DODGE COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



MAKIN BACON
Meat processor continues. A8



K-M PAST TRITON
Homers power. B1

www.steeledodgenews.com THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018 Kasson, Minnesota

"Investigators believe Pamela Hutchinson may have been killed with the same firearm used to murder David Riess."

- Scott Rose
Dodge County Sheriff

Lois Riess tied to 2-state killing spree

Reward now offered as police desperately try to catch BP woman suspected in 2 murders

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A reward is now being offered as a nationwide manhunt is underway for the Blooming Prairie woman who authorities believe is now tied to a two state killing spree that includes her husband and a woman she befriended while on the run in Florida.

After allegedly committing the two murders in Blooming Prairie and Fort Myers Beach, Fla., Lois Riess is still eluding authorities as they try desperately to catch her. Her last known whereabouts was in the Corpus Christi, Texas area, according to Dodge County Sheriff Scott Rose.

On Tuesday, Rose announced that a reward of up to $5,000 is being offered by the U.S. Marshal Service for any information leading to the arrest of Riess. In addition, Florida Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to $1,000.

As of Tuesday, the Riess murder investigation has also been upgraded to a "major case" with the U.S. Marshals, Rose said.

During his first press conference Friday afternoon since David Riess' murder on March 23, Rose said the Florida murder victim's vehicle had been observed in Louisiana and Texas in the days since her death.

Riess' Cadillac Escalade taken after the Blooming Prairie murder was found earlier last week in a Florida park, Rose said. Riess is now believed to be in a stolen vehicle with Florida license plate Y37TAA. The vehicle was taken after Riess is suspected of killings its owner Pamela Hutchinson of Bradenton, Fla. Hutchinson was vacationing in the Fort Myers Beach area when Riess allegedly shot her several times.

The U.S. Marshals have been active nationwide in trying to capture Riess.

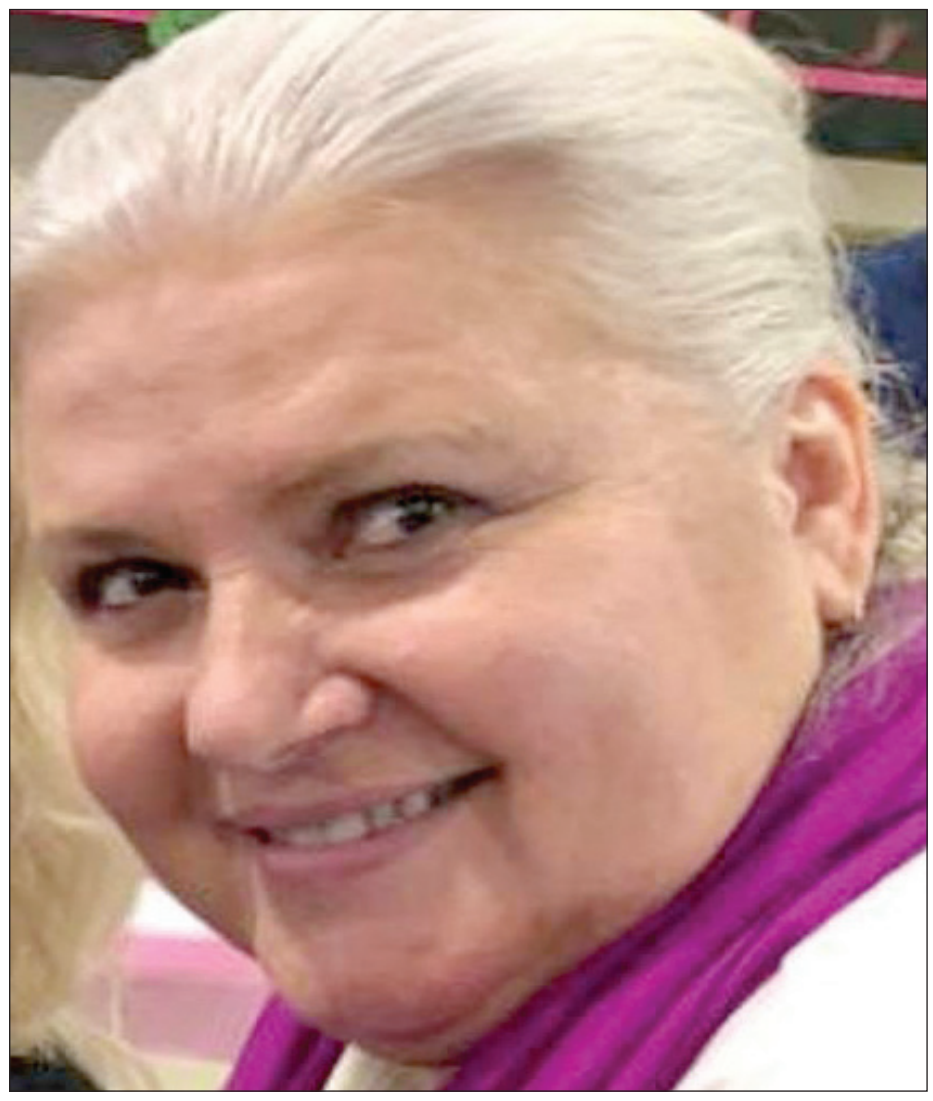
At a separate press conference Friday in Florida, Undersheriff Carmine Marceno of Lee County Sheriff's Office urged local and national media to share pictures of Lois Riess so that she can be apprehended. "We desperately want to find this woman," Marceno said.

However, Marceno cautioned that Riess is a "dangerous fugitive," who should not be approached by any citizens. Anyone seeing Riess should call 911 right away.

Since the murder outside of Blooming Prairie, Sheriff Rose has labeled Lois Riess as "armed and dangerous." The crime alert issued just days after David Riess was found dead in his home warned the public to not approach Lois Riess.

"Investigators believe Pamela Hutchinson may have been killed with the same firearm used to murder David Riess," Rose said, adding he is not aware of any connection between Lois Riess and Hutchinson.

News of the latest killing allegedly tied to Lois Riess continues to surprise already stunned residents in Blooming Prairie. They are having a hard time understanding what has happened to Riess.



"I can't believe she would kill Dave let alone another person," said a Blooming Prairie resident. "I just can't wrap my head around it. Never in a trillion years would I have thought she was capable of that!"

In order to resolve this case, authorities are asking for the public's help by establishing a tip line. Anyone who has had any recent contact with Lois Riess or who has any information on her whereabouts is urged to call the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Tip Line at 877-996-6222. Callers can remain anonymous.

Riess murder
Additional information regarding David Riess' murder came to light during Sheriff Rose's press conference Friday.

Rose said Dodge County Dispatch received a call on March 23 from David Riess' business partner who requested a welfare check on David. The partner told police neither he nor their employees had been David in more than two weeks, according to Rose.

Law enforcement responded to the residence south of Blooming Prairie where they attempted to make contact with someone. However, no one answered, and police left.

Officers returned later that evening and discovered Riess'

SEE **LOIS RIESS, A3**

Florida authorities say Riess killed woman to steal her identity

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The undersheriff for the Lee County Sheriff's Office in Florida said Friday that a Blooming Prairie woman killed Pamela Hutchinson to steal her identity.

At a press conference Friday, Carmine Marceno said Lois Riess targeted the victim at a Fort Myers Beach hotel. "Ms. Hutchinson was targeted due to the similarities in their appearance," Marceno said. "Riess' mode of operation is to befriend women who resemble her and steal their identity."

Investigators now think Riess is using the alias of Pamela Hutchinson, who apparently had no connection to Riess at all prior to the murder. Authorities think the identity was stolen to flee across the country.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit took over the investigation after Hutchinson's body was found in her room on April 9. She had suffered "fatal gunshot wounds," Marceno said.

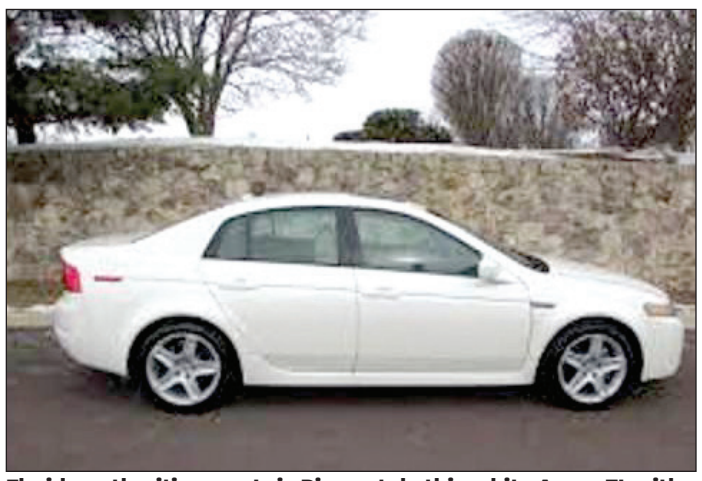
Investigators, Marceno said, discovered Hutchinson's purse had been left in disarray while "all cash, credit cards and identification appear to be removed." Police also found that the victim's white Acura TL was missing from the parking lot.

Florida officials have been working "around-the-clock" since Hutchinson's body was discovered, Marceno said.

Federal and state law enforcement officers have been actively searching for Riess in Florida.

Marceno called Riess a "dangerous fugitive,"

SEE **FLORIDA, A3**



Florida authorities say Lois Riess stole this white Acura TL with Florida license plate Y37TAA after she allegedly killed Pamela Hutchinson in Fort Myers Beach, Fla. last week. A nationwide manhunt is underway to capture Riess.

LOIS RIESS:
5 THINGS TO KNOW THAT HAVE COME TO LIGHT

1. Riess began her alleged crime spree outside Blooming Prairie by killing her husband.

2. Just 17 days later, she's accused of murdering a Florida woman to steal her identity.

3. Riess had significant financial problems, including a $100,000 judgment against her, and was allegedly addicted to gambling.

4. She is believed to have traveled through the Gulf States after the Florida murder and last tracked to the Corpus Christi, Texas area.

5. U.S. Marshal Service and other law enforcement agencies are making a desperate nationwide attempt to find her.



Pamela Hutchinson was vacationing in Fort Myers Beach when Lois Riess befriended her and allegedly shot her to death. Sheriff Scott Rose said authorities believe Hutchinson was killed with the same firearm used to kill David Riess.

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AREA DEATHS

Aaron McQ, 50, of Kasson

SUBSCRIBERS OF THE WEEK

Erin Dillon - Kasson
Irina Lulf - Kasson
Call for one month free!

Troopers saving lives

Question: I heard the Minnesota State Patrol is carrying around some stuff to help people that might have an issue with opioid abuse. Can you talk more about that? Thanks for all you do!



Ask A Trooper
Sgt. Christianson
Minn. State Patrol

Answer: A Minnesota state trooper's job is surprisingly varied. Sure, you'd expect them to patrol the highways enforcing traffic laws and to help motorists in trouble. But saving people from drug overdoses might not have occurred to you.

Opioid abuse is becoming more and more widespread, and the State Patrol has had its eye on the issue. In Minnesota alone, drug overdose deaths increased 17.9 percent from 2015 to 2016, and those who use opioids have a lot to choose from: heroin, morphine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl and codeine, just to name a few.

So starting in January, Col. Matthew Langer, Chief of the Minnesota State Patrol, issued a general order requiring every state trooper to carry Narcan. Narcan is the brand name for a prescription medication called naloxone, and it is sprayed into the nose to reverse the effects of opioid drug overdoses.

"It's important for troopers," Langer said, "because we're deployed all over the state and find ourselves in different situations, assisting other agencies and the public."

Specifically, troopers on patrol duty, evidence handling, and in situations where opioid exposure is a possibility must have naloxone at the ready. Troopers receive special training so that they can recognize the signs of opioid overdose and learn to administer naloxone.

Once a trooper administers a dose of naloxone, they have to assign a case number and write a field report. They also have to fill out a form for the Department of Health. This helps them keep tabs on the opioid crises and what's being done about it.

There's another reason troopers carry naloxone. Yes, it's about keeping the public safe – but it's also about keeping troopers themselves safe.

Let's say a trooper is searching a vehicle after a crash, looking in the glove compartment or center console. If their bare skin comes into contact with even a dusting of fentanyl, for example, it could be lethal.

So next time you see them out on the roads, remember that catching speeders and helping you change a flat tire aren't the only things that concern the Minnesota State Patrol. They're also working to keep Minnesotans safe from opioids.

Making sure all troopers carry Narcan is, as Col. Langer puts it, "A proactive move by the Minnesota State Patrol in the interest of trooper safety and public safety."

You can avoid a ticket - and a crash – if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

Traffic changes scheduled on I-35

West-bound Highway 14 motorists who use the northbound Interstate 35 on-ramp south of Owatonna are being detoured as construction work to replace bridges on the two highways begins its second year, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The ramp detour is one of several traffic changes taking place next month as the project enters its second year to replace 12 bridges south of Owatonna on Highway 14 and I-35. The changes are subject to the weather, so the starting date might be adjusted if weather delays the necessary work to change traffic.

West-bound Highway 14 motorists east of I-35 will be moved into the eastbound Highway 14 lanes, so two-way traffic will flow in the eastbound lanes. Because of this traffic change, west-bound Highway 14 motorists who want to travel north on I-35 will need to detour through the interchange loops at I-35 by taking the southbound I-35 ramp to the eastbound Highway 14 ramp to the northbound I-35 ramp. The detour will remain in place until the two Highway 14 bridges are reopened to traffic in the fall.

Traffic on I-35 is expected to change in mid-April. Two-way traffic will be established in the southbound lanes, so workers can replace the bridges in the northbound lanes.

The northbound Straight River rest area will close when traffic is switched, but the southbound Straight River Rest Area will be open for southbound traffic.

Motorists who use Steele County Road 18 to cross I-35 are reminded that the road is closed at the bridge. It is one of the bridges being replaced. They may detour around the crossing by using Hwy 14.

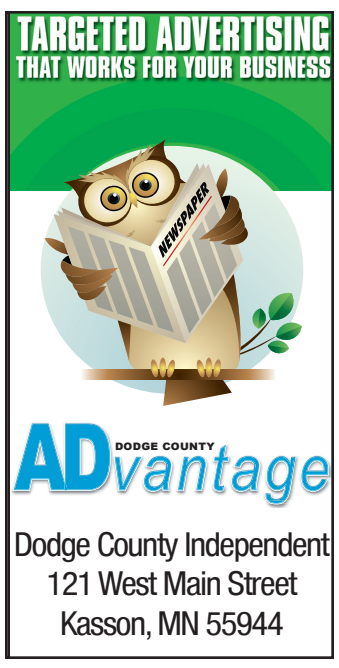
The bridge replacement project is in its second of two years south of Owatonna. Twelve bridges are being replaced over two years on I-35 (eight bridges) and Highway 14 (four bridges). Bridges on southbound I-35 and eastbound Highway 14 were replaced last year. Two bridges on I-35 that were damaged by a vehicle crash last year are included in the project, one was replaced last fall and the second is under construction this year.

Lunda Construction Company is the prime contractor for the $29.6 million project. Motorists interested in more information about the project, may visit the MnDOT project website at www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/steelecty-bridge/index.html and sign up for email updates on the project.

Motorists should always be attentive, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For real-time traffic information in Minnesota, call 511 or visit www.511mn.org.





BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Threats: On April 7 at 11:32 a.m., officers responded to a subject making threats against another person in the 600 block of 3rd St. NW in Kasson.

COURT NEWS

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 2 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Connor A. Thompson, 22, Hayfield, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to $7,497.84, do not enter liquor establishments, attend sex offender program, no possession of pornography, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, no contact with minors, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim or family, obtain and maintain employment, predatory offender registration, no contact with vulnerable adults, no access of Internet without approval, 30 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 2 – 9:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Elizabeth Dalaska, 32, Hollandale, obstruct legal process, 4 days in county jail; Oba H. Folden, 66, Groveport, OH, speeding, $120; Hailee O. Gile, 18, Mantorville, parking violation, $32; Larry D. Haberman, 46, Blooming Prairie, damage to property, 90 days in county jail; Lynn A. Hoffman, 51, Pine Island, speeding, $140; Rhonda R. Kinney, 57, Hayfield, parking violation, $32; Calvin D. Marriott, 21, Madison, WI, speeding, $220; Jason S. Peterson, 46, Kasson, speeding, $220; Mario A. Rubio, 30, Dodge Center, speeding, $220; Patricia M. Utech, 53, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Michael J. Wutschke, 28, Kasson, parking violation, $32.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Rebekah A. Brown, 22, Beaverton, OR, speeding, $220; Alejandro C. Delacruz, 45, Rochester, speeding, $140; Lorne N. Deraad, 49, Kasson, parking violation, $32; Randall S. Noltee, 56, Rochester, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, $200 and 6 months of probation; Nathan M. Noser, 20, Pine Island, open bottle, possession of paraphernalia and underage possession of liquor, $330; Kim M. Tottingham, 53, Kasson, failure to yield, $180; Andrew D. Witt, 35, Kasson, parking violation, $32.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Nikolas G. Aasen, 17, Hayfield, speeding, $140; Carter J. Behnken, 19, Waltham, speeding, $120; Jeremy L. Deplitch, 27, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $105; Jason C. Gregg, 32, Dexter, revoked license and speeding, $320; Clinton N. Horsman, 59, Mantorville, speeding, $120; Justin L. Johnson, 28, Owatonna, speeding, $220; Benito L. Marin, 33, West Concord, suspended license, $280; Todd C. Miller Jr., 18, Rochester, speeding, $120; Hector Munoz Mendez, 30, Kenyon, speeding, $120; Don K. Perkins, 35, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $120; Oona L. Plummer, 46, Milwaukee, WI, speeding, $220; Andrew J. Weiss, 29, Owatonna, speeding, $130; Melissa J. Whiteaker, 27, Pine Island, window tint violation, $130.

