

SoMinn Weddings 2022! Inside our pages



KLATT AND HILDEBRANDT TRIPLE A WINNERS 2A

Thursday January 20, 2022



Lillian Cox Gault (left) was the first woman to be elected mayor in both the city of St. Peter and the state of Minnesota in 1921, less than a year after women won the right to vote. Shanon Nowell (right) is the first woman to be elected St. Peter mayor in the 100 years since Gault first won the office. (Carson Hughes/southernminn.com)

PROHIBITION to PANDEMIC

Nowell leads city of St. Peter 100 years after 1st female mayor

By CARSON HUGHES carson.hughes@apgsomn.com

Just over 100 years ago, Lillian Cox Gault made state history as the first female mayor in Minnesota elected in St. Peter in April 1921.

Nowell is an executive assistant to the provost at Gustavus Adolphus College and served as a city councilor, representing the north ward, for two years before her election to the mayoral seat.

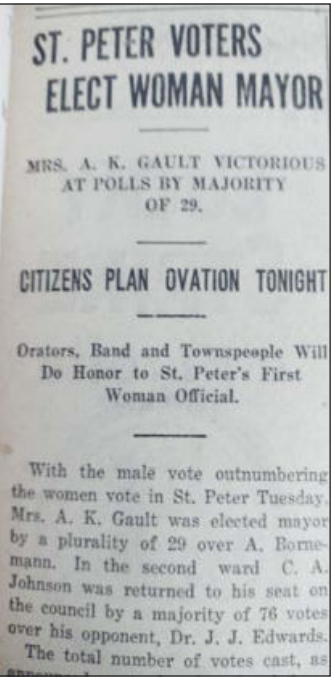
Upon taking the reins of city leadership, Nowell has set her

sights on promoting affordable housing, connecting with the city's increasingly diverse population and continuing city plans to invest federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan.

Of the \$1.26 million in aid from the federal government, the City Council earmarked \$650,000 last month for three projects.

"[Safe Routes to School] is something that kind of went on hold during the pandemic, and that's something we want to progress on," said Nowell.

See FEMALE on 3A



Lillian Cox Gault overcame a tight race in 1921 to become the first female mayor of St. Peter and in the state of Minnesota. She was elected by a margin of 29 votes in an electorate where men outnumbered women two to one.



The Third District League of Women Voters assembled in St. Peter in 1921, using their newfound political power to call for a reduction in armaments. The push to abolish war was made in the wake of World War 1, then the largest war in global history.

St. Peter Schools returns to in person learning after 5-day separation

By CARSON HUGHES carson.hughes@apgsomn.com

Amid an increasing spread of COVID-19 infections among students and staff, St. Peter Public Schools converted the Jan. 13 school day into an at-home flexible learning day.

The flexible learning day was followed by a teacher work day Friday, which teachers utilized for prep time, while students had the full day off.

"We had a five-day separation with the flexible learning day, teacher work day and holiday," Superintendent Gronseth said. "We had been monitoring the number of new cases coming in, and while we continue to have new cases every day, our numbers are slightly lower than they were last week."

The move covered the entire school district, including St. Peter Early Childhood, South Elementary, North Elementary, St. Peter Middle School, Saint Peter High School, Rock Bend and Hoffmann Learning Center.

However, middle school and high school students were still permitted to attend extracurricular activities. Community Education swimming lessons also continued as planned on Thursday and Saturday.

Unlike a day off from school, students were still expected to perform classwork on the flexible learning day.

PreK teachers sent flexible learning BINGO sheets home with children, assigning preschool friendly learning activities at-home. Families and teachers could communicate throughout the day on online learning programs like Homeroom or Seesaw or by call and email.

See SCHOOL on 3A



St. Peter Public Schools implemented a flexible learning day on Thursday in hopes of curbing the spread of COVID-19. Because of a teacher work day on Friday and Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, students will be out of the classroom for five consecutive days.

Contractor hired for Hwy. 14 expansion, on track for 2023 completion

By CARSON HUGHES carson.hughes@apgsomn.com

The construction phase of a planned four-lane expansion of Hwy. 14 between Nicollet to New Ulm is ready to begin this spring.

On Dec. 1, the state accepted a final \$86 million bid from Hoffman Construction. State Sen. Nick Frentz, DFL-North Mankato, said the bid did not include the expense of purchasing the right of way necessary for engineering, estimated to be around \$14 million.

MNODT's target date to start the four-lane expansion on a 12.5-mile segment of road between Nicollet and New Ulm is in spring 2022. Current estimates time the completion of the project in late 2023.

The preliminary design of the project includes the construction of a four-lane divided highway from New Ulm to the existing four-lane highway west of Nicollet.

J-Turns will be constructed along the way at higher risk intersections, including the intersections with New Ulm Quartzite Quarries, Jeremy Drive, Kohn Drive and the Minnesota Valley Lutheran School. Right turn lanes will also be added at all public schools and left turn lanes at all median crossings.

The plans also add a bypass and interchange to the city of Courtland, intended to improve the safety of travel on Hwy. 14.

The corridor expansion has been financed by state, federal



Advocates, including those part of the Highway 14 Partnership have been advocating for the full highway to be converted to four lanes for decades. The piece from Nicollet to New Ulm was the last stretch left to be fully funded. (Photo courtesy of the Highway 14 Partnership)

and local partners. The largest share, around 47% of funding, comes from a \$40.9 million federal Transportation Infrastructure

Department of Transportation.

About a quarter of the project cost is covered by a \$22 million federal grant awarded by the United States Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program in Sept. 2020.

State matching for the grants, approximately \$10 million, amounts to 12% of the split. The District 7 State Transportation Improvement Program has committed \$6.1 million toward the project, and Nicollet County has promised \$3.5 million.

The four-lane expansion intends to improve what is considered one of the state's deadliest roadways. The expansion of Hwy. 14 has been a personal topic for

many in the region. In 2020 alone, there were two fatal crashes on the stretch.

"I'm very pleased with the progress made on getting this four lanes all the way to New Ulm," said Sen. Frentz. "I think MNDOT has done a great job so far organizing this, and I'm looking forward to everyone in southern Minnesota getting the benefit."

The state, local legislators and advocates have been working to expand Hwy. 14 to four lanes from Rochester to New Ulm for decades now. The penultimate stretch, from Dodge County to Owatonna was finished in 2021, making the 12 miles in Nicollet County the last ones to meet the goal.

Klatt and Hildebrandt are St. Peter Public Schools Triple A winners

By St. Peter Public Schools

SPHS seniors Anna Klatt and Shea Hildebrandt are this year's winners of the school's Triple A Award.

"Anna and Shea are wonderful selections for the Triple A Award to represent Saint Peter High School," SPHS Activities Director Shea Roehrka said. "Both truly embrace the term student-athlete and are great leaders in our school community. Anna and Shea involve themselves in multiple areas within our school, they challenge themselves in the classroom, and push themselves out of their comfort zones to take on new challenges. Congratulations to both of them on a well-deserved award."

Established in 1988, the Minnesota State High School League's Triple A Award is sponsored by AAA-Minnesota and Fairview Sports and Orthopedic Care. The award goes to high school seniors who have a "B" or better grade point average (GPA) and participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities. Triple "A" Award recipients are selected by a multi-level process involving the League's member schools and administrative regions.

St. Peter High School's Triple A winners for the previous five years include:

2021 — Vanessa Kruger & John Borgmeier

2020 — Aubry Landsom & Jaden Neubauer

2019 — Signe Alger & Isaac Peterson

2018 — Jordan Keeley & Rafat Solaiman

2017 — Kelli Hanson & Eric Carlson

The following are brief profiles of this year's SPHS Triple A Award winners:

Anna Klatt

Anna Klatt, the daughter of Kathy and Joe Klatt, maintains a well-balanced schedule during her time at SPHS, all the while earning a 4.24 weighted grade point average (GPA). During her time, she has engaged herself in several AP (Advanced Placement) and College in School courses.

"I am truly honored to receive this award. I always looked up to the students who got Triple A and felt inspired by them," Klatt said. "Unknowingly, they motivated me to do well in all my activities and classes, and join new, harder ones. Those challenges and learning experiences have been some of my favorite parts of high school. I am encouraged to participate in a variety of activities in the future to stay well rounded. This award means so much to me. All glory to God! And miles of gratitude to my family, and all the wonderful teachers, coaches, and music directors that have helped and supported me. I couldn't have gotten this far without any of them!"

"It's a privilege to receive this award with Shea, who is so deserving of it with his genuine kindness to everyone," she added. "I'm proud to represent our school in all three categories. I'm grateful for all the opportunities I've gotten to experience to help me grow and achieve this award."

Klatt is very active in the SPHS fine arts program, having been a standout for the SPHS band program playing the flute and serving as section leader throughout her high school years. She also is active with the solo/ensemble and large group events. She was recently selected as an All State band member as well. She also is involved with the SPHS choir program including participating in large group competitions. She also participated in speech during her sophomore year.

Athletically, Klatt has been a member of the Saints' varsity swimming & diving team as well as the gymnastics team. She earned All-Big South honors in gymnastics her sophomore and junior seasons.

Her future plans include possibly attending either the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) or the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and majoring in biology. She also plans on participating in band during her time in college.



SPHS seniors Anna Klatt and Shea Hildebrandt are this year's winners of the school's Triple A Award.

Shea Hildebrandt

Shea, the son of Teresa and Kurt Hildebrandt, is another one of those well-balanced students who has taken advantage of his academic opportunities at SPHS and has also earned a weighted GPA of 4.24. He has challenged himself in the classroom through a wide range of AP and College in School courses.

"I'm very humbled and extremely honored to be this year's male recipient of the Triple 'A' Award," Hildebrandt said. "It is exciting to see that all of my hard work in the three areas of the Triple 'A' Award over the years really paid off, and to be in such great company with a student like Anna is

truly an honor. We have such a strong grade overall academically and being around them each day in class has really helped push and challenge me throughout my time here at SPHS.

"I also owe a lot to the wonderful teaching staff we have here at Saint Peter High School. They really encourage us and want us to succeed in everything we do, not just in the classroom, but during the whole high school experience."

Hildebrandt has immersed himself into the SPHS fine arts programs through the choir program, where he serves as a section leader, and this past fall he participated as a cast member in the fall production of "Mamma Mia!"

The Saints senior standout has been a multi-sport athlete throughout his years at SPHS including serving as a captain for the football and basketball (two years) teams. He also lettered through his junior year in baseball and earned a letter in cross country his junior year when the pandemic pushed back the start of the football season. He was named All-District on the football field this past season as a defensive back and receiver.

Shea's future plans include attending Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa) where has been accepted as an honor student in the College of Design and will major in architecture.

Can I shovel the snow from my driveway into the road?

By TROY CHRISTIANSON
Guest Columnist

Question: What is the law in regards to pushing snow from ones driveway out onto the road?

Answer: It is illegal to place snow from a driveway on or next to a public highway or street. The Minnesota Department of Transportation reminds everyone, "The placing of snow on or near a public road creates hazards, including drainage problems, drifting, sight



Ask a Trooper

Troy Christianson

obstruction and unsafe access. Keep crosswalks, intersections, entrances and exits clean and unobstructed."

Minnesota law and many local ordinances prohibit plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise

placing snow on to public roads or sidewalks. This includes ditches and the right-of-way area along roads.

Violations are considered misdemeanors, but civil penalties also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard, such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump, that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow.

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- Letters must express an opinion on a topic of local interest. Letters to announce events are appropriate for the Community page.

- Letters to the editor must be exclusive to the Herald.
- Submissions must be signed by the author and include an address and daytime number to verify authorship. That information will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be published.
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- Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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Constitution of the United States 1789 (rev. 1992)

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LOCAL

FEMALE

From Page 1A

Minnesota's first female mayor

While the city of St. Peter deals with the upheaval generated by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, the city was with its own “new normal” in the year 1921. It was an era of major progressive reform, including women's suffrage and prohibition, which led to major shifts in American life.

Gault won the St. Peter mayoral election less than a year after women won the right to vote through the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution. Her election in April 1921 was the first St. Peter mayoral race that women could participate in.

St. Peter's, and the state of Minnesota's, first female mayor had developed a wealth of leadership experience before taking the position. According to the book “Who's Who Among Minnesota Women,” written by Mary Dillon Foster in 1924, Gault played an active role in the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as the regent of the Omaha chapter, state secretary, national officer and vice president general from Nebraska.

