

What’s Happening?

April

Friday, April 5

7 p.m. – Open AA meetings at Hope Lutheran church basement. Any questions call 507-829-3815. Meetings will continue every Friday, same place, and time.

Monday, April 8

5:30-6:30 p.m. – Kindergarten Round-Up at the Minneota Public School. (See ad on page 3).

6:30 p.m. – Minneota City Council Board Meeting, council chambers.

Tuesday, April 9

5:45 p.m. – EDA meeting, council chambers, Minneota City Hall.

Wednesday, April 10

12:30 p.m. – Minneota Rotary Meeting, Minneota Manor.

Thursday, April 11

7 p.m. – Rehearsals for the Buffalo Ridge Chorale will begin at Christ Lutheran Church, Hendricks, MN. The chorale will present their spring concert, “Young at Heart” at the Church of St. John Cantius in Wilno, Minnesota on Sunday, June 2. Area high school students will perform as soloists with the chorale.

Thursday, April 13

The next Time Travelers program at the Lyon County Museum, for Grades 1-3 will meet 10:30-11:30 and grades 4-6 will meet from 12:30-2 p.m. This month’s topic is: From Here to There. The United States Post Office (USPO) was created on July 26, 1775, by decree of the Second Continental Congress. Participants will create their own special design for the Museum Post Office. The Time Travelers program is free to participate. Sign up is recommended by calling 537-6580 or email director@lyoncomuseum.org the Friday before the class. Parents and family members can join in on the fun!

Tuesday, April 16

9 a.m. – Lyon County Board Meeting, Government Center, Marshall.

7 p.m. – Minneota School Board Meeting, conference center.

Wednesday, April 17

12:30 p.m. – Minneota Rotary Meeting, Minneota Manor.

Thursday, April 25

11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Salad Luncheon at the Minneota Senior Center, sponsored by the Senior Center and American Legion Auxiliary.

Police Blotter

The Minneota Police Department Received the following calls for service:

- Monday, March 25

 - Found property in the 500 block of E. Lyon Street.
 - Animal complaint in the 300 block of E. 3rd Street.
 - Permit to purchase Application.
 - Keys locked in a vehicle in the 200 block of Hwy 68.
- Tuesday, March 26

 - Civil matter in the 400 block of E. Lyon Street.
- Wednesday, March 27

 - Trespassing in the 200 block of E. 5th Street.
 - Suspicious activity in the 4500 block of Van’s Street.
 - Medical assist in the 200 block of S. Jefferson Street.
- Thursday, March 28

 - Keys locked in a vehicle in the 300 block of Hwy 68.
 - Motorist assist in the 500 block of N. Jackson Street.
 - Keys locked in vehicle in the 100 block of Hwy 68.
- Friday, March 29

 - Animal complaint in the 200 block of Hwy 68.
 - Suspicious activity in the 500 block of E. Lyon Street.

Fly like an Eagle

Continued from Page 1

Ludwikowski is uncomfortable when it comes to the attention he is getting en route to becoming an Eagle Scout.

“I’m pretty excited about the experience,” he said. “However, I do not like being in front of large groups of people.”

Ludwikowski started in Cub Scouts when he was in first grade and has been involved in Scouts ever since. He currently belongs to Troop 320 where his father is the Scout Master.

Ludwikowski eventually moved up the Boy Scouts ladder one rung at a time to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life. And now he has reached that final rung.

“I have always wanted to be an Eagle Scout,” Ludwikowski said. “Two of my uncles were Eagle Scouts and I always wanted to be like them.”

The path to becoming an Eagle Scout is time-consuming and requires dedication, drive, cooperation, patience and perseverance. Less than four percent of all Boy Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

“It had its moments where you get buried in work, and it was pushing you to do more than you usually do,” Ludwikowski responded, when asked if there ever was a time when he thought of giving up his pursuit of becoming an Eagle Scout.

“And I did think about quitting for a bit. However, I took a step back and got over it and pushed myself harder.”

One of the required merit badges is the Service Project in which a potential Eagle Scout must plan, develop, and lead a service project that benefits the community, school or any religious institution.

That project, however, may not benefit the Boy Scouts of America. It also can’t be of a commercial nature or be solely a fund-raising project.

Ludwikowski’s Service Project involved the installation of lockers and cubbies at the St. Edward’s School where he attended until eighth grade.

“I did this because we only had hooks to put our coats and

other things,” he explained. “So in the winter, the hallways got a little cluttered.”