DODGE BLOTTER

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 207 complaints during the week of April 4 – 10. Some of them include:

April 4

Civil: At 9:36 a.m., a Dodge Center resident called deputies to report someone stole his vehicle.

Fraud: Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 25100 block of 600th St. in Mantorville at 9:43 a.m.

Fraud: At 11:13 a.m., a possible attempted fraud was reported in the 300 block of 2nd St. in Claremont.

Noise: Deputies received a noise complaint at 2:13 p.m. of gunshots from earlier in the morning in the 16600 block of County Hwy. 34 in Dodge Center.

April 5

Crash: At 7:10 a.m., a vehicle ran off the road and damaged a mailbox in the 63400 block of 220th Ave. in Kasson.

April 6

Larceny: Deputy took a theft report in the 300 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 1:45 p.m.

Environment: At 4:29 p.m., the Casey's in Hayfield reported a diesel spill about two truck lengths long.

Suspicion: A citizen reported suspicious activity when a light was found on in a barn in the 75800 block of U.S. Hwy. 218 in Blooming Prairie at 9:08 p.m.

April 8

Suspicion: At 1:33 a.m., a Hayfield citizen reported that people were looking inside a home's windows with flashlights in the 300 block of 1st St. NE.

April 9

Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center at 5:41 p.m.

April 10

Narcotics: Deputies found narcotics during a traffic stop at U.S. Hwy. 14 and 150th Ave. in Dodge Center at 2:15 a.m.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance at State Hwy. 30 and 270th Ave. in Hayfield at 2:26 p.m.

Disturbance: At 8:51 p.m., a disturbance occurred in the 100 block of Front St. E. in Claremont.

Animal: Deputies received an animal complaint from the 200 block of East St. N. in Claremont at 9:40 p.m.

KASSON POLICE

The Kasson Police Department handled 81 complaints during the week of April 4 – 10. They include:

April 4

Welfare: At 6:28 a.m., police conducted a welfare check on a person sitting in their car since 3 a.m. at 7th St. NE and 1st Ave. NE.

Alarm: At 7:40 a.m., a medical alarm was activated on Sunset Ave.

Crashes: Police responded to three motor vehicle accidents with no injuries throughout the city.

Disturbance: Officers responded to a disturbance involving a 15-year-old male out of control on 5th Ave. SE.

Larceny: Kwik Trip reported a gas drive off at 2:21 p.m.

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 600 block of Veterans Memorial Highway W. at 5:15 p.m.

Medicals: Officers responded to medical emergencies in the 700 block of Veterans Memorial Highway W. at 9:22 p.m. and the 600 block of 15th Ave. NW at 9:30 p.m.

April 5

Medicals: Medical emergencies occurred on 5th Ave. SE at 6:18 a.m., the 200 block of 5th St. SE at 12:48 p.m. and the 400 block of Main St. W. at 3:28 p.m.

Noise: Police received a noise complaint of loud music in the 300 block of Main St. W. at 11:45 a.m.

Environment: At 3:40 p.m., a citizen made a garbage complaint in the 600 block of Veterans Memorial Highway W.

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check on 13th St. NE at 5:11 p.m.

Traffic: One traffic stop occurred during the day.

April 6

Medicals: Officers assisted with medical emergencies in the 400 block of Main St. W. at 12:37 p.m. and the 100 block of Main St. E. at 1:24 p.m.

Traffic: Police made four traffic stops during the day.

April 7

Marijuana: Police found marijuana during a traffic stop in the 100 block of 5th St. SW at 1:20 a.m.

Alarm: At 10:39 a.m., officers responded to a burglary alarm in the 1400 block of 5th Ave. NW.

Property: A phone was found in the 100 block of 8th St. SW at 2:53 p.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to reports of suspicious males in the 300 block of 8th Ave. NW at 4:31 p.m. and at 7th Ave. NW and 8th St. NW at 4:31 p.m.

Traffic: Police made four traffic stops during the day.

April 8

Welfare: Officer conducted a welfare check in the 300 block of 6th St. SW at 11:28 a.m.

Harassment: At 7:16 p.m., police responded to a harassment incident in the city.

Traffic: Police made seven traffic stops during the day.

April 9

Medical: At 11:15 a.m., a medical emergency occurred in the 400 block of 2nd St. SW.

Larceny: Kwik Trip reported a gas drive off at 8:34 p.m.

Threats: Police responded to a subject making threats in the 600 block of Mantorville Ave. N. at 9:48 p.m.

Traffic: Police made three traffic stops during the day.

April 10

Animal: At 6:51 a.m., officers received an animal complaint of a pit bull running loose at Main St. W. and 8th Ave. NW.

Lost Animal: Police received a report of a lost pit bull from the 300 block of 5th Ave. NW at 6:55 a.m.

Crash: At 7:40 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred in the 100 block of Sunrise Ave.

Medicals: Police responded to medical emergencies in the 300 block of 8th Ave. SE at 12:09 p.m. and the 500 block of Veterans Memorial Highway W. at 11:57 p.m.

Hit and Run: A hit and run accident occurred in the 1000 block of 6th St. NW at 3:34 p.m.

Paraphernalia: Police found drug paraphernalia during a traffic stop at 5th St. NW and 7th Ave. NW at 8:35 p.m.

Traffic: Police made five traffic stops during the day.

STEELE BLOTTER

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

April 6

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop on Interstate 35 in Somerset Township at 2:13 a.m.

Juvenile: Deputies received a juvenile complaint at the law enforcement center in Owatonna at 3:32 p.m.

April 7

Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 2000 block of 88th St. SE in Somerset Township at 4:19 a.m.

Truancy: At 11:22 a.m., deputies received a report of a truancy violation at the law enforcement center in Owatonna.

April 8

Warrant: Deputies made a warrant arrest in the 10800 block of Highway 218 in Blooming Prairie Township at 2:19 a.m.

April 9

Crash: Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 82nd Ave. NW and Crane Creek Road in Meriden Township at 5:03 a.m.

Warrant: Deputies arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 2400 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 9:39 a.m.

Weapons: Deputies responded to a weapons-related incident in the 5200 block of St. Paul Rd. in Clinton Falls Township at 4:46 p.m.

Probation: At 7:10 p.m., deputies found a probation violation in the 19000 block of 168th St. SW in Summit Township.

April 10

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 500 block of Park Ave. in Ellendale at 6:05 p.m.

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at 3rd St. and 4th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 8:37 p.m.

April 11

Thefts: Deputies received reports of thefts in the 100 block of 3rd St. NE in Medford at 12:22 p.m. and the 91000 block of 62nd Ave. SW in Lemond Township at 3 p.m.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 18000 block of 44th Ave. SE in Havana Township at 3:16 p.m.

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:44 p.m.

DWI: Deputies issued a DWI citation in the 6000 block of County Road 45 N. in Medford Township at 11:31 p.m.

April 12

Animal: Deputies received information regarding an animal bite in the 72000 block of 48th St. SE in Aurora Township at 12:40 p.m.

DWI: Deputies made a DWI arrest in the 4000 block of 18th St. SW in Owatonna Township at 11:52 p.m.

DODGE COUNTY ACTIVE WARRANTS

The following individuals have active Warrants in Dodge County:

1. Thaddeus Griffith Reniker – FTA-first appearance
2. Benjamin Ruiz Rodriguez – traffic and possession
3. Martin Rodriguez – probation violation
4. James Edward Ronken – theft
5. Alejandro Jauregui Ruvalcava – probation violation
6. Alfonso Luis Sanchez – contempt of court
7. Jose Mario Sanchez – complaint warrant
8. Justin Wayne Sanford – contempt of court
9. Berlin Guillermina Santiago – probation violation
10. Evan James Schaffer – FTA-first appearance
11. David Douglas Scheidt – FTA-order to show cause
12. Bernard Edward Shaw – FTA-review hearing
13. Justin Farley Shoemaker – probation violation
14. Oscar Julio Blas Tadeo – contempt of court
15. Zachary Eugene Thompson – probation violation
16. Albert Torres – probation violation
17. Oscar Michael Trevino – probation violation
18. Kelly Lee Turner – probation violation
19. Joshua Allen Wallace – probation violation
20. Joseph Marvin Whitt – probation violation

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service. Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of those individuals wanted on a warrant.

DAVID RIESS MURDER INVESTIGATION

Vacationing murder victim stayed longer than expected in Fort Myers area

BY RICK BUSSLER
DCI PUBLISHER

The Florida woman suspected of being killed by a Blooming Prairie woman last week had decided to stay a night longer than originally planned in the Fort Myers Beach area on her vacation.

That's according to a Facebook posting she made around April 6. The Times obtained Pamela Hutchinson's public postings on Facebook.

"Well, it turns out I staying another night, go figure," Hutchinson posted on Facebook just days before she was murdered.

The friend, who owned the condo where Hutchinson stayed, responded back saying, "You deserve the best, never forget that."

According to news reports, Hutchinson was in Fort Myers because she had come to the community to spread her late husband's ashes on the beach.

It's unknown exactly when Hutchinson died, but her body was found Monday, April 9. Witnesses in Florida said she may have been dead for a couple days because they smelled something unusual in the hotel.

There are still questions surrounding how Hutchinson connected with Lois Riess, the woman accused of killing her and stealing her identity as well as her vehicle.

But, according to her Facebook conversation, she hung out at the Cottage Bar one of the nights before her death. "I love Ft. Myers Beach… the Cottage Bar!!!" a friend said to Hutchinson. She thanked her friends for giving her "the heads up on local hangouts."

In addition to posting that she went to the bar, Hutchinson also said she listened to music from Nervous Nellies from her deck. "Also got to see the sun rise and set," she wrote. "Yes and the traffic is moving nicely on the bridge."

Less than three days after conversations with friends and relatives about staying another night, it became obvious that something horribly went wrong as they tried to desperately connect with her. Hutchinson was not replying to any inquiries about where she was or how she was doing.

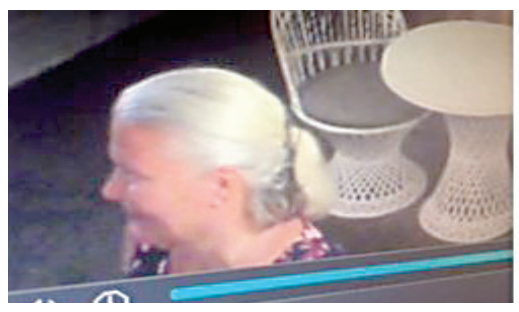
A cousin became concerned when they waited outside Hutchinson's condo in Bradenton for almost two hours and never got a reply to texts. They were apparently waiting for her to return home. "We were supposed to meet her Saturday at her condo in Bradenton and stay with her until Monday morning," the cousin wrote.

Initially friends commented how Hutchinson "probably got her days/time mixed up." However, after days of not hearing from her, "we felt as if something were wrong," the cousin posted.

"Other than what is on the internet, we know nothing and am both shocked and heart broken," the cousin wrote on Wednesday, April 11. "It's definitely hard to accept."

"Well, it turns out I am staying another night, go figure."

~Pamela Hutchinson
Facebook posting prior to murder





Surveillance video shows Lois Riess walking around the same condo where Pamela Hutchinson was staying in Fort Myers Beach, Fla. Hutchinson was found dead in her room at this same condo after believed to be shot to death by Riess.

Riess murder generates high interest at Times

The recent murder of a Blooming Prairie man has generated nationwide interest as his accused killer remains at large suspected of murdering yet another person.

Media attention has poured in from all over the country over the past week as Lois Riess allegedly killed a Florida woman vacationing in Fort Myers Beach and then taking her car across the Gulf States and into Texas.

With the investigation receiving prominent coverage on TV, radio, newspapers and websites on media outlets across Minnesota and the rest of the country, Publisher Rick Bussler of the Steele County Times says it's noteworthy to look at where the coverage all began several weeks ago.

The Times was the first media organization to break the murder of David Riess after his body was found on March 23 inside his rural Blooming Prairie home. On March 24, the Times utilized several social media platforms to get the story out, including its "email blast" service, which sends notifications to readers about breaking news happening and directs them to the website.

The paper's website blew up when it received nearly 24,000 hits on various updates put out throughout the weekend.

"No single story has ever generated that much traffic in the history of our newspaper's website," said Bussler. "It quickly became obvious to us how big crime stories impact small communities, and people are starving for information."

In addition to the website, the Times delivered information on Facebook, which hit 13,000 people, along with nearly 300 shares, in two postings, according to Bussler. He pointed out that there has never been a story on the newspaper's Facebook that has generated as much interest as the Riess murder.

During the most recent breaking developments of Lois Riess allegedly killing Pamela Hutchinson in Florida, the Times once again achieved big numbers. The posting of the Florida killing late Thursday and Friday reached more than 6,800 people with 150 shares on Facebook.

The website generated roughly about 9,200 hits during last week's developments.

"The Riess murder has shown how a local newspaper like ours can be a dominant force on social media," Bussler said. "More than anything readers have shown us that we are a trusted source for news and information," he added.

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LOIS RIESS: *Tied to 2-state killing spree*

FROM PAGE A1

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"We desperately want to find this woman."

~Carmine Marceno
Lee County Undersheriff

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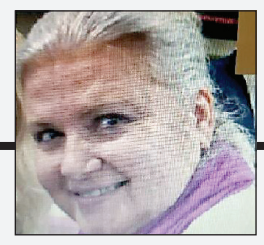
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DAVID RIESS MURDER INVESTIGATION

Vacationing murder victim stayed longer than expected in Fort Myers area

BY RICK BUSSLER
DCI PUBLISHER

The Florida woman suspected of being killed by a Blooming Prairie woman last week had decided to stay a night longer than originally planned in the Fort Myers Beach area on her vacation.

That's according to a Facebook posting she made around April 6. The Times obtained Pamela Hutchinson's public postings on Facebook.

"Well, it turns out I staying another night, go figure," Hutchinson posted on Facebook just days before she was murdered.

The friend, who owned the condo where Hutchinson stayed, responded back saying, "You deserve the best, never forget that."

According to news reports, Hutchinson was in Fort Myers because she had come to the community to spread her late husband's ashes on the beach.

It's unknown exactly when Hutchinson died, but her body was found Monday, April 9. Witnesses in Florida said she may have been dead for a couple days because they smelled something unusual in the hotel.

There are still questions surrounding how Hutchinson connected with Lois Riess, the woman accused of killing her and stealing her identity as well as her vehicle.

But, according to her Facebook conversation, she hung out at the Cottage Bar one of the nights before her death. "I love Ft. Myers Beach… the Cottage Bar!!!" a friend said to Hutchinson. She thanked her friends for giving her "the heads up on local hangouts."

In addition to posting that she went to the bar, Hutchinson also said she listened to music from Nervous Nellies from her deck. "Also got to see the sun rise and set," she wrote. "Yes and the traffic is moving nicely on the bridge."

Less than three days after conversations with friends and relatives about staying another night, it became obvious that something horribly went wrong as they tried to desperately connect with her. Hutchinson was not replying to any inquiries about where she was or how she was doing.

A cousin became concerned when they waited outside Hutchinson's condo in Bradenton for almost two hours and never got a reply to texts. They were apparently waiting for her to return home. "We were supposed to meet her Saturday at her condo in Bradenton and stay with her until Monday morning," the cousin wrote.

Initially friends commented how Hutchinson "probably got her days/time mixed up." However, after days of not hearing from her, "we felt as if something were wrong," the cousin posted.

"Other than what is on the internet, we know nothing and am both shocked and heart broken," the cousin wrote on Wednesday, April 11. "It's definitely hard to accept."

"Well, it turns out I am staying another night, go figure."

~Pamela Hutchinson
Facebook posting prior to murder



Surveillance video shows Lois Riess walking around the same condo where Pamela Hutchinson was staying in Fort Myers Beach, Fla. Hutchinson was found dead in her room at this same condo after believed to be shot to death by Riess.

Riess murder generates high interest at Times

The recent murder of a Blooming Prairie man has generated nationwide interest as his accused killer remains at large suspected of murdering yet another person.

Media attention has poured in from all over the country over the past week as Lois Riess allegedly killed a Florida woman vacationing in Fort Myers Beach and then taking her car across the Gulf States and into Texas.

With the investigation receiving prominent coverage on TV, radio, newspapers and websites on media outlets across Minnesota and the rest of the country, Publisher Rick Bussler of the Steele County Times says it's noteworthy to look at where the coverage all began several weeks ago.

The Times was the first media organization to break the murder of David Riess after his body was found on March 23 inside his rural Blooming Prairie home. On March 24, the Times utilized several social media platforms to get the story out, including its "email blast" service, which sends notifications to readers about breaking news happening and directs them to the website.

The paper's website blew up when it received nearly 24,000 hits on various updates put out throughout the weekend.

