



No. 76
dglobe.com

The Globe

Luverne readies for Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener



Numerous activities planned for Oct. 12-13 event

By Julie Buntjer
jbuntjer@dglobe.com

Luverne — The city of Luverne will be invaded by visitors clad in blaze orange in a few weeks as it hosts the 2018 Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener — the last for Gov. Mark Dayton, who started the event during his first year in office.

The expectation is that Dayton will hunt this year, unlike four years ago, when Worthington hosted the annual governor's hunt. At that time, Dayton was still recovering from a recent hip surgery.

"He has yet to harvest a bird," noted Rick Peterson, event chairman, of Dayton's pheasant hunting success — or lack thereof — on opening weekend the past seven years. "I think the will to succeed is pushing him ... and that he will hunt."

The Oct. 13 Governor's hunt is open only to invited guests, among them political leaders, state agency officials and the media. After all, the hunt is as much about promoting tourism in

PHEASANT: Page A2

Worthington, Promvongsa settle excessive force lawsuit

By Karl Evers-Hillstrom
kevershillstrom@dglobe.com

ST. PAUL — Worthington resident Anthony Promvongsa, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the city of Worthington have reached a settlement agreement in U.S. District Court over a claim that Worthington Police Department (WPD) officers subjected Promvongsa to excessive force during a July 2016 traffic stop.

The two parties came to an agreement Monday in a St. Paul courtroom after a nearly six-hour settlement conference.

On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Wilhelmina Wright approved a request by Promvongsa's attorneys to dismiss claims against five individual WPD employees with prejudice, meaning the claims cannot be brought again. Next, an order to dismiss charges against the city, WPD and Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force (BRDTF) will be filed with the court before the settlement is officially completed.

"We have reached a settlement, our client is satisfied with the settlement," said Teresa Nelson, ACLU of Minnesota legal director. "Until the settlement is approved by the city council we will not be sharing any more details."

A legal representative for the city said minor details are still being worked out, and the city will make a comment once everything is finalized.

The ACLU released a dashcam video of the incident in June 2017. The arrest footage appears to show WPD officer and BRDTF agent Joe Joswiak pull Promvongsa over, then approach the vehicle with his handgun out, before kneeling and punching the Worthington resident and dragging him out of the vehicle.

Promvongsa's attorneys alleged the department covered up the incident and did not properly document and investigate allegations of excessive force. They also said Sgt. Tim Gaul failed to intervene during the incident and at one point remotely turned off the microphone on the dashcam — which Gaul said was an accident.



Promvongsa



Tim Middagh / The Globe

Beth Hoekstra will celebrate five years of sobriety in December. She became addicted to the prescription painkiller hydrocodone after living with severe back pain and going through seven surgeries.

Addicted to opioids, Hoekstra now on road to recovery

By Julie Buntjer
jbuntjer@dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON

Beth Hoekstra never saw herself as an addict.

A college graduate, working professional, wife and mother of two, she didn't fit the profile of a drug addict — at least that's what she kept telling herself.

Hoekstra grew up in Adrian, attended Minnesota West and graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University with a bachelor's degree in social work. Her career began in Nobles County Family Services, where she coordinated adoptions, licensed foster homes and worked in child protection and truancy for three years. She went on to become social services coordinator for a nursing home, and later did child advocacy work for a private agency in Osceola and O'Brien counties in Iowa.

'I was so close to losing everything'

As she climbed the ladder in her career, Hoekstra was on another journey — one she thought invisible to others — that led her down the path of opioid addiction.

It's difficult to pinpoint just when the hydrocodone she'd been taking for pain became a pill she popped to mask other stressors in her life, but that's what happened.

Hoekstra's first encounter with prescribed painkillers came in 2009 with her first surgery for sinus problems. The pills helped her in recovery, but she never felt like she had to have them.

When the sinus problems continued, and a bulging disk formed in Hoekstra's spine, there was a two-and-a-half year span, beginning in 2011, in which she had seven surgeries — three were sinus-related, the others to alleviate her severe back pain.

She couldn't function without pain relievers, and was taking far more pills than her doctor had prescribed just to get through each day.

"I thought the doctors weren't giving me enough," Hoekstra said. "I was going through a 30-day prescription in a matter of a few days."

When she ran out of pills, she began experiencing withdrawal, but still didn't think she'd become addicted.