She moved from Nebraska to her hometown of St. Peter after the death of her husband, Andrew K. Gault, and was credited with organizing the Nicollet County chapter of the American Red Cross during World War I.

Gault was also recognized as the daughter of St. Peter's first mayor, Eugene Saint Julien Cox, who was elected in 1865. Her childhood home, the historic E. St. Julien Cox House, still stands at 500 N. Washington Ave. in St. Peter. It is maintained by the Nicollet County Historical Society.

After receiving encouragement from friends and local businessmen, Gault threw her hat in the race. She squared off against ex-mayor Adolph Bornemann after incumbent Mayor Willaim Haesecke declined to seek a fourth term. In the final tally, Gault defeated Bornemann by just 29 votes and won a plurality of 551 of the 1,073 votes cast. Many of Gault's supporters were men, who outnumbered female voters in the electorate, according to the April 8, 1921 edition of the *St. Peter Herald*.

An ovation in Gault's honor was planned to celebrate the historic occasion featuring the St. Peter Association band and local guest speakers.

“It is expected to make the ovation one of the biggest events of its kind which has ever occurred in St. Peter, and the ladies invite everyone to turn out and give their cooperation,” wrote the *Herald*.

Law, order and prohibition

As mayor, Gault established herself as a “moral cleaner” and called for strict enforcement of prohibition laws as well as city ordinances. Immediately after taking office, she visited local soft drink parlors and pool halls with the chief of police and warned the owners to not allow gambling and keep boys under 18 out of their buildings.

“It is rumored that moonshine will be hunted out on every occasion and that drunks will be dealt with according to the law without quarter,” reported the *Herald* on April 22, 1921.

That same year, government agents were dispatched to St. Peter in a prohibition raid. Law enforcement uncovered liquor bottles at the Coleman bar and seized jugs of alleged moonshine front the Crawford soft drink emporium, according to reporting at the time.

The city further hiked regulations on soft drink parlors, requiring the businesses to apply for a license and keep windows and doors free of obstruction. The regulation was passed by the City Council, but Gault, in a rare display of mayoral authority, used her veto power to block the municipal legislation, objecting that the ordinance was not strict enough.

Under the ordinance, soft drink dispensers could receive a license if they had not been convicted of a felony within the past year, but Gault raised concern that the ordinance would prevent people who committed felonies but avoided conviction from getting a dispensary license. She further objected on the grounds that people guilty of selling cigarettes to minors could still receive a license.

Her objections were immediately bypassed by the St. Peter City Council, which passed the ordinance with a veto-proof majority.

Gault's law and order crusade also manifested in a crackdown on “indecent” dancing. Both the shimmy and cheek-to-cheek were strictly prohibited. She also upped enforcement on existing ordinances setting an 8 mph speed limit for cyclists and bans on liquor signs.

A voice for women

Throughout her time in office, Gault was a steadfast supporter of women in politics. When the League of Women Voters held a convention in St. Peter calling for the abolition of warfare and a worldwide reduction of arms, Gault welcomed the organization with open arms.

“She remarked that, by a happy coincidence, her first official welcome was extended to the organization that was nearest her heart, and in the course of a neat address, she informed the delegates that they would not be impeded by bicycles, that they would see no

speeding autos, that they would be spared the sight of minors smoking [cigarettes], and that they would not be shocked by drunkenness,” reported the *Herald*.

With political ambitions beyond St. Peter, Gault ran for Congress in 1922. She wasn't the only one in her family to make an attempt at a Congressional seat. In an archived 1922 edition of the California-based newspaper, the *San Pedro News Pilot*, it was reported that Gault's sister, Irene C. Buell, was also running for Congress. The paper reported that it was the first time two sisters entered a Congressional race at the same time.

“I see no reason why any woman should not enter politics,” Gault was quoted in the Oct. 5, 1921 edition of the *Times Herald* of Olean, New York. “I have found the conducting of the affairs of a city of 10,000 very interesting, as well as a responsibility. Running a city is much like running a household. A good housekeeper and a good mother ought to make the best mayor.”

Present day persepective

The agenda of St. Peter's newly-elected mayor is quite different from Gault's a century ago. While illegal moonshine rings were once the top priority for the city, today Nowell identifies the city's greatest challenge as a lack of affordable housing.

Many people who wish to move to St. Peter are blocked by a limited selection of rental properties and little inventory of available housing, said Nowell. Current residents searching for a bigger home in the city are also disadvantaged by the lack of housing options.

“I think for the council and the mayor, we need to keep a spotlight on that, keep [affordable housing] at the top of our agenda so that city staff have that direction that we want them to keep working on that,” said Nowell. “Part of that is partnerships with local development groups ... We want to be good to work with and lower as many roadblocks to development as we can. I don't think we're looking for unmitigated development here in St. Peter; we want to be playful and smart.”

Nowell also plans to use her mayoral office to foster dialogue between the city and its increasing Hispanic and Somali communities. The mayor said the city will continue to have community conversations, and she wants to encourage diversity in city leadership.

“One of my priorities as mayor is to increase the diversity on city boards and commissions. That's where a lot of our local governing happens,” said Nowell. “It's a great opportunity for people to be involved in the decisions that happen in our city government. To expand the diversity on those groups is really important to me and something that I'm working on right now.”

SCHOOL

From Page 1A

South and North Elementary School learners were assigned learning tasks over their Seesaw accounts and could connect with teachers over phone, email or Google Meet. Middle and High School teachers assigned work to their students over Google Classrooms and were available to answer questions through Google Classroom or email.

Ahead of the flexible learning day, Superintendent Bill Gronseth wrote in an announcement that the flexible learning day was timed to give students five consecutive days out of the classroom to hopefully curb the spread of positive COVID cases.

By Wednesday, Jan. 12, infections totaled over 50 cases among students and staff, wrote Gronseth. Approximately half the cases were at St. Peter High School, 12 were detected at St. Peter Middle School and five to six cases were reported at each elementary school.

“We hadn't planned on doing a flexible learning day today, but we were seeing a significant increase in COVID cases among students and staff. We had over 20 new cases yesterday,” said Gronseth in an interview Jan. 13. “Knowing that we already had a four-day weekend, because Friday is a teacher work day already planned and Monday is an MLK Day holiday, with so many staff and students out, we thought it best to create a five-day separation for folks and hopefully get on top of cases in our schools and the community.”

St. Peter Public Schools isn't the only Minnesota district struggling with absences amid the Omicron surge. In the past week, schools in Faribault, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Shakopee, Farmington, Minnetonka and more transitioned into temporary distance learning models to curb the spread.

The school district has no plans to implement distance learning going forward. However, Gronseth said distance learning is an option on the table if needed.

“We're really hoping to avoid going to distance learning. We know in-person learning works best and we want to protect that as much as we can,” said Gronseth. “If taking a shorter break will allow us to stay in school for the long run, that's what we want to try to do.”

If circumstances do force distance learning, the district would aim to take a more “focused” approach than the all-distance learning method of the 2020-21 school year.

“Last year, all of the students went to distance learning, and if we ran into those circumstances this year, we would take a more situational approach,” Gronseth said in a Jan. 19 interview. “Like, in some of our special needs classes, where students aren't able to wear masks, we've had some go to distance learning, but it's been very short periods of time. So, if we had a situation where a class or teacher or building had to make some changes, we'd do that. It wouldn't necessarily be the whole school district.”

The district currently requires masks for students and staff at the K-8 level, but Gronseth said there has been a noticeable uptick in mask wearing at the high school level recently, too. District leaders hope to see a decrease in cases as the Omicron variant possibly comes down from a peak in the coming weeks.

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OPINION

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St. Peter Public Schools: An update from the superintendent

St. Peter schools have begun the second semester of the 2021-22 school year. For most of our middle and high school students, this means a fresh start with a new schedule of classes. While COVID continues to affect our schools and our community, we are pleased to be able to continue with in-person learning.

The beginning of the second semester is also when we begin planning for next year.

There are many details involved with planning for a school year, including estimating enrollment projections, budgets, course offerings, registration, schedules, and more. It also includes implementing changes that are determined by the state and federal government. With the legislative



Another View

Bill Gronseth

session quickly approaching, we are learning more about proposed bills concerning changes in funding, State standards and requirements, and a myriad of other topics.

Each year there are many proposed bills regarding education. Some of them are granted committee hearings and move on to be considered by either the House of Representatives or the Senate. Most successful bills have proposals in both the House and the Senate (known

as sister bills). Lobbyists from a multitude of organizations track all of these bills and focus their attention on those most likely to gain approval.

Countless hours of research, testimony, and discussion take place in the Education Finance and Education Policy Committees before a bill is considered for inclusion by the full House or Senate. Unless a representative or senator is on one of those committees, their background knowledge or understanding of a topic may be limited. It is important for lobbyists, educational leaders, and the general public to share their knowledge, reasoning, and their stories with our legislators to help them make solid decisions regarding our

schools, our students, and our communities.

Legislative decisions drive changes in our schools on a yearly basis and are part of our planning for the future, but local input is also needed. In the weeks ahead we will begin our strategic planning process. We will soon be announcing a schedule of meetings for families and community members to share their perspectives and visions for the future. Be watching for opportunities to join the conversation.

Your perspective and your voice are important!

Bill Gronseth is the superintendent for St. Peter Public Schools.

Mayo: Pausing to learn more about menopause

Menopause can be a blessing for those with a history of heavy periods and pelvic pain, but it also can be a curse for others with new-onset frequent hot flashes, drenching sweats, sleepless nights, mood swings, vaginal dryness and urinary disturbances. Here are answers to common questions about menopause.

Am I in menopause?

If you have not had a period in the last consecutive 12 months without an obvious cause for it, such as hormonal medications, thyroid problems, pregnancy or a prolactin disorder, you might be in menopause. Elevated levels of follicle-stimulating hormone can suggest menopause or perimenopause in a blood test. This blood test is not necessary to diagnose menopause, however.

Some menopause symptoms include hot flashes, vaginal dryness, sleep disturbances, sexual dysfunction and new-onset depression. These symptoms can begin before menopause, including the final menstrual period, during a phase called menopause transition. Hot flashes typically peak during the first two years after your last period, lasting on average for three to five years. In some women, hot flashes can last for 10 years or more.

When and why does menopause happen?

Natural menopause hap-



Another View

Ginny Clementson

pens when the ovaries permanently stop releasing an egg every month. The median age of natural menopause is 51. On average, a woman ovulates about 400 eggs in a lifetime. Once the ovaries run out of follicles, the estrogen levels drop and natural menopause occurs. This natural drop in estrogen, particularly a form of estrogen called estradiol, usually is gradual and leads to the symptoms associated with menopause. After menopause occurs, the body continues to produce a weaker form of estrogen called estrone that helps mitigate the symptoms.

When menopause happens before 40, it is called premature ovarian failure. Surgical menopause happens after the surgical removal of ovaries. Induced menopause is menopause caused by surgical removal and by medications, such as Lupron, which is used to treat gynecological problems like pelvic pain and heavy bleeding.

What is hormone replacement therapy and is it safe?

Hormone replacement therapy involves replacement of the

estrogen hormones to help alleviate distressing menopause-related symptoms. If you have a uterus, you also will require progesterone to prevent excessive thickening of the uterine lining that can lead to precancer or cancer of the uterus.

Currently, hormone replacement is approved and considered safe for use in these ways:

- Relief from moderate to severe hot flashes and night sweats
- Relief from moderate to severe genitourinary symptoms including urgency, frequency and vaginal dryness
- In the prevention of osteoporosis and for women who have had their ovaries surgically removed or have undergone menopause early

In these cases, it's recommended to start hormone replacement within the first 10 years of menopause. New studies suggest potential benefits for mood, sleep and joint aches.

Vaginal estrogen in the form of a cream or ring can be used in women who are more bothered by vaginal dryness and urgency or increased frequency of urination. Low-dose topical formulations of testosterone, along with estrogen replacement, have been shown to improve sexual satisfaction in women who are past menopause.

Hormone replacement ther-

apy should be used with caution in women with a history of stroke, heart attack, increased risk of blood clots, history of clots in the lungs of legs, breast cancer, estrogen-dependent cancers, allergy to estrogen, liver dysfunction and/or unexplained vaginal bleeding.

Do natural remedies help with menopausal symptoms?