"No single story has ever generated that much traffic in the history of our newspaper's website," said Bussler. "It quickly became obvious to us how big crime stories impact small communities, and people are starving for information."

In addition to the website, the Times delivered information on Facebook, which hit 13,000 people, along with nearly 300 shares, in two postings, according to Bussler. He pointed out that there has never been a story on the newspaper's Facebook that has generated as much interest as the Riess murder.

During the most recent breaking developments of Lois Riess allegedly killing Pamela Hutchinson in Florida, the Times once again achieved big numbers. The posting of the Florida killing late Thursday and Friday reached more than 6,800 people with 150 shares on Facebook.

The website generated roughly about 9,200 hits during last week's developments.

"The Riess murder has shown how a local newspaper like ours can be a dominant force on social media," Bussler said. "More than anything readers have shown us that we are a trusted source for news and information," he added.

While it's great to be first with the story, Bussler said what's even more important to him is to have accurate information out. He noted how at least one area newspaper reported on Lois Riess being charged last Thursday even though she hadn't been yet. Dodge County officials reported that charges were pending, but had not actually been filed contrary to the news report and headline in the next day's newspaper.

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body inside the home. He had been shot multiple times. Authorities previously have said Riess likely died on March 21, two days before he was found.

As the investigation progressed, police received information indicating Lois Riess may be at Diamond Jo's Casino in Iowa. On the day after David's body was found, investigators from Dodge County, the BCA and Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation went to the casino, but they determined that Riess left prior to their arrival.

On March 30, the sheriff's office requested the assistance of the U.S. Marshals to find Lois Riess.

Rose said investigators received information that Riess was in southern Florida on April 2. A source previously told the Times that she had seen Riess in the Fort Myers Beach area around April 3. At that time, Florida law enforcement joined in the search for Riess.

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Minnesota charges

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As the DCI has done during this entire investigation, latest developments will be posted on the website at steeledodgenews.com.

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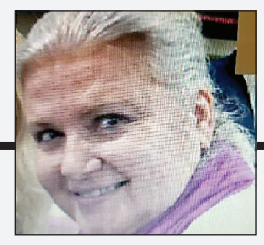
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OUR VIEW

Everyone needs to prepare for severe weather season

The weather outside may still be frightful with hints of winter and lots of snow, especially after this past weekend, but it is actually spring and severe weather season is upon us once again.

We got a dose of the severe weather season last Thursday when civil defense sirens across the state blasted and youngsters in schools took cover in a statewide drill. Last week was Severe Weather Awareness Week.

It's important to be ready for tornado season as tornadoes can hit any time. Just last year we found out that they can strike as early as March 6 when one swept through neighboring Clarks Grove. It was the earliest tornado ever on record in Minnesota.

Tornadoes are among the most devastating and awesome local storms that occur on Earth. In Minnesota, tornadoes have occurred in every month from March through November. The most probable danger period in Minnesota is late spring and early summer between 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. However, tornadoes can and do occur at any time of the day or night.

Minnesota averages 40 tornadoes each summer. However, in 2010 the state had the most tornadoes of any state in the U.S. with 113. It was the same year that a tornado roared through portions of Steele County.

The deadliest tornado to ever hit Minnesota took place in the St. Cloud area in 1886. There were 72 fatalities, including 11 members of a wedding party and the groom. The worst to ever hit this region took place in 1883 when a tornado created a large swath of damage from Rochester to Hayfield. The massive tornado killed 37 people, including at least five in Dodge County.

As we head into the severe weather season, it's important to be better prepared and take appropriate action when necessary.

During a tornado, everyone needs to find strong shelter immediately. Some important tips are to seek a small interior room, get away from glass windows, leave mobile homes or trailers and do not get under an overpass or bridge. If you're caught outside, experts say lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head.

Some things that can be done ahead of a tornado are having a plan for severe weather, having a programmed NOAA Weather Radio and listen to radio or TV for the latest weather information.

There are four simple preparedness steps that help you prepare for any emergency. They are having a family emergency plan, making an emergency supply kit, staying informed and getting involved.

Understanding this threat and knowing what to do when a tornado is approaching can save lives. It's never a question of if it's going to hit, but rather when it's going to hit. It's time for us all to brush up on severe weather safety tips.



Time to get poppin with a healthy snack



Hot Pursuit
Rick Bussler

Addictions to gambling, coffee, Facebook, alcoholism, smoking, the internet drugs or work run rampant with many people. I've been fortunate to never be addicted to any of those.

However, I must confess I do have an addiction. It surrounds popping a snack to satisfy my late night hunger cravings. It's popcorn.

Ever since I was a young boy, I remember enjoying popcorn. And lots of it. It was always one of the favorite snacks at our house, especially on the weekends.

As I deal with my addiction, I have found that I am very particular about my popcorn. At home, it has to be Orville Redenbacher's Gourmet Popping Corn. It has to be the Original brand.

It's not unusual for me to get out the old-fashioned crank popper on the stovetop several nights every week. It's by far the best way to enjoy popcorn, though I'm sure the oil used probably isn't the healthiest.

I love cranking the popper for several minutes as the popcorn makes that loud popping noise and the smell drifts through the house.

Popcorn may only seem like a delicious snack for movie theaters and comfy nights on the sofa at home, but there are many health benefits associated with this food that most people have never heard of before.

The health benefits of popcorn include its ability to regulate blood sugar, lower cholesterol levels, improve the digestive process, protect against osteoporosis, prevent cancer, inhibit cognitive decline, prevent premature aging and help you lose weight.

There are important nutrients that make popcorn a healthy choice for your snacking habits. The healthy benefits of popcorn are mainly derived from its impressive content of fiber, polyphenolic compounds, antioxidant, vitamin B complex, manganese and magnesium content.

One interesting study conducted by a doctor in Pennsylvania found that popcorn contains more polyphenols than fruits and vegetables. Polyphenols are more highly concentrated in popcorn than nuts and chocolate, two rivaling snack options.

While it seems I'm reaping lots of healthy benefits, there is one drawback to my addiction. I douse it with butter, which I'm sure negates much of the positive impact that popcorn can have on my body. There is nothing better than a bowl full of popcorn smothered in real butter.

I guess I figure at least I don't drench my popcorn with salt or other toppings.

I also try to avoid pre-packaged microwave popcorn as much as possible. And that's probably a good thing. Nutritionists have found microwaveable bags present innumerable hazards. Microwave popcorn usually contains the chemical perfluorooctanoic acid linked to ADHD and hyperactivity in children, low birth weight and thyroid disease.

It's a good thing I usually stick to the real thing!

Apparently I'm not alone in my addiction. Americans eat around 1.2 billion pounds of popcorn every year. It's been a favorite snack for centuries in America.

It's time for me to go in hot pursuit of poppin with a healthy snack to fuel my addiction.

YOUR VIEW

Trump's executive order to review welfare programs

To the Editor:

The Executive Order that the President signed aligns with the administrations' "Principles of Economic Mobility." It would create an accountability system for local, state and federal governments. It would also empower the private sector and local communities to create and administer local solutions to poverty.

This is exactly what agencies like Semcac already provide. Our network conducts local community needs assessments and from these findings we actively respond.

The President also wants measureable outcomes. And Semcac already provides detailed, statistical outcome measurements, annually, to our funding sources.

I invite everyone to learn more about us at www.semcac.org.

We are hopeful that this order will increase well-being, self-sufficiency, and economic vitality for all.

Semcac has always believed in these values. For over 50 years, we have been working to strengthen our communities and have been positively impacting thousands of lives.

The Community Services Block Grant provides funding that helps to alleviate the causes of poverty. In Minnesota alone, the network provided services for 503,010 low-income individuals in 2016. In fiscal year 2017, Semcac assisted 27,016 individuals in addition to those who we provided 58,354 public bus rides.

Unfortunately, the proposed federal 2019 budget would eliminate CSBG funding. This program allows Semcac the flexibility to be help when there is a disaster, be engaged in unique programing, and helps to strengthen established processes. In one year it could be gone and would negatively impact our agency's ability to actively impact the community.

I believe that the Community Service Block Grant is a strong model that complements the Principles of Economic Mobility. I would strongly encourage the Trump administration to take a look at the impact CSBG funding has had (and continues to have) before cutting it completely.

To learn more about CSBG communications, follow #CSBG, #AWiseInvestment and/or #CommunityAction, on social media.

Wayne Stenberg
Executive director of Rushford-based Semcac Community Action Agency, which serves Dodge, Steele, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower and Winona counties

Thanks for Everything



Keeping Up
Alex G. Nuehring

An old saying states, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

My first steps as a writer were when I joined DCI last summer, and I was nervous about the transition from schoolwork to working for a newspaper.

Thankfully, I had an editor who was willing to help me as I was adjusted to the faster pace of newspaper writing.

That editor was Richard Johnson, and last Friday was his last day working at DCI.

While I will miss working with him, I'm grateful for the time under his mentorship. He helped me become a better writer by editing my articles with me, so I could learn from my mistakes.

One important piece of advice he taught me was to use quotes economically, so the article is not just going back and forth between facts and quotes.

Another part of Richard's guidance was educating me about photography. This was my biggest learning curve as I had done little photography at school. However, despite my limitations, Richard was still eager to help me improve.

He taught me to look for big facial expressions, to zoom in to cut out excess background, and to always make sure the camera was in focus.

Not only was Richard a huge help to my writing and photography, but he also served the community by writing his own articles.

When I went back to school in the fall, Richard took on even more work as he completed the work that I had been doing on top of his own work. It was a large job, and Richard was the one of the few who could get it all done.

Richard, your advice and your work ethic have left an indelible imprint on my writing career. Thank you again for helping me become a better writer and for your service to the Dodge County community.

Best of luck on whatever you pursue next.

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Founded in 1867
Dodge Media, Inc.
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Obits: obitsdci@kmtel.com
Legals: legalsdci@kmtel.com

ETHICS
The Dodge County Independent editorial staff strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner.
Please bring any grievances against the DCI to the attention of the news editor.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

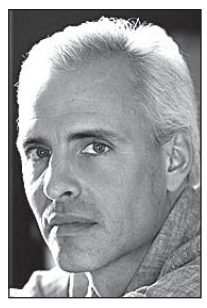
The opinions of our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Dodge County Independent opinion page. All letters must be signed by the writer/writers and include an address and telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are accepted through personal delivery, by mail or by email at dci@kmtel.com.

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Dodge County Independent and the editor reserves the right to edit letters when necessary. Please limit opinions to no longer than 350 words. If longer, readers are encouraged to contact the editor about other alternatives, including guest columns.

The Dodge County Independent encourages readers to write letters to the editor as a means of communicating ideas and opinions and opinions with others, with the goal being to make the community better for all people.

OBITUARY

Aaron McQ, 50, formerly of Kasson



By the age of 50, Aaron McQ had cheerfully logged millions of global miles on foot, by bike, over water, and on just about every transportation conveyance known to man.

Over the years, Aaron ran along the Icelandic lava rock shoreline in the middle of the night. Wandered along the canals through Oxford. Spent holidays on Costa Rican beaches. Reinforced his independent spirit biking and camping across the southern states. Got lost running through Paris on a wet November night. Got lost again while running with a friend in Idaho. Walked contentedly alone as he explored Taipei. Learned about the depths of friendship during innumerable road trips across France and the UK. And that's just for starters.

He also skied in fluffy snow in Taos, canoed the Arkansas River, ambled along the Italian coastline, and swam next to a flock of blue-footed Bobby birds in Mexico.

Over the years, Aaron spent many a night talking one-on-one with each grandparent. One of his favorite memories was as a young boy, searching for agates along a riverbank with his grandma, Rosabelle McQuarie. He also enjoyed spontaneously traveling to surprise family and friends on their birthdays. Eventually, he learned to appreciate lounging in the sun as well as to celebrate an occasional lazy, guilt-free weekend.

"I took risks, made the most of opportunities, and have few regrets," Aaron would say. Then he'd flash that devastatingly beautiful smile.

Along the way, Aaron also discovered he had a rare neurological disease. It put a crimp in his plans, but he continued to be who he always was at heart: a creative soul with a love for friends, books, and gardening. He could be a perfectionist pain, but he never approached boring.

Aaron McQ was born to Lance and Sandy McQuarie in Mankato on April 13, 1967. He was also welcomed by his sister, Kristy Arndt Turner. Years later, Aaron in turn welcomed stepmother Marti McQuarie.

Aaron grew up in Kasson and graduated from Kasson-Mantorville High School, Class of '85. He also attended: Waldorf College, Mankato State University (BFA). London College of Communications (MDM). Portland State College of Urban Studies and Public Affairs (doctoral studies). He moved to Seattle in 1993 and stayed put (well, except for those long stints of living abroad).

In honor of Aaron and his love for the environment, plant a tree - or do something else that's good for Mother Earth.

Aaron wasn't much for "formal services," but sometime soon when the night sky is at its deepest blue, his friends will gather around a beach bonfire and howl at the moon. By that time, Aaron should have made it up to the lunar surface one way or another - and we're absolutely sure he'll be howling right back at us. From exactly which crater, however, we're not sure.

A day to honor something so loved



This & That
Mary Ann Henry

In the past few years we have heard many different things honored on certain days, even heard of it being a day for more than one thing on a day.

Some of the things honored I get a chuckle from it. I say that's great it has been one of those days. I felt great about what the day was for.

The day being "National Pet" day. A large number of our population has pets. I think many will be like me. When it comes to the word pet I think of two animals that are popular pets: dogs and cats.

There are so many of these world's creations that are pets and all deeply loved; such as cows, horses, birds, and fish. The list continues to include mice, rats, guinea pigs, snakes being pets that are kept in cages. Birds as well are kept in cages. A good pet owner of a bird will allow it to leave the cage and fly about a little each day.

I don't think I could ever chose a pig for a pet inside my home. Both potbelly and farm pigs are pets for some and live in the home.

Dogs and cats often don't get along but many have both for pets and are good friends. I'm sure sometimes there is jealousy between the two pets.

Tame animals are usually chosen as a pet, wild animals become pets as well and where raised as pets from very young they never have the wild in them completely leave them and sometimes become dangerous and attack. I wonder if anyone ever chose a porcupine for a pet? Doubtful, I'd say.

Many pets live in homes and are given great care and dearly loved as part of the family in every way, even sleeping on a bed of a family member but sad to say it isn't that way for all animals chosen as pets.

Each year many decide the pet they thought they want they really don't want. The reason is often too much work to care for and place them in the car and go for a ride only the pet thought. But soon dropped off and driving away and where they wait for the owner to return to pick up to go home it never happens.

I have seen a number of times a dog is sitting along a road waiting sadly. Where one of these days being very smart decided he must find a home found my home and

I'm happy no one answered the ads I posted in the local newspaper. I said even I have a dog there in a room in both my home and heart for you and he was always there for me for 15 1/2 years (age unknown). I wondered if any one ever thought of this dog who told me his name was Buster when I tried out names on him.

If you never had a pet of any kind do much thinking about all having a pet involves before getting one. Many now take their dog to pet parks others make sure to walk it each day.

It's so great after a busy work day to come home to get a loving greeting when you walk in which for many make the work and care well worth not coming home to an empty house.

Yesterday a week ago was National Pet Day. Think of it as Pet Day every day if you have a pet.

Art Guild hosts monthly 'open studio'

An 'open studio' is held the third Thursday of each month at the Mantorville Art Guild.

Come join in the creative fun and fellowship in your new "Creative Corner." Bring your own project, use Guild supplies (for a nominal fee) or bring your own.

Join fellow artist Gretchen and her daughter to create!

The next Open Studio is from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19.

The Guild is at 521 N. Main St., Mantorville. Call 507-635-5665 or see mantorvilleartguild.org or the Facebook site for more information.

Dodge County Dairy Princesses named

The Dodge County chapter of the American Dairy Association (ADA) crowned two young ladies as Dairy Princesses on Friday evening during a banquet at the Milton Township Town Hall.

Approximately 65 attended the banquet and enjoyed a meal prepared by Omar's Kitchen Catering from West Concord.

Hannah Elias,from Mantorville, and Bailey Delzer, from Dodge Center, will represent the county's dairy farmers for the next year.

While neither is a daughter of a dairy farmer, the updated rules allow young women who work on dairy farms to participate in the Dairy Princess program and both of this year's Princesses fall into that category.



Bailey Delzer (left) and Hannah Elias (right) were crowned Dodge County Dairy Princesses last Friday night at the Milton Township Town Hall.

Delzer is a senior at Triton High School and has ties to farming the form of her father and grandfather who trimmed cattle's feet. This is her first year in the Dairy Princess program.

She is sponsored by Ross Bailey and Carriage House Animal Hospital and milks cows on the farm of Keith Behounek near Dodge Center

Delzer has competed in dairy cattle showmanship for both 4H and FFA and plans to study Agriculture Education at South Dakota State University to further her "passion for educating people about agriculture."

Elias was the lone Dairy Princess for Dodge County last year and wanted to be a one since she was little, when her aunt was crowned a Dairy Princess.

As soon as she was old enough to drive, Elias began working on the Durst Brothers farm north of Mantorville driving tractors and taking care of the grounds.

During her junior year of high school she began milking on the Patrick O'Brien farm and was inspired to enter the Dairy Princess program as an extension of what she's learning in the Dairy Science program the University of Wisconsin, River Falls.

