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Tim Middagh / The Globe

Olson Arena on the Nobles County Fairgrounds in Worthington will be bustling with livestock shows Aug. 5-7, but due to regulations with COVID-19, the shows won't be open to the public. For a video related to this story, visit dglobe.com

Achievement Days to give 4-H'ers a modified Nobles County Fair

Events Aug. 3-7 are closed to the public

By Julie Buntjer
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WORTHINGTON — There will be mooing cows, cock-a-doodle-dooing chickens, bleating sheep and goats and snorting pigs, but the audience will be restricted to family only when Nobles County 4-H'ers exhibit their animals in a newly formatted Achievement Days Aug. 3-7 at the fairgrounds in Worthington.

In fact, the grounds will be closed off to everyone except the 4-H exhibitors, their parents or guardians and a bevy of volunteers in order to stay within the 250-person maximum attendance on the grounds at any one time. The format change and attendance rules this year are due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nobles County 4-H Extension Educator Mackenzie Wolf said

Achievement Days will begin with judging of non-livestock entries on Aug. 3. Each 4-H'er may bring up to four items for scheduled conference judging that day, and if they have more projects, those will be judged virtually. Virtual judging is already under way for some of the categories, including clothing, foods, performing arts and demonstrations.

For the virtual judging, Wolf said 4-H'ers will take video of themselves answering questions about their project. Judges will then evaluate each of the videos, provide feedback through the online program Flipgrid, and ribbons will be awarded to the 4-H'ers during Achievement Days.

"We worked to create as many projects to be judged in person as we could," Wolf said.

She said she realizes the virtual judging is not ideal, and not perfect, but it's a way for 4-H members to showcase the projects they've worked hard on since last year's fair.

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'There's no better job'

Darlene Macklin retiring after 38 years with Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce

By Ryan McGaughey
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Worthington

Thirty-eight years ago, Darlene Macklin came to Worthington for a fresh start in a new community as she began a position as a bookkeeper with the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce.

On July 31, she'll call it a career with the Chamber, with which she has served as executive director for the past 33 years. To note that much has happened over the decades would be a significant understatement.

A new town — and career

Macklin arrived in Worthington to begin her job with the Chamber in April 1982. She relocated from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where she had been employed as an administrative assistant for a respiratory therapist.

Her personal situation at the time was challenging.

"I was married and went through a divorce, and my brother lived here in Worthington," Macklin said. "He felt like I needed a change just to get away from where I was at."

Macklin had a 4-month-old son, Brady, at the time, but she nevertheless followed her brother's advice. She was hired by then-Chamber director Larry Haugen and came to work



Special to The Globe

Darlene Macklin is pictured July 15 during a King Turkey Day Board of Directors meeting. Macklin, who joined the Chamber as a bookkeeper in April 1982 and has served as the organization's executive director for 33 years, is retiring July 31.

at an office that has relocated on two occasions since.

"I've been at three different offices with the Chamber,"

she said. "The first was in the Thompson Hotel, right there

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Local real estate seeing active summer

By Leah Ward
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WORTHINGTON — Many local businesses have experienced historic lows as a result of the novel coronavirus, but real estate agencies have managed to limit losses by making a few adjustments to the way they normally operate.

Low inventory and low interest rates make this summer a good time to buy a home, realtors from each local agency pointed out. The process has just shifted a little to emphasize social distancing.

"There's always more than one way to do it," said Renee Baerenwald, an agent with Edina Realty. "We provide the best service we can but keep everyone's safety first."

Some safety measures include limiting contact with light switches and doorknobs, offering buyers the chance to walk through a home without the realtor present and asking that buyers leave parents and children at home while they tour options, Edina's Staci Murphy added.

Technology has played a major role in keeping real estate moving, Jason Johnson of Johnson Builders & Realty explained.

"We have the technology now that 10 years ago we wouldn't have," he said, explaining that tools like vir-

tual showings, electronic signatures and online pre-approval allow buyers and sellers to make transactions without necessarily meeting in person.

Even property closings are contact-free, Murphy and Baerenwald noted. When closing on a home, a buyer or seller can sit alone in a room with the paperwork in front of them, with the closing agent on a screen walking them through the signatures. After they leave, the room is sanitized, and the other party comes in to chat with the closing agent and sign the papers.