Phytoestrogens, such as soybeans, herbal remedies, including St. John's wort, black cohosh, ginseng and vitamins, have been proposed to help with menopausal symptoms. In the U.S., none of these complementary medicines have been approved by the FDA for the use in menopause. Most studies have not shown that these have had much benefit over placebo in helping with menopausal symptoms.

Can lifestyle modifications help my hot flashes?

Exercise, avoidance of caffeine and alcohol, eating a well-balanced diet, dressing in layers, maintaining a low temperature in your surroundings and consuming cool drinks can reduce the severity of your symptoms.

Ginny Clementson, nurse practitioner, Mayo Clinic Health System in Le Sueur and Mankato.

Sen. Frentz: When it comes to public safety, we're all in this together



Another View

Nick Frentz

Public safety and crime are on the minds of almost every Minnesotan these days — and for good reason. The recent increase in crime in Minnesota and across the country has left us with real concerns about the safety of our families, communities, and businesses.

When I talk to people across my district, they tell me they want Minnesota's leaders to work together to give our state and local law enforcement the tools and resources they need and, just as important, to respect and appreciate the important work law enforcement does for our communities. They also realize that law enforcement can't reduce all crime, and they want us to work with our schools and other community organizations that play a key role in preventing crime and creating "public safety for all."

Resources and Respect for Law Enforcement

I recently went on a "ride along" with a North Mankato police officer, as an observer, and came away impressed with the complexities of the job and the character of the officer. He was well trained, and it was easy to see how the patrol we went on was part of keeping our communities safer.

Unfortunately, it seems our public safety debates have often become too polarized. When public safety is thought of in terms of "us-versus-them" the public loses. We are all in this together.

If we want cops to put their lives on the line for us, we have to show them we appreciate them. That is especially true in areas like ours where (in my opinion) the basic public connection to law enforcement remains very positive. After all, local law enforcement members in St. Peter, Mankato, North Mankato and our surrounding counties usually live in our neighborhoods, often have kids in our schools, and volunteer to help like coaching our little league teams. They want to do a good job and get home safely to their families. That's no different from how our nurses, our teachers, our electricians, or anybody else feel.

Reducing crime also requires us to look at issues of poverty. The more we can provide a stable economic base for Minnesota's poorest families, the less reasons there will be for people to turn to crime. I'm also a major believer in youth activities including sports, community centers, and after school programs as ways to provide alternatives to crime.

Pushing for Resources at the State Legislature

As I've worked with our local communities, I've seen that difficulties recruiting and retaining law enforcement officers is now a growing problem across our state. When the state legislature returns to session later this month, I'm planning to support proposals to put as much as \$100 million into public safety across Minnesota, including significant funding to help recruit and retain those that keep us safe.

We can also work towards better policing — every profession strives to improve, and law enforcement is no different. I support any changes to policing that make it safer for cops and the public, and those discussions should have everybody at the table. Our nation's long struggle on issues of race continues, and that's one reason we should expand our law enforcement recruiting among communities of color and women. Our state is changing and we will do best if diversity among law enforcement officers better reflects the people they serve.

It's time for Minnesota to turn a corner on our public safety discussion, and commit to a new path together. If we do, everybody will see the benefit.

Nick Frentz represents District 19, including St. Peter and the rest of Nicollet County, as a Democrat in the Minnesota Senate. Reach him at sen.nick.frentz@senate.mn.

Renovations at Union Street allow for larger families

With an average of 40 households applying for shelter each month, and only four or five available spaces, Partners for Housing's Union Street Place emergency homeless shelter is at full capacity and has been for some time.

Most rooms are the size of a single motel room and can accommodate single women or small families. Three of the units have an additional small sleeping area, allowing for families of four to have more space during their 90-day stay.

Melody Morrow, Housing Advocate at USP, explained the recent renovations made, which allow for a larger family.

"The staff came together [six months ago] and recognized



Another View

Kirsten Becker

that the old office space could be better utilized as a larger guest apartment," she said. "Especially since there is a lack of larger space for families with six or more people in them in shelters across Minnesota."

Partners for Housing's waitlist for USP has several families with five or more people, too many to safely be housed in the standard rooms.

The full-time staff and night staff had been using the former two-bedroom-plus-foyer apart-

ment as their offices, but made the decision to downsize their office space in order to make room for larger families.

Morrow explained that they converted one of the smaller units into the new office, utilizing extra time in between meetings and regular tasks to paint, clean and update the old office, creating a three-bedroom plus bath apartment.

"We could not have done it without the help of a faithful volunteer, Arvin Verburg, who installed a wall and updated the bathroom," Morrow stated. "The shelter aid and night staff rounded out the labor force for this undertaking."

The newly renovated space is now complete and is housing its

first larger family. The USP team is pleased to see the fruits of their labors continue to fulfill a need in the St. Peter community.

Partners for Housing's mission is to guide individuals and families toward housing stability. Women and families seeking housing are encouraged to fill out an application at partnersforhousing.org.

To become involved with their programs or to donate, please contact 507-387-2115 or visit the website listed above.

Kirsten Becker is the communications manager for Partners for Affordable Housing, which works on housing issues in the area, including Nicollet, Le Sueur and Blue Earth counties.

COMMUNITY

Greater Mankato Area United Way Reaches 2022 Campaign Goal

For the seventh straight year, Greater Mankato Area United Way has reached its campaign goal to fulfill the funding needs of its 59 partner programs throughout the region.

On January 14, Greater Mankato Area United Way CEO Barb Kaus and 2022 volunteer Campaign Chair Melanie Van-Roekel of United Prairie Bank announced the 2022 Greater Mankato Area United Way campaign has reached \$2,060,000.

The campaign will continue as dollars are still coming in and many needs remain. Funds above the campaign goal will go toward improving more lives of those in need in our region.

“This year, we saw the continued escalation of needs as the effects of COVID intensified,” Kaus said. “The generosity of our community ensured we could provide this essential funding to keep our region strong and balanced as we responded to growing needs. Our work is made possible by individual and corporate givers, matching gifts, partner agencies, volunteers, in-kind donors and many other supporters.”

Kaus credited the region’s history of support as Greater Mankato Area United Way celebrated its 90th anniversary year during the campaign.

“Since 1931, the core tenets of Greater Mankato Area United Way have remained the same as we focus on improving lives through citizen-led initiatives, impactful partner agencies and a community-led review process,” Kaus said. “Time and again, our region has stepped up to support individuals and families in need.”

Greater Mankato Area United Way serves Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Nicollet and Waseca counties. In 2022, Greater Mankato Area United Way is supporting 59 programs within 40 agencies that were approved through last year’s application process. These programs serve more than 51,000 people annually through the impact areas of Basic Needs, Health and Education. Visit the Greater Mankato Area United Way website for the full list.

Agencies must apply for United Way funding each year and undergo a thorough review process. The vetting process is carried out by impact teams made up of more than 80 community volunteers who make final funding recommendations to the Greater Mankato Area United Way Board of Directors. For more informa-

BRIEFLY

tion on the review process, contact Community Impact Director Elizabeth Harstad at ElizabethH@mankatounitedway.org.

Greater Mankato Area United Way will continue its year-round work of convening the community around important issues, supporting its partner programs, and connecting people and organizations to resources.

St. Peter Legion Riders host blood drive

A St. Peter American Legion Riders Red Cross blood drive will be held Tuesday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at American Legion, 229 W. Nassau St.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B or A donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Call 1-800-RED Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter “LegionRiders” to schedule an appointment.

Consolidated Communications announces scholarship opportunity for high school seniors

Consolidated Communications (NASDAQ: CNSL) a leading broadband and business communications provider, today announced a scholarship opportunity for high school seniors in the company’s southern Minnesota service area. Seven selected candidates will receive \$2,000 scholarships from the Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation.

Two types of scholarships will be awarded:

- One \$2,000 Jon Tollefson Technology Scholarship: To be eligible, applicants must be a high school senior with plans to major in either Telecommunications or Information Technology (IT) at a university, college, or technical college and be a Minnesota resident.

- Six \$2,000 General Scholarships: To be eligible, applicants must be a high school senior with plans to attend post-secondary education at a university, college, or technical college, be a Minnesota resident, and the applicant’s family must subscribe to at least one service from Consolidated Communications.

A telecom alliance panel will review each application and select finalists based on the applicant’s grades, academic achievements and extra-curricular activities. Preference to receive the scholarships is given to students who have an interest in telecommunications technology and rural communities. Students and their families can learn more about the scholarship and download the application at: mnta.org/page/Scholarship.

Applications must be submitted to Consolidated Communications by February 18, 2022. Students should send them to:

Consolidated Communications

Attn: Sam Gett
P.O. Box 3248
221 East Hickory Street
Mankato, MN 56002

The company will complete the last page of the application upon receiving it.

Consolidated Communications is pleased to join MTA in helping young people further their education. The Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation is part of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance, a trade association that advocates and represents the interests of more than 70 companies that provide advanced telecommunications services in the state.

Arts Center to host annual membership meeting

The public is invited to attend the Arts Center of Saint Peter’s annual membership meeting on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 4-5 p.m., via Zoom.

Financial and board member information, and a link to attend the meeting by Zoom or phone, are posted in the Arts Center’s Facebook event titled “Annual Meeting 2022.” Other business items will include a review of the previous year’s financial reports, approval of a new operating budget, and election of new board members and board officers.

Since 1979, the Arts Center of Saint Peter has hosted creative performances, classes for youth and adults, exhibits and more, serving residents of Saint Peter and the surrounding region. Galleries are free and open to the public. Hours and information are at artscentersp.org.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

St. Anne’s offers food and fellowship at Come to the Table

The Le Sueur Knights of Columbus coordinated and served the second “Come to the Table” dinner of 2022 on Jan. 12 at St. Anne’s Catholic Church.

In addition to the meal, the Stewardship Committee organized a “Happy Birthday bag” project to benefit the Le Sueur Food Shelf.



Brynlee Travaille, 12, of St. Peter, caught the only fish, a 10.4 ounce perch, to win the top prize in the St. Peter Fire Department Free Youth Ice Fishing Contest in 2020. (File photo/southernminn.com)

St. Peter set to host Youth Ice Fishing Contest

The St. Peter Fire Department Youth Ice Fishing Contest is Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022 from 1-2:30 p.m. at Hallett’s Pond. Free for ages 15 and under.

Bring your own pole. If you do not have one, not a problem. Organizers have one for you. Bait

will be provided. Hot dogs and hot chocolate will be available. If the contest is canceled, organizers will look into another date to hold this event.

Largest fish prizes for first, second and third. Many other prizes will be available.

NAMES TO NOTE

Campus News

President’s List — Southern New Hampshire University
Nicollet — Chelsey Baker
Dean’s List — Alexandria

Technical & Community College
Le Sueur — Chelsea Hansen
Dean’s List — Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples
Montgomery — Daniel

Warner
Graduation -Minnesota State Community and Technical College
St. Peter — Sage Loredon-Hollon



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2022 Nicollet County Republican Party Caucus Locations
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 7:00 p.m.

St. Peter Middle School Cafeteria
100 Lincoln Drive
St. Peter, MN 56082

All St. Peter City Precincts
Traverse Twp.
Lake Prairie Twp.
Oshawa Twp.
New Sweden Twp.

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
546 Grant Ave.
North Mankato, MN 56003

All North Mankato City Precincts
Belgrade Twp.
Mankato W-2, P-30

Courtland Community Center
300 Railroad Street
Courtland, MN 56021

Courtland City
Nicollet City
Nicollet Twp.
Granby Twp.
Bernadotte Twp.
Brighton Twp.
Lafayette City

Lafayette Twp.
Ridgely Twp.
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RECORDS/LOCAL

OBITUARIES

Roger H. Nelson

1933 ~ 2022

LITCHFIELD — Roger H. Nelson, 88, died on Wed. Jan. 12, 2022 at his home in Litchfield, MN. A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM on Saturday, Jan. 22 at Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield, MN. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in St. Peter. The service will be livestreamed at johnsonhagglund.com

Roger Howard Nelson, the son of Helmer and Ronelia (Easton) Nelson was born on November 6, 1933 in Rose Creek, MN. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church. He graduated from Rose Creek High School in 1951 and from St. Olaf College in 1955. He was united in marriage to Barbara Schmidt on August



22, 1959 in Minneapolis, MN. He taught in St. Peter, MN for 33 years. They moved to Litchfield in 2013 to be closer to family. Roger is survived by his wife Barb; children Karl (Karin) Nelson, Sara (Dan) Dollerschell, and Amy (Paul) Thostenson; 8 grandchildren; and sister-in-law Diane. He was preceded in death by his parents; son Eric in 1986; and brothers and sisters-in-law Merle (MaryAnn), Dale (Elaine) and Arden

Adeline Asleson

1921 ~ 2021

ST. PETER — Adeline Viola Bieraugel was born on June 6, 1921 to Edward and Esther (Mattson) Bieraugel on her grandparents' farm in rural Lafayette, MN. She passed away on December 2, 2021 at Ecumen Prairie Hill in St. Peter and was reunited with her husband, Gordon.