Since it's her first year, Delzer plans on learning and "taking it step by step."

During the coming year she will be "advocating for agriculture, informing the public, and keeping people interested.

The industry isn't doing great right now with milk prices low and I want to help the industry grow and come back."

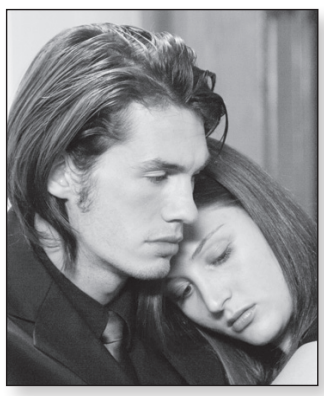
Elias has a similar goal in her second year. "My push will be agriculture advocacy by talking with consumers and I want to promote what farmers do to care for their animals."

Chris Brogan and Isaac Whiteakre were on hand from Cenex Harvest States (CHS) to accept this year's Friend of Dairy Award from the Dodge County ADA.

Both Elias and Delzer spoke to the gathering about their goals for the coming year, Angie Alberts recognized Dodge County ADA sponsors, and Paul Daley thanked those who have helped with parades and the malt stand at the county fair.

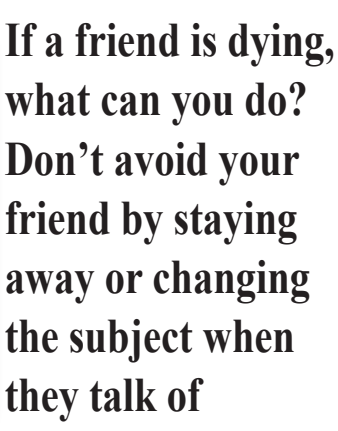
You can meet the Princesses at events all around Dodge County. They will be at the County Fair, parades, local stores like Erdman's, and even available in Rochester at places like Hy-Vee.

GRIEF RELIEF



If a friend is dying, what can you do? Don't avoid your friend by staying away or changing the subject when they talk of illness or death. Follow the normal conversations that are part of your relationship. If your friend wishes to talk further allow them to; letting them know that you care and will help in anyway you can. Honest conversations are usually most welcome and your presence may be all that is needed.

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson

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FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

10 Years Ago
April 9, 2008
Randy Carlsen, Publisher

Holy Family Catholic Church in Kasson was very busy place Saturday evening. A benefit spaghetti dinner and line/silent auction raised $15,000 before final calculations were done. More donations are expected. the fundraiser was held in support of Hannah Soderberg, one of the twin daughters of Chris and Cheryl Soderberg. Her sister is Molly. Chris is a teacher at K-M and also coaches girls varsity soccer. Hannah, 5, has been hospitalized since mid-December due to seizures of an unexplained origin. For more information on Hannah's hospitalization see the previous two issues of the DCI. Around 800 people were served for the spaghetti dinner, over 250 auction items were donated and 225 bid numbers were handed out. There were eight cashiers plus a huge number of volunteers working the benefit.

The K-M Construction Tech class is making strides in finishing the interior work on the home being constructed in Kasson Meadows easy of the high school. What is significant about the project this year is the fact the home has been sold and the owners will be moving in May 15. Construction tech instructor Nathan Davis has had two crews working on the home during the 2007-2008 school year. The first class consists of 14 students and the second class has 11. The 3,000 square foot split level home will be completely finished upstairs and framed in downstairs. Students are now trimming the home, setting the tile, and staining.

25 Years Ago
April 7, 1993
Randy Carlsen, Publisher

One of the objectives of the Quest drug/alcohol prevention program for elementary students is to get parents involved by brining them into the classroom to share in the discussion. Recently parents of students in the classrooms of Mr. Naylor, Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Raan, and Mrs. Wellner were invited to hear about the Quest program in an effort to let them know what is being done in the way of prevention. Quest is an elementary comprehensive drug prevention program which involves school and community. The program teaches skills in four main areas. They are self-discipline, responsibility, good judgment, and getting along with others. According to counselor Judy Hanson, the Quest program is being used in 10 elementary classrooms with the eventual goal of having all teachers Quest training. K-M is using the "Skills For Growing" part of the program which involves elementary students.

The K-M boys track team has a balance of senior leadership and underclassmen that should give them a shit at the sub-section title a second straight year. The girls, on the other hand, are short on numbers and experience. Jeff Wibben, a native Stewartville and recent graduate of Winona State, served as an assistant four years, and is now the varsity coach. He is assisted by Amy Algaard and junior varsity coaches Bernie Buehler and Brian Overton. Wibben states the boys have a good shot at placing well in some of the larger meets because of the experience returning. The group includes five seniors, five juniors, four sophomores, and four freshmen.

50 Years Ago
April 11, 1968
Folmer Carlsen, Publisher

The Dodge County Council of American Legion is again sponsoring Boys and Girls County. The program will be held April 16 at the Dodge County Courthouse starting at 9:15 a.m. according to Al Wandry, county commander. This program is designed to educate youngsters as to the functions of the government offices at the county level, to gather all information possible about each office and report this information to the balance of their class at school. Eleven students from each Junior class in the county will be chosen to participate in this program. Each American Legion Post in the county will provide transportation, chaperones, and noon lunch. After lunch the students will be transported back to school for the afternoon classes.

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE NEWS ENTERPRISE

10 Years Ago
April 16. 2008
Terry Campbell, Publisher

The Triton Middle School 8th grade United States Academic Triathlon team's second appearance at the Minnesota State USAT Competition within two years must have been the charm! It has resulted in the team earning the top Minnesota State USAT Championship Honor in the Blue Cross-trainer division. Team members Adam Anderson, Jack Fate, Skyler Hortop, Tayler MacVey, Kristin Marquardt and alternate James Rowley proudly and jubilantly came forward to the award stand to receive the team's first place trophies from Peggy Sheldon, the founder of the USAT program, on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Minnetonka High School. The team earned the state championship title by successfully competing in three academic challenges of USAT: Face-Off (a round of questions from history, math, science, literature and current events), Mind Sprints, and P.A.R.T.Y in the Box (a creative theatrical performance). Each event is worth a total of 100 points. Their total score of 255 was the highest in the competition that day.

25 Years Ago
April 21, 1993
Virginia M. Sendle, Editor and Publisher

Angela Derby or rural West Concord was chosen as the new Dodge County Dairy Princess on April 3 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kasson. Attendants were Cori Paulson of West Concord and Trista Reber of Kasson.

The residents of West Concord and surrounding areas saw an increase in their 1993 taxes when they opened their envelopes from the assessor a few weeks ago. There was a 10 percent increase straight across the board for bare land and home dwellings.

The Farmers State Bank Adult-Junior Tournament was held at Wescon Lanes on March 19-21. A total of 20 teams consisting of one adult bowler and one Junior league bowler competed in two separate divisions. Coming in first place in the junior division were Larry and Mary Burt while Brandon and Lowell Berge won the Prep Divison.

40 Years Ago
April 20, 1978
Robert D. Noah, Publisher

Students and athletes from West Concord High School will be sponsoring a "Slave Workday" on April 22 for the purpose of raising money for a new weight machine.

In what has been described as one of the state's hottest races, state Sen. Mel Frederick, IR West Concord, seems to have picked up all eight delegates elected to District 1 IR convention by Dodge County IR delegates meeting in West Concord on Saturday.



Looking Back through the Dodge County Independent archives. Does this look familiar to anyone? Please contact the DCI office if you have any information regarding this photo. Emails may be sent to dci@kmtel.com or phone 634-7503.

80 Years Ago
April 21, 1938
L.W. Smith, Publisher

Mantorville needs a new dam. The old dam is in a very bad state of repair and it is only a question of a short time when it will go out entirely. Mrs. Allen Roth and Mrs. Henry Leuthold of Kasson are leading a delegation to get the new dam constructed.

The junior class of our high school will present a play at the auditorium entitled "Growing Pains" on Friday evening April 29. It promises to be of exceptional interest as it gives both a new and old-fashioned slant at unsophisticated youth as it flutters uncertainty on the wings of 16.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

A.A. Meeting every week at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hayfield, Monday, 7 p.m.

A Helping Hand to stretch the food and clothing budget. The Rochester Outreach Center's Fish and Loaves ministry at the Kasson Church of Christ (ROCK) with help from Kasson's Swinging Seniors has a weekly food distribution. The food includes end of sale items of meat, cheese, bread, vegetables, and fruit. Where: Kasson Church of Christ, 901 8th Avenue, NW;

Battered Women Support Group, Kasson, Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:30. For information call 634-6070 or 1-800-438-6439.

Blue star mothers of a.m.erica, chapter 10, second Tuesday of the month, except July- 6 p.m., Rochester Eagle's Club. For information visit www.bluestarmomsmn. com/index.html.

Byron A.A. and Al-Anon Fridays, 8 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, Byron.

Celebrate Recovery, every Monday, 5:30 p.m., Community Celebration Church, 27401 Cty Rd 34, Kasson, MN.

Center Clinic offers confidential low cost services to teens, women and their partners, 104 1st. Street NW, Dodge Center, MN (Old Elementary Building). Walk-In Hours: Mon., Wed. and Thurs. 10:30-4:30 p.m.. Please give us a call with your questions 633-9200. The Center Clinic Ofrece: Servicios confidenciales y de bajo costo para adolescentes, mujeres y sus parejas. Visitenos en el edificio Midtown Center o llamenos al 507-633-9200. Interprete Disponible!

Dodge Center Public Library Dodge Center Public Library hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10am-5pm; Thursdays 10am-8pm; Saturdays 9am-Noon. Address: 13 1st Ave. NW, phone number: 374-2275.

Dodge County AG and mechanical society-(Dodge County Fair Board), fourth Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

Dodge County Commissioners, Government Services Building 9:30 a.m. second Tuesday of the month, 5 p.m. fourth Tuesday of the month.

Dodge County Faith in Action is a network of volunteers and congregations available to provide support, assistance and education so that people with unmet needs can remain independent or regain independence. Services include helping with chores, housekeeping, errands, shopping, friendly visits, reassurance or reminder calls, handy person, yard work, respite care, and transportation. If you would like to volunteer, know of someone in need or have a need call 634-3654 and leave a message. PO Box 246 Kasson, MN 55944.

Dodge County Historical Society Board meetings, 6:30 pm, third Thursday of each month at the Dodge County Museum, 615 North Main Street, Mantorville. 635-5508.

DODGE COUNTY REPUBLICANs, 7 p.m., first Thursday of each month, Kasson Public Library. Call (507) 273-0184 for more information.

DODGE COUNTY soil & water Conservation District (SWCD) Meets every third Thursday at 7:15 p.m. at the USDA/SWCD office in Dodge Center. www.dodgeswcd.org

Dodge County Youth Hockey Assoc., second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., Kasson a.m.erican Legion.

Fairview Auxiliary, first Monday of each month, 2 p.m., at the care center.

Free Clothing to those in need twice monthly: Where: Kasson Church of Christ, 901 8th Avenue, NW; When: First and Third Thursdays, 1 - 3 p.m.. Food and clothing FREE.

Girl Scout office for Area 5 Call 800-845-0787 or www.girlscoutsrv .org for information on girl scouts.

Home School Support Group Meetings The Dodge County Home School Association (DCHSA) would like to welcome everyone to join their monthly support group meetings. DCHSA is a group of Christian families who work cooperatively to arrange activities for children of all ages and provide information to new home schoolers. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, September through May, at the home of Dave and Nancy Verburg of Mantorville. Call Nancy at 635-5703 for more details.

"Hometown Singers" Community Choir will meet weekly for 12 weeks at 7 p.m. starting Thursday, Feb 26th at St. Peters Episcopal Church in Kasson. For more information, call director Tom Deziel at 635-3771.

Immunization Clinic Dodge County Public Health, 42 E. Main St., Dodge Center, 635-6150. Immunization clinics are targeted to Dodge County residents, children, and individuals who lack financial resources to pay for these vaccines. No person receiving an immunization in public clinics will be denied the vaccine due to inability to pay the fee. Call for appointment. Just For Today in Al-Anon, Thursdays 8 p.m., United Methodist Church, 503 1 st Avenue NW, Byron, use main entrance.

K-M AFS Club, second Monday each month at 7 p.m. in homes. Contact David Ziegler for meeting place, 635-5415.

K-M Lions Club, fourth Monday of each month at 6:30.

Kasson A.A., Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. & Sat., 8:30 a.m., St John's Lutheran Church, 301 8th Ave. NW, Kasson, Classroom #8 & 9. Big book meeting.

Kasson city council meets second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., Kasson City Hall, 401 5th St. SE, Kasson.

Kasson Cub Scouts Pack 231 welcomes new scouts to join anytime. Leader meetings the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 at the a.m.erican Legion. For information on scouting call Eric at 251-8630.

Kasson-Mantorville Masonic Lodge #11, second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., Mantorville Masonic Lodge.

Kasson-Mantorville Legion Auxiliary, second Tuesday evening, 7 p.m., Legion Clubroom.

Kasson mantorville exchange club First and third Thursdays of the month, 7 a.m., fireside room Daniel's Restaurant. Please call Dan at 634-7887 for information.

Kasson Senior citizens, fourth Tuesday of each month, Sunwood Manor, 12:30 p.m.

Kasson Library Board meetings second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Kasson Public Library. Hours: Mon. 10-7, Tue 10-6, Wed. 10-7, Thur. 10-6, Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-1, Sun. Closed.

Mantorville city council, 6:30 p.m. second & fourth Monday of the month, City Hall.

Mantorville EDA, first Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Mantorville Park Board, last Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., City Hall. Mantorville regional welcome center committee, first Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Mantorville Regional Welcome Center.

Mantorville Restoration Association, second Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., Mantorville Opera House, members and interested public invited.

Mantorville Senior Citizens, Mon. at noon, Mantorville Sr. Citizens Center for dinner & recreation at a reasonable charge. Area seniors are invited to come.

Mantorville Township Meeting Place Mantorville Township Hall, 60126 240th Ave., Mantorville, first Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m..

Mantorville VFW #4555 Post and Auxiliary, second Wednesday of the month , 7 p.m..

Marigold Days Planning Committee meets the third Sunday of every month at 6:30 p.m at the Greek Revival House, 411 Clay St., Mantorville.

Moms Off Meth Support Group, Wednesdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm at Midtown Center, Dodge Center, 104 1st street NW, Nehemiah Room. For more information, please contact: Wendy Nash, 507-374-2179.

Musicians to play March 10 at Opera House. Musicians Brandon Sampson of Rochester and Charlie Roth of St. Cloud will perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 10 at the Mantorville Opera House. The men are known as "Americana singer-songwriters," who perform folk and blues music. The cost is $15 at the door. Call Roth at 320-492-1090 for more information, send email to charlierothmusic@gmail.com, or see www.charlierothmusic.com for more information. NAMI (National Alliance Mental Illness) Peer Connection Support Group (depression, anxiety & other mental illnesses)meets Dec. 26 and every Tuesday beg. Jan 2, 2018, 7-8:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 101 6th Ave. NW, Kasson. All are welcome. For more information contact Karen Tracy 507-316-0968.

Parents AL-Anon Group, Tuesdays, 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 559 20th Street SW, Rochester. Please use back door entrance. 7-8 Meeting and 8-8:30 open discussion time for parents.

Recovery, Inc. Facilitated, Self-Help Groups since 1937 offering a proven method to combat depression, anger, fear, anxiety, etc. Free weekly meetings, 7 p.m., Tuesdays at Resurrection Catholic Church, 1600 11th Ave. SE, Rochester. Information: 507-843-4064 or www.recovery-inc.org.

Rescued Animal Coalition (RAC) of Southeastern Minnesota is a collaboration of rescue groups, shelters and animal care specialists from southeastern Minnesota. The RAC created and manages the Southeast Minnesota Lost and Found Pet Page as part of this effort. This page is a place where individuals with lost and found animals can share information and work together to reunite pets and owners. Report lost & found animals at www.facebook.com/SEMNLost. Found

Rochester Area Epilepsy Support Group, second Tuesday of each month, 7-9 p.m., Rochester Methodist Hospital. For more information call Outreach office, 281-5225. A United Way Agency.

Safe Haven Pet Rescue Are you looking for a new feline or canine friend? Or, would you like to help animal rescue efforts? If so, then visit For more information you can call 292-9122.

SE MN Senior Federation, the third Wednesday of alternating months at 1:30 p.m.

SE MN Warmline, a non-crisis mental health line for people who need to talk to someone who understands. Hours: Thursday-Saturday 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Rochester: 507-287.7161 Toll Free: 1-888-334-7754

Minnesota Warmlines have proven to be very successful, providing support and offering a connection to hundreds of consumers who receive mental health services around the state. Southeastern Minnesota Warmline's mission is to provide consumer to consumer connections giving people a safe place to call and chat with someone who cares. You can count on us to listen and understand. Southeastern Minnesota Warmline is there for you.

Serenity Group AA, Thursdays, 8 p.m., United Methodist Church, 503 1st Avenue NW, Byron, use north entrance.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church A Place At The Table community meal, Wednesday, 5:30, no charge, first come/first serve.