Genny McCuen, broker at RE/MAX Premier Realty, added that some procedural changes have bolstered sales in the first half of the year.

"The type of business we're doing is more intentional business," she said. Buyers are more deliberate and have been spending less time "just looking" before getting serious about their search.

In a typical year, McCuen noted, the busiest months in real estate are April through June. This year, June through August will likely see the most transactions — although, as always, real estate is an active business year-round.

Overall, sales did not fall as much as local agents expected.

"We've had a very busy summer," Johnson concluded.



Tim Middagh / The Globe

The owners of Blume Family Land & Livestock are being honored as the 2020 Nobles County Farm Family of the Year. The family includes Brock Blume and Samantha Reitmeier (at top), and (from left), hired hand Jeff Werner, Tim Blume, grandson Tucker Klinkenborg, Laurie Blume, Alaina Reitmeier, Maggie Blume holding son Bryer and Brinley held by dad, Adam Blume.

Blumes are Nobles County Farm Family of the Year

By Julie Buntjer
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WORTHINGTON — The owners of a fourth-generation crop and livestock operation are being honored as the 2020 Nobles County Farm Family of the Year.

Tim and Laurie Blume, along with their son, Adam, and his family, are the owners of Blume Family Land & Livestock. Together they own a 1,200-head cattle feeder operation and farm 2,500 acres in corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa.

The farm was founded by Adam's great-grandfather, who along with his sister and brother each settled on quarter-sections near the crossroads of Monroe Avenue and 260th Street, just west of Worthington.

All four generations of Blumes were cattle producers, though it wasn't until Adam joined the operation after college that the focus went strictly to cattle. Back in his great-grandfather's and grandfather's generations, the farm was home to the traditional menagerie. His grand-

pa built a chicken barn on the home place for egg-laying hens, and when Tim and his brother, Robert, began farming together, they had about 15,000 laying hens and marketed the eggs to Safeway in Adrian for quite a few years. They also raised about 100 head of cattle annually.

The chicken barn was eventually lost to fire, and while they bought other barns to continue raising laying hens, the plans for the farm shifted when Adam

BLUMES: Page 3

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WEATHER

MOSTLY SUNNY

HIGH 80°
LOW 64°



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GOOD MORNING

Linda Bakke
Avoca

Thank you for subscribing!



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FOR THE RECORD

Ambulance

5:55 a.m. Saturday: 1900 block of Dover Street, Worthington.
 7:23 p.m. Saturday: unspecified Rushmore location, adult female with heart problems who was feeling shaky and ill. Rushmore Rescue and Adrian Ambulance dispatched.
 9:43 p.m. Saturday: 400 block of East Fourth Street, Lismore, adult female who had fallen and hit her head.
 7:40 a.m. Sunday: 1500 block of South Shore Drive, Worthington.
 7:59 a.m. Sunday: 1500 block of Clary Street, Worthington.
 8:08 p.m. Sunday: 800 block of Lucy Drive, Worthington, unresponsive adult female.

Crashes

WPD: 7:17 p.m. Friday, North Craillsheim Drive and Collegeway.
 WPD: hit and run, 9:11 p.m. Friday, Burlington Avenue and Dover Street.
 WPD: hit and run, 2:07 a.m. Sunday, 1700 block of Northeast Minnesota 60.
 WPD: 10 a.m. Sunday, 800 block of 10th Street, Worthington.
 WPD: two-vehicle crash, 5:21 p.m. Sunday, Oxford Street and Humiston Avenue.
 WPD: 5:31 p.m. Monday, 300 block of State Avenue.
 WPD: hit and run, 7:36

p.m. Monday, 1200 block of Oxford Street.

