren Schammel, 17th in 31:09.9; Anna Pauly, 19th in 31:59.6 and Melaine Winzenburg, 20th in 31:59.6.

Medford's boys team took the first three finishes in the varsity boys meet. Tyler Stursa was first in 16:14.2 over the 3.1-mile course; Cohen Stursa was second in 18:32.2 and Brock Meritt was third in 18:35.8.

Medford scored 18, Hayfield was second with 50 points and Blooming Prairie was third with 58 points.

Hosea Baker had Blooming Prairie's top finish, placing sixth in 19:01.3. He continues to improve in every race, said Coach Bruns.

Dylan Johnson had his best run of the year placing his 11th place finish. He had been running between sixth and eighth earlier in the year.

Other Blooming Prairie varsity boys finishes were: Dylan Johnson, 11th in 20:08.6; Alex Miller, 12th in 20:23.8; Tyler Forystek, 14th in 20:46.6; Luke Larkoski, 15th in 20:51.9; Jesse Cardena, 16th in 21:20.8; Boone Carlson, 20th in 21:29.0; Ethan Grant, 22nd in 21:38.4; Joe Pirkel, 25th in 22:04.5; Jacob Pauly, 26th in 22:05.0; Stephen Fennell, 27th in 22:11.1; Jaxon Harberts, 28th in 22:12.8; Alex Riley, 37th in 28:41.5; Sam Michaud, 39th in 29:48.1 and Tommy Donnelly, 40th in 30:44.7.

In the junior high girls race, Hayfield took the first six places.

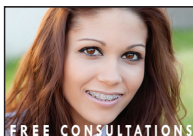


STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Blooming Prairie's boys varsity cross country runners run in a pack and try to pass a Hayfield runner in a triangular meet at the Blooming Prairie Country Club on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Blooming Prairie followed: Rachel Winzenburg, seventh; Lily Schammel, eighth; Anna Haberman, ninth; Shanna Halverson, 10th and Olivia Gonzales, 11th.

Hayfield took the first two places in the junior high boys race. Blooming Prairie's finishes were: Jack Bruns, third; Tyler Anderson, seventh and Ben Riley, ninth.



Dr. Deborah J. Lien
DDS, MBS
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

583.6613
132 2nd Ave NE
Blooming Prairie

www.drdeborahtienorthodontics.com

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
PROBATE COURT DIVISION
County Clerk
74-PR-26-1157

IN RE: ESTATE OF
Ramon Salinas
Deceased

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
ADJUDICATION OF INTERESTS
TACY DETERMINATION OF
HEIRSHIP AND APPOINT-
MENT OF PERSONAL REP-
RESENTATIVE IN SUPER-
VISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-
SONS AND CREDITORS:
It is Ordered and Notice is here-
by given that on the 26th day of
October, 2020 at 9:25 a.m., a
hearing will be held in the above
named Court at 111 E. Main St.,
Owatonna, Minnesota, for the
adjudication of intestacy and de-
termination of heirship and for the
appointment of Roberto Salinas
whose address is 327 1st Street
SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
as personal representative of the
estate of the above named de-
cedent in supervised administra-
tion, and any objection thereto
must be filed with the Court. That,
if proper, and no objections are
filed, said personal representa-
tive will be appointed to adminis-
ter the estate, to collect all assets,
pay all legal debts, claims, taxes
and expenses, and sell real and
personal property, and do all nec-
essary acts for the estate. Upon
completion of the administra-
tion, the representative shall file
a statement to close the estate
and shall distribute the estate to
the persons thereto entitled as
ordered by the Court. With the
Honorable Karen R. Duncan via
Zoom hearing in courtroom A.
Notice is further given that ALL
CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required
to present the same to said per-
sonal representative or to the
Court Administrator within four
months after the date of this no-
tice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: September 9, 2020
Karen R. JUDGE
Robyn Hooley by
COURT
ADMINISTRATOR
/s/ Tammy L. Merklewitz Deputy

Jason J. Iacovino,
attorney
PO Box 818, 415 E.
Main Street
Blooming Prairie MN 55917
Telephone Number:
507-583-6863
Attorney Registration Number:
0386770 9/30, 10/7