Tops Club, Monday mornings, 8 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, Kasson. Anyone interested in joining a supportive group for healthy eating and losing weight, may call TOPS toll-free number at 1-800-932-8677 or check out the website at www.tops.org

Purple Heart Chapter 7451, Rochester, 7 p.m. Third Thursday of the month, Rochester a.m.erican Legion (Combat Wounded Veterans from Rochester, Austin & Albert Lea).

Veterans who need help with medical or compensation issues can contact Todd Nelson with Veterans Service at Dodge County Courthouse, 635-6140.

Victim Services 24 hour crisis line for sexual assault victims. Call 289-0636, toll fee 1-888-289-0636.

WIC is a health and nutrition program for pregnant and post-partum women and infants through 5 years of age. To see if you are eligible and to make an appointment call Dodge County Public Health 1-507-635-6150 Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. WIC is located at 42 E. Main, Dodge Center, MN.

DAILY CALENDAR

Claremont • Dodge Center • Hayfield • Kasson-Mantorville • West Concord

Kasson Library

Mon., April 16
5 p.m. – Coloring Club
6 p.m. – Read with Runner

Tues., April 17
10 a.m. – Storytime with Miss Kelly

Wed., April 18
10 a.m. – Storytime with Miss Melanie
1 p.m. - Needle-Crafts Club

Thurs., April 19
6 p.m. – Book Club

Sat., April 21
Library open 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Sign Language class - 10:30 a.m.

For our full calendar of events, please visit the Kasson Library Website:
www.kasson.lib.mn.us

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PASTOR'S CORNER



PASTOR BRIAN EGELSTON
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Sometimes the unexpected happens. We don't expect snowstorms in April, for instance, but I'm looking out my window and a beautiful snow-covered landscape as I write this.

Not long ago, Christians all over the world celebrated Easter. All the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection begin the same way. A group of women, followers of Jesus, went to His tomb to pay their respects. They expected to find a body to care for. They expected to have trouble even moving the boulder in front of the tomb. But they didn't expect the tomb to be open, and empty.

They didn't expect an angel to show up and tell them "He is not here. He is risen, just as He said....He is going before you to Galilee." Sometimes, when we least expect it, God shows up. He relieves the troubles we're so worried about. He reminds us that He's still in control when all seems lost. He gives us direction for the future. But if we aren't paying attention, we just might miss it.

Out of all the people in Jerusalem, only a handful of people got to witness the Empty Tomb. Everyone else was simply going about their business, unaware of the great miracle that had just occurred. Similarly, Luke's Gospel tells us about a couple of disciples on the road to place called Emmaus, not long after the resurrection.

They've heard the whole story, and they're trying to figure out what to make of it. Then Jesus shows up. He walks with them. He converses with them. But they don't recognize Him, not until the very end of their time together. They weren't ready for the unexpected. They weren't prepared for God to show up.

Easter reminds us that God is not absent. God is near. Don't be so distracted by life that you miss God's showing up. He still does unexpected things.

"Sometimes, when we least expect it, God shows up. He relieves the troubles we're so worried about. He reminds us that He's still in control when all seems lost. "



SAVVY SENIOR

Is your blood pressure too high?

Dear Savvy Senior,
What numbers constitute high blood pressure? I use to be pre-hypertensive, but they keep changing the guidelines, so I'm not sure where I fit in now.
Approaching 60

Dear Approaching,
If you're unsure what your blood pressure levels should be, you're not alone. Recent changes in the hypertension guidelines made by the American Heart Association and the American College Cardiology mean that roughly 30 million more Americans than previously thought are now considered to have high blood pressure (hypertension).

According to the new guidelines, anyone with a blood pressure reading above 130/80 is considered to have high blood pressure.

Previously, those with a blood pressure reading between 120/80 and 139/89 would have been put in the prehypertension category and wouldn't have been considered hypertensive until they got to 140/90.

But the new guidelines eliminate the prehypertension category, putting everyone with systolic pressure readings (top number) between 120 and 129 and a diastolic reading (bottom number) below 80 in a new "elevated" category. And those with a reading of 130/80 or higher fall in some stage of hypertension. Here's a complete rundown of the new five category blood pressure ranges:

- **Normal:** A top number less than 120 and a bottom number less than 80.
- **Elevated:** A top number between 120 and 129, and a bottom number less than 80.
- **Stage 1:** A top number between 130 and 139, or a bottom number between 80 and 89.
- **Stage 2:** A top number of 140 or higher, or a bottom number of 90 or higher.
- **Hypertensive crisis:** A top number over 180 or a bottom number over 120.

Get Checked

Millions of Americans with high blood pressure don't know they have it because it usually has no outward signs or symptoms. But high blood pressure, over time, can damage your arteries and increase your risk for heart disease, stroke, kidney damage and even dementia. To guard against this, everyone over the age of 40, as well as those younger with risk factors for hypertension should get their blood pressure checked at least once a year.

If you find that your blood pressure numbers fall in the "elevated" category, you should take steps now to get it under control. Lifestyle changes like eating a healthy diet, losing weight, exercising, watching your salt intake, quitting smoking, and cutting back on alcohol is often all you need to get it back to normal.

Even if your blood pressure numbers are in the "stage 1" category, lifestyle changes are recommended first, unless you've had a heart attack or stroke, or you're at high risk for cardiovascular problems because you smoke, have high cholesterol or type 2 diabetes. Then medications may be prescribed.

But if your blood pressure falls in the "stage 2" or higher category, the new guidelines suggest medication, regardless of age, plus lifestyle changes.

There are several different kinds of drugs used to lower blood pressure. It usually makes sense to start with the oldest, safest, and least expensive drug: diuretics, or water pills, such as chlorthalidone or hydrochlorothiazide. But these meds can drive up blood sugar levels, so if you have type 2 diabetes or are at risk of it, your doctor may prescribe another drug, such as an ACE inhibitor, ARB or calcium channel blocker.

You should also be aware that blood pressure drugs could cause side effects including dizziness, gastrointestinal problems, fatigue and headaches. They can also cause a decline in kidney function so make sure your doctor periodically monitors your potassium levels.

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

CHURCH SCHEDULE

BAPTIST

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST
203 E. Main St., Dodge Center
SATURDAY
9:30 Contemporary Praise and Worship
10:00 Worship Service
11:30 Sabbath School
dodgecentersdb.org • 374-6755
Pastor William Shobe

FIRST BAPTIST
304 4th St. NW, Kasson
THURSDAY
2:30 p.m. Praise & Prayer
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
WEDNESDAY
6:30 Children's Ministry (Age 4-Gr.6)
6:30 Youth Group (Gr.7-12)
kassonbaptist.org • 634-7888
Pastor John Todor

FAITH COMMUNITY
305 State St. N. West Concord
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. Worship
WEDNESDAY
6:45-8 p.m. AWANA
fccwestconcord.org • 527-2245
Pastor David Breederland

CATHOLIC

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
202 4th St. N.W., Byron
TUESDAY & THURSDAY
9 a.m. Mass
SATURDAY
4 p.m. Mass
SUNDAY
10:30 a.m. Mass
christthekingcatholicchurch.org
775-6455
Father John Lasuba

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
1904 Mantorville Ave., Kasson
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
9 a.m. Mass
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. Mass
holfamilykasson.org • 634-7520
Father John Lasuba

ST. JOHN BAPTISTE DE LA SALLE
20 2nd St NE, Dodge Center
SATURDAY
5 p.m Mass
dodgecatholic.org • 527-2384
Father Tom Niehaus

EPISCOPAL

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
1st Ave. at 1st St. N.E., Kasson
SUNDAY
10 a.m. Worship
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, free will offering
stpetersKasson.org • 634-6081
Father James C. Zotalis
1-507-634-6081

CONGREGATIONAL

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL, CCCC
515 Walnut St., Mantorville
SUNDAY
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
Worship 10 a.m.
mantorvillechurch.org • 635-3011
Pastor Brian Egelston

CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
12 2nd St. N.W., Dodge Center
SUNDAY
10:30 a.m. Worship
firstcon@kmtel.com • 923-8828
Pastor Charles Schaal

ZWINGLI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
23148 Co Hwy 24, West Concord
SUNDAY
10 a.m. Morning Worship
zwingli.org • 356-4340
Rev. Karen Larson
bernechurchpastor@gmail.com

LUTHERAN

BIBLE LUTHERAN
203 E. Main St., Dodge Center
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Sunday School
952-445-8474
Pastor Norman C. Hoffeld,
Meet at the Seventh Day Baptist Church
East St. Olaf Lutheran, ELCA
6200 Co. Rd. 3 S.W., Byron

EAST & WEST ST. OLAF LUTHERAN, ELCA
6200 County Rd 3 SW, Byron
70640 260th Ave. Hayfield
SUNDAY
9 a.m. East Worship
10 a.m. JAM, SS & TLC
11 a.m. West Worship
WEDNESDAY
7 p.m. Both Confirmation at East
laf.org • 365-8222 • 507-273-8504
Pastor Paul Thompson
pthomp821@gmail.com

FAITH LUTHERAN, ELCA
308 2nd Street N.W, Dodge Center
SUNDAY
8 & 10 a.m. Worship
faithdc.org • 374-2174
Pastor Barb Streed

GRACE LUTHERAN & SCHOOL, LCMS
404 Central Ave. N., Dodge Center
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Worship
10:05 a.m. Sunday School
gracedc.wix.com/gracedc • 633-2253
Pastor Timothy Chase

HEGRE LUTHERAN, ELCA
51939 Highway 56 Blvd, Kenyon
SUNDAY
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 p.m. Worship
527-2353

MT. MORIAH LUTHERAN, LCMS
923 2nd Ave. N.W., Byron
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
www.mtmoriahluth.org • 507-775-2460
Pastor P.J. Stohlmann
pastorpj@mtmoriahluth.org

MT. SION LUTHERAN, A.F.L.C.
502 1st Ave. S.W., Kasson
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
mountsion.org
Church: 634-7446 • H: 1-612-240-8735
Pastor Brad Novacek

TRINITY LUTHERAN, ELCA
301 Highland St, West Concord
9 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Coffee
10:10 a.m. Sunday School
trinitychurchwc.net • 527-2778
Pastor James Rushton

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN, WELS
600 8th Ave. N.W., Kasson
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Worship
MONDAY
7 p.m. Worship
oursaviorkasson.com
Church: 634-3183 • H: 634-4692
Pastor Dean A. Gunn

SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN, LCMC
4830 120th Ave S.W., Kasson
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship
Interim Pastor Elden Simonson

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN, ELCA
301 8th Ave. N.W., Kasson
SUNDAY
8 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:15 a.m. Blended Worship
WEDNESDAY
5:15 p.m. Oasis Meal
6:15 p.m. Worship
stjohnskasson.org • 634-7110
Interim Pastor John Allen
Interim Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
SUNDAY
10:30 a.m. Worship,
WEDNESDAY
7 p.m. Worship
Holy Communion offered 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month.
528-2404 Rev. Alan Broadwell

METHODIST

PLEASANT CORNERS UNITED METHODIST
21927 650th St., Kasson
SUNDAY
11 a.m. Worship
kassonumc.org • 634-4409
Rev. Joel Xavier

UNITED METHODIST
801 5th Ave N.W., Kasson
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Fellowship
www.kassonumc.org • 634-7823
Rev. Joel Xavier

UNITED METHODIST
20 1st St N.E., Dodge Center
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Fellowship
dodgecenterumc.org • 374-6885
Pastors Loren Olson & Joyce Parker

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
101 6th Ave N.W., Kasson
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Sunday School & Communicants Class
10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Fellowship
presbykasson.org • 634-7481
Interim Pastor Dan Yeazel

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
PO Box 66, Claremont• 528-2320
SUNDAY
9 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH OF CHRIST
901 8th Ave. N.W., Kasson
SUNDAY
10 a.m. Worship
WEDNESDAY
7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Prayer Service
DAILY
7-8 a.m. Prayer Service
254-7258
Pastor Dale DePeel

CHURCH OF CHRIST
55087 200th Ave., West Concord
SUNDAY
9 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
concordchurchmn.com • 527-2723
Pastor Peter Moen

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION CHURCH
27337 Co. Hwy 34, Kasson
SUNDAY
9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
ccc.kasson.org
634-1GOD (634-1463)
Pastors Steve Larson, Pastor Amy Anderson & Pastor Cameron Baker

LIVING WATER ASSEMBLY
104 1st St NW • Dodge Center
SUNDAY
10 a.m. Worship & Children Ministry
www.livingwaterassemblychurch.com
374-6561
Pastor Roy Andrews

PRAISE FELLOWSHIP
602 Central Ave. South
Dodge Center
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. Worship
WEDNESDAY
7 p.m. Youth, Club IOU
Pastor Roger Langworthy

CHURCH! OF THE NAZARENE
205 Mantorville Ave. S. Kasson
6 p.m. Worship
www.cotnik.com • 721-2500
Pastor Johannes Marsland

DCP
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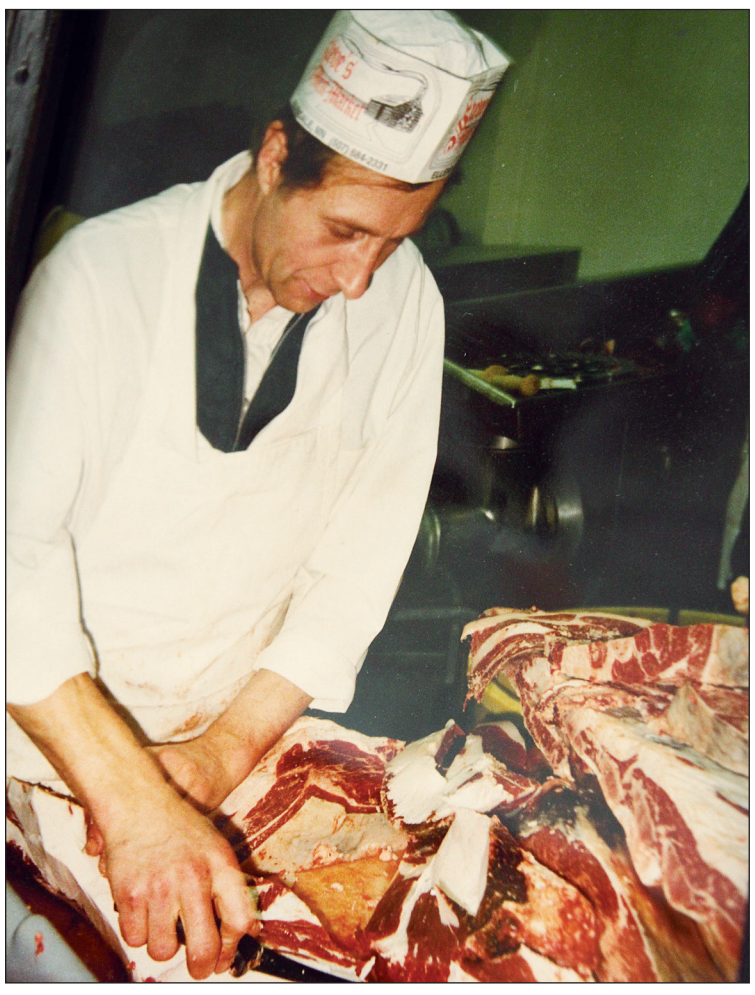


Staff photos by Rick Bussler

Donnavon Eaker, left , and Rachael Lee, of Steve's Meat Market proudly show off the coveted Sweepstakes Award they won at the Minnesota Association of Meat Processors annual convention in St. Cloud last month. Steve's earned 11 awards for excellence in smoked and cured meat products during the competition. Eaker has operated the meat market in Ellendale since 1973.

MAKIN BACON AND MORE

Ellendale meat processor continues to rack up state awards



Much of Rachael Lee's inspiration in operating Steve's Meat Market comes from her father, Steve Eaker, who died in 2006 after battling cancer. Lee learned the meat processing trade from her dad.

"I feel good about what I do. I work hard to produce something good."

-Rachael Lee
Steve's Meat Market

BY RICK BUSSLER
DCI PUBLISHER

Making bacon and other meat products have proven to be an award-winning venture for Steve's Meat Market in Ellendale for the past 42 years. And this year is proving to be no different.

As Rachael Lee, operations manager of Steve's, continues to churn out various meat and sausage products, the awards keep piling up. She, along with her mother Donnavon Eaker, came back in mid March from the Minnesota Association of Meat Processors with 11 awards, including the coveted Sweepstakes Championship award for the second straight year.

Steve's was founded in 1973 by Lee's parents, Steve and Donnavon Eaker. Steve died in 2006 after battling cancer, but not before preparing Lee to continue the family legacy. Steve's has won state and national awards every year since 1976.

Just how good is Steve's?

Lee points to the period of when her father was fighting cancer. Despite his courageous battle and everything that went along with it, the meat market still managed to pull of winning three awards.

To this day Lee relies on her father's recipes for producing the award-winning meats and sausages. Lee said the sausages, wieners, bologna are still 100 percent Steve's recipes. With many other products, Lee has taken Steve's basic recipes and spiced it up by adding something. Jalapenos and Pepper Jack cheeses are some of the extra ingredients added to many of the products these days, according to Lee.

"I'm not here to make a lot of changes because obviously he knew what he was doing," Lee said. "This all comes right back to my dad—100 percent."

Lee recalls one of the last times she leaned on her dad for advice in making specialty summer sausage.

