



Author shares her  
inspiring story  
at the Elk River  
Library.  
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# STAR NEWS

Slowly spring  
sports teams are  
getting busy,  
after a wet and  
chilly start.  
Pages 41-44



Saturday, April 23, 2022 ★ Vol. 150, No. 17

Elk River ★ Otsego ★ Rogers ★ Zimmerman

## Anoka P.D. asking for help locating missing Elk River man

The Anoka Police Department is requesting the public's help in locating a 58-year-old Elk River man.

Keith Harvell was last seen on April 3 at 7:22 p.m. with his vehicle at a Kwik Trip in Anoka, according to a Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Crime missing person alert.

Police believe he is on foot, but his destination or direction of travel isn't known. He may be in the Twin Cities metro area.



Harvell

Harvell has a tattoo of a lighthouse on his chest and a tree on his torso.

Harvell is described as a white man with brown hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a black nylon shirt, black nylon jacket and black pants. He is 5-foot-8 and 185 pounds.

Police are asking anyone with information regarding Harvell's whereabouts to call 911 or the Anoka Police Department at 763-427-1212.

## Soul mate



Submitted photos  
Sponkey, who  
roamed Orono  
Cemetery in Elk  
River every spring,  
summer and fall  
for seven years, is  
noticeably absent.  
He died in March  
and there's an  
effort to memorial-  
ize him at the cem-  
etery.

## Orono Cemetery cat lived double life as family pet, comforter to countless

by Jim Boyle  
Editor

When the usual warmth of spring finally arrives and the foot traffic at Orono Cemetery in Elk River picks up, there will be a noticeable absence amidst the blades of grass and gravestones.

Sponkey, a black cat with a larger-than-life spirit, has died. The feline regularly made the rounds there spring, summer and fall for seven years, serving as a comforter to countless visitors who came to count on his presence and support.

"We figured he got to know a few people over the years, but we had no idea of the impact he had," Hunter Lord said of his childhood cat. "He had a full-time job out there."

When news of Sponkey's death reached a Facebook bulletin board, it lit up with reac-

See **Cemetery cat Sponkey**, Page 16



Left:  
Hunter  
Lord, 25,  
of Elk  
River, with  
his cat  
Sponkey  
before he  
knew of  
the ani-  
mal's vast  
impact on  
the peo-  
ple in the  
commu-  
nity.



763-441-1353

# WE ANSWER THE PHONE.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

Minutes from the April 5  
Sherburne County Board meeting.  
See this and more public notices  
on pages 30-34.

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