

Pigman-Kruse's husband indicted for murder

Arrest made following August 2015 incident in Brewster residence

By Alyssa Sobotka
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BREWSTER — Christopher D. Kruse was indicted and arrested Friday in relation to the 2015 murder of his wife, Janette Pigman-Kruse.

According to Nobles County Attorney Kathleen Kusz, a grand jury met this

week and indicted Christopher Kruse for first-degree premeditated murder of his wife. She was fatally shot Aug. 19, 2015, in her bed in the couple's Brewster home. She was 40.

After the indictment was issued, Kruse was arrested by the Nobles County Sheriff's Office without incident, Kusz said.

In Minnesota, the convening and an indictment by a grand jury is necessary to charge a person with murder.

According to Kusz, a grand jury heard testimony this week during a multi-day closed court process. The entrance to the courtroom at the Prairie Justice Center in Worthington was guarded.

"It's to protect the jurors who are participating from any kind of public pressure," Kusz said about why the process is closed to the public. She said she couldn't comment further.

According to information shared by law enforcement at the time of the murder, the Nobles County Sheriff's Office was dispatched around 2:40 a.m. Aug. 19, 2015 to 652 Second Ave. in Brewster in response to a 911 call made by Christopher Kruse. He allegedly claimed that she had been shot in the chest by an intruder. A loud bang awakened him, but he couldn't identify a suspect, he allegedly told law enforcement. He also said he

ARREST: Page A5

WATER LEVELS RISE

Plentiful rain, melting snow bring multiple woes across region



By Leah Ward
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Regional

As this winter's record-breaking snowfall began to melt and wintry precipitation turned to rain this week, communities all over the region face rising water levels.

One significant public safety concern is road flooding, and some counties were hit harder than others. Murray County Chief Deputy and Acting Emergency Management Director Heath Landsman said Thursday that Murray County hadn't received any reports of road flooding, but that township roads were likely in bad shape. Conversely, Cottonwood County Emergency Management (CCEM) said many roads were flooded throughout the county.

CCEM issued a no-travel advisory Thursday afternoon. Later, Cottonwood County Board Chair Norm Holmen declared an official state of emergency for Cottonwood County.

FLOODING: Page A5



Above: The Little Rock River spills out of its banks and covers the valley floor as seen from the top of the bluff at the Sunrise Prairie Cemetery in rural Nobles County. **Left:** Water overflows on 220th Street Wednesday afternoon just east of Reading.

Photos by Tim Middagh / The Globe

'I want to make my parents proud'

District 518 ALC student who escaped gang violence set to earn high school diploma

By Alyssa Sobotka
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Editor's Note: This is the first article in a planned mini-series featuring students who take advantage of Independent School District 518's 'credit-recovery' educational opportunity at the Area Learning Center.

WORTHINGTON — The end of the third quarter will mark a happy moment in Martin Mejia's life — one that will undoubtedly make his family he left behind three years ago proud.

The 21-year-old who escaped gang violence culture in El Salvador is set to earn his high school

diploma March 29 after completing an educational journey he prioritized despite working a full-time job. He will be invited to walk during spring graduation.

"(I) want to make my parents proud," Mejia said through translation assistance from Independent School District 518 Area Learning Center Secretary Rhina Resendez.

Often mistaken as the 'Alternative' Learning Center, Mejia's educational experience could at best be described as such.

While many students of a similar age slept throughout the night,



Martin Mejia works on an assignment at the Area Learning Center, where he will graduate at the end of the quarter.

Mejia worked a nine-hour shift at a local business. It would have been easier for Mejia to crawl into bed afterward, but for the last two years, he's head-

ed straight to school.

"There's days you can see he's dragging," Resendez said, adding that

STUDENT: Page A2

Costello honored as Attorney of the Year

Lakefield lawyer integral in Keep It Growing program

By Julie Buntjer
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LAKEFIELD — Patrick Costello, a senior partner in Costello, Carlson, Butzon & Schmit LLP in Lakefield, was recently honored by Minnesota Lawyers as one of its 2018 Attorneys of the Year. Costello was singled out for Outstanding Service to the Profession for his integral role in changing Minnesota law to allow charitable organizations to own farmland. The law change in 2004 resulted in the formation of the Southwest Initiative Foundation's Keep It Growing program.

The program makes it



possible for individuals, most often those without descendants or little connection to distant relatives, to donate their farmland to the foundation. Doing so allows the landowner's tenants to continue to farm the land, while knowing the rental income generated will benefit others.

Costello dedicated about 30 years of his career to seeing his idea become a reality, and it's all because he made a promise to a client who wanted to know his farm would be cared for.

COSTELLO: Page A8