NOTICE

Office of the Minnesota Sec-
retary of State
Certificate of
Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes,
Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name
does not provide a user with ex-
clusive rights to that name. The
filing is required for consumer
protection in order to enable
customer to be able to identify
the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Just Be-
cause Bakery
**PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSI-
NESS:** 236 West Main Street,
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name: Emily N. Gleser
Address: 236 West Main Street,
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
USA

If you submit an attachment, it
will be incorporated into this doc-
ument. If the attachment conflicts
with the information specifically
set forth in this document, this
document supersedes the data
referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the under-
signed, certify that I am signing
this document as the person
whose signature is required, or
as agent of the person(s) whose
signature would be required
who has authorized me to sign
this document on his/her behalf,
or in both capacities. I further
certify that I have completed
all required fields, and that the
information in this document is
true and correct and in com-
pliance with the applicable chapter

of Minnesota Statutes. I under-
stand that by signing this doc-
ument I am subject to the pen-
alties of perjury as set forth in
Section 609.48 as if I had signed
this document under oath.
SIGNED BY:
Emily Gleser
MAILING ADDRESS: None
**EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTI-
CES:** gleseremily17@gmail.com

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
OF STATE FILED
08/17/2020 11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
9/30, 10/7

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1. List the exact assumed name of the business.
2. Principal Place of Business:
5000 NW 60th St., Medford,
MN 55049
3. List the name and complete
street address of all persons
conducting business under the
above Assumed Name. OR, if
an entity, provide the legal cor-
porate, LLC, or Limited Part-
nership name and registered office
address: The Blast Northfield,
LLC, 5000 NW 60th St., Med-
ford, MN 55049
4. I, the undersigned, certify that
I am signing this document as
the person whose signature is
required, or as agent of the per-
son(s) whose signature would
be required who has authorized
me to sign this document on his/
her behalf, or in both capacities.
I further certify that I have com-
pleted all required fields, and that
the information in this docu-
ment is true and correct and in
compliance with the applicable
chapter of Minnesota Statutes.
I understand that by signing this
document I am subject to the
penalties of perjury as set forth in
Section 609.48 as if I had signed
this document under oath.

/s/ Alexandria J. Morgan,
Member
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
08/27/2020 11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
9/30/22

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA
July 20, 2020

A regular school board meeting
of the School Board of In-
dependent School District #756,
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
was held in the High School
Media Center on July 20, 2020
at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at
7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM –
No comments.

**I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIR-
PERSON**

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL – CLERK
Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten,
Pam Hamelster,
Dean Meshke, Jenny Thurnau,
Steve Simons

ALSO PRESENT: Superinten-
dent of Schools, Elementary
School Principal

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and
seconded by Steve Simons to ap-
prove the agenda with additional
payroll and annuities health
benefit amounts. Motion carried.
(6 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Principal reports given by Mr.
Schwartz, Mr. Woike, and Ms.
Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

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

Motion by Pam Hamelster and
seconded by Kelly Braaten to
approve school board minutes,
bills, treasurer's report, resigna-
tion, and donation as presented.
Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

B. Employment
Motion by Steve Simons and
seconded by Dean Meshke to ap-
prove the employment of David Las-
sain as head wrestling coach.
Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and
seconded by Steve Simons to ap-
prove the employment of Heidi
Brasher as an elementary music
teacher for the 2020-21 school
year with placement on BA, step
3. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

**C. School Board Meeting
Dates**
Motion by Pam Hamelster and
seconded by Jenny Thurnau to
approve the continuation of the
third Monday of the month as
the official meeting date with
exceptions in January and Feb-
ruary. The meetings will also
remain at 7:15 p.m. with the
open forum at 7:00 p.m. with ex-
ceptions in December, January,
and February. Motion carried. (6
Aye/0 Nay)

D. Work Sessions
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and
seconded by Pam Hamelster to
approve continuation of School
Board Work Sessions on the
Thursday before the regular
board meeting at 6:00 a.m. Mo-
tion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

E. School Board Per Diem
Motion by Pam Hamelster and
seconded by Dean Meshke to ap-
prove school board members per
diem to remain the same.
Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

**F. Public Hearing on Property
Tax Levy Payable 2021**
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and
seconded by Steve Simons to ap-
prove holding the required pub-
lic hearing at which the budget
and levy will be discussed and
the public allowed to speak on
property tax levy payable 2021
on December 21st at 6:00 p.m.
This meeting will be in conjunc-
tion with the regular monthly
school board meeting. Motion
carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

