



The Globe



Alyssa Sobotka / The Globe

Firefighters attack a blaze within Ellsworth City Hall Tuesday morning from above and below. To see more photos and video, visit dglobe.com.

ELLSWORTH LOSES HISTORIC CITY HALL IN TUESDAY FIRE

Nine departments respond to help small town

By Alyssa Sobotka
asobotka@dglobe.com

Ellsworth

Smoke and rubble was about all that remained of the historic Ellsworth City Hall Tuesday afternoon after it was gutted by fire.

Nine fire departments, hailing from neighboring communities in southwest Minnesota and northwest Iowa, were dispatched to the scene shortly after smoke was reported coming from the 114-year-old building at approximately 6:15 a.m. Tuesday.

Firefighters fought the fire from the front of the building, located at the corner of Broadway Street (Minnesota 91) and Fourth Avenue. At the same time, a backhoe was brought in to begin demolition at the rear of the building. Minnesota 91 was closed to traffic for much of the day.

FIRE: Page A5



Tim Middagh / The Globe

Paul Snyder, a new Ellsworth city council member (in blue cap), visits with area fire crews as they keep watch for flare-ups during demolition of Ellsworth City Hall.

Rail to Road facility may be operational by late February

Rail cars to deliver cement product, lumber to region

By Julie Buntjer
jbuntjer@dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON — A transloading facility that will deliver product to rural Worthington on the Buffalo Ridge Regional Rail Authority shortline railroad may be operational by the end of February, according to Clark Meyer, president of Sioux Falls, S.D.-based Rail to Road Inc.

Meyer had originally hoped to have the facility completed last fall, but it was held up after the state stepped in and took over the permitting process. The Nobles County Planning Commission approved of the plans late last June, with the Nobles County

Board of Commissioners following suit in early July.

"It took about six weeks to get approval of the plans (from the state), and now we're waiting on the state inspector again," Meyer said Tuesday, sharing his frustration with state agencies. The current wait is for an inspector to check the plumbing work for the single toilet and sink inside the structure.

Aside from those delays, Meyer said construction — which began in October — is going well thus far. All of the concrete has been poured for the footings, and work is under way to set the steel.

"Weather-wise, we've been blessed," Meyer said. "I think they've got a couple weeks of heavy crane work — it's getting close."

The transloading facility is being constructed on approximately 13 acres in the southeast quarter of



Tim Middagh / The Globe

A Rail to Road transloading facility is being constructed on approximately 13 acres in the southeast quarter of Section 32, Worthington Township, near Org.

Section 32, Worthington Township, near Org. The facility will unload materials from rail cars that travel the Union Pacific and Ellis & Eastern railroads and reload product onto trucks.

At this time, Meyer said Portland cement (the basic ingredient in concrete) will be delivered by rail cars for use in local mar-

kets, including ready-mix plants. He has also picked up a contract to haul in lumber that will be used in new construction of buildings in the area, and continues to work on leads to eventually bring more product in through the transloading facility.

Meyer anticipates six truck loads will go out from the facility per day.

A beaver bounty

With drop in pelt value and reduction in trappers, population is booming

By Julie Buntjer
jbuntjer@dglobe.com

SLAYTON — Southwest Minnesota seems to have a very healthy population of beavers, and it may only get worse with the devaluation of beaver pelts offering little incentive to area trappers.

Late last month, the Murray County Board of Commissioners renewed its commitment to control the beaver population by reauthorizing a beaver bounty. For the past several years, the county has paid \$60 for each beaver trapped from the county's open ditch systems.

In 2018, Murray County paid \$600 to trappers for getting 10 beavers out of the county's ditch system, according to Auditor-Treasurer Heidi Winter.

Howard Konkol, Murray County ditch inspector, said he doesn't know how many years the bounty has been in place, but the incentive has provided him with a list of half a dozen trappers he can call upon when beavers have dammed up water in the

BEAVER: Page A4



Submitted photo

A beaver dam creates ponding of water in this image provided by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Area Wildlife Manager Bill Schuna.