Police

WPD: do-not-contact-order violation, 6:15 p.m. Friday, 200 block of Oxford Street.
 WPD: assault, 7:44 p.m. Friday, East Avenue.
 WPD: assault, 8:53 p.m. Friday, 800 block of Grand Avenue.
 WPD: motor vehicle theft, 9:41 p.m. Friday, 800 block of 10th Street.
 WPD: citation of adult male for driving after revocation, 10:47 p.m. Friday. A juvenile female was also cited for a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
 Lyon County Sheriff's Office: Nicolette Anderson, 29, of Worthington was arrested Friday on an active Lyon County warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of possession of a controlled substance-methamphetamine. She was subsequently charged with providing false identification information, driving without a license, failure to provide proof of financial responsibility and failure to deploy registration plates. Anderson was lodged in the Lyon County Jail on a combined \$1,600 bond. Once at the jail, she was found to have a valid Cottonwood County war-

rant for driving offenses, and was charged as a fugitive from justice and served with the warrant. She was to await extradition proceedings.
 Lyon County Sheriff's Office: Kyle Wikerson, 30, of Rock Rapids, Iowa was arrested Friday on a Lyon County warrant for violation of probation. He was later released after posting a \$5,000 cash or surety bond.
 WPD: domestic incident, 12:35 a.m. Saturday, 800 block of 10th Street.
 NCSO: assault, 2:36 a.m. Saturday, Interstate 90 near mile marker 32.
 NCSO: burglary, 9:14 a.m. Saturday, 20000 block of Paul Avenue, Worthington.
 WPD: animal neglect, 10:36 a.m. Saturday, 500 block of West Okabena Street.
 WPD: property damage, 1:25 p.m. Saturday, 2100 block of Circle Drive.
 WPD: disturbing the peace, 1:50 a.m. Sunday, Millard Walker Park.
 WPD: trespassing, 2:18 a.m. Sunday, 2100 block of Nobles Street.
 WPD: disturbing the peace/loud party, 3:26 a.m. Sunday, 800 block of 10th Street.
 WPD: property damage to vehicle, 10:43 a.m. Sunday, 300 block of West Okabena Street.
 WPD: domestic incident,

10:54 a.m. Sunday, 10th Street.
 NCSO: property damage, 11:25 a.m. Sunday, Graham Lakes Township.
 WPD: disorderly conduct, 1:32 p.m. Sunday, 800 block of 10th Street.
 WPD: shoplifting, 3:42 p.m. Sunday, 1700 block of Oxford Street.
 Osceola County Sheriff's Office: Marcelino Espinoza Jimenez, 26, of Sibley, Iowa was arrested Sunday for alleged domestic abuse assault-injury or mental illness. He was booked into the Osceola County Jail and held on a \$1,000 bond.
 WPD: disturbing the peace, 12:26 a.m. Monday, 1900 block of Woodland Court.
 WPD: domestic incident, 1:47 a.m. Monday, 1500 block of Darling Drive.
 WPD: property damage, 9:15 a.m. Monday, undisclosed location.
 WPD: domestic incident, 1:53 p.m. Monday, 500 block of Sixth Avenue.
 WPD: property damage, 4 p.m. Monday, 1500 block of Oxford Street.
 WPD: property damage, 6:14 p.m. Monday, 1000 block of Clary Street.
 WPD: disorderly conduct, 1:17 a.m. Tuesday, 1700 block of Clary Street.
 WPD: domestic incident, 4:28 a.m. Tuesday, 300 block of West Okabena Street.

Nobles County public defenders receive Changemaker Award

By Leah Ward
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ST. PAUL — The Nobles County public defenders office received the 2020 Changemaker Award on Thursday from the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota.

The Ron DeHarpporte Changemaker Award, the ACLU described, "honors an individual or organization who has worked closely with the ACLU-MN to protect civil liberties in Minnesota."

"The NCPD office has assisted us in lawsuits against the Nobles County Sheriff and the Worthington Police Department. They have protected immigrant rights in Nobles County by keeping us aware of detention violations and alerting us to cases across southern Minnesota, despite facing significant blowback from their work," the award summary



reads.

Public defender Amanda Delaney accepted the award on behalf of NCPD during a virtual ceremony Thursday.

"First and foremost, I'm fighting for my clients," Delaney said in an interview shown during the event. "But on a larger scale, I think that I'm fighting for society at large. People don't understand that my clients are the gatekeepers to our constitutional rights."

"A lot of the time, I'm the only voice that these people have," she

explained. "A lot of my clients come from marginalized communities. It's easy to turn your back on them, to not listen to what they have to say, to not believe what they're saying — but when myself or another public defender stands up and says that the conduct that happened here was not right, people will take notice."