G. Cheer and Fine Arts Fees
Motion by Kelly Braaten and
seconded by Steve Simons to ap-
prove an adjustment to the
cheerleading and 7/8th grade
speech fees. The cheerlead-
ing fee increases from \$35.00
to \$85.00 per season and the
7/8th grade speech fee will in-
crease from \$15.00 to \$35.00.
Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

H. Health & Safety Policy
Motion by Steve Simons and
seconded by Jenny Thurnau to ap-
prove the district's current policy
remain unchanged. Motion car-
ried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

I. LTFM
Motion by Pam Hamelster and
seconded by Jenny Thurnau to
approve the district LTFM
(Long Term Facilities Mainte-
nance) Ten Year Plan along with
the "Statement of Assurance"
as presented. Submission is re-
quired to be received by the MA
Department of Education prior
to July 31, 2020. Motion carried.
(6 Aye/0 Nay)

**J. Designation of Identified
Official with Authority for the
MDE External User Access
Recertification System**
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and
seconded by Pam Hamelster to
approve the annual appoint-
ment of Christopher Staloch as

the designated identified official
with authority for the MDE ex-
ternal user access recertifica-
tion system. Motion carried. (6
Aye/0 Nay)

**K. Policy and Procedures for
Speech Telepractice Services**
Motion by Kelly Braaten and
seconded by Steve Simons to ap-
prove a Policy and Procedures
for Speech Telepractice Ser-
vices. This policy approves the
district for electronic communi-
cation. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0
Nay)

L. District Audit
Motion by Pam Hamelster and
seconded by Jenny Thurnau to
approve Callon Larson-Kellen
(CLA) as the firm to conduct the
FY 2021 audit. Motion carried. (6
Aye/0 Nay)

M. Student Activity Fund
Motion by Kelly Braaten and
seconded by Pam Hamelster to
approve a summary of activity
that took place during the year
prior to combining with district
funds. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0
Nay)

**VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY**

**A. 2020-2021 School Year
Plans for All Three Scenarios
(MDE)**
Meetings have taken place in
preparation for all three scenar-
ios.

**B. Family Education Rights
and Privacy Act**
ISD #756, Blooming Prairie,
MN, in compliance with the
Family Education Rights and
Privacy Act, announces that
directory-type information on
public school students in the
district will be disseminated
from time to time without fur-
ther authorization from parents
of such students. Any parent
wishing to withhold such infor-
mation from distribution must
submit a request to the Of-
fice of the Superintendent of
Schools within ten days of the
published dates.

C. Committee Reports
A committee report update was
given for the following commit-
tees: Transportation and ZED.

D. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2020-21
school year as of July 15, 2020
is 448 at the elementary school
(grades K-6) and 372 at the
high school (grades 7-12) (361
attending BPS and the equiv-
alency of 11 attending PSEO).
The PSEO number consists of
approximately 10 full-time and 2
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E. Dates to Close
The Board noted dates of im-
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**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR
BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

1. The "COVID-19" is to pro-
vide some funding for additional
expenses required due to
COVID-19.

2. Increased enrollment in
grades K-6.

IX. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Dean Meshke and
seconded by Steve Simons to ad-
journ the meeting at 7:51 p.m.
Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular
School Board Work Session
will be held on Thursday,
August 13, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. in
the High School Media Center.
Tentatively, the next Regular
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Monday, August 17, 2020, at
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Respectfully Submitted,
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the designated identified official
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Aye/0 Nay)

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the designated identified official
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ISD #756, Blooming Prairie,
MN, in compliance with the
Family Education Rights and
Privacy Act, announces that
directory-type information on
public school students in the
district will be disseminated
from time to time without fur-
ther authorization from parents
of such students. Any parent
wishing to withhold such infor-
mation from distribution must
submit a request to the Of-
fice of the Superintendent of
Schools within ten days of the
published dates.

C. Committee Reports
A committee report update was
given for the following commit-
tees: Transportation and ZED.

D. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2020-21
school year as of July 15, 2020
is 448 at the elementary school
(grades K-6) and 372 at the
high school (grades 7-12) (361
attending BPS and the equiv-
alency of 11 attending PSEO).
The PSEO number consists of
approximately 10 full-time and 2
part-time students.