"Dad tasted it and said it's just missing something," she said. Lee worked on it by adding more jalapenos and a combination of low temperature and high temperature Pepper Jack cheese. She won reserve champion in this year's competition with the Pepper Jack Summer Sausage.

Steve was big on developing value-added meat products, according to Lee. He enjoyed creating meats with wild rice, cheeses and berries, among other things.

At this year's state contest, Lee was awarded two grand champions for wieners and prepared food item, which was a smoked prime rib roast. She won a champion award for specialty bacon (warm bourbon bacon) and three champion awards for small diameter traditional sausage (Polish sausage), cooked summer sausage and fresh specialty small diameter sausage (Pepper Jack bratwurst).

In addition to the Pepper Jack summer sausage, the other reserve championships came in ring bologna, specialty small diameter sausage (pepper jack sausage), whole bone-in smoked ham and specialty snack stick (pepper jack snack sticks).

The Sweepstakes award is given out to the person with the highest total points for the overall product show.

"I feel like my dad is saying you're doing a good job," Lee said. "It's pretty neat."

Added Donnavon, "The stars were lined up."

Even though Steve has been gone for 12 years, Lee still feels his presence while cutting meat. "He's still here every day," Lee says. "He still leads me. I talk to him quite a bit. He still has a finger right here."

Lee credits her competitiveness in the state and national contests to both her parents. She said they taught her how to work hard and try to always make a good product.

"It's labor intense," Lee said of the meat business. "It's not an easy business. It's a physical job," she added.

But she comes away with great satisfaction at the end of the day.

"I feel good about what I do," Lee said. "I work hard to produce something good."

Donnavon said she always taught both of her girls to have a good work ethic. "They learned how to work," she said. "It's not just handed to them," she added.

Hard work, Donnavon said, seems to be a dying art these days for the younger generation.

Besides the retail store in downtown Ellendale, Steve's products are also sold in area retail stores under the Steve's Smokey Acres label and on privately labeled products sold in other retail stores throughout the Midwest. Steve's has provided meats for the Lunds and Byerlys stores in the Twin Cities since 1993.

Just last fall, Steve's added the first meat vending machine in Minnesota outside their store in which customers can access any time 24/7.

Steve's, which is a USDA inspected meat plant, produces more than 285 specialty meat and sausage products. Snack sticks are the top seller today. Donnavon noted when they opened in 1973, the only products they made were hams, bacon and dried beef.

And just in case you're keeping track, after the newest awards, Steve's is up to more than 390 state and national awards, most of which are displayed in the retail store.

Asked what the secret is to their on-going success, Donnavon responded, "Just put your head down and go to work. Don't be afraid to learn."

Donnavon said her husband wrote down all the recipes in a notebook before he died, but he never gave them out to anyone. And as for the notebook, Donnavon said referring to her daughter, "She's very protective of it."

Looking back on the past 45 years, Donnavon said, "I was his (Steve's) cheerleader, and now I am hers (Rachael's)."







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STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

Addie Murry (far right) and the rest of the Kasson-Mantorville softball team welcome Meredith Wright at home plate after her first home run of the season. Wright would hit two home runs for the KoMets in a 10-0 victory over Triton.

Four homers power K-M past Triton

BY CHRIS SCHAD
DCI SPORTS EDITOR

After weeks of waiting an opportunity finally arrived for the Kasson-Mantorville softball team to hold its season opener. While the opportunity didn't come without some pulling of strings to have its matchup with Triton switched from a home game to a road contest, the KoMets showed that it was worth the wait slugging four home runs in a 10-0 victory over the Cobras.

"After practicing for almost five weeks indoors, it was very good for our team to get out and play a game," K-M head coach Paul Mann said. "They've worked extremely hard and have been patient with the weather. It was nice for those seniors to get out and play their last opening game."

There would be a little rust for the KoMets in the first inning as they weren't able to get on the board, but the bats would awaken beginning in the second. Malia Schubert would rip a double to score K-M's first runs of the year and it was a power display from there.

Meredith Wright would slug her first home run of the season to give the KoMets a 3-0 lead after three innings while Morgan Ness and Catiera Thome would go back-to-back in the fourth inning to extend the lead to 8-0. Wright would cap off the inning with her second home run of the night to inflate the K-M lead to 10-0 after four innings.

"We preach quality at-bats more so than power," Mann said of his team's approach at the plate. "If the girls stay consistent with their at bats and know where in the zone they are the strongest, the power will be there in the end."

The 10-run surge would be more than enough for pitcher Ashley Christianson, as she navigated through the Triton lineup for her first career shutout while scattering four hits and a walk to help the KoMets start their season off on the right foot.

"Ashley did a nice job," Mann said. "She stayed calm and forced them to hit the ball. We made the plays that we needed to make and that makes a pitcher's job much

SEE **KOMETS ON B2**



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

Ashley Christianson scattered four hits and a walk through five innings for her first career shutout.

Utech notches two hits as Cobras fall to K-M

BY CHRIS SCHAD
DCI SPORTS EDITOR

Like most teams from around the area, the Triton softball team finally saw its long wait for the season opener end last week as they hosted Kasson-Mantorville on April 10. As a team that will be looking for experience as the season rolls along, they understandably had to get their feet underneath themselves after falling to the KoMets 10-0 in five innings.

"It was great to get the girls out of the gym and finally be able to play a game," Triton head coach Emily Postlewait said of the performance. "We were as ready as we could be with only two outdoor practices before this game."

The Cobras got off to a solid start in the game however as Makenna Meyers looked in control in the first inning by keeping the KoMets off the board. As the game progressed however, K-M would flex its muscles by swatting four home runs off Meyers and blowing the game open with three runs in the third, two in the second and five in the fourth.

Triton didn't have much luck offensively throughout the game either as KoMets pitcher Ashley Christanson was able to keep the Cobras' bats silent through five shutout innings. Dani Utecht was able to break through for Triton with a 2-for-2 performance while Paris Ellingson and Caitlyn Sowieja also recorded a hit a piece for Triton.

"We did not get our bats going in this game," Postlewait said. "That's what we needed to do. Kasson-Mantorville is a great hitting team and we didn't compete as well as we should have offensively."

The Cobras are now 0-1 on the season with their loss coming in the Hiawatha Valley League. Triton will now wait for its next game as a snowstorm this past weekend has thrown its schedule in jeopardy. As of the time of publications, Tuesday's game at Goodhue and Friday's game against Hayfield had been postponed.

If Mother Nature is willing to hold off, the Cobras will travel to Stewartville on Friday evening and host Randolph on April 23 and Bethlehem Academy on April 24.



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

Haylee Sawyer tracks a fly ball off her bat during the third inning against Kasson-Mantorville.

'Snow Problem: K-M gets in first meet of the year

BY CHRIS SCHAD
DCI SPORTS EDITOR

This spring, area sports teams have had to get a little creative with scheduling meets. With the first month of the season snowed out, many area track teams have been forced to practice on a daily basis with a good chunk of the action taking place inside or in the middle of snow-covered fields.

While track and field is a sport that can get away with a little bit of inclement weather, it still needs to have a halfway decent conditions for an outdoor meet to take place. For those keeping score at home, those conditions just happened to be 37 degrees and overcast as Byron invited their neighbors to take part in both team's first meet of the season.

With two teams involved, the meet was more like a scrimmage than an actual meet. Although, with the way this spring has turned out, another team to compete against was something every team in the area is craving as we hit the mid-way point of the season.

Leading the way for the KoMets was an area that figures to be a strength all season long. K-M would sweep all three distance events on the afternoon as Brennan Gustafson won the 800 meter race (2:18.70), Ben Trihey won the 1600 meter run (4:54.08) and Jace Minelli won the 3200 meter run (10:38.98) to earn a solid start to their season.

In addition to the success in the boys distance events, K-M had two individuals win multiple events. Kelli Schneider saw success on the girls side by finishing first in the long jump (15' 1.5") and triple jump (33' 9.5") while Mason Iverson swept the hurdle races



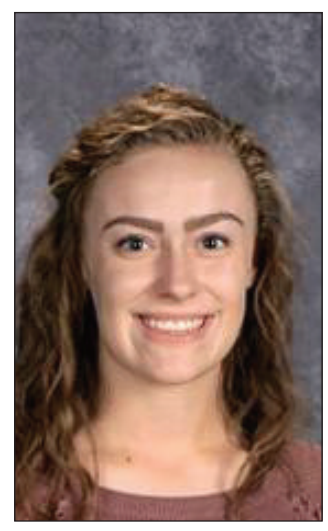
STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

The K-M 4x400 mixed relay team makes a handoff during a meet at Bryon on April 10.

K-M Athletes of the Week



Mason Iverson, a senior for the K-M track and field team, swept both hurdle events during a meet against Byron on April 10. Iverson finished first in the 110 meter and 300 meter hurdles to lay a solid foundation for the season.



Ashley Christianson, a junior for the K-M softball team, threw her first career shutout in a 10-0 victory over Triton on April 12. Christianson scattered four hits and a walk to go with a pair of strikeouts in the KoMets' first win.

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STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

A Kasson-Mantorville sprinter breaks free from the pack during a 100 meter dash heat during a meet in Byron on April 10.

TRACK: *KoMets set solid foundation for season*

TRACK FROM B1

on the boys side finishing first in the 110 meter (15.85 seconds) and 300 meter (45.30) events.

Also finishing in first on the girls side was Whitney Deno, who won the 1600 meter race with a time of 5:57.84 and Ashanti Branson, who launched a shot put 33 feet and seven inches to get her season off to a great start.

While the winter wonderland the KoMets were competing in wasn't ideal, K-M made the most of its opportunity to find some competition and now will be looking forward to its next meet… whenever that may be.

K-M's home meet scheduled for Thursday afternoon has been postponed to May 17 and if all goes well over the weekend, they'll head to Elgin to head to the P-E-M Verne Herman Invite which will boast a field of 19 schools. If the weather still refuses to cooperate, the KoMets will have to wait until May 3 as part of the Chuck Ramthum Invite in Byron.



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

A K-M sprinter heads down the stretch during a 100 meter dash heat in Byron.



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

A pack of KoMet sprinters take their turn at the 100 meter dash.

"WINTER ISN'T FINISHED WITH YOU"



Chris-isms
Chris Schad

Spring is normally full of optimism. It's the time of the year where everyone starts emerging from their homes that they've been hiding in for three months and starts making plans for the summer. There's anticipation. There's optimism. There's the NFL Draft. I'm telling you, I love spring.

That is why this April has reminded me of one of my favorite WWE superstars, Braun Strowman. For those of you who don't speak pro wrestling, one of Strowman's catch phrases after beating an opponent senseless and walking off camera is "I'm not finished with you!" At this point, he inflicts more damage on his opponent with relentless and amazing feats of strength which have resorted to things such as flipping over an ambulance with said opponent inside. (Hey, it seems real to me.)

As the winter season continues to rage on in Southeastern Minnesota, I can't help but feel like we are trapped in that ambulance as Old Man Winter flipping it over while screaming "I'M NOT FINISHED WITH YOU!!!"

Baseball and softball season have been non-existent as we sit at the midway point of April. Last week, we were teased a bit when Kasson-Mantorville and Triton took part in a softball game, but with over a foot of snow dumped on the area last weekend and five to eight inches being predicted for Wednesday, it's hard to say when either team is going to get their next game in. If they do, if we'll be seeing games on top of games just to get a half schedule in.

Track and field teams in the readership area have had some success in getting an event in, but Triton hasn't had an outdoor meet to showcase their talents as their first meet was an indoor meet in Winona in late March. K-M finally got a meet in last week, but with freezing temperatures and snow everywhere, everyone involved had an evil laugh and a crazed look in their eyes.

Then there is golf. Woof. There have been instances when the golf team has trudged through drizzly conditions and gutted out 18 holes, but the golf team's best bet at the moment is to use bright colored balls in an effort to try and salvage something in their bag. Does anybody know the penalty for hacking into a snowbank? Do you play it where it lies? I'm asking for a friend.

As we break out our shovels (hopefully) for the last time this week, teams have gone so batty that they've started to make alternate plans in case there isn't a season. The St. Charles track and field team tried to get creative by establishing areas of the school to run sprints, toss shot-puts and attempt long jumps with true team meets less than three weeks away.

Maybe the turning point will be this week after Old Man Winter and Mother Nature give one last blast of snow to the area. After Wednesday's forecasted storm, temperatures are about to spring into the 60s, which should mean that teams should finally hit the field just as section tournaments are scheduled to begin.

It seems unfair to the athletes (and coaches who are stuck inside with them), but hey, beggars can't be choosers. Even a random draw tournament (because how else are you going to seed them?) would give everyone some taste of spring and at this point, that's all we need.



KOMETS: *Schedule remains murky after victory*

KOMETS FROM B2

easier."

The KoMets own a 1-0 record after getting their first victory of the season, but it appears that it may be another week before they get into the heart of their schedule. With a blizzard covering the region this past weekend, games at Albert Lea and a home game Northfield had already been postponed at the time of publication with a Friday night matchup with Osseo in jeopardy as well.

If things clear up, the KoMets will host Austin on April 23 and Stewartville on April 24.

While it may not be ideal to have another long wait in-between their next game, the one thing that can be said is if the KoMets play like they did in the opener, it may be well worth the wait.



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

Malia Schubert smacked an RBI double to drive in the KoMets' first runs of the season.



STAFF PHOTO: CHRIS SCHAD

Allie Schaeger takes some practice swings between innings.

When spring finally arrives, follow it on Twitter @DCISports

'It's a great job'

Longtime marketing director leaves Prairie Meadows

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
DCI MANAGING EDITOR

Prairie Meadows Senior Living resident Mary Mortensen offered a lively description of marketing director Vicky Heitman, who is "semi-retiring" after 10 years on the job.

"She's a doll," said Mortensen, 89. "I wish she'd stay. Time marches on, and you've got to accept change."

Heitman, who lives near Zumbro Falls, has accepted a marketing position with fewer hours, closer to home at The Bluffs of Lake City Senior Living. The facility is owned by Rochester-based Oxford Management, as is Prairie Meadows in Kasson.

An open house for Heitman was scheduled for April 17.

"I have mixed emotions," she said. "Most of these people have been here since I came. They were here when the building opened, 12 years now. We have excellent staff here, excellent residents, families. But I'm no spring chicken. I need to cut back a little bit, and I sure need to be closer. This winter ruined me, I tell you. Driving was hard. And when you spend two hours on the road a day and eight hours at the job, that's a long day."

Heitman will be succeeded by Evonne Schlobohm. The Byron resident has worked many years in the assisted living and skilled nursing fields. She worked previously in administration at Pine Haven Care Center in Pine Island.

"Vicky does a great job here. I know the residents are going to miss her," Schlobohm said. "But I also know that residents will give me a chance, also, and they are just awesome. They are awesome people who live here at Prairie Meadows."



STAFF PHOTO: RICHARD JOHNSON

Prairie Meadows Senior Living marketing director Vicky Heitman, center, shares a laugh with incoming marketing director Evonne Schlobohm, right, and Prairie Meadows resident Mary Mortensen. Heitman has accepted a marketing position at The Bluffs of Lake City Senior Living.

Prairie Meadows established a weekly farmers' market, 'Produce on the Prairie,' in 2017, and celebrates Veterans Day with an annual breakfast.

"'Safe Trick or Treating' is always successful here," Heitman said. "We get just bombarded with the little kids, and the residents love it. So those things will be continued, and I'm sure (Schlobohm) will come up with some great things of her own.

"We just try and keep the residents as busy as they want to be," she said.

Heitman said she wants more time to visit with her children and grandchildren.

"I think at the end of every day you feel good," she said. "You've accomplished something. You've made someone's life a little better. It doesn't get any better than that. You learn a lot from the elderly. It's a great job."

KPL musical program set for May 11

Kasson Public Library will host a musical program by Arna Rennen at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 11.

The event will feature musical stories of Norwegian immigration to the U.S. Visitors will learn about grandiose claims and promises of the new land, and the warnings people heard at home.

Rennen has translated these stories and includes music from a variety of genres.

"These are beautiful stories and lively songs for young and old alike," KPL circulation technician Pat Shaffer-Gottschalk said.

This program is free and open to the public. It is made possible by the people of Minnesota through the Arts and Cultural Heritage/Library Legacy fund in cooperation with Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO), the regional library system.

Call the Kasson Public Library at 634-7615 for more information.

Author Eskens featured at WC Library

The West Concord Public Library will host author Allen Eskens on Monday, April 23 at 7 p.m. as part of the SELCO Author Tour.

Eskens is the bestselling author of The Life We Bury, The Guise of Another, The Heavens May Fall, and The Deep Dark Descending. He is the recipient of the Barry Award, Minnesota Book Award, Rosebud Award (Left Coast Crime), and Silver Falchion Award, and has been a finalist for the Edgar® Award, Thriller Award, Anthony Award, and Audie Award. His books have been translated into 20 languages and his novel, The Life We Bury, is in development for a feature film.

This project has been funded by the people of Minnesota through the Arts and Cultural Heritage/Library Legacy fund in cooperation with SELCO – the regional library system.

Dining 101 for young students

Triton seniors tackle 'business dining' etiquette

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
DCI MANAGING EDITOR

Triton High School students gathered for lunch around a big table at the Hubbell House in Mantorville.