Council approves rezoning for proposed project across from Olson Park

By Leah Ward
lward@dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON — A rezoning of property across from Olson Park was approved during Monday's Worthington City Council meeting.

The Worthington Planning Commission had voted 3-2 during its Jan. 2 meeting to recommend the rezoning of the property. Monday's council action came on a 4-1 vote — Alan Oberloh was opposed — after hearing from the developer, a city engineer and Glenwood Heights residents.

Mike Bourquin of Brewster spoke on behalf of the developer, Midwest Sustainable Construction LLC. He displayed drawings of the proposed development that necessitates a rezone.

A daycare with a capacity of 149 kids and an assisted living center with 22 units would comprise one building and have a courtyard in the middle of the building for play and leisure, eliminating the need for fences. Two other buildings would house 27 apartment units with one or two bedrooms. The apartments are planned for market rate rent ranging from \$895 to \$995.

Additionally, the developer plans to build a small coffee/ice cream shop on the premises.

One major concern discussed in the planning commission meeting earlier this month was the amount of potential traffic the development might bring to the area. At Monday's meeting, city council members asked Worthington Director of Engineering Dwayne Haffield to weigh in regarding potential traffic concerns. He explained that with a through road like Crailsheim Road, it's wise to limit the number of access points.

"Every access point creates a point of conflict," said Haffield, describing a potential risk for crashes.

However, Haffield seemed confident that it wouldn't take extreme road improvements to accommodate the traffic brought in by the proposed development.

Despite Haffield's reassurance, Glenwood Heights residents Kelly Meyer and Dennis Rick remained concerned that rezoning the land for multi-family housing would bring an unsafe amount of traffic.

"There may be some things we can do different (to control traffic)," Meyer conceded, "but nobody

COUNCIL: Page A2

\$1.50 SINGLE COPY

WEATHER

PARTLY CLOUDY

HIGH 21°
LOW 16°



INDEX

Agriculture	B4	Out & About	A6
Deaths	A5	Reminiscing	B6
Diversions	B3	Sports	B1
Lifestyles	A3	Weather	A2
Markets	B4		

GOOD MORNING

Jeny Jock
Worthington
Thank you for subscribing!



7 85186 00151 4

DEATHS

Betti (Collins) Oldenkamp

July 17, 1927 - Jan. 11, 2019
SPENCER, Iowa - Betti (Collins) Oldenkamp, 91, Spencer, died Friday, Jan. 11, in St. Luke Lutheran Home.

A celebration of life will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at Andringa Funeral Home in Sheldon, Iowa.

Arrangements by Andringa Funeral Home.

Donald Carlson

April 1, 1929 - Jan. 15, 2019
SHELDON, Iowa - Donald Carlson, 89, Matlock, Iowa, died Tuesday, Jan. 15, in Sanford Sheldon Care Center.

A graveside service will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in Greenwood Cemetery in Matlock. The Rev. John Pea will officiate.

Arrangements by Jurrens Funeral Home in George, Iowa.

Earl Gruis

Aug. 7, 1951 - Jan. 14, 2019
ROCK COUNTY, Minn. - Earl Gruis, 67, Ruthton, Minn., died Monday, Jan. 14, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m., followed by the funeral at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19, at First Presbyterian Church in Holland, Minn. Burial will be in Holland Cemetery.

Arrangements by Hartquist Funeral Home in Pipestone, Minn.

Emil Buresch

April 16, 1931 - Jan. 14, 2019
LAKEFIELD, Minn. - Emil Buresch, 87, Lakefield, died Monday, Jan. 14, in his home.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. today, Jan. 16, at United Methodist Church in Lakefield. Burial will be 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, in Lakefield Memorial Park. Visitation will continue from 10-11 a.m., followed by the funeral at 11 a.m., Thursday at the church. Pastor Carolyn Doering will officiate.

Arrangements by Osterberg Funeral Home.

Jerome Verdick

Sept. 17, 1932 - Jan. 13, 2019
JACKSON, Minn. - Jerome Verdick, 86, Alpha, Minn., died Sunday, Jan. 13, in Good Samaritan Home.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m., with a rosary at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, at Church of the Good Shepherd in Jackson, Minn. A requiem-tridentine Mass will be 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lakefield, Minn. Burial will be in Good Shepherd Catholic Cemetery in Jackson.