Adeline attended country schools in Nicollet and Sibley Counties, and later attended school in Lafayette once the family moved to town. She graduated from New Ulm High School in 1939. Shortly after graduation, she began a 40 plus year career with several telephone companies. Her first job was with Northwestern Bell in Lafayette, followed by a time in Camp Parks, CA (Bay Area) during WWII. She later worked for Northwestern Bell in St. Peter, followed by Mankato Citizens Telephone Company in Mankato. She retired in 1986. In retirement, she worked part time at the Gustavus Adolphus College telephone switchboard for another nine years.

Adeline was married to Gordon Asleson on September 20, 1947 at the First Lutheran Church in Lafayette. In 1948, they moved to St. Peter and joined Trinity Lutheran Church. A son, Gary, was born in 1948,



followed by a second son, Brian, in 1955.

Adeline is survived by her son, Brian Asleson (Laurie Tangert) of Eden Prairie, MN and by daughter-in-law, Meredith Asleson, of Wooster, OH. She is survived by grandchildren Kristin Feierabend (Karl), Sara Strom (Luke), Angela Asleson and Benjamin Asleson. She is also survived by three great grandchildren, Alec and Cora Feierabend and London Strom as well as many nieces and nephews.

Adeline was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Gordon, her son, Gary, and by her two brothers, Walter Lofgren and Vernon Bieraugel.

The family is planning to have a memorial service at Trinity Lutheran Church of St. Peter in late spring or early summer of 2022. The family is being served by St. Peter Funeral Home.

Eldred W. "Swede" Muehlhausen

2022

EDINA — Muehlhausen, Eldred "Swede" W. age 83, of Edina, passed away January 8, 2022. Eldred grew up on the family farm in Sibley County, Minnesota and graduated from Le Sueur High School. As a boy, he loved playing baseball, football, and basketball for his high school, and carried on that passion for sports as a spectator of his children's and grandchildren's activities. After high school, he served in the United States Marine Corps and attended St. Cloud State University. He had a long and distinguished career at Allis Chalmers; Steiger Tractor; and Belarus Machinery. In his retirement he enjoyed teaching his grandchildren to drive, "coaching" them in squash, and bringing them donuts on Saturday mornings. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. Eldred's greatest love was his wife, Janell, and his children and grandchildren, whom he adored with all his heart.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Janell (nee Eastvold). He is survived by three loving



children, AnnElisa Easthausen, John (Sarah) Muehlhausen, and Sarah (Richard) Murphy; nine devoted grandchildren, Imaani Easthausen, Safiya Easthausen, Cecelia Easthausen, Lillian Muehlhausen, Henry Muehlhausen, Oskar Muehlhausen, William Murphy, James Murphy, and Georgina Murphy; and loyal brothers, Ronald Muehlhausen and Allan Muehlhausen.

A funeral service will be held at Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina on Saturday, January 22 at 11am, with visitation at 10:30 am. Memorials preferred to Sloan Kettering Cancer Research or Mayo Clinic Heart Disease Research. Washburn McReavy Funeral Home 612-377-2203.

Frentz announces he will run for re-election

Sen. Nick Frentz announced his re-election campaign for Minnesota state senator in District 19.

"I have been proud to serve the Greater Mankato and Nicollet County area in the Minnesota Senate, and hope the voters allow me to continue that service," Frentz said. "My goal has always been to be a strong voice for everyone in our district."

First elected in 2016, Frentz is now serving his second term in the Minnesota Senate and has twice been elected as an Assistant Minority Leader. He is currently the ranking minority member on the Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee, and also sits on the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee,

the Rules and Administration Committee, the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, and the Legislative Audit Commission.

The Frentz for Senate campaign committee has over \$50,000 cash on hand, a strong and diverse group of volunteers to help, and are actively preparing for the precinct caucuses on Feb. 1. The general election is on Nov. 8, 2022.

"Sure, there are challenges ahead for our state and our country, but there are also great opportunities, and I'm optimistic about our future," Frentz said. "I think we have a lot to be proud of in Minnesota. In St. Paul, it should be about reaching the best outcome for our area and the state."

Frentz is also an attorney



Sen. Nick Frentz, DFL-North Mankato, speaks at a press conference in Courtland in February 2020, announcing a funding plan for a Hwy. 14 four-lane expansion. Frentz is running for re-election to the Minnesota Senate in 2022. (File photo/southernminn.com)

and partner at the Machka, Riedy, Ries, and Frentz law firm in Mankato. He lives in North Mankato with his wife

Jill, and they have four grown children Vanessa, Derek, Andrew and Sean.

Cleveland aims to hire new City Clerk/Treasurer next month

By CARSON HUGHES

carson.hughes@apgsomn.com

The Cleveland City Council kickstarted its search for a new city clerk and treasurer on Jan. 13 after current City Administrator Dan Evans accepted the open city administrator position in Le Center.

In their special meeting last week, the council came together to plan the advertisement of the vacant position. Rather than advertise for a new city administrator, the city posted listings on websites, like Indeed, and around town calling for a new clerk and treasurer, the same position Evans held before he was promoted to city administrator last month.

Currently, Evans oversees all the department heads in



Evans

his role as Cleveland city administrator, but the new clerk and treasurer will be limited to overseeing their own department. But

Evans said that his primary duties at the city would be assigned to the new hire.

The clerk and treasurer's duties include: enforcing city laws and ordinances; recommending municipal projects and measures and reporting to the City Council; supervising the city budget; acting as city personnel officer, head election judge and zoning administrator; administering city construction projects; receiv-

ing license and permit applications; communicating with the public and overseeing of utility billing, revenue and bank deposits.

The city of Cleveland began advertising the job Jan. 14 and will close the application process by midnight Jan. 30. Selected finalists will be interviewed by the City Council during the week of Feb. 7.

The interview timeline gives applicants room to submit a two weeks notice to their employer and take on the role by late February. The city of Le Center wants Evans to start by Feb. 28, but Le Center Mayor Josh Frederickson has previously stated the council could offer flexibility on the start date as gesture of goodwill to the neighboring city.

Evans served as city clerk

and treasurer with the city of Cleveland since 2017 and was promoted to city administrator in Dec. 2021. Before working for the city in an administrative capacity, he served Cleveland as a police sergeant with the police department. He earned bachelor's degrees in Urban Regional Studies and Law Enforcement from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

In Le Center, Evans will fill the shoes of outgoing City Administrator Chris Collins, who oversaw the city's departments and day-to-day business for 20 years.

Reach Reporter Carson Hughes at 507-931-8575. ©Copyright 2022 APG Media of Southern Minnesota. All Rights Reserved.

Nicollet County deputies arrest man after over hour-long search

The Nicollet County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop at 4x4 Truck and Auto Parts located at 35203 240th St. in Winnebago.

The vehicle was a 2003 blue Jeep liberty sport-utility vehicle registered to a party out of Grenada. The Jeep was pulling a second vehicle, a Dodge pickup truck with a rigid hitch and without any lights. The Jeep pulled into 4x4 Truck & Auto Parts property, and the passenger bailed out of the vehicle and ran. The deputy recognized the individual who fled to be Jacob John Friedrichs, who was wanted on a felony warrant out of Nicollet County.

The driver remained in the vehicle and was identified

as Michael Paul Schugel from Mankato, Minnesota.

Jacob Friedrichs was arrested after a search, which took over an hour. A canine and two local drones were also used in locating Friedrichs. The search took some time due to the wooded area and hundreds of vehicles at the salvage yard where Friedrichs fled. He was taken into custody without incident after being located hiding in an old camper.

Agencies involved in this incident included the Nicollet County Sheriff's Department, Faribault County Sheriff's Department, Blue Earth County Sheriff's Department, Amboy Police Department and the Minnesota State Patrol.

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Walz unveils record \$2.73 billion capital investment proposal

By MIKE COOK

Minnesota House Public Information Service

Gov. Tim Walz has a simple message for legislators wanting to put together a capital investment package this year: Go big.

To preserve the past, meet current needs and build a stronger future, Walz unveiled his \$2.73 billion Local Jobs and Projects Plan Tuesday. It includes \$2 billion in general obligation bonds, \$276 million in General Fund spending and \$250 million in appropriation bonds.

“In 2020, we passed the largest jobs bill in state history, investing in the projects that local communities told us matter most to them. Now, with Minnesota’s strong economic outlook, we have an opportunity to make even more progress,” Walz said in a statement. “With a focus on projects like roads, bridges, fire stations, and veterans homes, our plan will repair and replace critical infrastructure and improve the lives of Minnesotans in every corner of the state.”

The 2020 law totaled \$1.9 billion. No traditional capital investment package received legislative support in 2021; however, a law was passed to amend prior appropriations of general obligation bonds and authorize a conveyance of state-bond financed property.

Nearly \$5.5 billion in requests were received for 2022: \$4 billion from state agencies and approximately \$1.5 billion from local units of gov-



The Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul as the sun sets on Election Day, Nov. 3, 2020. (Photo by Tony Webster)

ernment.

Expenditures in the proposal include:

- more than \$1 billion in asset preservation, including \$260.2 million to repair and replace buildings in the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State systems and \$111 million for the Department of Natural Resources;
- \$750 million for climate mitigation projects;
- \$250 million for housing infrastructure;
- \$200 million in local wa-

ter infrastructure grants and loans;

- \$120 million for local bridge replacements;
- \$90 million for local road improvement projects;
- \$72 million for new and renovated space for the university’s chemistry program on the Minneapolis campus;
- \$58.13 million in Corrections Department asset preservation;
- \$46.4 million in Capitol Complex security upgrades;
- \$12 million for infrastruc-

ture investments at Spirit Mountain in Duluth;

- \$12 million to recondition the Hennepin Avenue Suspension Bridge in Minneapolis and two approach bridges;
- \$8 million to renovate the Minnesota Zoo’s animal hospital;
- \$3 million to construct a 50-meter outdoor pool in Cottage Grove as part of the future community center;
- \$1 million for grants to local communities to upgrade ice arenas, primarily through

replacing refrigerant and improving air quality;

\$890,000 for restoration design of the 115-year-old Batcher Block Opera House in Staples that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

\$527,000 to construct a warming house/community center in Aitkin.

“In communities throughout Minnesota, there is an immense need for investment in local projects and resources that bring jobs and opportu-

nities to the region, especially when it comes to investing in marginalized Minnesotans and addressing our state’s housing crisis,” Rep. Fue Lee (DFL-Mpls) said in a statement. He chairs the House Capital Investment Committee, which plans to hear the governor’s plan Feb. 4.

Lee’s statement continued: “The recommendations put forward by the governor do just that, setting the stage for a historic investment in equity-focused projects and providing more Minnesotans with a safe and secure place to call home.”

The website for Minnesota Management and Budget states: “Minnesota’s capital budget is primarily funded by issuing state general obligation bonds. Items funded in capital budgets often include land acquisition, repair, renovation and construction of state facilities; and acquisition, construction and repair of state parks, trails, interpretive centers, campground facilities, forests, wildlife management areas, dams and flood control structures.

“Capital budgets also include grants to local governments for repair and construction of schools, parks, bridges and waste-water treatment facilities. Historically, major capital budget bills have been passed in even-numbered years.”

Bonding bills require a three-fifths supermajority to pass in the House and Senate, meaning bipartisanship is a must.

White House soft-launches COVID-19 test request website

By ZEKE MILLER AND MATT O’BRIEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Tuesday quietly launched its website for Americans to request free at-home COVID-19 tests, a day before the site was scheduled to officially go online.

The website, COVIDTests.gov, now includes a link for Americans to access an order form run by the U.S. Postal Service. People can order four at-home tests per residential address, to be delivered by the Postal Service. It marks the latest step by President Joe Biden to address criticism of low inventory and long lines for testing during a nationwide surge in COVID-19 cases due to the omicron variant.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the website was in “beta testing” and operating at a “limited capacity” ahead of its official launch. The website will officially launch mid-morning Wednesday, Psaki said.