They had to stop and think a bit before digging in.

Which fork to use while eating salad? How to eat soup in a proper manner? How to unfold your napkin. How much to tip a waiter or waitress.

How to sit at the table.

Good points to know before you hit the business world.

"The Hubbell House is really professional," said Cody Marquardt, one of 10 Triton seniors being graded on "business dining" etiquette during the Work Readiness class activity on April 11. "And what we have to do and how we have to eat is kind of surprising."

"It's frustrating," senior Izach Berg said. "That's why none of us ordered the soup."

Each of the well-dressed students gets school credit for working outside jobs.

They've undergone a career research process and mock job interviews, and have learned budgeting, how to do taxes, balance a checkbook and such.

They learned in an entrepeneurship unit how to put together a business plan and present it to a local banker.

"And a part of owning a business is understanding how to do dining etiquette, how to do that small-talk socializing with clients, customers, that kind of thing," said Robert Ickler, instructor of the agriculture course, which is open to all seniors. "So we watched some videos, talked about etiquette, talked about the proper amount to tip for various things.

"And of course they have to have a job," he said. "Because if you're learning about the world of work, you can't apply what you learned in class without that job setting."

Ickler said he held the class at school and had the students bring food, until one suggested eating at the Hubbell House two years ago.

They enjoyed a business breakfast last year at the Dodge Country Club.

"That worked out very well," he said. "This year the class was around the lunch hour, so I thought we'd bring them back to the Hubbell House. Both places were wonderful to work with, and very excited to help the students learn more about that dining etiquette."

Ickler, assisted in grading last week by Triton counselor Christi Kreigh, said all those etiquette tips add up, and it's a lot for the students to remember.

They also learned to slow down while eating, as opposed to gobbling lunch in just 30 minutes back at school.

"We live with such a rapid eating style," he said. "To do the dining etiquette requires you to slow down and enjoy your food and enjoy your company, and think about all those procedures of being polite, being respectful. I think that's a good thing. They're learning. This is a good practice for them. If something doesn't go they would like, there isn't a job lost. And that's what school is for, is to learn. They're doing an excellent job. They're doing well."

Liza Aarsvold said the best part of it all was being able to leave school.



Triton staffers Robert Ickler (third from left) and Christi Kreigh (fourth from right) enjoy lunch at the Hubbell House while grading students on their use of proper etiquette.

The worst: becoming frustrated trying to remember which utensil to use for which part of the meal.

Still, it was a valuable outing.

"Because in the future you're going to have times where you go to an interview and you might be able to go out to eat with your future employer, so knowing how to properly sit or eat is helpful," she said.

"It's good 'ready up' practice," Deacon Schlichting said. "I'm getting a practice round, so if I screw up, I'll see where I make mistakes and correct them before I actually have to do this for other jobs."

The Hubbell House donated onion rings and cheese curds to the cause.

"So we're very appreciative of that," Ickler said. "Appreciative that they're willing to let a bunch of high



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To blare, or not to blare?

Some folks appreciate Kasson's sirens. Others … not so much

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
MANAGING EDITOR

It's a daily, age-old tradition in many small Midwest cities: those shrill sirens, reminding you that it's lunchtime, that it's going-home time, that it's time for all youngsters to return home for the night.

Some folks want them to go away. A petition on change.org ("The world's platform for change") reads: "Stop tornado sirens 3 times per day, kasson mn."

Others like that tradition. An opposing petition on the website reads: "Save the Sirens of Kasson, MN."

The issue has flared up online at local media outlets including the Post Bulletin and KTTC TV in Rochester, KAAL TV in Austin, KBJR6 TV in Duluth, WBNG TV in Johnson City, NY – and now the DCI.

There were 621 votes in favor of keeping the sirens, and 52 against at last check.

Todd Suhr, who wrote on change.org that he has lived in or around Kasson for more than 30 years, said the sirens let kids know when to come home at night, and can let folks out and about without fancy smart phones know what time of day it's getting to be.

It also shows support for small-town heritage, he said, and makes for a unique community.

Colby Lawson, a Kasson resident since September 2017, said it's the only city he knows of that sounds sirens three times a day, seven days a week.

"My safety concern is that if people get used to hearing them, they won't take them seriously if we do have a tornado," he wrote on the website. "I believe that the sirens should be used only for emergency purposes and for tests."

City Administrator Theresa Coleman notes that the sirens don't signify tornado warnings. Except on the first Wednesday of the month, when the blast is merely a test to make sure the sirens are working well.

They're just a small-town thing. Charming to some, not so much to others.

"I really think it's a misunderstanding, which of the sirens is the warning test and what the other whistles are for," she said. "And I think a lot of people identify with it. Kind of like, 'That's what I grew up with.'"

Each city in Dodge County owns its own sirens, Public Safety Answering Points (dispatch centers) and Emergency Management director Matt Maas said. But the county can set them off in case of emergencies and tornado warnings, and does set them off at 1 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month through the emergency notification system.

Those tests are coordinated with the National Weather Service, Minnesota State Patrol, and other dispatch centers.

Larger cities like Kasson have multiple sirens, so they can be heard around town. Kasson's three sirens are located near Houston's Greenhouse, the Post Office, and the former Kwik Trip building.

Coleman said each "whistle" lasts about eight seconds. The outdoor emergency test siren, sounded at 1 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, lasts three minutes.

"Occasionally we do get a question about it," Maas said, "but it never seems to be any big miscommunication."

Many small towns, including Kasson, Dodge Center and Claremont, have that 9:45 p.m. siren blast, for curfew's sake.

"I'm used to it," Claremont city clerk/treasurer Liz Sorg said. "It's fine with me."

Lawson was invited to address the Kasson City Council on April 11 but did not attend.

Spring clean up is coming again

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The importance of agriculture in Minnesota classrooms

Agriculture in Minnesota remains at the forefront of the state's economy.

From the boundary waters of northern Minnesota to the plains of southern Minnesota, a total of 74,542 farms are in operation every single day, working close to 26 million acres of fertile farmland.

To what may appear as dormant soil in portions of the year, the agricultural industry accounts for an impressive $76 billion to the state's economy, ranking as one of the most important sectors to our state's continued success.

It has been argued that in a 100-square mile radius (10 mile by 10 mile area) across any point in Minnesota, upwards of $60 million are accounted for in agricultural inputs and outputs. Outside of energy, there is no other industry that can boost those statistics and significance to a state's resiliency.

We are blessed as educators to work with a cadre of students across the region that contribute to these statistics and success. The Minnesota farm kids are unlike any other child their age. These students grew up in farms, baled hay, cared, prepped, and showed animals at their local county fairs. From here, they may have parlayed that experience into a Minnesota State Fair experience.

Hard work and perseverance was ingrained in them in many ways that other students did not have the luxury to receive. During their high school tenure, they still took part on the farm by received opportunities to take the initiative; command and responsibility. This included taking part in many tasks such as hauling grain, plowing and related subsurface tillage practices, and maybe even pulling their father out of a rut during early spring planting.

Their agricultural leadership took on a different role, an expansion, if you will, during these years. They were introduced to the curriculum that Minnesota high schools have to offer.

Their interest in agriculture blossomed into an education their father or brother may not have been able to provide; the science of why things work the way they do.

Their father could tell them why things worked, but the child could tell them HOW it worked.

How does a corn plant take up nitrogen? It what elemental forms? How does an animal digest grain and forages? How can I weld two pieces of metal on a wagon axle that broke in the middle of the gravel road? These opportunities were in their high school agricultural courses that included Plant Science, Horticulture, Animal Science, Soil Science, Ag Mechanics and Small Engines, and even an industrial technology course, useful for farm practices such as welding.

These same students across Minnesota took their farm and ranch experience, and supplemented that with a unique education in the high school classroom, but that was not enough for them! Their local FFA chapter was very vibrant with producing the next generation of Agricultural and Food Science Technology leaders in Minnesota.

These students were on the fast track on being the community leaders of tomorrow, everyday people like you and me. They competed in contests, fed farmers in the fall at the busy elevator, supported local humanitarian organizations, and took their experience on the farm and in the classroom and competed in crops and livestock judging teams. They learned about career exploration and possible pathways upon graduation. Their FFA Advior and Ag Teacher opened up so many new discussions and opportunities that they could not possibly fathom before, but now saw a remarkable opportunity to be a part of the agricultural equation in their hometown.

Perhaps they took a post-secondary Agricultural and Food Science Technology course in their classroom with their Ag teacher and received Riverland Community College credit, paving the way for them to receive their Associate's degree in Agricultural Sciences, and then entered the workforce locally or transferred on to a four-year institution to receive their Bachelor's degree. Maybe even moving on to a Master's or PhD. How can a student's agricultural background be any more prolific than this?

Agricultural programs are disappearing across the nation, including Minnesota. The latest statistics indicate that two out of every 100 people have ties to production agriculture. This means that 98 percent of people do not know where their food comes from or how it was made. This division will continue as funding and staffing are cut within Aariculture programs in not only Minnesota, but across the Northern Great Plains.

The importance of agricultural education transcends the classroom – we need it to continue to thrive. In 2016, over 5,000 agricultural careers were posted on agriculturally-related job boards. It was illustrated that only 23 percent of those jobs were filled by qualified applications with agricultural experience and background.

The U.S. government believed in 1956 that the only way to combat foreign aggression and the launch of the Soviet Union's 'Sputnik' rocket was to encourage STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) courses to their young students, even at the high school level. These individuals included Carl Sagan and Neil Armstrong, as well as a young Cresco, Iowa-native who went on to be a credited with saving millions of lives by improving wheat cultivators in Mexico and the east Asian countries; Norman Borlaug.

A career and technical education that stressed the rigors of advanced sciences was advocated and marketed across the United States, and within 13 years, the United States became the first country to successfully land a space shuttle and have man step foot on another planetary region.

While attaining a lunar landing is well in our past, by 2050, the world's population will reach over 9 billion people. That substantial growth will equate to a 22 percent increase, requiring agricultural producers to produce as much food as they have produced in the previous 10,000 years COMBINED.

As lawmakers, legislators, business and industry leaders, farmers, and ag educators, we must continue to challenge our communities to advance Agricultural and Food Science Technology curriculum to our young students. We will need them to survive.

Nick Schlitz is an agricultural science instructor and program coordinator for the Center for Agricultural and Food Science Technology at Riverland Community College in Austin.

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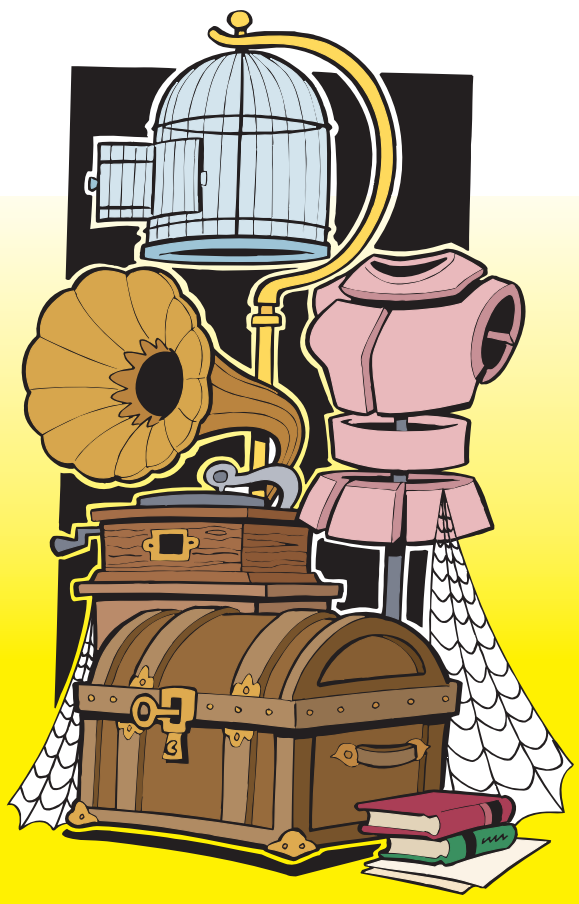
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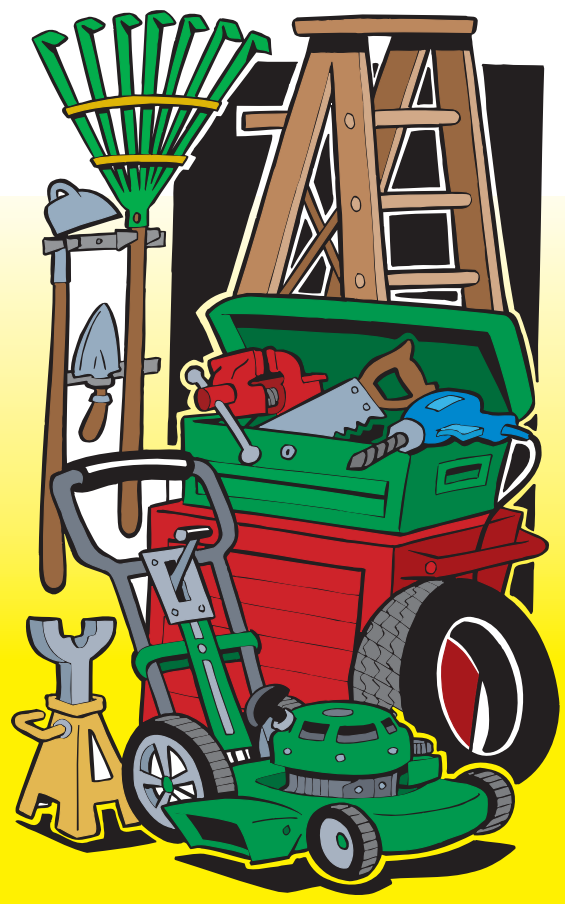
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FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 15, 2016
MORTGAGOR: Jessie Cofske, a married man.
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded August 8, 2016 Dodge County Recorder, Document No. A217295.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC. Dated January 26, 2018 Recorded January 29, 2018, as Document No. A223910.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100392411201211458
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: M&T Bank
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1204 7th Avenue Southeast, Kasson, MN 55944
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 245723012
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 12, Block 3, South Fork Subdivision, Dodge County, Minnesota.
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Dodge
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $177,892.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $181,417.58
That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 24, 2018 at 11:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Dodge County Courthouse, 22 East 6th Street, Mantorville, MN
to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on November 26, 2018 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.
MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:None
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: March 12, 2018

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
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37 - 18-001517 FC

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FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 18-109011

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 30, 2012
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $140,762.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Todd W. Sorensen, a married man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100053612041609047
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Primelending, a Plainscapital company
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 11, 2012, Dodge County Recorder, as Document Number A 196555, As modified of record by document recorded on January 30, 2014 as Document Number A204764 in the office of the Recorder of Dodge County, Minnesota
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 1, Block 6, Blaine's Eighth Subdivision, in the City of Kasson
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 604 5th St NE, Kasson, MN 55944
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 24.132.0320
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Dodge
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $137,330.96
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 17, 2018, 11:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Dodge County Courthouse, 22 East Sixth St., Mantorville, MN 55955
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 17, 2018, or the next business day if November 17, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: March 28, 2018

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY _____
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Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
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Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

4/5,4/12, 4/19
4/26,5/3,5/10

NOTICE

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF DODGE**

**DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION**

**Court File Number:
20-PR-18-205**

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**In Re: Estate of
Barbara M. Rupkalvis
Decedent**

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's will dated January 8, 1991, and codicile () to the will, dated April 2, 2018, and separate writing () under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Judith L. Bartlett whose address is 1048 23rd Ave. SW, Rochester, MN 55902 as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Cout (pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Deborah L. Blaisdell
Registrar
4-2-2018
Dated

Lea Hall
Court Administrator

Judy L. Bartlett
1048 23rd Ave. SW
Rochester, MN 55962

4/19,4/26

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN DISTRICT COURT

**COUNTY OF DODGE
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

CASE TYPE: Juvenile

**Court File Number:
20-JV-18-241**

Summons and Notice Termination of Parental Rights Matter

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:

Reyna Luna and Eleazar Contreras-Perales,

NOTICE TO: Reyna Luna and Eleazar Contreras-Perales, above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).

1. A Termination of Parental Rights Petition has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court located at **22 East 6th Street, Mantorville, Minnesota,** alleging that parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) to the child named in the petition should be permanently severed.
2**. Notice is hereby given** that the matter of said Termination of Parental Rights Petition will be called for hearing before the Juvenile Court located at **22 East 6th Street, Mantorville, Minnesota, on May 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.**
3. **YOU ARE ORDERED** to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.
4. You have a right to be represented by counsel.
5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including permanently severing the parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) and taking permanent custody of the child/ren named in the Petition.

WITNESS, the Honorable Jodi L. Williamson Judge of District Court
By: Lea Irish Hall,
Court Administrator

4/12,4/19,4/26

NOTICE

Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAMED:
Czaplewski Crematory

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **801 7th St. SE Kasson MN 55944 USA**

NAMEHOLDER(S): **Ranfranz & Vine Inc. 5421 Royal Place NW Rochester MN 55901 USA**

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

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as the 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 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.

SIGNED BY:
Paul S. Czaplewski

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
pcdigger3021@yahoo.com

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

4/19,4/26

ABBREVIATED PUBLICATION

City of Kasson Ordinance Chapter 154.025 Height Limitations Exemptions to included (P) Sports press boxes of more than one story.