When Ludwikowski earned the 21 required merit badges in order to become an Eagle Scout, he then had an Eagle Scout Board of Review on Feb. 21 at the Merit Center in Marshall.

And in a few more days, he will be attending his Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

“I’m a humble person that does not like to have attention drawn upon me,” he said. “But I am proud of my accomplishment.”

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The Bluebird Creek Conservation Club of Ghent has donated 48 acres of natural prairie land to the SMSU Foundation, to be used as an environmental classroom.

The land consists of natural habitat, and the Bluebird Creek runs through the land.

“It’s natural prairie, plus with the creek, it’s a wonderful combination of prairie and water ecosystems,” said Dr. Emily Deaver, Environmental Science professor at SMSU.

“We’ll use it for classes and for student research. We’ve already made use of it this past fall with an ecology class, and we had a couple of students do some of their research that was presented at the Undergraduate Research Conference.”

Jerry Schaefer explained that the land was part of a number of parcels that were acquired by the Ghent EDA for the Bluebird Creek Housing Develop-

ment, on the southwest part of Ghent, about 15 years ago.

The initial acquisition was about 100 acres, approximately half of which was for the housing development. The balance of the land was put into a conservation reserve program.

With the end of that sign-up approaching, Bluebird Creek board members said the time was right for the transaction, said Schaefer.

The land will be known as the Richard and Irene Maertens Conservation and Research Area, to honor the Maertens’ willingness to sell the original parcels to the Ghent EDA “for well under the market value,” said Schaefer.

Schaefer was the Ghent EDA

director at the time of that purchase. The Maertens family also wanted part of that land to remain in a natural state.

Richard Maertens was a former SMSU Foundation Board member, while Schaefer and current Bluebird Conservation Club President Michael Murray are both SMSU alumni.

The club itself is very small. “We have three active members,” said Murray. “Jerry and Darwin Dyce and I were looking for a way to have the land managed and maintained, because it became too much for a small group.”

Schaefer talked to his wife, Kathy — an Assistant Professor of Management at SMSU — about the situation, and she

suggested contacting Deaver. A meeting was set up with Conservation Club members and SMSU personnel, and that’s what started the ball rolling.

The land will be used for outdoor classes and student research.

“This will be an educational resource for our students, and a natural area that can be enjoyed for years,” said Bill Mulso, Executive Director of the SMSU Foundation.

“We’re appreciative of the Bluebird Conservation Club for their willingness to gift this land, which will be an asset for all SMSU students.”

A formal dedication will take place this coming fall.

Bill approved to replenish disaster account

The Minnesota House last week provided final approval for a bill which directs \$10 million to the state’s currently empty Disaster Contingency Account.

The state responded with over \$11 million in relief to flooding events in Brainerd and Duluth last year, draining the contingency account.

State Rep. Chris Swedzinski, R-Ghent, said it is important to replenish those funds as communities around the state face flooding this spring and with storm season lurking.

“While it appears as though an ideal melt of our snow pack may spare us the worst-case, widespread devastation that was earlier projected, some areas are still experiencing significant damage and we need to make sure resources are available to help those people,” Swedzinski said.

“It’s good we are replenishing the disaster account so it can serve its purpose of quickly delivering relief funds without a special legislative session having to be called.

Whether it’s flooding this spring or storm damage in the months to come, it’s good we are making funding available to deliver immediate relief.”

Since its creation in Fiscal Year 2014, the contingency account held \$17.466 million in 2015 and \$20.4 million in 2016.

The bill House Republicans led to preliminary approval would have transferred \$20 million in each of the next two years to the fund, but that total was reduced by a joint House-Senate conference committee prior to final passage. The bill, which the House approved 127-0, has now been sent to Gov. Tim Walz for enactment.



Flooded fields

Fields like this one in the Minneota area have attracted geese, but will take awhile to return to normal. Photo for the Mascot by Sue Jacobson.

Land donated for an Environment Classroom

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2/\$5

Stone Ridge Creamery Premium Ice Cream

48 oz pkg, Selected Varieties

\$2⁹⁹

Pork Shoulder Roast

Fresh, Bone-In

\$1⁴⁹ lb

Essential Everyday

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6-8 oz pkg, Selected Varieties

3/\$5

Chobani Greek Yogurt

5.3 oz cup, Selected Varieties

10/\$10

Dole Kits

8-13.25 oz bag, Selected Varieties

2/\$5

Essential Everyday

Butter Quarters

16 oz pkg, Salted or Unsalted

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