There were isolated reports Tuesday afternoon of issues relating to the website’s address verification tool erroneously enforcing the four-per-household cap on apartment buildings and other multi-unit dwellings, but it was not immediately clear how widespread the issue was.

At points Tuesday more than 750,000 people were accessing the website at the same time, according to public government tracking data, but it was not immediately known



President Joe Biden speaks about the government’s COVID-19 response, in the South Court Auditorium in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House Campus in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

how many orders were placed.

She added that the administration was anticipating a “bug or two,” but had IT experts from across the government working to get the site ready.

Biden announced last month that the U.S. would purchase 500 million at-home tests to launch the program and on Thursday the president announced that he was doubling the order to 1 billion tests.

But Americans shouldn’t expect a rapid turnaround on the orders and they will have to plan ahead and request the tests well before they meet fed-

eral guidelines for when to use a test.

The White House said “tests will typically ship within 7- 12 days of ordering” through USPS, which reports shipping times of 1-3 days for its first-class package service in the continental United States.

Officials emphasized that

the federal website is just one way for people to procure COVID-19 tests, and shortages of at-home test kits have shown signs of easing as more supply has hit the market.

Since Saturday, private insurance companies have been required to cover the cost of at-home rapid tests, allowing

Americans to be reimbursed for tests they purchase at pharmacies and online retailers. That covers up to eight tests per month.

The technical bugs that embarrassed President Barack Obama’s administration with the 2013 rollout of the Health-Care.gov website should not be a problem for the COVID-19 test kit website in part because it is so much simpler, said Alex Howard, director of the Digital Democracy Project, an open government watchdog group. Howard said the new website is also simpler than the Vaccines.gov website – for finding nearby vaccine clinics and pharmacies – that was already successfully launched by the Biden administration last year.

Howard said the task of requesting someone’s address is a straightforward one, especially when compared with the Obama-era health insurance website that involved shopping for different health plans and authenticating a secure transaction. The challenge of hosting a website application under high demand is also a “solved problem” in the private sector, he said.

“My expectation is the U.S.

Digital Service and any vendors they work with will be able to pull this off,” he said. “It’s the least hard part of this.”

Two tech companies that frequently work with the federal government – Microsoft and Accenture – on Tuesday referred questions about the website to the Postal Service. Amazon, a major cloud provider for U.S. agencies, didn’t respond to requests for comment.

Howard said the trickiest part of the project is not the website but the physical distribution of kits.

“I don’t recall the last time the federal government sent something like this to everyone that wasn’t a tax document,” he said.

Likely challenges include multiple people ordering from the same apartment building address, or how to handle people who try to game the system and order extra.

“I would like my fellow Americans to be a more trustworthy lot,” said Howard, but given other debates over COVID-19 protocols and response, “that’s not going to fly very well.”

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Jan. 20 - 26

Jan. 20 - Basketball: Boys 7/8 Conf. Game vs. Nicollet @ Cleveland 4:30/5:30pm
B & Varsity @ Nicollet 5:45/7:00pm
Hockey: Girls Varsity Game vs. Litchfield @ Le Sueur 7:00pm

Jan. 21 - End of Quarter Early Release 1:00pm
Basketball: Girls 7/8 Conf. Game vs. Truman/Martin Luther/GHEC @ Cleveland 4:30/5:30pm

B & Varsity @ Martin Luther 5:45/7:00pm
Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Redwood Valley @ Redwood Falls 7:00pm

Jan. 22 - Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Litchfield @ Litchfield 1:00pm

Jan. 24 - No School Teacher's Work Day
Basketball: Girls 7/8 Conf. Game vs. Nicollet @ Nicollet 4:30/5:30pm
B & Varsity @ Cleveland 5:45/7:00pm

Jan. 25 - Basketball: Boys 7/8 Conf. Game vs. St. Clair @ St. Clair 4:30/5:30pm
C, B & Varsity @ Cleveland 4:30/5:45/7:00pm
Hockey: Girls Varsity Game vs. Marshall @ Le Sueur 7:00pm
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LOCAL

State faces its most severe blood shortage in years

By ANDREW DEZIEL
Guest Contributor

With local hospitals bursting at the seams amid a recent rise in COVID cases, a troubling decrease in blood donations has become one more stressor on the overloaded system.

With January marking the 52nd Annual Blood Donor Month, Southeast Minnesota Red Cross Executive Director Melanie Tschida said that donations are badly needed, as the state faces the most severe blood shortage it has in many years.

According to Tschida, donations are down about 10% since the start of the pandemic. As a result, whereas providers typically like to have three-to-five days blood supply on hand, Tschida said that the state's blood supply currently stands at less than one day.

Dr. Justin Juskewitch, who serves as associate medical director of Mayo Clinic Blood Donor Center, said that the issue isn't only on the supply side. According to Juskewitch, overall demand for blood products is up significantly as well.

The increase in demand for blood supplies has come even as some hospitals have opted to limit elective surgeries during parts of the pandemic. In part, Juskewitch said that the rise in demand for blood products can be attributed to an uptick in trauma cases.



Dorothy Pumper took her turn at the NAFRS Red Cross blood drive in 2016. (File photo/southernminn.com)

Juskewitch also noted that the reticence of many patients to seek care earlier in the pandemic for non-COVID medical conditions led those conditions to become more severe and require more extensive treatment, including blood transfusions.

Coping with the decrease in blood supply has also been difficult for health care institutions because much of the demand for blood is relatively stable. For cancer patients or

those with chronic illnesses, such as sickle cell anemia, regular lifesaving transfusions are needed.

According to the Red Cross, just one donation of blood can save up to three lives. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs a blood or platelet transfusion, and as neither blood nor platelets can be manufactured, demand is entirely at the mercy of volunteer donors.

In a Jan. 4 press release, the

national Red Cross noted that the winter months are often a time when blood is in short supply. According to the organization, less than 40% of Americans are eligible to give platelets or blood, and less than 3% actually do on a yearly basis.

Type O negative blood is the most coveted by hospitals because it has no antigens, meaning that it is the only type compatible with all other blood types. Because less than 7% of

the population has O negative blood, it tends to be in short supply even when overall donations are at reasonably healthy levels.

Given the strain of the shortages, Juskewitch said that some hospitals across the country have been forced to cut back on elective surgeries. However he gave credit to local blood donors for helping Mayo to avoid having to go down that route.

In order to attract more

blood donors, the national Red Cross announced that it is partnering with the NFL to offer each blood, platelet or plasma donor this month the opportunity to win two tickets to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles.

For those who haven't given blood in quite awhile or ever, Tschida said that technology has made the process easier than ever. On the Red Cross Blood Donor app, potential donors can find nearby Red Cross blood drives and fill out pre-screening forms in advance.

Potential blood donors can also find local blood drives and schedule appointments at the Red Cross's website, redcross.org, or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Donors are asked to schedule an appointment before arriving at a drive.

Even now, Tschida said that some blood drives can fill up fast, making it hard for donors to find a spot sooner than several weeks down the road. However, she noted that drives are regularly held in communities throughout the region, including Faribault, Owatonna and Northfield.

"We're encouraging people to make plans to donate in the weeks ahead," she said. "And if you can't find an appointment until early February, that's OK."

Andrew Deziel is a freelance writer. Reach the editor at editor@apgsomm.com.

Costs for COVID-19 hospitalization are changing, and here's why

By CATHARINE RICHERT
Minnesota Public Radio News

For the first two years of the pandemic, Minnesota health insurance providers, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield and HealthPartners, among others, voluntarily waived costs for in-patient COVID-19 treatment. Many plans serving other states took similar steps.

But going into 2022, that's likely to change for most people.

The state's nonprofit insurers absorbed more than \$1 billion in costs associated with COVID-19 treatment just in 2020, said Lucas Nesse, president and chief executive officer of the Minnesota Council of Health Plans. Last year "continued to be equally challenging, as we all know," he said. "But we wanted to continue that coverage through there."

It's a trend playing out nationally.

"While many plans waived [cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatments] early in March of 2020, many of many of the health plans have phased that out at the end of 2021," he said.

Nesse said it's best to contact your insurance company with questions, but here's what you need to know about how your health care coverage may be changing this year.

I thought I didn't have to pay for COVID-19 treatment. Why is that changing?

Nesse said the plans are making changes in part because vaccines are now available, and they have been proven to prevent the worst of the disease.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the access to vaccines and the efficacy of the vaccines, being able to keep people out of the hospital," he said.

Cost-sharing for any medical treatment is typical of insurance

coverage under normal circumstances, Nesse added.

What if I'm on a self-insured plan?

If you work for a large company that collects premiums and pays your medical claims, you might see other changes to your plan.

For instance, Delta Airlines, which has a large base of employees in Minnesota, last year announced it would charge unvaccinated employees an additional \$200 in monthly premiums to cover the additional costs associated with treating COVID-19.

"A lot of self-insured employers have started to look at impacting that monthly premium, as well as an incentive to try to get people or encourage them to get that vaccine," Nesse said.

What if I'm on Medicare, Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare?

According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, there's no cost-sharing for COVID treatment for people on Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare.

Costs vary, however, for people on Medicare depending on their coverage plan.

COVID-19 vaccines and testing remain free, right?

Yes. As with most vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccines — including boosters — are free for anyone who wants one.

Federal rules require health insurance plans to waive cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing, including related visits, too.

At-home rapid tests, however, have come at a cost. But starting Jan. 15, that will change, with insurers required to cover up to eight rapid tests monthly per individual.

MPR News reporter Tim Nelson contributed to this report.

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Wearing full PPE, environmental services worker Elissa Marty cleans the room of a COVID-19 positive patient while the patient is out of the room for treatment inside of a Mayo Clinic medical ICU at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn., on Dec. 31, 2020. (Evan Frost | MPR News 2020)



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LOCAL

Regional hospitals grapple with Omicron surge

By CARSON HUGHES
carson.hughes@apgsomn.com

Just one month after the highly contagious omicron variant was detected in Minnesota, the state is staring down a record-breaking surge of COVID-19 infections. Last week, the state witnessed 10,000 new infections per day, the highest number of daily infections recorded throughout the pandemic.

The rapid spread has forced many Minnesotans in all industries to quarantine after contracting a case themselves or coming into contact with a family member carrying the virus. Many local school districts, like Faribault Public Schools, switched to temporary distance learning over severe staffing shortages. St. Peter Public School District used a flexible learning day to give students five consecutive days out of the classroom amid a spike in staff and student quarantines.

But among all industries in the region, hospitals face the brunt of the challenges brought on by increasing infections. Though preliminary evidence suggests omicron infections are often milder than delta, the variant is spreading at such a scale that hospitals are seeing a flurry of new patients. Between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8, Minnesota hospitals admitted over 1,000 new patients infected by COVID-19.

The wave of omicron infections hit a hospital system already grappling with a surging delta caseload. A total 990 of the 1,013 staffed adult ICU beds according to state tallies and 45 hospitals have their adult staffed ICU beds completely filled.

Because of the infectious nature of the disease and existing staff shortages, hospitals are under even greater pressure. Allina Health, which has clinics in locations across the state, like Faribault and Owatonna, reported that an average of more than 100 staff



Allina Health, seen here at its Faribault clinic, is one of many major hospital networks to experience staffing shortages amid the spread of the Omicron variant. (File photo/southernminn.com)

members were removed from work daily during the first five days of the month because they tested positive for COVID-19 or were awaiting test results.

“The weariness among health care workers and the general public is profound. We empathize and are hopeful 2022 will bring a turning point in this pandemic; however, we need the public to help those who care for us,” said Hsieng Su, MD, Allina Health senior vice president and chief medical executive in a press release. “The Omicron variant appears to sharply spike and then decline. According to the models, things will likely get worse later in January before we see them get better. We need everyone working together to get through this peak.”

Several regional hospitals, including Allina Health and Northfield Hospital + Clinics, have responded to the increased risk of infection by tightening restrictions on visitations. Northfield Hospital + Clinics announced new rules this week barring adult hospital patients from seeing visi-

tors while allowing children and patients with a disability or dementia to have a singular visitor stay with them overnight.