"To me, this award is just a recognition of all the work that not only myself, but my entire office, has done, and really the (Fifth Judicial) District," Delaney added. "There are plenty of attorneys I've worked with who are not in my office who also worked really hard to try to give our clients a sense of being heard and a sense of justice and the knowledge that they can't be treated like they're not people. It's a recognition that when we take on these harder issues, it doesn't go unrecognized."

'Census heroes' remind public to respond to the 2020 census

By Leah Ward
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REGIONAL — Traveling through Luverne, drivers may notice that the iconic bison at the gift shop Those Blasted Things (924 S. Kniss Ave.) is sporting some dapper new duds — an eye mask and a cape.

The bison is one of several statewide "census heroes" that serves as a visual reminder for residents to respond to the 2020 census if they have not yet done so.

Households that have not yet responded will receive a postcard in the mail this week with instructions about how to make sure they are counted.

Getting an accurate count of the United States population is critical, explained Minnesota partnership coordinator Sam Bettig, for three main reasons: government funding, political representation and business growth.

"Over \$675 billion every year in federal funding is given based on census data," he said. State, county and city governments also use cen-

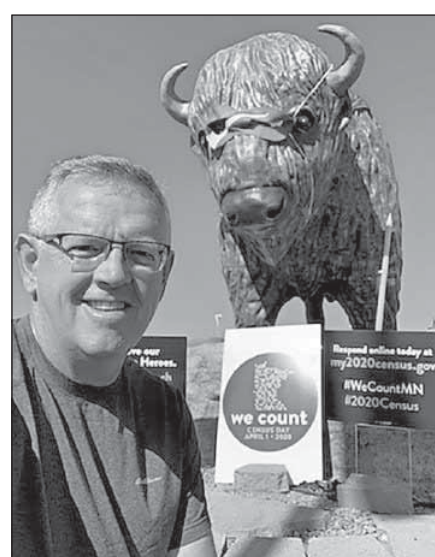
sus information to make decisions.

Census numbers help draw the boundaries of Senate, House, county board, school board and other political districts, as well as determine the number of seats each state gets in Congress.

Businesses and non-profits look at census data when deciding whether to open a new store or expand broadband services.

So far, 71.7% of Minnesota households have responded to the census — meaning more than one in four households has not yet been counted. The form takes only a few minutes to complete.

Paper census forms were mailed in March and April, and anyone who still has that at home is welcome to respond to the census on paper. Other options are to respond online at my2020census.gov or by calling 1 (844) 330-2020. Phone lines are open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. CST seven days a week, and information is collected through a live interview offered in 13 different languages. Respondents may also leave a callback number in



Special to The Globe

Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian poses next to Luverne's bison statue, which is dressed in a mask and cape.

lieu of spending time on hold.

Beginning Aug. 11, census takers will be knocking on the doors of households who have not yet responded to the census. They will wear face masks and maintain proper social distance. Anyone who wishes to avoid a face-to-face visit should respond to the census before August.

ACHIEVEMENT

From Page 1

"Our 2020 Achievement Days is closed to the public, but we do, however, need volunteers," Wolf said. "We have so many guidelines that we have to follow that we need more volunteers than ever. We need gate attendants, health screeners, cleaning crew to clean between each

static exhibitor, (people to) remove garbage and manure, we need a building manager, ring help and judging clerks, judges assistants, trailer parking helpers and attendants at the wash rack to disinfect between participants.

"We need this crew for every single show," she added.

While older 4-H'ers, their parents, guardians and screened volunteers have been called on to

help make Achievement Days possible, Wolf said the event is being opened up to community volunteers with an interest in 4-H youth activities. To volunteer, visit signupgenius.com/go/4090448a-fa829a5f94-2020 or call the Nobles County 4-H Office at 295-5314.

"4-H is a learn by doing organization and this year is all about learning," Wolf said. "We want grace during this time. As office

staff we are working really hard to provide a great experience for youth. We really need cooperation and excitement, and we will all get through this together."

The 4-H Regional Dog Show, which normally kicks off fair week in Worthington, will take place Saturday, Aug. 15 at the fairgrounds. That event will also be closed to the public.

