

BOOK NOOK



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

# Spring cleaning now underway

Look out, spring cleaning is underway at the City Center! We are sorting and evaluating everything that we have here. This involves not only the Blooming Prairie Branch Library, but also the city offices and storage closets. City Administrator Andrew Langholz has chal-

lenged us to make the building ready for more visitors to return.

What does that mean to the public? It means you should mark your calendar for Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15 when the Friends of the Library will be taking part in the city-wide garage sales. In addition to the sale of books and movies, we will have a few no longer used office items. (You know you have been wanting your

own Rolodex, right?)

It also means that if you have been sorting through your own books and movies and have some that you no longer want, now is the time to bring them to the library. If we do not need them in our collection, we will add them to the sale. For a time last year, we were not accepting any book donations. They can now be dropped off during library hours. We do have some restrictions: no encyclopedias,

no textbooks, and no VHS or audiocassettes. We do not need torn or stained items, nor ones with missing covers, or that are damp or musty smelling. However, we would love to have recent publications that are in good condition.

All money raised from the book sale will be used by the Friends for some upcoming projects. More information about that soon! Thank you for your support of the library.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

BLOOMING PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY

- April 15- Crispy chicken sandwich, BBQ chicken sandwich, coleslaw, broccoli florets, fruit
- April 16- Cheese pizza, cheeseburger, green beans, cherry tomato, fruit
- April 19- Pancakes/sausage patty, chicken salad sliders, breakfast potatoes, baby carrots, fruit
- April 20- Walking taco, ham deli sub, green beans, fruit
- April 21- BBQ rib sandwich, BBQ chicken sandwich, broccoli florets, baked beans, baby carrots, fruit

BLOOMING PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

- April 15- Cheesecake dunkers, baked beans, broccoli florets, fruit, BBQ rib sandwich
- April 16- Soft beef tacos, steamed corn, baby carrots, fruit, fish sandwich with cheese
- April 19- Cheese pizza, cauliflower floret, baby carrots, fresh fruit, biscuits & gravy
- April 20- Turkey BLT flatbread, cucumber ranch salad, celery sticks, fruit, corn dog
- April 21- On-line learning

## Fire kills 8 milk cows, destroys dairy barn

◀ FIRE from A1 cows were trucked to a farm near Claremont.

"The worst part was the hay," said Naatz, adding that after a trackhoe picked off the dairy barn's tin roof, firefighters methodically removed the hay from the wooden structure and wet it down throughout the night.

Two cement silos filled with corn silage and haylage, located

adjacent to the barn, were not damaged, said Naatz. "We hit them with water to keep them cool."

The cause of the fire is unknown and remains under investigation by the State Fire Marshal, although Naatz said there was nothing suspicious about the blaze.

Seykora speculated that a wiring issue caused by a rodent may be responsible for igniting the fire.

# Owatonna Foundation announces next grant deadline

The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 63<sup>rd</sup> year, is pleased to announce its next grant application deadline of May 1. Owatonna-based 501 C3 nonprofit organizations that are working on capital projects in the areas of community, arts, recreation, and education may apply.

"The mission of the Owatonna Foundation is to improve the quality of life for present

and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, education, and recreation. We are thrilled to offer grant opportunities to the community again this spring," said Foundation Executive Director Laura Resler.

The Owatonna Foundation recently awarded grants to many community projects, including funding

toward new PPE storage for the Owatonna Fire Department, new windows for Hospitality House, a storage shed for the Steele County Master Gardeners, funds towards the restoration of the Central Park Fountain, a "Molar Roller" van for Let's Smile and pediatric dental equipment for the Steele County Free Clinic.

Complete grant guidelines and applica-

tions can be found at the Owatonna Foundation website at [www.owatonnafoundation.org](http://www.owatonnafoundation.org). Due to the current situation with COVID-19 please mail your application to PO Box 642, Owatonna or email the application to: [info@owatonnafoundation.org](mailto:info@owatonnafoundation.org). If you have questions or need more information please call Laura Resler, Executive Director, at 507-455-2995 or email her at [info@owatonnafoundation.org](mailto:info@owatonnafoundation.org).

# Kiwanis offers continuing ed scholarship for career nurse

The Kiwanis Club of Owatonna (noon) offers a one-time \$300 scholarship for an individual in a nursing career to use for continuing education. The award is given in the name of the late Maureen Laird, a pediatric nurse, formerly a member of the Kiwanis Club of Owatonna.

An application letter should be submitted to the Kiwanis Club of Owatonna, P.O. Box 153, stating the applicant's name, place or places of employment, coursework desired,

school or university of enrollment, dates and location. Applications should be received by April 15. Upon determining recipient, the scholarship funds will be directed to the school's registrar.