E. Dates to Close
The Board noted dates of im-
portance.

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR
BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

1. The "COVID-19" is to pro-
vide some funding for additional
expenses required due to
COVID-19.

2

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AGED HORSE MANURE for the garden connoisseur. Courtesy of Lady Maggie. Call Madeline to place your spring order. \$4 for 5-gallon bucket or \$9 for a 13-gallon bag. Customers must provide bucket or bags. Call 507-634-6293. TFN04

LUND JON BOAT Camo paint, 12-foot. Will fit in full-size pickup box. New oars. Rated for 10 HP motor. \$700. ATV LOADING RAMPS 1500-pound capacity. All aluminum. \$125. 507-635-5853 TFN04

3 SILKY ROOSTERS. CALL FOR COLORS. \$5 EACH. OBO. 507-951-5443. 90214

MAYTAG NEPTUNE FRONT load washer. \$50. Call 507-528-2252. 90204

FOR RENT

CLAREMONT RENTALS 1 bd wheelchair accessible apt. Rent based on income! Month-to-month leases and deposit pay plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524. www.life-styleinc.net. ldd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity 90214

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

SAMANTHA UPHAM'S BABYSITTING/NANNY services I'm a 15-year-old honors student entering my sophomore year at Kasson High School. I have babysitting experience and have been through a class specific for caring for young children. I am best suited to care for toddlers through

young teens. Available 7 days a week and can be very flexible with times. I will ensure a summer full of fun! (references upon request) 507-358-3415 90214

NICK'S LAWN MOWING SERVICE. 50% off first mowing with a contract for 1 year. Weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard cleanup, mowing and trimming, satisfaction guaranteed. 10 years of experience. FREE estimates. Please call 507-696-3849 and leave a message. TFN04

TWO BROTHERS looking to mow lawns. \$20 depending on lawn size. Please contact Hayden or Russell at 507-923-3277. TFN04

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507-634-7907. 396

BRIANNA'S LAWN CARE SERVICES. Mowing, trimming, complete yard cleanup. Weekly or on call. Satisfaction guaranteed. FREE estimates. Call 507-421-7945. TFN04

COINS

NEED CASH? I give free appraisals of your older coins from 1964 and older. I am looking to purchase older coin at a rate of 2 to 20 times their face value. Call Ron at 507-477-2427 or 507-259-6460. 90214

BARGAIN FINDERS

FOR SALE: Toddler bed and mattress, rarely used. Find a wide range of 507-451-7332 90204

FOR SALE FIELD ROCKS: \$20 per load. You load. South of Kasson. 507-273-9678 90204

FOR SALE: Like new elliptical exercise machine. Vision 8000 Deluxe series. Great workout. Clean and in "perfect" condition. Multiple programming levels. Asking \$300 OBO. Mantorville. 480-390-9280 101704

GARAGE SALE

MANTORVILLE LARGE ESTATE/GARAGE SALE: 812 Chestnut St. October 2-3, beginning at 8 a.m. A long-term household is being dissolved. Come browse among many treasures, from vintage pieces to more current things. Find a wide range of items for every room of

your home, including a pool/game table, some furniture, garage items, holiday décor, plenty of kitchen effects and much more. 90204

MANTORVILLE HUGE MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE: 23706 600th Street, Thursday, October 1 through Saturday, October 3, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Furniture, lawnmowers, tools, antiques and lots of miscellaneous. 101704

HELP WANTED

CAREGIVER NEEDED for disabled female. Every other Saturday days, or every other Saturday overnight. 9-12 hour shifts. \$13.25 per hour. NW Rochester. Will train. 507-289-2756. 902104

ROUTE DRIVER PORTABLE SANITATION (KASSON)

Looking for a full-time person to drive safely to assigned locations to pump and clean portable restrooms. Physical job, requiring lifting of 70 or more pounds, bending, twisting and repetitive movement in a fast-paced environment. Selected person will be well organized, motivated, a self-starter, with a commitment to quality of work.

- Valid driver's license, CDL preferred.
- Clean driving record, 4 yrs. preferred.
- Must have or be able to obtain a DOT medical card.

