



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Under the watchful eye of his father, Jeff, Harvin Hall, 9, of Owatonna delivers a chip shot during the Owatonna Junior City Open Thursday afternoon at Havana Hills. Harvin played in the Junior Boys 7-9 division. About 40 youngsters took part in the junior open, which has been featured for the past three years. The adults took part in the city open on the previous weekend. For complete results of both tournaments, see Page B7. There is also a feature on the Hall family on Page B10.

MSHSL realigns major fall sports due to COVID

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It was a decision that many Minnesota high school student athletes and coaches were waiting to hear.

The decision of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Board of Directors came at a meeting on Aug. 4. The major announcement approved

moving forward as scheduled with four fall activities.

Girls tennis, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls soccer and girls swimming and diving will begin on Aug. 17 with limitations.

Blooming Prairie will only have cross country as a sport this fall. John Bruns is coach of the boys and girls teams.

The MSHSL Board of Directors also approved moving football and volleyball to a modified spring season. The state football and volleyball schedules will run from March 15 to May 15.

The typical spring sports of baseball, softball, golf and track will run from May 15 to July 15.

Blooming Prairie High School Activities

Director Alison Mach said she wasn't surprised about the changes. "I knew we wouldn't be able to proceed as normal," she remarked.

Mach says the goal of the MSHSL task force and for AD's across the state is to provide as many opportunities as possible for all high school student athletes. "We knew that in order to do that, there was a

need to be creative," she explained.

The seasons may not look the same but schools now will be able to provide more opportunities for student athletes. "That's what is most important," says Mach.

Chad Gimbel, coach of the 2019 Class 1A state championship football team, also said he was not "overly sur-

prised" by the MSHSL board's decision.

Gimbel said the Minnesota Football Coaches Association had sent out questionnaires and the decision seemed to be moving toward having football in the spring. "It will be different for sure and it is not a great scenario but in the middle of a pandem-

SEE MSHSL, A3

Healed from life's storms, Vick ready to serve as pastor again

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Lisa Vick knows first hand how quickly things can change in life.

Within 10 weeks of each other, her parents died suddenly. A short time later she got divorced. After experiencing those life storms, Vick left the ministry in 2014 not knowing what the future would hold for her.

"I felt like I wasn't able to do ministry and take care of myself," Vick said. "I decided to take a break from the ministry to heal those wounds," she added.

Vick is now in a much better place in her life. She got married again in 2017. And within the past year, she has come back to being a pastor again and just took over the pastoral duties at United Methodist Church in Owatonna on July 1.

She has lived just down the street from the church since getting married again.

SEE HEALED, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Rev. Lisa Vick has taken over as pastor at United Methodist Church in Owatonna. She began her pastoral duties in the midst of a pandemic on July 1.

Governor's car mandates stir criticism

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Tim Walz's proposed car mandates are leaving some feeling they are a bad idea and don't fit Minnesota. On Wednesday

morning, Aug. 5, local residents were able to attend one of eight informational sessions to educate consumers on the negative impact of the governor's proposed car mandates. The event was held at the VFW in

Owatonna and hosted by the Center of the American Experiment.

"What he is doing is imposing California car standards on Minnesota," said Scott Lambert,

SEE GOVERNOR'S CAR, A10

Worleins stir up cookbook aimed at grieving spouses

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Mix in a collection of recipes with memories and what do you get? You get a tremendous resource, a "Stir Gently" cookbook created

by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Blooming Prairie.

The 68-page cookbook just recently released contains recipes for those who have lost a spouse or loved one, and feel lost in the kitchen.

It is a challenge to cook for one and that's what the cookbook hopes to be of assistance.

Artist Sandy Jones of Blooming Prairie created the colorful

SEE WORLEINS STIR UP, A8



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The staff of Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Blooming Prairie helped put together a resource cookbook. From left to right are: Mary Kittelson, community services director; Hayley Newman, funeral director; Anna Severtson, office manager; Paul Worlein, owner and funeral director; Mark McGuire, funeral director; Veronica Carrillo, funeral director and Martha Hauschildt, receptionist.

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