The Kiwanis Club is part of an International service organization focusing on the needs of young children and youth. It currently meets twice monthly either in person or by Zoom according to extant Public Health guidelines. All individ-

uals interested in service to the community are invited to join. Each year, the local club raises funds through its peanut sales and spring hanging flower

basket sales to sponsor children and youth scholarships, their learning activities plus assist other non-profit organizations in the community.

**FREELANCE WRITER WANTED**

The STEELE COUNTY TIMES is seeking a freelance writer & photographer to cover Blooming Prairie & Ellendale area news. Perfect opportunity for a retiree who loves to write & attend community events.

If interested, please email Rick Bussler at [rbprck@frontier.com](mailto:rbprck@frontier.com).

BIRTHDAYS

**April 21**  
Ken Esplan  
Ron Janning  
Peter Vogt  
Mary J. Demmer  
Kyle Spinler  
Shawn Sundine



**April 24**  
Jane Gardner  
Kelly Braaten

**April 25**  
Brad Clark  
Coleen Hanson  
Laura Iversen  
Clay Coleman

**April 22**  
Cindi Hansen  
Elizabeth Miner

**April 23**  
Jan Miner  
Miles Miller  
Karl Steckelberg  
Luke Heimgartner  
Diane Jensen



**April 26**  
Missy Korman  
Angela Krueger  
David Kramer  
Matthew Worke  
Marge Ilk  
Chris Garcia

**April 27**  
Thomas Kramer  
Margaret Noble  
Wyatt Tocko

ANNIVERSARIES

**April 18**  
Kurt & Terri Underwood

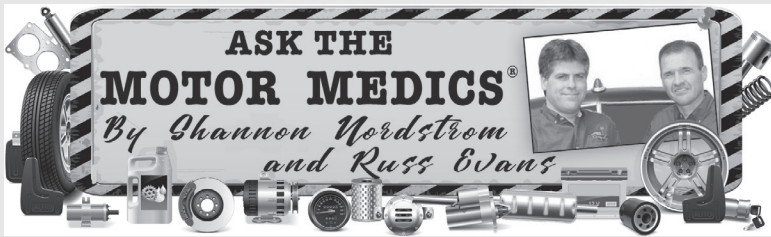
**April 24**  
Peter & LeAnn Vogt

**April 25**  
Jason & Debbie Williamson

**April 27**  
Linn & Shirley Thoen

This weekly feature sponsored by:  
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HAYFIELD



**Dear Motor Medics,**  
My 2004 Tahoe leaks enough oil on the ground that I could start my own refinery. I have had it into my local shop, and they tell me its leaking from the rear main seal and the front seal and timing cover and oil pan and valve covers too. I think that is almost every seal. It also leaks transmission fluid from the front seal and transmission pan. The Tahoe only has 110k miles on her and no rust and basically runs perfect but leaks. I am thinking of replacing the engine to stop the leaks even at 7k dollars its much cheaper than another used vehicle. What are your thoughts.

**Joan in Cannon City Colorado**  
We can't stand oil leaks on a good running vehicle but there is no need to jump at a new engine just yet. If it runs great give it a once over checking compression and leak down and if it passes you could pull it and the transmission and reseal everything much cheaper than replacing the engine. While resealing, we suggest a new timing chain, valve seals, and drives side valve cover as these are all high failure items. If you can get the oil leaks to all stop you can turn this back into a vehicle that could possibly give you many more years of life from it saving you a lot of money VS replacing the engine in a vehicle with fairly low mileage.

Take care, The Motor Medics

**Dear Motor Medics,**  
I drive a 2013 Chevy Camaro Rear wheel drive. I wish they made it with AWD like the Dodge Challengers option. This is my only car and since I moved from Texas to Minneapolis two years ago I have been stuck, literally in the snow because its my only car many times. Sometimes I have not even been able to get out of my parking space at work and one time had to leave the car there and take an UBER to my home. I cannot afford to purchase another car at this time, so I need to do something to get better traction. I talked to one tire store who told me that I can by the wide snow tires for over \$200 each for the rear but they suggest all four and they say that they do not think it will do much good though. What can I do to help with the traction?

**Sharon in Minneapolis Minnesota**  
Driving a Camaro or another performance vehicle like a Mustang or a Challenger without all-wheel drive can prove to be a tricky situation. We have a Camaro for our Under The Hood radio show as a show car. We have found that not just snow tires but also the narrowest wheels available for the car to match a narrow tire turned our car into a very capable snow machine. Talk with a tire store about both wheels and tires for more traction.

Take care, The Motor Medics

4/15

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