Arrangements by Kramer Family Funeral Home.

Luetta Cuppy

Sept. 23, 1928 - Jan. 13, 2019
ROCHESTER, Minn. - Luetta Cuppy, 90, Rochester, died Sunday, Jan. 13, in Seasons Hospice House.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. today, Jan. 16, at Osterberg Funeral Home in Jackson, Minn. Visitation will continue from noon to 1 p.m., followed by the funeral at 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, at Salem Lutheran Church in Jackson. Pastor Eunice Woodberry will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in Jackson.

Arrangements by Osterberg Funeral Home.

Mike Wessels

July 18, 1949 - Jan. 12, 2019
LIVERNE, Minn. - Mike Wessels, 69, Lake Shetek, MN, died Saturday, Jan. 12, in Sanford Hospice Cottage.

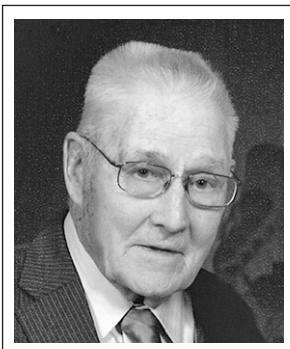
Visitation will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m., followed by the memorial service at 10:30 a.m., today, Jan. 16, at First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. Pastor Jason Cunningham will officiate. Burial of cremains will be in Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Full military honors will be provided by Luverne American Legion and VFW. Arrangements by Dingmann Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Luverne.



Lulu Bryan Hanson

Lulu Hanson joined her husband, Leslie, on January 6, 2019 in peace after a long illness. She was born in St. Paul and attended Mechanic Arts High School, then the University of Minnesota where she met Leslie. They lived a number of years in Worthington where Lulu worked at Sears. They then retired to Willmar. Lulu and her husband were active in the Lutheran church. Lulu is preceded in death by siblings Jack, Bernie, Norma and George. She is survived by children Priscilla (Kirk) Hedberg, Dean (Gina) Hanson and Anne Hanson, along with beloved grandchildren Nathan and Erin (Adam Theis). Donations can be made to the Union Gospel Mission and the American Lutheran Church in Worthington.



Dean Kruize

Dean W. Kruize age 91, of Sibley, IA died Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, January 14th at Zoar Presbyterian Church, rural George, IA, with Rev. John Pea and Rev. Dale Lint officiating. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Ashton, IA. Visitation will be Sunday, January 13th from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., with the family present from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Jurrens Funeral Home in Sibley, IA the son of William and Minnie (Loerts) Kruize. Dean grew up at Sibley, IA where he attended Holman #7 Country School. His first car was a 1930 Model A Ford. At age 18 he joined the U. S. Navy during World War II. When he returned home from active duty in 1946, he started farming. He was united in marriage to Verna Stallman, on August 29th, 1949 at St. Mary's Rectory in Ashton, IA. They made their home at Sibley, IA. In 1961 he and Verna started Kruize Trucking. He hauled livestock and grain for area farmers. In 1993 the decision was made to discontinue hauling livestock and continued to haul grain and fertilizer. He always enjoyed what he was doing and visiting with his many customers; he never considered it a job. In 2009 he retired and his son, Bill, took over the company. In his retirement he enjoyed going out to the farm to mow lawn and tend to projects on the acreage. He always liked being there when the trucks would return home for the day to visit with the drivers. It was always fun to listen to his many trucking stories and our last night we spent with him was filled with these many stories!