At Ridgeview Medical Center, which has locations in Le Sueur, Waconia and Arlington, COVID-negative adult patients are allowed to see up to two visitors per day. But patients who are COVID-positive or suspected to carry an infection are unable to take in visitors.

Some regions’ hospitals haven’t been as stretched by the omicron surge as others. In the metro area, which has been hit the hardest by Omicron, hospitalizations are at their highest point since November 2020. While greater Minnesota saw an uptick in hospitalizations last week, totaling over 500 new COVID-19 admissions, hospitalization rates are lower than the near 750 weekly average in November, 2021.

South central Minnesota also has the greatest share of available beds. Approximately 17% of adult ICU beds and 20% of adult non-ICU beds are still available.

In comparison, a little over 1% of ICU beds in the metro region are open for new patients.

“River’s Edge Hospital has been pretty fortunate, and Nicollet County has been pretty fortunate with hospitalizations. While we have had patients in-house for COVID, we just don’t see the numbers of COVID in-patients that some of the larger hospitals in our region are seeing,” said Stephanie Holden, Chief Marketing Officer for River’s Edge Hospital in St. Peter.

“It’s not as serious for most people, the Omicron variant, so we haven’t seen a lot of hospitalizations here for that,” said Holden. “Really, in the last two years, we haven’t seen a high number of COVID in-patients.”

While it’s different circumstances for different facilities in the region, COVID continues to impact in one form or another.

The state’s death toll is now



Doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine were delivered to Ridgeview Le Sueur Medical Center in December 2020. (Photo courtesy of Ridgeview Le Sueur)



Kim Blanck, housekeeper at River’s Edge Hospital, gave a flex after receiving her first COVID-19 vaccine dose in December 2020. (Photo courtesy of River’s Edge)

over 11,000, including 29 newly reported deaths Tuesday. Deaths typically follow a surge in cases and hospitalizations. In past COVID-19 waves, it’s been the last of the key metrics to improve.

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ST. PETER HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Thursday 1/20	Gymnastics - JV/V 6 p.m. vs. Fairmont & Hopkins (at Gustavus - H) Girls Hockey - V 7 p.m. vs. Litchfield/Dassel-Cokato (at Le Sueur - H) Wrestling - JV/V 6 p.m. at Fairmont/MCW (A)
Friday 1/21	Boys Hockey - JV/V 5 & 7 p.m. vs. Redwood Valley (at Le Sueur - H) Girls Basketball - B/V 6 & 7:15 p.m. at Blue Earth Area (A) Boys Basketball - JV/V 6 & 7:15 p.m. at Alexandria (A)
Saturday 1/22	Girls Basketball - noon, 1:30 & 3 p.m. C/B/V vs. Minnehaha Academy (H) Boys Hockey - JV/V 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. at Litchfield/Dassel-Cokato (A) Boys Basketball - JV/V 12:30 & 2 p.m. at Perham (A).
Monday 1/24	One Act Play - Big South Festival 9 a.m. at Performing Arts Center Math Team competition - here starting at 3:30 p.m. Boys Basketball - C/JV/V 5:40, 6 & 7:15 p.m. vs. Blue Earth Area (H)
Tuesday 1/25	Gymnastics - JV/V 6 p.m. vs. Faribault (at Gustavus) Girls Hockey - JV/V 5 & 7 p.m. vs. Marshall (at Le Sueur - H) Wrestling - JV/V 6 & 7 p.m. at New Ulm
Wednesday 1/26	No activities scheduled
	Home Events (H) Away Events (A) (* - Please note that masks must be worn inside at all Saint Peter Public Schools’ indoor facilities.)



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Boys Basketball Brothers pace Saints in season-best 88-73 win over Tigers. 3B

BASKETBALL



St. Peter 6-foot senior center Lilly Ruffin grabs a rebound from 6-foot NYA center Norah Erickson. (Pat Beck photos/southernminn.com)

LOCKING DOWN

Defense propels St. Peter girls basketball to win over NYA

By PAT BECK editor@apgsomn.com

The St. Peter girls basketball team turned up the defense in the second half and rallied to defeat longtime rival Norwood Young America 63-56 on Monday at St. Peter.

Trailing 34-27 with time running out in the first half, the Saints cut the lead to 34-30 at the break on 3-point rim shot at the buzzer that bounced in by sophomore guard Maddie Kamm.

St. Peter still trailed 40-33 with 15 minutes left in the second half, but the Saints went on a 14-0 run to take a 47-40 lead.

Sophomore guard Rhyann Holmgren, who finished with game highs of 23 points and five assists, accounted for 11 of the run's 14 points. Sophomore guard Annika Southworth hit one of her five 3-pointers for the other three points, and she finished with 15 points, two assists and three rebounds.

Senior post Lilly Ruffin then took over near the end, scoring eight of her 12 points in the last 9 minutes to close out the win.

She also had team highs of 12 rebounds and three blocked shots for her second double-double this season.

Also for the Saints, Kamm finished with five points, three assists, three rebounds and a team-high five steals; Abby Maloney had four points, two assists and two rebounds; Grace Remmert collected four points, two assists and one rebound; Josie Wiebusch netted two points, two assists, three rebounds and two steals.

"Defensively in the first half we weren't very good with our intensity and actually with our physicalness," St. Peter coach Bob Southworth said. "The second half we were a lot better defensively, being more physical, picking 'em up full court and we were just more physical with out posts in the second half. The first half we were just letting 'em back us down and do whatever they wanted. In the second half we actually gave a little bit of resistance. Our defense was the difference in the game."

The Saints had a tough time guarding 6-foot NYA center Norah Erickson, who scored 21 points. But they slowed Erickson down as



St. Peter sophomore guard Annika Southworth defends against NYA forward Lauren Schmidt.

the game went on.

Ruffin and Wiebusch guarded Erickson most of the time in the second half.

"Lilly came off the bench and gave us some great moments," Bob Southworth said. "She's been playing really well in the last month.

She's been getting a lot of rebounds and putting the ball in the basket."

Bob Southworth also said that Remmert gave the Saints some awesome minutes off the bench in the first half.

See BASKETBALL on 3B

WRESTLING

St. Peter wrestlers finish 3rd in BSC Tournament

By BEN CAMP ben.camp@apgsomn.com

Saturday morning, the St. Peter wrestling team took to the mats in St. James as the Saints prepared to battle with the schools of the Big South Conference. With five all-conference wrestlers and a quality top-to-bottom team performance, St. Peter earned its best finish in recent memory with 163.0 points to finish third in the tournament.

Brogan Hanson (160-pound weight class), Kole Guth (182) and Leighton Robb (195) all finished as runners-up in their respective weight classes.

Nakiye Mercado (138) and Cole Filand (170) earned third, Charlie Born (113) placed fourth, and Brock Guth (106), Evan Walter (132), Harold Born (145) and Connor Travaille (220) all finished fifth.

Hanson began the tournament with a first round fall victory before taking on No. 9 ranked wrestler Carver Rohman of Fairmont County West, who he was also able to pin. In the championship match, Hanson faced off with No. 1 ranked wrestler and defending state champion Payton Handevideit of Jackson County Central.

Hanson battled Handevideit to a draw through three periods, sending the match into overtime. With one overtime period not enough to settle the epic dual, the two battled into a second overtime period. Handevideit managed to get an early lead in the round which resulted in Hanson attempting more aggressive moves to try to put the match in his favor, but Handevideit was able to counter and ultimately hold on for the victory.

Guth's path to the finals saw him win via fall and major decision (12-2) before facing off with Caleb Vancura of JCC. Unfortunately for Kole, his run ended as he was pinned by Vancura at 3:25 of the match.

Leighton Robb made the finals with a pair of fall victories and was set to face off with William Freking of JCC. In the championship match, Freking was able to slightly edge out Robb for the 6-4 victory.

106 — Brock Guth (9-9) placed 5th and scored 9.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Brock Guth (St. Peter) 9-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Maddex Faber (Fairmont-Martin County West) 13-7 won by decision over Brock Guth (St. Peter) 9-9 (Dec 8-6)

Cons. Round 2 — Brock Guth (St. Peter) 9-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi — Brock Guth (St. Peter) 9-9 won in sudden victory — 1 over Kane Johnson (New Ulm Area) 0-2 (SV-1 6-4)

5th Place Match — Brock Guth (St. Peter) 9-9 won by fall over Timmy Nagel (Blue Earth Area) 6-15 (Fall 1:32)

113 — Charlie Born (11-11) placed 4th and scored 11.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Charlie Born (St. Peter) 11-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Charlie Born (St. Peter) 11-11 won by decision over Dawson DeCamp (Marshall) 13-7 (Dec 4-2)

Semifinal — Nolan Ambrose (Jackson County Central) 25-0 won by fall over Charlie Born (St. Peter) 11-11 (Fall 3:04)

3rd Place Match — Brayden Burmeister (Pipestone Area) 16-4 won by fall over Charlie Born (St. Peter) 11-11 (Fall 5:22)

120 — Deontre Torres (7-7) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Brayden Chandler (Marshall) 12-9 won by fall over Deontre Torres (St. Peter) 7-7 (Fall 1:09)

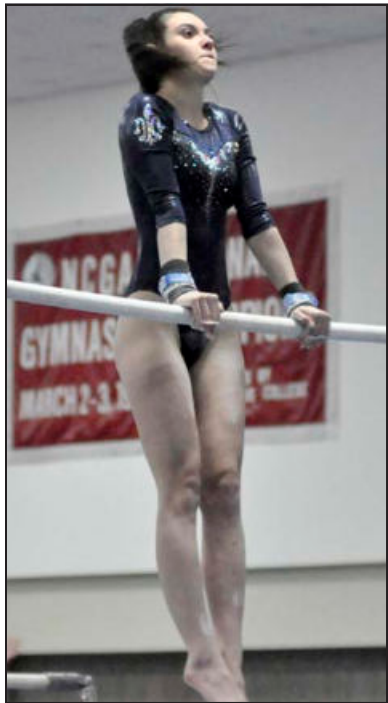
Cons. Round 1 — Deontre Torres (St. Peter) 7-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 — Cooper Peterson (Blue Earth Area) 16-10 won by decision over Deontre Torres (St. Peter) 7-7 (Dec 3-1)

See WRESTLING on 3B

GYMNASTICS

Shorthanded Saints come up just short against New Ulm



Cadence Tish holds herself up on the bars. (Ben Camp photos/Southernminn.com)

By BEN CAMP ben.camp@apgsomn.com

Tuesday night, the St. Peter gymnastics team played host to the New Ulm Eagles at the Lund Center on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus college. The Saints competed without top all-around performer Laura Klatt but still battled the Eagles all night, ultimately falling just short 137.000-135.250.

"It's been one of those years where we had everyone our first meet and we hit and did great but we haven't had another competition where we have had anyone aside from Watertown, were we did really well," St. Peter head coach Kris Glidden explained.

Trista Landsom posted the top all-around score for St. Peter with 34.900 points, scoring no fewer than 8.500 on any single event, showing remarkable consistency.

Anna Klatt scored 34.150 all-around with a 9.175 floor performance as well as a 9.050 score on the beam.



Addison Landsom picks up speed for her dismount off the bars.

Addison Landsom finished with an all-around score of 33.200 while Makayla Moline scored 31.750 and Cadence Tish recorded a 31.500, again showcasing a high level of consistency from the team as a whole.

"We have fantastic depth with all

of our girls and we have some exciting brand new skills that we are close to putting into their competition routines that we hope to see come in the next couple weeks as we set up for sections," Glidden Said.

There is also excitement from the con-

tinued improvement of the junior varsity athletes as the year progresses.

"What they have done with some of them never having done gymnastics competitively before to scoring really well is impressive," noted Glidden. "The new skills they are learning in practice are amazing."

The big focus going forward is keeping the team in the right mindset in preparation for sectionals.

"This time of year the girls sometimes get in their own heads a bit, so we have to push through that," said Glidden. "It's easy to lose that edge a bit unless you change things up in practice and do pressure sets and some fun things so they remember its not always just about hitting everything, but also having fun and enjoying one another's company."

The Saints return to the mat Thursday, Jan. 20 with another home meet beginning at 6 p.m. as they enter the final stretch of the year with sections scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 10 in St. James.

SPORTS

Deluge of goals from Luverne down Bulldogs

By **BEN CAMP**
ben.camp@apgsomn.com

Some nights things just don't go your way and Monday night the Minnesota River girls hockey team found themselves on the wrong end of a scoring barrage. Benefiting from a five-goal second period, the Luverne Cardinals defeated the Bulldogs 8-1, dropping Minnesota River to 8-10 (6-5 MRC).

