

# GIVING BACK TO BP

◀ **GIVING** from A1

emy, has been formed partly in honor of Craig’s parents using their middle names: Lorraine Augusta and Dick Leo. Lorraine died last year.

Jen Brovold of Mankato, executive director of the academy, said it will provide a much-needed children’s development and care facility within the heart of the underserved southeastern Minnesota rural area.

The property, located on the north end of Blooming Prairie next to the junction of Highways 218 and 30, will be transformed into a day-care center beginning in September.

Minimizer recently moved to Owatonna. Though the office building in Blooming Prairie is currently vacant, Minimizer’s lease doesn’t expire until the end of August. The storage building on the property houses collector tractors and other items belonging to the Kruckeborgs. Those items will be auctioned off later this summer.

The center, which the academy will operate, will include more than 18,000 square feet of building and land renovations occupying more than 3 acres.

“We recognized a need,” said Craig Kruckeberg. “Our community has bolstered

our family throughout our journey, and now we have an opportunity to give back in a consequential manner with this gift.”

Kruckeberg said his family experienced gaps in childcare over the years. He recognizes the value that these additional resources will bring to the surrounding communities, supporting continued workforce growth and participation.

“This will be a feather in Blooming Prairie’s cap,” said Kruckeberg, stressing his family is not doing it for a pat on the back. “It needs to be done. It will help encourage families to move to town.”

“We have an opportunity to give back in a consequential manner with this gift.”

**Craig Kruckeberg**  
BP Businessman

The academy’s objective is to deliver a hands-on model of child development with the capacity to serve more than 100 children ages infant through 12 years of age. Under a structured curriculum, coupled with flexibility, the academy’s philosophy of learning and care will focus on emotional, intellectual, physical and social development in a nurturing and secure environment.

The center is expected to bring up to 25 jobs to the community.

“I’m proud to lead this unique initiative that will provide a world-class learning and development facility for families needing childcare in rural Minnesota,” said Brovold. Kruckeberg, who sold Minimizer a few years ago, still operates Kruckeberg Industries, a holding company for several other businesses in Blooming Prairie. Among them are Stinar, Bandit Big Rig Series, KIK Marketing and Kruckeberg Services, a garbage hauler servicing the region.

Of making the donation, Kruckeberg said: “We’re fortunate to be able to do it. Minimizer moving out opened up the opportunity to give them (the academy) a building.”

He said he envisioned creating a community building in Blooming Prairie for several years. Kruckeberg said he tried to get a new building, but it never gained any traction and he ended up abandoning those plans and focusing on repurposing the existing structures.

# Viktora takes on 4-H role in Steele County

◀ **VIKTORA** from A1

Viktora grew up on a farm outside of Oakland in Freeborn County. She still lives on the farm and helps her parents when time allows with their beef and crop farm of 1,300 acres.

Neither her parents nor any other family member has been involved with the 4-H program. “I was a newbie,” Viktora said, linking it all back to the orphan cow experience. She joined the Moscow 4-H Club where her cousin was attending.

She said she is not athletic so 4-H helped find her true passion

while attending Albert Lea High School. “If kids can’t find their passion in sports, they can find it in 4-H,” Viktora said. “It played to my strength, and I could find a passion with my group of people in 4-H.”

Viktora brings some previous experience to Steele County. She served as an intern during college with Freeborn County 4-H. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls with a degree in animal science, she landed her first full-time 4-H position with Chipewewa County in Montevideo. However, she never

moved to her first job, even though it was half way across the state. It came about during the “crazy pandemic times” as Viktora put it, and she worked remotely from home.

For Viktora, working remotely is not her desired way of doing the job. “It just didn’t seem right,” she said. “It was really hard. You can’t build relationships through Zoom meetings,” she said, adding there is so much value in seeing someone face-to-face.

In her new job with Steele County, Viktora says she loves the

dynamics. “I like to be challenged every day,” she said. “It’s very energizing to work with volunteers and kids.”

Viktora said she likes to dabble in many things and help youth find their passion in 4-H. She hopes to get other kids connected with livestock and farms.

“It’s helpful I grew up in Freeborn County so I know the passion of livestock in this county,” said Viktora.

With Steele being one of the top 4-H programs in the state with enrollment of 400 youth, Viktora admits it’s a little intimidating

“If kids can’t find their passion in sports, they can find it in 4-H.”

**Krystal Viktora**  
Steele 4-H Educator

to lead the program. She is impressed with the active volunteers and youth leadership opportunities available in Steele County. She said there is a diverse amount of things being offered for youth in 4-H.