BLUMES

From Page 1

was nearing the end of college.

"When he was just about finished, he said he needed to come home and farm," recalled Tim. "If that was to happen, I said we were going to build a big cattle yard and increase our cattle herd."

A 600-head capacity hoop barn was constructed on the Blume farm in 2006, just as Adam earned his degree in ag business from Southwest Minnesota State University at Marshall.

"As a young kid, I was around (the farm) every day," Adam said. "It was hard for me to see doing anything else. That was where my passion was at — especially for cattle. That's why we're strictly cattle today."

The hoop barn has worked well for the Blumes, though they have had to replace the roof twice over the years after it was damaged in storms. In 2018, they added a 500-head cattle barn with a concrete pit below. The barn is less labor intensive, and the manure value will be higher since it won't be mixed with bed pack.

The cattle barns on the Blume farm are filled these days with a lot of Holstein-Angus cross-breeds in hopes of getting a better price at market. Adam has tried a variety of marketing strategies over the years, from raising hormone-free cattle to raising different breeds. He has also alternated between owning the cattle and custom feeding for others.

"Sometimes we're 100% custom or 100% owning," Adam shared. "Now we're getting into the stages of owning again."

"Custom feeding helps with the risk," he added. "You're guaranteed the bills are paid, and you've got a living out of it."

While Adam concentrates on the cattle markets, Tim continues to do all of the grain marketing for the farm — with input from Adam — as he slowly turns over more of the responsibility to the next generation.

The Blumes grow corn and soybeans, with about 60 to 80 acres planted to wheat each year. The wheat straw is used as bedding for calves, and it's a good feed source, Adam said. Alfalfa production is also a must for the cattle operation.

While the farm keeps father and son busy, both have given of their time to serve the public.

Tim held an elected position on the Worthington Township Board for about 15 years, and spent 17 years on the boards of Consolidated Co-op and then New Vision Cooperative. He also completed 10 years as a manager on the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed Board.

Adam picked up where Tim left off. He's in his sixth year — and currently serves as vice-president — of the Rock-Nobles Cattlemen's Association; has been on

the YMCA Board of Directors for two and a half years, and is in his first four-year term on the Independent School District 518 Board of Education. Adam has also been in charge of road grading for Worthington Township since 2002.

Tim and Laurie moved into Worthington in 2010, leaving Adam on the farm. Adam and his wife, Maggie, are raising the fifth generation there today. Together, they have three children — Brock, 4; Brinley, 3 and Bryer, 1 — along with Maggie's two daughters, Alaina and Samantha Reitmeyer.

"When they get older we'll just see where the industry is at," said Adam of the potential for his children to one day work into the operation. "Everything is so expensive, and we're making less money. Hopefully farming can be more attractive some day — it's not now."

"My wish is the government would try to help crop farmers and livestock farmers out for more suitable prices ... but that's not the way the board of trade works," he added. "That's probably the hardest thing about crop and livestock farming — you don't get to set your price. That's what can really be stressful. One day you can wake up and life is good and the next day it can just totally change."

Both Adam and Tim said they appreciate being selected to represent Nobles County as the Farm Family of the Year.

"It is quite an honor," said Tim, who began farming at age 18 and is in the midst of his 47th year growing crops and livestock. "I was really surprised that anybody would pay attention to us that way."

Minnesota's Farm Family of the Year honorees from each county are typically recognized at Farmfest, but the annual farm show that takes place at Gilfillan Estate near Redwood Falls has been canceled for 2020.

In lieu of the canceled Farmfest, University of Minnesota Extension plans to release a video celebrating all honorees at 1 p.m. Aug. 6, the day they would have been recognized at Farmfest. On that day, the public is welcome to visit mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu to watch the video and learn more about the farm family honorees.

Honored families are chosen by local University of Minnesota Extension committees based on their demonstrated commitment to their communities and to enhancing and supporting agriculture.

"We'll miss the face-to-face ceremony for the 2020 Farm Families of the Year, but nothing diminishes pride we take in celebrating their accomplishments," said Extension Dean Bev Durgan. "These families represent the best in agriculture. They're innovative and dedicated to their communities; they are stewards of the land."

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