The Minnesota River Conference-leading Cardinals boasted a high-powered offense that consistently attacked the top of the goal

with a lot of speed on the wings. Despite that edge, Luverne was limited to two first-period goals even with a 14-6 shots on goal advantage.

It was the second period that put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs, though, as the Cardinals scored four goals with almost two minute intervals between each before scoring a fifth in the closing minutes.

Minnesota River was able to get some quality chances in the second period including a break-away opportunity when Makenna

Mueller broke up a pass just outside the Luverne zone. Mueller skated cleanly into the zone with puck and shifted it from one side of the stick to the other, looking for an opening, before sending a shot low to the far post. The Cardinal goaltender was able to get just enough to send the shot wide though, keeping the Bulldogs off the board.

Midway through the third, Luverne added their eighth and final goal but Minnesota River would not end the game empty handed. At 14:02 of the third pe-

riod, Mueller was able to get the puck past the Cardinal goalie with assists from Anna Pavlo and Adrianna Bixby.

The Bulldogs will now get two days off before they return to action with a road trip to Litchfield to take on the Dragons with puck drop scheduled for 7 p.m.

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Lucy Kleschult brings the puck from behind the net. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)



Amelia Messer cuts off the shooters angle. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)



Makenna Mueller breaks away down the ice as she looks for the Bulldogs first goal of the game. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)

Bulldogs strike first but fall to visiting New Ulm

By **BEN CAMP**
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Tuesday night, the Minnesota River Bulldogs played host to the Big South Conference leading New Ulm Eagles, seeking to earn their first win of 2022. Minnesota River struck first just minutes into the opening period, but the Eagles responded with six unanswered goals, handing the Bulldogs a 6-1 loss.

With the loss, Minnesota River is now 3-11-1 (1-7-1 BSC) with 10 games remaining in the regular season.

The opening goal came 4:26 into the first period when Brendan O'Keefe launched the puck into a crowd in front of the Eagles' goalie. After bouncing off a couple defenders, the puck found its way into the net, giving the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead.

New Ulm peppered the Minnesota River goaltender Sam Gibson with shots in the first period, outshooting the Bulldogs 10-5, but Gibson stood tall and kept them off the scoreboard.

The second period began with the Eagles putting a ferocious amount of pressure on Minneso-

ta River and they broke through with the equalizing goal 4:46 into the second. Two minutes later, just nine seconds into a power play, New Ulm set up an opposite side one-timer that found the back of the net to give the Eagles the lead.

The remainder of the second was scoreless, but early in the third, New Ulm pulled away with another one-time goal during a power play and they then ran away with the game, scoring three more in the third.

As a team, the Eagles outshot the Bulldogs 43-16 with Min-

nesota River goaltender Gibson making 37 saves.

The Bulldogs get a couple of days off before returning to the ice Friday, Jan. 21 when they begin a four-game road trip with a match-up against the Redwood Valley Cardinals, a team they defeated 8-1 earlier this season.

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Dylan Hunt corrala a puck before sending a shot at the net. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)



Travis Kotek reaches out to wrangle a loose puck. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)



Brendan O'Keefe sends a wrist shot towards the net. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)



Sam Gibson gets low to send away a shot with his right leg pads. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)



Brooks Reicks takes the puck across the blue line on the attack for the Bulldogs. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)



Alex Schaffer skates out ahead of the New Ulm defenders to challenge to goaltender. (Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)

Goaltender Sam Gibson makes 47 saves as Bulldog boys hockey tie Windom

By **BEN CAMP**
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Thursday night, the Minnesota River Bulldog boys hockey team travelled to Windom aiming to right the ship after suffering six

straight defeats. While the Bulldogs were unable to get into the win column, they survived a barrage from Windom to force a 1-1 tie with goaltender Sam Gibson making 47 saves for a .979 save percentage.

The Eagles outshot the Bul-

dogs 28-3 in the first two periods as they controlled the action, but Gibson was able to send away shot after shot. Unfortunately for Minnesota River, Windom was able to get the puck past Gibson with 1 minute, 36 seconds left in the

second period on a power play.

Despite continuing to suffer a major shot disparity, Drew Simonette scored the equalizer off a pass from Travis Kotek with 6:14 left in regulation.

In overtime, the Bulldogs re-

aged only a single shot compared to six from the Eagles, but Gibson kept the puck out of the net to earn the tie.

Overall, Windom outshot Minnesota River 48-9 and both teams were penalized four times.

The tie places the Bulldog re-

cord at 3-9-1 (1-5-1 MRC).

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SPORTS

Brothers pace Saints in season-best 88-73 win over Tigers

By PAT BECK
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A pair of brothers led St. Peter boys basketball to a come-from-behind, season-high-scoring 88-73 victory over the Belle Plaine Tigers on Monday night at St. Peter.

Senior forward Bennett Olson, who is averaging 20 points a game, paced the Saints with 27 points, nine rebounds and four assists. His brother, sophomore guard Tate Olson, netted 17 points.

Senior forward Alex Bosacker scored 12 points. His brother, sophomore guard Josh Bosacker, poured in a career-high 15 points.

Having four players in double figures helped.

“It’s good to have more balance,” St. Peter head coach Sean Keating said. “We made some 3’s which is nice. We got the ball inside. The way we guarded to start the second half was really good. Josh Bosacker came off the bench and gave us a lot of energy. We rebounded well.”

The Saints also had a season-high of 28 deflections.

Also for the Saints, Ashton Volk had six points, Peyton Odland four, Vinny Guappone three and Marwan Abdi two.

The Saints shot well from the inside, the outside and the free-throw line. St. Peter made 25 of 37 shots (68%) from 2-point range and 7 of 20 (35%) from 3-point land. The Saints took a season high number of free throws, hitting 17 of 25 (68%).

“When you shoot that many, the means you’re being aggressive



St. Peter brothers Alex and Josh Bosacker double team Belle Plaine's Jack Kruger. (Pat Beck photos/southernminn.com)

and attacking the rim,” Keating said.

Tate Olson led with three 3-pointers. Bennett Olson and Josh Bosacker each made a pair from downtown.

Cutting down on turnovers turned the game in the Saints’ favor. St. Peter had 14 turnovers in the first half that led to 19 Belle Plaine points and just five turnovers in the second half.

Trailing by as much as nine points (37-28) with 6 minutes, 55 seconds to play in the first half, the Saints came back to take the lead 39-38 when Tate Olson set

up Alex Bosacker for a lay-up with 2 minutes left. Bosacker returned the favor to Olson to give the Saints a 41-38 lead with 1:40 remaining in the half. St. Peter led 49-44 at halftime.

The Saints went on a 5-0 run to start the second half on a 3-pointer by Tate Olson and a 2-pointer by Alex Bosacker to take the lead for good 54-44.

St. Peter increased the lead to as much as 19 points (77-56) when he slammed down a crowd-pleasing, one-handed dunk with 7:20 to play.

St. Peter’s previous high for

points was 75.

Scoring in the fastbreak was a key to the high scoring.

“We tried to focus more on transition, getting the rebound and going,” Keating said. “In the first half, when got good looks. We’ve had a lot of tough losses lately, and I think we’re kind of just looking to burst out. We’ve been really close. Offensively the guys were aggressive, attacked and did a lot of good things.”

Belle Plaine’s record fell to 4-7.

The Saints (6-8) next go up north for two-game overnight road trip to the Alexandria Best



St. Peter forward Bennett Olson takes it to the hoop over Belle Plaine's Jack Kruger (5).



St. Peter sophomore guard Tate Olson fires a pass toward senior forward Marwan Abdi.

Western, which has a pool. St. Peter plays at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Class AAA No. 6 Alexandria (9-2) and 7:15 p.m. Saturday at Perham (7-3).

“Every two years we try to take a trip,” Keating said. “We’re going to Alexandria, a top 10 team in AAA, and then to Perham, a top

in AA. It’s a chance to play somebody different in some really nice gyms. Perham’s gym is one of the nicest in the state. Sometimes when you go away and play new teams it builds team camaraderie. We’re trying to play a tough schedule. Hopefully it will help us in March.”

Saints dominate shorthanded New Ulm en route to 13-1 record

By BEN CAMP
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Thursday night, the St. Peter girls basketball team hosted rival New Ulm in a game that ended up as one of the Saints’ most impressive performances this season. While shooting over 50% from the field, St. Peter convincingly defeated the Eagles 71-30 to improve the team’s record to 13-1 (5-0 BSE) this season.

New Ulm came into the game down a handful of players, but the Saints didn’t take the game any less seriously as they attacked every aspect of the Eagles game. Within a few minutes, the St. Peter pressure defense began forcing turnovers that immediately turned into scoring opportunities.

The Saints ultimately forced 19 turnovers and converted those into 30 points,



Rhyan Holmgren. (File Photo/Southernminn.com)

matching New Ulm’s scoring total on the night. St. Peter also finished the game with a 36-15 edge in rebounds, 18 of

them coming on the offensive end.

Team play was also a huge win for the Saints as they posted 22 assists on 38

made field goals. As a team, St. Peter shot 52% from the field, 45% from 3-point range and 100% from the free throw line.

Rhyan Holmgren led the team in scoring with 25 points and added five rebounds and three assists while Annika Southworth finished with 22 points, making 8 of 10 field goals in the win including 6 of 7 threes.

Lilly Ruffin scored 12 points and pulled down nine boards while tackling on a pair of blocks. Abby Maloney posted seven rebounds and stole the ball three times and Josie Wiebusch assisted on six shots while stealing the ball five times.

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Josie Wiebusch. (File Photo/Southernminn.com)



St. Peter sophomore Rhyan Holmgren drives for two of her game-high 23 points against NYA guard Kassi Hermann. (Pat Beck/southernminn.com)

BASKETBALL

From Page 1B

“They’re a good team,” Bob Southworth said. “No. 55 (Erickson) just started playing about two weeks ago coming off an ACL injury, and she’s a difference maker. She’s a tough player inside that was giving us some problems.”

NYA, which beat St. Peter twice in the Section 2AA finals over the years, fell to 7-6.

St. Peter, which has beaten the Raiders a couple of times in the regular season, improved to 15-1.

“Hopefully we can keep it going,” Southworth said. The Saints journey to Blue Earth Area (3-9) at 7:15 p.m. Friday.

WRESTLING

From Page 1B

132 — Evan Walter (11-8) placed 5th and scored 12.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Evan Walter (St. Peter) 11-8 won by major decision over Noah Holmberg (Windom-Mountain Lake) 10-10 (MD 9-0)

Quarterfinal — Dylan Louwagie (Marshall) 22-1 won by fall over Evan Walter (St. Peter) 11-8 (Fall 0:25)

Cons. Round 2 — Evan Walter (St. Peter) 11-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi — Evan Walter (St. Peter) 11-8 won in sudden victory — 1 over Cooper Steuber (Fairmont-Martin County West) 9-4 (SV-1 3-1)

5th Place Match — Evan Walter (St. Peter) 11-8 won by fall over Lincoln Ourada (Redwood Valley) 6-6 (Fall 3:38)

138 — Nakiye Mercado (15-6) placed 3rd and scored 15.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Nakiye Mercado (St. Peter) 15-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Nakiye Mercado (St. Peter) 15-6 won by fall over Gadiel Velasco (Saint James Area) 4-15 (Fall 3:17)

Semifinal — Nate Bobendrier (Pipestone Area) 15-6 won by decision over Nakiye Mercado (St. Peter) 15-6 (Dec 6-2)

3rd Place Match — Nakiye Mercado (St. Peter) 15-6 won in sudden victory — 1 over Marqavion Haefner (New Ulm Area) 12-11 (SV-1 10-5)

145 — Harold Born (15-9) placed 5th and scored 7.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Harold Born (St. Peter) 15-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Dylan Withers

(Jackson County Central) 19-11 won by decision over Harold Born (St. Peter) 15-9 (Dec 6-0)

Cons. Round 2 — Harold Born (St. Peter) 15-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi — Harold Born (St. Peter) 15-9 won by decision over Wyatt Pollard (New Ulm Area) 14-10 (Dec 4-2)

5th Place Match — Harold Born (St. Peter) 15-9 won in sudden victory — 1 over Caden Swoboda (Windom-Mountain Lake) 14-6 (SV-1 7-5)