“I am happy to be close to home and in a job I love,” Viktora said.

She is currently working on her master’s degree in agriculture education.

And she is happy how her orphan cow,

Dolly, has helped pave a career path for her.

“It was just meant to be other wise honestly I would not be here,” Viktora said.

Besides taking care of Dolly, Viktora enjoys baking, canning, flowers and gardening. She said the flowers and gardening came about when she realized she needed something more to do after being stuck in her bedroom for the past year.

# Ellendale Days set for this weekend

◀ **ELLENDALE** from A1 and firemen and on Saturday night at NRHEG staff and teachers.

The cost is three throws for \$1.

There will also be a street dance on Friday and Saturday night from 8 to midnight.

Saturday’s activities include a car show, parade and kiddie tractor pull. Retiring NRHEG Principal Doug Anderson will be the grand

marshal of the parade, which features the NRHEG High School Marching Band.

On Sunday, a tractor pull will take place, beginning at 9 a.m.

Muilenburg, Lee Ann Hojberg and Jackie Froman formed the Ellendale Days Committee to organize the event after the Commercial Club disbanded two years ago. Paula Conklin joined the

committee this year.

“We love Ellendale, and we love everybody in it,” said Muilenburg, adding that the entire community comes together and makes Ellendale Days a great day.

“We are the hub,” she said. “We find out what the Lions Club, the Ellendale Community Action Group, the Ellendale Foundation and other groups are

planning and coordinate the activities.”

The committee starts planning for the community celebration in January.

Muilenburg said the group didn’t face any huge challenges getting things back up and running after the city canceled the event last year because of COVID-19.

“We made it known in 2020 that we’d be back up and running,” said Muilenburg. “And that helped.”

## ELLENDALE DAYS 2021

**Friday, June 25**

6 to 8 p.m. – Dunk Tank  
8 p.m. to midnight – Street Dance

**Saturday, June 26**

8 a.m. – Rummage sales  
10 a.m. – Car show, food wagon and bake sale  
10 a.m. to noon – Eagle Bluff Tye-Dye Event  
11 a.m. – Cow Plop and ice cream truck  
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Family Game Zone  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Kid-friendly water activities  
4 p.m. – Parade  
5 p.m. – Kiddie Tractor Pull  
6 to 8 p.m. – Dunk Tank  
8 p.m. to midnight – Street Dance  
**Sunday, June 27**  
9 a.m. – Tractor Pull

## PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ **BLOTTER** from A4

**Shoplifting:** At 2:02 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 3900 block of Cabela Dr. NW.

**Domestic:** Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 6:40 p.m.

**June 16**

**Suspicion:** Police responded to suspicious activity in the 3700 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:37 a.m. They issued a citation at the scene.

**Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 200 block of 14<sup>th</sup> St. NE at 9:38 a.m.

**Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 2:32 p.m.

### STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

**June 11**

**Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Deputies began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 9300 block of 92nd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 1:22 p.m. and the 3500 block of 86<sup>th</sup> St. NW in Medford Township at 4:47 p.m.

**June 12**  
**Theft:** Deputy took a theft report in the 2400 block of Lemond Road in Owatonna Township at 11:15 a.m.

**June 14**

**Arrest:** Deputies assisted other agencies with arresting subjects on Interstate 35 in Webster Township at 2:24 a.m. and at Lyndale Ave. N. and 7<sup>th</sup> St. NW in Faribault at 3:16 a.m.

**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 2:10 p.m.

**Criminal Sexual Conduct:** Deputies began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 5300 block of 28<sup>th</sup> St. SW in Meriden Township at 8:30 p.m.

**Animal:** At 9:29 p.m., deputies received a report of a dangerous dog in the 8500 block of 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW in Somerset Township.

**June 15**  
**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 4:52 a.m. and 2:50 p.m.

**June 16**  
**Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the 200 block of Pearl St. E. in Owatonna at 12:04 p.m.

**Theft:** Deputy received a report of identity theft in the 5000 block of County Road 45 S. in Somerset Township at 1:54 p.m.

**Shoplifting:** At 6:53 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford.

### ARRESTS

Steele County

### OWATONNA POLICE

Zackery Lee Vaughn, 34, arrested at 6:57 p.m. June 11, felony possession, held for court.

Steven Allen Un, 32, arrested at 4 a.m. June 12, felony dancio violation, domestic by strangulation and damage to property, held for court.