Full Copies of these Ordinances are available at Kasson City Hall, 401 5th St SE, Kasson, MN 55944

4/19

ABBREVIATED PUBLICATION

City Kasson Ordinance Chapter 110 Alcoholic Beverages clarification of licenses issued by City with a Municipal Liquor and Municipal Liquor store as exclusive outlet for off-sale intoxicating liquor, including wine and strong beer, in the City of Kasson.

Full Copies of these Ordinances are available at Kasson City Hall, 401 5th St SE, Kasson, MN 55944

4/19

NOTICE OF BIDS

**KASSON-MANTORVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #204
Toilet Room Alterations**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Kasson-Mantorville School District will be accepting sealed bids for Toilet Room Alterations , on May 4, 2018 at 2:00 pm at the Kasson-Mantorville District Office located at 101 16th St. NE , Kasson, MN 55944.

Plans and specifications can be viewed by contacting the District's Architect, Armstrong, Torseth, Skold & Rydeen, Inc, 8501 Golden Valley Road, Suite 300, Minneapolis MN and at the Minnesota Builders Exchange in Minneapolis MN and the Builders Exchange of Rochester, Rochester MN.

Interested parties are encouraged to attend a pre-bid meeting to be held at 3:15 pm on April 26, 2018 at the Kasson-Mantorville High School at 101 16th St. NE, Kasson MN.

Documents can be procured by contacting Thomas Printworks, 801 Second Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55404, Telephone 612-374-1120; Toll Free 800-328-7154. Documents can be viewed online at http://dfs.thomasrepro.com/portals/atsr. This site is for viewing documents only. To order online documents call 612-374-1120 or email to Minneapolisaec@thomasprintworks.com . Payments are to be made to Thomas Printworks and are non-refundable. Prime Bidders may secure up to 2 sets of bidding documents upon receipt of a refundable $50 deposit per set, payable to the Architect. Sub-bidders may purchase partial or full sets of bidding documents from Thomas Printworks at a non-refundable charge.

All bids must be sealed and clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "TOILET ROOM ALTERATIONS" and be in the hands of the District by 2:00 pm on May 4, 2018 at which time bids will be opened and read publicly. The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids received as per the specifications and in the best interests of the District. Work can begin on the project no earlier than June 4, 2018 and must be substantially complete by August 3, 2018.

**Bob Hasz
Business Manager
Kasson-Mantorville School District #204**

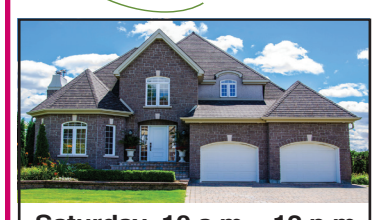
4/19, 4/46



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Advertise in a prime location for real estate.

Advertise your open houses in the:

- Steele County Times
- Steele County Advantage
- Dodge County Advantage
- Dodge County Independent

Your 1x4 ad will run in all four publications for entire month (4 weeks) for only

$60

Contact Annie at 507-319-1549 or email bpannie@frontier.com

Dodge County Independent · Steele County Times · ADvantage

PUBLIC NOTICE

**DODGE COUNTY
COUNTY ROAD Dust Control**

For the year 2018, the County will continue to offer liquid chloride for road dust control.

A $233.00 fee per household along with an application will be required and **checks made payable to "Dodge County."** This will cover a 500' length. Additional lengths are available for an additional cost. Contact the Highway Department for more information.

Applications and payment for chloride dust control **must be received by May 7, 2018**. If accepted, chloride requests submitted after the deadline will be assessed an additional 10% late fee.

Those persons wanting road dust control **must make written application and payment at the Dodge County Highway Department.** (507) 374-6694. Applications are available at the Highway Dept. and online at www.co.dodge.mn.us/departments/permits_and_forms.php

**Guy W. Kohlnhofer, P.E.,
Dodge County Engineer**

4/19,4/26

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CLASSIFIEDS

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TO PLACE AN AD
Steele County Times
507-583-4431
bptimes@frontiernet.net
411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

3-WEEK SPECIAL: $32
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER

TO PLACE AN AD
Dodge County Independent
Dodge County Advantage
507-634-7503 • dci@kmtel.com
121 W. Main St., Kasson, MN 55944

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Gold enclosed car hauler, 8' x 20' 3' nose with 36" side door, fold down rear door, only used once.

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507-259-7515

DEALS ON WHEELS



2015 28' Shadow Cruiser

w/slide FT excellent condition bunkhouse/ separate room - front queen bedroom, LED lighting, power jack, built-in TV, sensor awning, many extras can email pictures. Call 507-355-1347 after 5.

FOR SALE!

2010 Honda Gold Wing, Low miles. Extras
Asking $15,000.
Call Jim 477-2458 or 438-9981 (cell)



0 Cube
.5' x 15' cube.
120,000 miles.
Needs gas pump, battery and tires.
Only $750.
Call 507-259-7515

EMPLOYMENT

$4,000 HIRE BONUS! IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for Direct Care Staff for 4 bed group home in West Concord. PT PM and Float positions available. Must have current MN driv lic & pass background check. Paid training provided! AM's/ Floats: $10.50 – $11; PM's: $11 - $11.50. Call Heidi or Karla at 507-527-2456 or apply at 205 Southview Street, West Concord. "EOE" 16,17,18,19 wk

ROCK PICKING SOUTH of Kasson 1.5 miles. Jr. high to adults, flexible hours. Call 57-273-9678 17,18,19p

HAVE YOU TAKEN LN-VOKANA and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation.

ROCK PICKING SOUTH OF KASSON 1.5 miles. Jr. high to adults, flexible hours. Call 57-273-9678 17,18,19p

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

CALEB'S PET SITTING, Cats and Dogs, please call me at 507- 634 -7907. 33tfc

NICK'S LAWN MOWING SERVICE, weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard cleanup, mowing and trimming, satisfaction gua anteed, eight yrs. exp., free estimates. 507-696-3849 leave a message. 13tfc

BRIANNA'S LAWN CARE SERVICES, mowing, trimming, complete yard cleanup, weekly or on call. Free estimates. Satisfaction guaranteed507-421-7945. 13tfc

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Dish Washers needed.

EVENTS By Saker Sports Bar & Grill

No experience necessary.
Apply within.

401 8TH ST. SE • KASSON

Place your employment ads with us. Call 507-319-1549 and ask for Annie

The Oaks Golf Club in Hayfield

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Bartenders • Waitresses
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2 miles west and 1/2 mile south of Hayfield.

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Full Time

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Austin, MN
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STATE OF MINNESOTA – DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

We are hiring additional members to join our team! The State of Minnesota Department of Human Services is seeking caring people as we are hiring for direct care positions in the Faribault, Hastings, Rochester and additional surrounding areas.

Direct Support Specialist - Human Services Technician
$13.95 - $22.13 hourly

Every person needs the support of others. Minnesota Department of Human Services is looking for person-centered, caring people to support individuals with intellectual disabilities, mental illness, brain injury, and other emotional, behavioral, and medical complexities. No experience is required for this role and paid training will be provided for the Direct Support Specialist- Human Services Technician roles. Job ID **#13233** (Faribault), **13234** (Rochester).

Behavioral Modification Assistant
$16.91 - $23.41 hourly

We are seeking applicants who have experience in direct care, with knowledge in behavioral modification theory or implement behavior management components of treatment plans. **Job ID #2672** (Faribault), **2054** (Hastings), and **18787** (Rochester).

These positions are eligible for wonderful benefits. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a current, with a valid driver's license. To explore these positions and other State career opportunities, go to **www.mn.gov/careers**

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

STATE OF MINNESOTA – DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECT SUPPORT SPECIALIST, BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION ASSISTANT & LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

Austin, Faribault, Kasson, Northfield, Morristown, Owatonna, Pine Island, Rochester, Warsaw & West Concord Areas

The Minnesota Department of Human Services is interviewing for multiple positions/locations on Wednesday, April 11 from 9am to 3pm at Riverland Community College, 965 Alexander Drive SW in Owatonna. Bring your resume, driver's license and current certifications for an immediate interview. Interview appointments can be scheduled in advance by calling 651/766-4142.

The State of Minnesota offers flexible schedules, excellent benefits and competitive wages. For more information on our current employment opportunities, visit **www.mn.gov/careers** .

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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Excellent Location
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McDonald's of Rochester



Equipment Repair Technician

Courtesy Corporation McDonald's is seeking a qualified candidate with basic electrical skills for trouble shooting and equipment repair. Knowledge of HVAC and refrigeration repair is a plus. This individual will be responsible for the equipment and physical plant of multiple locations in the Rochester, MN area.
A strong work ethic with the ability to work independently is a must. Benefit package offers insurance, paid vacation, paid travel, uniforms, tools, meal allowance, and company vehicle.

Interested applicants may apply online at www.McCourtesy.com or mail a resume to Courtesy Corporation, 2700 National Drive, Suite 100, Onalaska, WI, 54650.

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Classified ad with photo runs till it sells in four publications and covers 12 communities. You may cancel your advertisement when your item sells, however, there are no refunds for this special. **Call: 507-634-7503 or email: dci@kmtel.com and place your ad today. Must be prepaid prior to ad running.**

ADvantage DODGE COUNTY | STEELE COUNTY Times | DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Kasson 'on track'

City Council approves 2017 audit

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
DCI MANAGING EDITOR

Kasson's City Council on April 11 heard a presentation by Jason Boynton of Smith Schafer and Associates, a certified public accountant firm in Rochester, and approved the city's 2017 audit.


Coleman

The firm audited the financial statements of governmental activities, business-type activities, major city funds, and the city's aggregate remaining fund through Dec. 31.

A report was issued April 2.

"There were no surprises, and that's usually how it is every year," City Administrator Theresa Coleman said. "It just speaks to the quality of the staff we have, and Nancy (Zaworski) as finance director does an awesome job.

"We're really on track," Coleman said. "It's good to see our electric utilities back on track. And Cathy (Pletta, the Kasson Liquor Store manager) does a real good job at the liquor store, obviously. We're in really good shape."

In other business:

-Councilors agreed to use extra funds from current and future available sources with no budget impact in order to fund the balance of the 2017 street reconstruction project.

The city had borrowing needs in 2017 for street projects and a wastewater treatment plant expansion. In light of the need to remain under a $10 million debt ceiling for the year, the city borrowed $6,780,000 toward the street project, which cost $7,508,147.

Construction is taking place on Third, Fourth and Fifth avenues Northwest and Second Street Southwest.

It's hoped the final phase of the street project can be completed this fall.

Councilors passed a motion offering the position of full-time police officer to Paul Lindgren, a part-time officer since 2006. He would replace officer Michael Bodenheim, who retired in March.

- A motion passed to offer Lindgren's part-time officer position to Mikel Harding.

- Councilors passed a resolution accepting a donation of $250 from Molitor Brothers Farm, Cannon Falls, to the Kasson Fire Department.

Practice Time


STAFF PHOTO: RICHARD JOHNSON

Hayfield firefighters watch as the house is engulfed by flames as firefighters prepare to burn the structure during a practice drill.

Hayfield firefighters gain experience with intentional burn

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
DCI MANAGING EDITOR

Hayfield firefighters practiced their skills on April 5, burning down an abandoned farmhouse south of the city along Highway 56 in Hayfield Township.

A fire was lit inside the home and a crew of 16 firefighters "fought" it with hoses over about two hours as smoke and flames billowed out.

Chimneys thundered down off the roof and the structure finally collapsed into the basement, surrendering to extreme heat.

"Everything went like we planned. We got a lot of great training experience," Hayfield fire chief Paul O'Brien said.

He thanked Kyle and Heather Eggler for allowing the department to burn the house, and Neal Anderson, a firefighter for 32 years, for assisting in the training.

Mantorville closes brush dump

BY GREATTA BECAY
DCI CORRESPONDENT

Mantorville city council members on April 9 agreed the brush dump would be closed to the public, at least for now.

Public Works Supervisor Scott Larsen said that not only is the dump often full so that city workers have difficulty piling more tree debris there until it can be burned, members of the public have dumped steel fence posts, wire, railroad ties with spikes and other debris that can damage city vehicles.

Again, a few people wrecked it for everyone else, one council member said.

When the spring city-wide cleanup is held, city workers will still pick up the branches that residents put out by the curb, but residents can no longer haul their own branches to the city brush dump.

The group did comment that the county brush dump is relatively close. It is located near the transfer station on County Road 16.

The annual Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting was held before the meeting was opened.

Land Records director Ryan DeCook and Mike Stupka, Appraiser II from the county assessor's office, discussed continuing increase in county-wide property valuations.

Is it all a result of being located near the Rochester jobs market? Will the tariff wars affect farm property values in the county? Is this just a bubble in the real estate market, and has it peaked yet?

The group discussed all these ideas and the fact that valuations must follow state guidelines.

As DeCook had stated in an earlier press release, "The Department of Revenue measures the Assessors' performance by comparing county property value to properties that have sold. If assessors' valuations are outside of a 90 to 105 per cent range, changes must be made or property in the county is subject to State Board Adjustments. If the assessors' do not adjust valuations, the Department of Revenue has the authority to make those adjustments."

Staff members in the assessor's office monitor property sales in the county closely to be sure they are valuing property within this range.

The scarcity of property for sale is driving prices up and therefore valuations up, the men noted.

In other business, the council approved a new volunteer fire fighter, pending the results of a background check. Local resident Marc Unnasch applied for the position.

The group also discussed whether the city should join the efforts of other communities within the Zumbro River Watershed to attempt to have the area regionally designated as the Zumbro Water Trail. If the network of riverside parks that would provide better access to the river received the regional designation, the overall trail could receive funds for development from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission.

Mayor Chuck Bradford talked about what Mantorville's project would be and how would Mantorville would fit into the network. Council members decided to turn the information over to the local members of the Economic Development Authority for its review and recommendation.

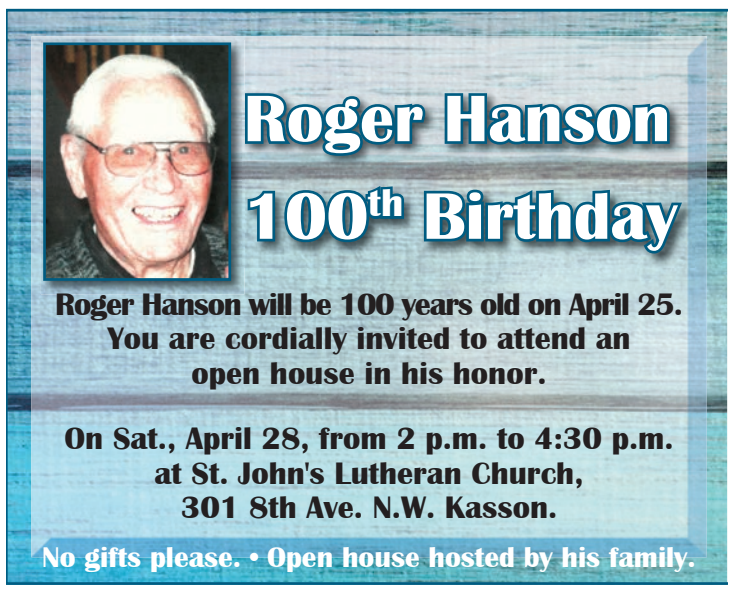
Council members also approved the use of Riverside Park and Goat Island for some of the events of Stagecoach Days, which is scheduled for June 30 and July 1.

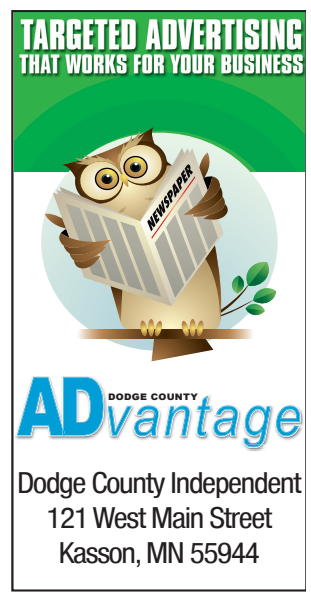
Council member Will Lambert said there will be a draft horse pull, and that event needs to be widely separated from the tractor pull, which also takes place at the park.

Larsen said an emergency preparedness plan is in place should something happen to the buried force main that carries Mantorville sewage to Kasson for treatment.

The plans are in place and the necessary items are on site to repair the line if it were damaged.

The council meets again at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 23 at City Hall.





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ADvantage DODGE COUNTY · Steele County Times · Dodge County Independent



Jason and Kate Sellner of Winthrop, MN welcomed their daughter

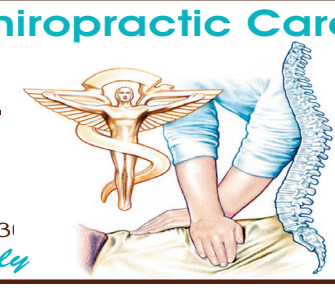
Evelyn Kaye

who was born at 5:15 p.m. on March 21 in New Ulm.
Evelyn weighed 9 lbs 2 oz. and was 20 " long.

Maternal grandparents are Roger and Janet Sinning of Kasson and Paternal grandparents are Bruce Sellner and Fay Hauer both of New Ulm.



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