SERIOUS INQUIRES ONLY
507-319-7566 90204

FOR SALE**FARM EQUIPMENT**

2 post electric hoist, 12,000 lb., 9 years old, only used 6 or 7 times **\$1,300**

1927 oil pull 2540E. Overhauled in 2006 and painted. It runs great **\$2,500**

1937 P20. Good rubber, ran well 3 years ago, stored inside **\$750**

W30 painted in good shape. 1955. Good tires. **\$1,650**

MM Twin City KTA. Good rubber and good engine. **\$2,800**

1917 Rob Bell Wooden threshing machine. Ran 4 yrs ago, good shape. **\$4,900 FIRM**

Case Model C Standard Good tires, runs well. **\$2,650**

Case Model C row crop. New rear tires. Good engine. **\$2,650**

IH corn binder. Very nice, stored inside. **\$250**

F-20, runs well, but needs head gasket. Has electric starter. Good tires. **\$900**

Oliver 77 gas, very good tires & paint. Runs well. **\$3,100**

WRP. Painted, good rubber, clean. No dents. **\$2,250**

507-213-6548

HELP WANTED

The STRAIGHT RIVER northbound and southbound rest areas near **OWATONNA** need several **senior workers for PT custodial work.** If you are **55 or older** please call **Green View** AT **651-639-1913.** 90204

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**DODGE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)**

has a permanent, full-time **PROGRAM TECHNICIAN** position open. Computer skills are required. Annual salary ranges from **\$31,208 to \$56,222** depending on the qualifications of the applicant.

Position is located at the **Dodge County FSA Office**
916 2nd Street SE,
Dodge Center, MN,
Tel. 507-374-6364 EXT. 2.

Applications are to be submitted online through **USAJobs** at **usajobs.gov**, **JOB Number FSACO-10920463-20-MN-AS.**

Applications will be accepted from **September 23, 2020 through October 6, 2020.**

For questions, please contact the **Dodge County FSA Office.**



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FARM EQUIPMENT FARMING IN MINNESOTA? Our hunters will pay top \$\$\$ to hunt your land. www.BaseCampLeasing.com Call 866/509-1507 Promo code: 361	MISCELLANEOUS DONATE YOUR CAR truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/222-9501	DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing fast internet \$19.99/mo. (where available) Switch & get a free \$100 Visa gift card. Free voice remote. Free HD DVR. Free streaming on all devices. Call today! 855/562-4309
AUCTIONS HIGHWAY 59 AUCTION CENTER Consignment, Slayton, MN. October 5, 10:00 a.m. Jet. Hwy 59, 30. Used machinery, farm, ranch equipment. Jess Donkersloot 507/370-1912 Auctionzip.com	AT&T WIRELESS Two great new offers! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464	TIMESHARE CANCELLATION EXPERTS Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 833/619-1117

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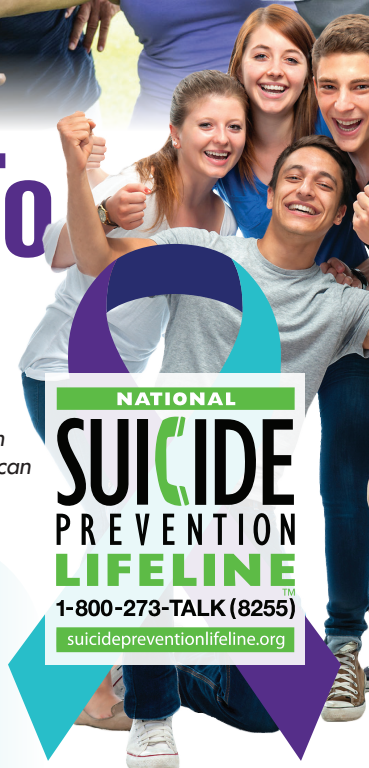
This is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's message for National Suicide Prevention Month and beyond.

Help prevent suicide by changing the conversation from suicide to suicide prevention, to actions that can promote healing, help and give hope.

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

- Increased alcohol and drug use
- Aggressive behavior
- Withdrawal from friends and family
- Dramatic mood swings
- Impulsive or reckless behavior

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org



*If you or someone you know is in an emergency,
call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at*
800-273-TALK (8255) or 911 immediately
Suicide is not the answer... there is hope!

This message sponsored by these folks trying to keep communities healthy

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