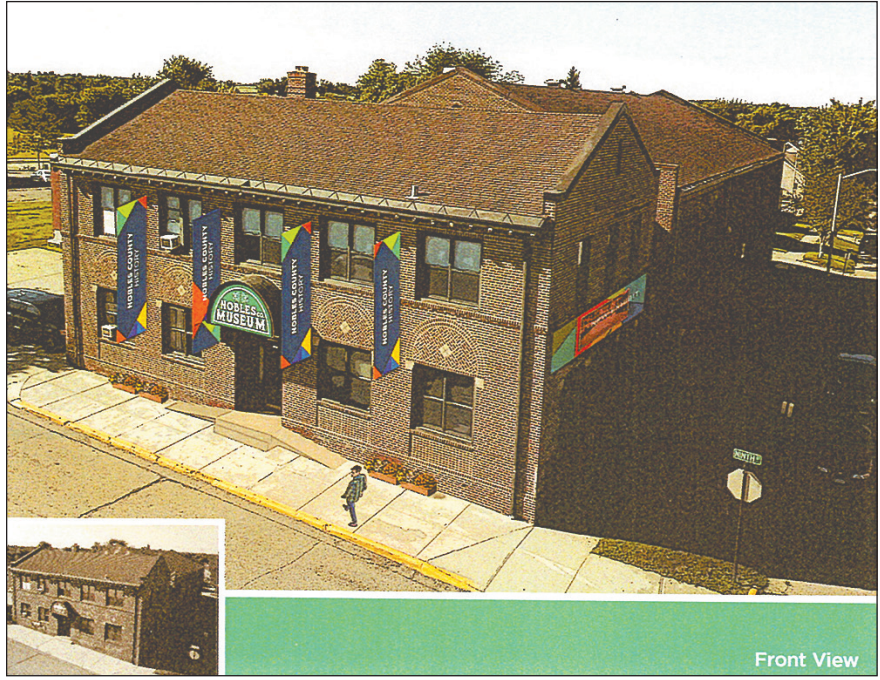
Instead, she started to work the system, calling clinics and pharmacies outside of the Sanford and Avera networks so she could get more hydrocodone. She'd travel as far away as Sioux City, Iowa, to pick up a prescription.

She also stole medication from the homes of friends and family.

"I was continuing to take more and more and it was just getting bad," she

RECOVERY: Page A3

LAWSUIT: Page A5



Front View

Special to The Globe
Pictured is a concept design for the proposed Nobles County Historical Society museum.

Ludlows propose \$1 million donation toward NCHS museum

City makes pledge of \$500,000

By Karl Evers-Hillstrom
kevershillstrom@dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON — The Armory Business Center may become the Nobles County Historical Society (NCHS) museum after all.

Momentum for the project emerged when Bob and Pat Ludlow, longtime Worthington residents who founded Bedford Industries in 1966, said they would donate \$1 million toward renovations, on the condition that the city of Worthington and Nobles County contribute a combined \$1 million as well.

In a quick response, the Worthington City Council on Wednesday morning voted to pledge \$500,000 toward renovating the building into a museum to display historical exhibits.

The city's contribution — taken from \$2 million in hospital proceeds that were dedicated to the seemingly doomed WELL (Welcome, Education, Learning, Livability) facility — is contingent on the county contributing \$500,000 as well.

Bob and Pat had several rea-

sons to give the contribution. For one, Bob's grandmother, H.J. Ludlow, was one of the founding members of NCHS in 1933 and the organization's first-ever president.

"This was really a tribute to her," Pat told The Globe Friday.

Bob and Pat always valued the NCHS and had it at the top of their list for a potential contribution. Now was the perfect time, with gymnastics being moved out of the Armory and hardworking NCHS volunteers pushing for a new museum. The NCHS currently has the smallest such exhibit area in

MUSEUM: Page A5

\$1.50 SINGLE COPY

WEATHER

SUNNY
HIGH 66°
LOW 50°



INDEX

Classifieds	B5	Opinion	A4
Deaths	A5	Outdoors	B3
Diversions	B4	Religion	A4
Lifestyles	A6	Sports	B1
Markets	A3	Weather	A2

GOOD MORNING

Ronald Schafer
Jackson
Thank you for subscribing!