Faith and family were important to him. He liked spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ashton, IA until it closed, and he became a member of Zoar Presbyterian of George, IA. He also was a member of the American Legion. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren: son, Bill Kruize of Sibley, IA; daughter, Betty (Marlin) Wolter of Ocheyedon, IA; their children, Clark & Jefferie Wolter, Ellie and Gage; Lesa (Nathan) Leinen, Ava, Autumn and Ambrey; Amy Wolter (Julien Janigo); daughter, Debbie (Kelly) Van Beest of Sibley, IA; their daughter, Shannon; daughter, Karen (Lynn) Roder of Ashton, IA; their children, Brian (Jondle) Roder; Rachel (Ryan) Haskin, Mya and Maxwell; as well as cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by Verna, his wife of 68 years, on December 31, 2017; parents, William & Minnie Kruize; sisters Arlene (John) Schmidt and Helen (Alvin) Groenewold, nephew Jeff Groenewold; parents-in-law Leonard and Rose Stallman; sisters-in-law Mildred (Herbert) Poss, LaVonne Knerr and Bernice (Lowell) Reiners; brothers-in-law, Virgil (Marge) Stallman, and Irving Stallman.

Roger Lopau

Aug. 21, 1933 - Jan. 13, 2018
SIBLEY, Iowa - Roger Lopau, 85, Sibley, died Sunday, Jan. 13, in Sibley Specialty Care.

Visitation will be from noon to 1 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 18, at Jurrens Funeral Home in Sibley. The Rev. Barbara Kopperud will officiate. Inurnment will be in Holman Township Cemetery in Sibley.

Arrangements by Jurrens Funeral Home.

Convicted felon charged with firearm, drug possession

By Ryan McGaughey
rmcgaughey@dglobe.com

PIPESTONE — A Pipestone County man faces a pair of felony charges following the execution of a search warrant at a location known to be his place of business.

Travis D. Jasper faces felony charges of felon convicted of a crime of violence-firearm violation and fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance-not a small amount of marijuana while in possession of a firearm. He also faces a misdemeanor charge of possession of a small amount of marijuana.

According to the criminal complaint, the Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at 9:25 a.m. Jan. 2 in the 1600 block of 135th Avenue, Holland. Discovered at the premises were more than 39 pounds of

marijuana without packaging, a baggie containing white residue that field-tested positive for methamphetamine, a rifle magazine with one .243 round and drug paraphernalia including baggies, rolling papers, a marijuana bong and marijuana pipes. Also found later in the search was a case of .22 bullets.

Jasper was convicted of fifth-degree assault in February 2007 in Pipestone County. He faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in jail and a \$30,000 fine for the firearm violation charge, and up to five years in prison and \$10,000 fine for the possession with a firearm charge. He is currently being held in the Nobles County Jail.

Jasper is set to appear in Pipestone County District Court at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

'It's sad to see it go'

Ellsworth residents recall memories made from within community's city hall

By Alyssa Sobotka
asobotka@dglobe.com

ELLSWORTH — Residents of Ellsworth recalled fond memories of the historic Ellsworth City Hall in the hours after it was destroyed by fire Tuesday morning.

According to longtime Ellsworth residents, the city has had only two city hall buildings. The first, built in 1894, burned down in 1904. The city hall building that was lost to the fire on Tuesday was erected in 1904 at the exact location of the town's first city hall using the same cornerstone bricks, said longtime Ellsworth resident Bill Deutsch.

Over the years, Ellsworth's City Hall was used for much more than official city business.

Although the upper level of city hall hadn't been used for many years due to safety concerns, Deutsch and Leo Bofenkamp remember playing on the basketball court inside that building during their days at St. Mary's High School during the 1940s and early '50s.

Although the basketball court wasn't as big as today's standard-sized court, Bofenkamp said it worked well for the private school's basketball practices, regular and conference games.

"There were no showers," he said. "We just went up and changed from our street clothes to practice clothes and then went home sweaty."

Bofenkamp was a member of the school's last graduating class in 1952



Alyssa Sobotka / The Globe
Demolition is shown Tuesday morning at Ellsworth's City Hall following a fire that rendered the building a total loss.

and currently lives in Worthington with his wife, Roberta.

Deutsch said the court was small enough that the 3-point arcs touched.

"You could stand on one side of the court and make a basket from the other," said Deutsch, who graduated in 1944 and, at age 92, still resides in Ellsworth.

The two men also remember the upper level's stage, which Deutsch said was considered the Opera House and hosted many plays. The stage was equipped with an old curtain that was still stored inside — a loss many residents are now saddened about. Deutsch guessed the curtain dated back to 1904, when the Ellsworth's second city hall was built. It contained advertisements from businesses of the time.