Prentiss Joseph Boyd, 37, arrested at 3 p.m. June 14, warrant arrest, \$40,000 bail.

Angela Roman, 26, arrested at 5:05 a.m. June 15, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

### STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Steven Allen Reyes, 40, arrested at 12:40 p.m. June 11, warrant arrest, \$2,000 bail.

### COURT NEWS

Dodge County

*The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of June 6 – 13:*

### DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Michael K. Brossard, 31, West Concord, speeding, \$220; Nathaniel A. Brown, 39, Owatonna, revoked license, \$280; David S. Chant, 55, Faribault, revoked license, \$280; Christopher J. Fischer, 37, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Andrew A. Henden, 38, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; Karen M. Jorgensen, 62, West Concord, speeding, \$140; Richard J. Morrison Jr., 24, Lyle, DWI, \$75, 17 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Stevie S. Skerritt, 31, West Concord, hands free violation, \$130; Alan G. Thiemann, 60, Byron, seat belt, \$105.

Justin L. Johnson, 31, Medford, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Kelly M. Johnson, 25, Kasson, trespassing, stay of adjudication, \$50 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Scott D. Miller, 58, Byron, hands free violation, \$130; Charles A. Paulson, 20, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Kyle R. Skillings, 27, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Hudson M. Weitzel, 17, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

21, Kenyon, speeding, \$140; Samantha L. Laures, 30, Stewartville, speeding, \$120; Nicolas J. Nicolazzi, 32, Austin, speeding, \$130; Tiffany N. Palmer, 33, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Scott J. Perkins, 38, Hayfield, revoked license, \$280; Pasquale Presa, 47, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Larry J. Simpson, 62, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Brian L. Trevino, 28, Clarkfield, revoked license, \$280.

### MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Erika E. Bergstad, 26, Hayfield, speeding and revoked license, \$340; Shawanna M. Bolinger, 22, Kenyon, speeding, \$130; Bobbie M. Bruns, 17, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$120; Elba M. Escobar, 53, Owatonna, speeding, \$220; Jamie J. Fritz, 41, Byron, speeding, \$220; Nicholas M. Hansen, 24, Waseca, speeding, \$140; Dana M. Hickey, 50, Kenyon, careless driving and unsafe lane usage, \$230; Sharon L. Isaya, 19, Mankato, speeding, \$130; Tristin A. Janes, 25, Hayfield, speeding and no insurance, \$320; Kenneth E. Korkki, 38, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$130; Nicholas J. Laabs,

### KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Randy J. Dohrmann, 35, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Kenneth L. Etchason, 54, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Teddi J. Forsman, 29, Claremont, hands free violation, \$130; Howard E. Head, 16, Mantorville, speeding, \$220;

### OWATONNA FIRE

**June 11**

**Crash:** At 10:51 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at Bridge St. W. and State Ave.

**Fire:** Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 4800 block of 38<sup>th</sup> St. SE at 1:32 p.m.

**June 12**

**Crash:** Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Elm Ave. and School St. at 12:40 p.m.

**June 13**

**Fire:** At 1:50 p.m., a brush fire occurred at 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SW and Lemond Road.

**June 16**

**Wiring:** Fire personnel responded to an electrical wiring incident in the 600 block of Main St. E. at 11:47 a.m.

**WARRANTS:** The following individuals have active warrants in Steele County. The Sheriff provides this information as a public service

- Romero Fernandez – criminal sexual conduct - \$200,000 bail
- Jequinnson Fisher – DWI – no bail
- Tony Fisher – drugs – no bail
- Rogelio Flores – DWI, revoked license - \$12,000 bail
- Dilson Flores-Redondo – DWI – no bail
- Michael Floyd – theft - \$300 bail
- Kewana Freeman – card fraud - \$5,000 bail
- Juan Gallegos – DWI - \$500 bail
- Ezequiel Garcia – failure to register as sex offender – no bail
- Jose Garcia – revoked license - \$3,000 bail
- Domach Gatluak – DWI – no bail
- Sahal Geede-Abdi – fail to stop - \$300 bail
- Abdulkadir Geelle – DWI - \$2,000 bail
- Noah Geerdes – theft - \$300 bail
- Conrad Ginter – DWI – no bail
- Mark Gomez – assault - \$10,000 bail
- Miguel Gomez – theft - \$1,000 bail
- Carlos Gonzalez Jr. – DWI - \$500 bail
- Hiran Gonzalez – dishonored checks – no bail
- Mario Gonzalez – drive around - \$300 bail

*Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of wanted individuals*