



INSIDE
NATIONAL
NURSING WEEK
SPECIAL PAGES, A6-7

Alexandria

ECHO PRESS

www.echopress.com | \$1.50 | Wednesday, May 8, 2019

HATS, HORSES AND HURRAHS



Lowell Anderson / Echo Press

Horse racing fans cheer as they watch the Kentucky Derby at the TLHD Run for the Roses Kentucky Derby Party at Carlos Creek Winery on Saturday evening. The event was a fundraiser for Theatre L'Homme Dieu.

On its way to a new home

Restored bell to go in new building

By Lowell Anderson
landerson@echopress.com

The bell at First Lutheran Church in Alexandria has been ringing for 112 years, bringing people together for worship or to mourn a person's death at funerals.

On Sunday, April 28, the bell was rung for the last time at the church on the corner of 9th and Douglas Street.

Last week, the bell — which weighs 1,100 pounds — was removed by workers from Innovative Builders, Erectors and Developers, the company that is also constructing the church's new building at 1655 18th Ave. E.

The bell will be shipped to the Verdin Bell Co. in Cincinnati for restoration, cleaning and fitting of a new mounting bracket and remote-controlled bell strike, before being installed in the church's new building and bell tower later this summer.

A flyer printed for church members explains why the bell is being sent to the company in Ohio, which is one of a few bell foundries in the United States: "Each bell is slightly different when poured/cast and

BELL: Page A8



Lowell Anderson / Echo Press
Workers carefully remove the bell from the tower at First Lutheran Church in Alexandria last Tuesday before shipping it to Ohio for cleaning and refitting. The bell will be installed at the church's new building this summer.



Karen Tolkkinen / Echo Press

Tired of losing money on stock trades because of a slow internet connection, Dick Quitmeyer got his Lake Andrew neighbors to petition for faster service. They hope for it to be installed in 2020.

ORGANIZING FOR INTERNET

Experts: High speed internet comes to those who ask

Ed. Note: This is the second in an occasional series on internet access in Douglas County.

By Karen Tolkkinen
ktolkkinen@echopress.com

Dick Quitmeyer's hope for a better-connected future lies at the crossroads of two Douglas County roads, within view of a couple of grain silos, a pond and Lake Mary Township Hall.

It's where a fiber optic line ends, just a few miles short of his Lake Andrew home, where he says slow internet speeds bog down his online stock trades enough to cost him up to 30 percent in potential revenue. "It's terrible," he said. "I just hate the fact that we have lousy internet here."

Last year, Quitmeyer pitched in on a neighborhood effort to bring Runestone Telecom Association's high-speed fiber optic to the shores of Lake Andrew. As vice president of the Lake Andrew Lake Association, he

convinced more than 30 of his neighbors to sign a petition asking the cooperative to bring fiber to their doors.

Competition for prime internet service in Douglas County is at the street level these days, as neighborhoods around Douglas County are organizing to bring high-speed service to their homes and home-based businesses. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't, but it's a tactic encouraged by the local telecommunications cooperatives as well as state officials.

During the past two years, residents of Lake Louise and Country Estates in Arrowwood organized, enabling Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association to land two state grants to install fiber optic to their

INTERNET: Page A5

Deputy justified in fatal shooting, says county attorney

Body cam: Victim raised shotgun

By Al Edenloff
aedenloff@echopress.com

A Douglas County deputy's decision to fatally shoot a 27-year-old Miliona man two months ago was justified, according to Douglas County

Attorney Chad Larson.

In a news release issued Friday, Larson said an investigation showed that the victim, Tyler Schmidbauer, repeatedly disobeyed Deputy Alex Herzberg's orders to put down a shotgun and at one point he raised the shotgun before Herzberg shot him through a door.

At the time of the Feb. 26 incident, Schmidbauer was

under the influence of alcohol, methamphetamine and amphetamine, according to toxicology results, Larson said.

Herzberg was in full uniform, identified himself as a law enforcement officer and "unequivocally instructed" Schmidbauer to drop the shotgun, Larson said.

"Tyler disregarded the deputy's commands, attempted to

conceal himself behind the open door and raised the barrel of the shotgun," Larson said in the release. "A reasonable officer under the same circumstances would have believed that deadly force was necessary to alleviate the threat."

Larson added that Herzberg did not have time to determine whether reasoning with Schmidbauer would have been

fruitful once he began to raise the barrel of the shotgun.

Larson said that although the body camera video depicts an angle that is inferior to Herzberg's vision, the video itself



Schmidbauer

SHOOTING: Page A5



May is Mental Health Month

Take care of your behavioral health needs today.

www.lmhc.org • 320-762-2400

702 34th Ave East • Alexandria MN, 56308

Confidential screening available at www.lmhc.org

Classifieds . . . B4-B7
Life A10-A11
Obituaries . . . A8-A9
Opinion A4
Sports B1-B3
Outdoors B8



0017267224

7 85186 00045 6



The official newspaper of Douglas County • Alexandria, MN 320.763.3133 • News tips 320.815.0834