"Everybody was going to do something with the curtain and now it's too

late," Deutsch said.

Several residents also recalled the old plaster wall in the upper level that was adorned with names and initials of former Ellsworth residents.

A group of longtime residents who gathered at the Ellsworth Cafe Tuesday morning recalled having many events at city hall — from dances to ice cream socials and meetings.

Bofenkamp said the Rev. Edward Scheuring — a former priest at the Catholic church in Ellsworth and St. Mary's School superintendent — would haul records up the stairs to host Friday night sock hops.

Bofenkamp also vividly remembers the ice cream socials and live music that were hosted every Wednesday night during the summer just north of city hall, where the town's water tower now sits.

"It was the good 'ol days," he said.

FIRE

From Page A1

"It's extremely sad and it's very devastating," Ellsworth Mayor Tasha Domeyer said as she watched the 1904-era building come down. Domeyer is also a firefighter on the community's volunteer fire department.

She said the few city council members that were at the scene early Tuesday morning decided that demolition of the building was the safest way for it to come down.

"We can't take the chance of it tipping to the north and taking out our water tower," she said at the scene as Henning Construction of Adrian controlled demolition of the structure.

Ellsworth firefighters continued to monitor the structure well into the afternoon, and Domeyer said the front wall was about all that remained as of 4 p.m.

"As we get toward the front (of the building), the fire keeps rekindling," she said late Tuesday afternoon. "So we're going to be here a little while yet."

Domeyer said the town's water tower remained undamaged, and noted that the official cause of the fire was still unknown. The fire department, however, suspects it began somewhere near the front of the building.

Rich Gaul, an Ellsworth fireman and member of the city council, said earlier Tuesday that he suspected the fire to be electrical in nature based on the brief time firefighters were inside the building before the fire spread.

Firefighters were inside city hall long enough to retrieve a few items from the clerk's office, like computer systems and filing cabinets containing important documents, Domeyer said. Two pickups and a telehandler were also saved.

Longtime Ellsworth City Clerk Dawn Huisman said while some documents were saved, other old records "dating back to the beginning" were lost. The extent of lost documents won't be known until the contents of the salvaged filing cabinets can be sorted through, she added.

Other community organizations such as the senior center and community club (formerly the optimist club) also used city hall for storage, Huisman said.

The Ellsworth City Council planned to call an emergency meeting later Tuesday, once the building was completely torn down. Domeyer said issues such as insurance and where to relocate the city's official business would likely be discussed at the meeting.

In addition to the Ellsworth city clerk's office and council chambers,



Tim Middagh / The Globe
A Luverne ladder truck prepares to pump from a reservoir set up by the George, Iowa Fire Department as crews battle hot spots at the Ellsworth City Hall fire Tuesday.

the building also housed the city's wastewater operator's office, the American Legion and Vast Broadband — which caused an interruption of cable, internet and phone services to customers within the city.

The fire caused Ellsworth Public Schools — which sits one block south of city hall — to close for the day. Domeyer said the school closed due to concerns of a possible water shut-off and because the school is heated by a boiler.

Residents of Ellsworth stepped up to provide support for the firefighters throughout the day.

Ray Conklin, part owner of the Ellsworth Cafe, made complimentary hot sandwiches for firefighters on the scene while other volunteers kept the coffee pot filled and made their rounds serving the firefighters.

Domeyer said much like the town's extended power outage during a storm last spring — as well as the ice storm of a few years ago — people from neighboring communities were willing to step in and help during Tuesday's fire.

"You feel proud to be from a small community, where you know everybody is going to be there (when you need it)," she said.

Departments worked throughout the foggy morning running tankers back and forth between nearby towns, as the Ellsworth Fire Department's main water filling station was a spigot that extended from city hall.

Providing mutual aid were firefighters from Adrian, Rushmore, Luverne, Magnolia and Lismore, as well as the George, Little Rock and Rock Rapids fire departments in Iowa.

To read Tuesday night's report on the District 518 Board of Education meeting, visit dglobe.com.