152 — Taylen Travaille (5-10) placed 6th and scored 7.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Taylen Travaille (St. Peter) 5-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Aden Welcome (Fairmont-Martin County West) 15-6 won by decision over Taylen Travaille (St. Peter) 5-10 (Dec 7-2)

Cons. Round 2 — Taylen Travaille (St. Peter) 5-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi — Taylen Travaille (St. Peter) 5-10 won by fall over Jaden Reisch (Luverne) 1-13 (Fall 1:29)

5th Place Match — Kade Gaydon (Blue Earth Area) 9-9 won by decision over Taylen Travaille (St. Peter) 5-10 (Dec 7-2)

160 — Brogan Hanson (19-6) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Brogan Hanson (St. Peter) 19-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Brogan Hanson (St. Peter) 19-6 won by fall over Lukas Stelter (Marshall) 12-9 (Fall 3:03)

Semifinal — Brogan Hanson (St. Peter) 19-6 won by fall over Carver Rohman (Fairmont-Martin County West) 18-4 (Fall 4:54)

1st Place Match — Payton Handevidt (Jackson County Cen-

tral) 25-3 won in tie breaker — 1 over Brogan Hanson (St. Peter) 19-6 (TB-1 13-8)

170 — Cole Filand (17-7) placed 3rd and scored 15.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Cole Filand (St. Peter) 17-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Cole Filand (St. Peter) 17-7 won by decision over Gage Cyphers (Fairmont-Martin County West) 9-4 (Dec 3-2)

Semifinal — Kean Hicks (Blue Earth Area) 20-3 won by decision over Cole Filand (St. Peter) 17-7 (Dec 8-4)

3rd Place Match — Cole Filand (St. Peter) 17-7 won by fall over Tucker Fiene (Marshall) 16-7 (Fall 5:14)

182 — Kole Guth (21-3) placed 2nd and scored 21.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Kole Guth (St. Peter) 21-3 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Kole Guth (St. Peter) 21-3 won by fall over Riley Allen (Fairmont-Martin County West) 8-10 (Fall 0:50)

Semifinal — Kole Guth (St. Peter) 21-3 won by major decision over Payton Garza (Waseca) 12-4 (MD 12-2)

1st Place Match — Caleb Vancura (Jackson County Central) 24-4 won by fall over Kole Guth (St. Peter) 21-3 (Fall 3:25)

195 — Leighton Robb (18-6) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Leighton Robb (St. Peter) 18-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Leighton Robb (St. Peter) 18-6 won by fall over Gavin Schaefer (Marshall) 10-12 (Fall 1:25)

Semifinal — Leighton Robb (St. Peter) 18-6 won by fall over Cory Kitchel (Blue Earth Area) 10-8 (Fall 5:16)

1st Place Match — William Freking (Jackson County Central) 22-10 won by decision over Leighton Robb (St. Peter) 18-6 (Dec 6-4)

220 — Connor Travaille (12-8) placed 5th and scored 15.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Connor Travaille (St. Peter) 12-8 won by fall over Cyrus Bjorklund (Windom-Mountain Lake) 1-11 (Fall 0:23)

Quarterfinal — Keiton Walerius (Marshall) 10-8 won by fall over Connor Travaille (St. Peter) 12-8 (Fall 1:44)

Cons. Round 2 — Connor Travaille (St. Peter) 12-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi — Connor Travaille (St. Peter) 12-8 won by fall over Julio Esqueda (Saint James Area) 2-8 (Fall 0:41)

5th Place Match — Connor Travaille (St. Peter) 12-8 won by fall over Trace Michelson (Jackson County Central) 4-10 (Fall 3:23)

285 — Magnus Soderlund (4-6) placed 6th and scored 7.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 — Magnus Soderlund (St. Peter) 4-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal — Cole Hennings (Worthington) 18-1 won by fall over Magnus Soderlund (St. Peter) 4-6 (Fall 1:01)

Cons. Round 2 — Magnus Soderlund (St. Peter) 4-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi — Magnus Soderlund (St. Peter) 4-6 won by fall over Nick Lawrence (Blue Earth Area) 3-4 (Fall 1:53)

5th Place Match — Evan Thompson (New Ulm Area) 3-1 won by fall over Magnus Soderlund (St. Peter) 4-6 (Fall 0:51)

SPORTS

BASKETBALL



Kaylee Karels won this battle for a loose ball. (Photo courtesy Cleveland Public Schools, Richard Rohlfling)

Varsity girls snap six-game slide

By RICHARD ROHLFING
Cleveland Public School

Back on the winning track after a six-game slide, the Clippers easily beat Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons 56-35 in Alden on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

“It’s refreshing. We just needed to get a win,” said 6-foot-1 senior Emily Kern, whose work on the boards loomed large in the 36 minutes. “It’s been hard losing all those games, but this one really helped us.”

Although the Knights fell to the Clippers 48-25 in the conference opener back in early December, head coach Joe Remiger wasn’t expecting a gimmie as the Clippers have had trouble finishing of late.

“Our team can’t take anything for granted. We’re going to have to come to play and to work for it, or we won’t win, and that was communicated them yesterday and the day before.”

The Knights put in the first basket, but soon after, Kern rebounded and scored for the start of an 11-point spurt that gave the Clippers an early lead that would last to the final buzzer.

The defense made for the good start, Remiger said.

“Greta (Hahn), Kaylee (Karels)....all of them are doing



Greta Hahn looks for an open teammate inside. (Photo courtesy Cleveland Public Schools, Richard Rohlfling)

a ton better getting on the back line, stepping in and helping out. I was pleased with how they played defensively tonight.”

The Knights scored the next six points, but Karels hit her second

three of the game, Hahn took a Kern assist down the baseline for a basket, Sarena Remiger drove the paint for a score, and the Clippers were quickly in front 19-10.

After the Knights put in a bas-



Sarena Remiger on the breakaway. (Photo courtesy Cleveland Public Schools, Richard Rohlfling)

ket, Hahn got hot from outside, sinking the game’s next three buckets, including two from three-point country, and the Clippers eased 27-14 at the half.

“The first half, if we got open shots, we were shooting,” Remiger said. “The other night against Martin County West we were hesitating. Ava (Hann), Greta... they were hitting shots from the outside, so that opens stuff up down low.”

Remiger stole and scored on a layup for the first basket after the break. She went on to put in three

more in the second half as well as four baskets from the charity line. Karels also made a trio of second-half baskets, and the Clippers easily held on for the win.

“When we needed rebounds,” Sarena was on the boards,” Remiger said. “Emily played a great game tonight.”

“We changed our offense a little bit,” Kern said. “We got the flow going better so the guards are getting good shots. That’s way more fun when you are working together as a team.”

Karels, one of three Clippers

in double figures, had 17 points, six that came from across the arc. Remiger scored 13 points. Greta Hahn had 11 points with six of them from three-point land. Ava Hahn had four points in each half. Kern added seven points. The Clippers made eight of 19 free-throw shots.

Alden Conger put in three three pointers and were two of 14 from the foul line.

The Clippers, now 4-4 in the Valley, host Madelia on Tuesday. The Clippers beat the Blackhawks 60-26 earlier in the season.

WRESTLING



Leighton Robb, pictured earlier this season, was one of many St. Peter wrestlers to win by fall in Tuesday’s triangular sweep of Mankato West and Glencoe/Lester Prairie. (File Photo/southernminn.com)



St. Peter’s Charlie Born, pictured last season, won twice by fall in Tuesday night’s sweep of Mankato West and Glencoe/Silver Lake in St. Peter. (File Photo/southernminn.com)

St. Peter wrestlers dominate Glencoe/Lester Prairie, Mankato West in home triangular

By BEN CAMP
ben.camp@apgsomn.com

Tuesday night, the St. Peter wrestling team played host to the Glencoe/Lester Prairie Panthers and the Mankato West Scarlets in a home triangular. Over the course of the two duals, the Saints recorded a total of nine fall victories, defeating the Panthers 50-19 before handling the Scarlets 67-12.

In the win over G/LP, Brock Guth (106) opened the dual with a fall at 3:00 and Charlie Born (120) picked up the second match win with a fall at 3:18.

Evan Walter (132) picked up a fall at 2:31 followed by Nakiye Mercado (138) earning a fall at 2:26 in the following match.

Brogan Hanson (160) and Leighton Robb (195) both earned falls against the Panthers at 3:46 and 1:36, respectively.

The Scarlets were forced to take five forfeits in the dual with the Saints, which set the table for St.

Peter to run away with the competition. Born picked up his second fall of the night at 2:24 while Cole Filand (170) won via fall at 1:02 and Connor Travaille (285) earned a fall just 28 seconds into his match.

The Saints return to action Thursday, Jan. 20, when they make the trip to Fairmont to battle the Cardinals in a dual beginning at 6 p.m.

St. Peter (STPE) 50.0, Glencoe/Lester Prairie (GLP) 19.0

106: Brock Guth (STPE) over Brayden Linsmeier (GLP) (Fall 3:00)

113: Brody Ruschmeier (GLP) over Alex Dlouhy (STPE) (Dec 9-5)

120: Charlie Born (STPE) over Jackson Wischnack (GLP) (Fall 3:18)

126: Kyle Hagen (GLP) over Deontre Torres (STPE) (Dec 7-6)

132: Evan Walter (STPE) over Dylan Bargmann (GLP) (Fall 2:31)

138: Nakiye Mercado (STPE) over Miguel Aran-

dia (GLP) (Fall 2:26)

145: Taylen Travaille (STPE) over Dawson Varpness (GLP) (MD 11-0)

152: Carter Ruschmeier (GLP) over Harold Born (STPE) (MD 11-3)

160: Brogan Hanson (STPE) over Jace Cacka (GLP) (Fall 3:46)

170: Keegan Lemke (GLP) over Cole Filand (STPE) (Dec 6-2)

182: Kole Guth (STPE) over Jack Cacka (GLP) (MD 17-4)

195: Leighton Robb (STPE) over Dane Petersen (GLP) (Fall 1:36)

220: Riley Butcher (GLP) over Oziel Hildago (STPE) (Fall 3:46)

285: Connor Travaille (STPE) over (GLP) (For.)

St. Peter (STPE) 67.0, Mankato West (MAWE) 12.0

106: Brock Guth (STPE) over Robert Wicks (MAWE) (Dec 9-3)

113: Alex Dlouhy (STPE) over (MAWE) (For.)

120: Charlie Born (STPE) over Soren Ehmke (MAWE) (Fall 2:24)

126: Deontre Torres (STPE) over (MAWE) (For.)

132: Evan Walter (STPE) over (MAWE) (For.)

138: Nakiye Mercado (STPE) over Stihl Koberoski (MAWE) (TF 15-0 0:00)

145: Brody Koberoski (MAWE) over Taylen Travaille (STPE) (Fall 4:02)

152: Harold Born (STPE) over Nolan Krzmarzick (MAWE) (TF 16-0 0:00)

160: Brogan Hanson (STPE) over (MAWE) (For.)

170: Cole Filand (STPE) over Anthony Enrico (MAWE) (Fall 1:02)

182: Kole Guth (STPE) over (MAWE) (For.)

195: Leighton Robb (STPE) over (MAWE) (For.)

220: Joshua Allen (MAWE) over Oziel Hildago (STPE) (Fall 1:36)

285: Connor Travaille (STPE) over Trenton Fontaine (MAWE) (Fall 0:28)

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Do your Research

You should never walk in and wing an interview for a job you really want. You want to be as confident as you can be walking into the interview.

To do, that you need to re-search the position and the company you are applying to. Here are some tips to help you know what and why to research.

Research the Position

Researching the position you are applying for gives you an edge during the interviewing process. Knowing the jobs helps you answer those hypothetical “if you were hired how would you ...” questions more effectively and also helps you develop better questions to ask your interviewer. You should never go into an interview and wing it, especially for a position you really want. Research the



position on the internet, search for videos that show examples of what you may be doing or reach out to people you may know who have the same position at a different company. Make sure you know all the work the job may include.

Research your Employer

It's equally as important to research your potential employer and find out what others are saying about the company you are applying to. You want to research their culture, mission statement and company values to see if they align with what you think are yours. After all, you will be working at this company for a long time. Make sure the company is one you are happy with and are proud to be part of. Researching your employer will also help you find out what your employer really care about, prioritizes and will help you figure out if you want to be there. Researching also helps you determine whether the

company is a right fit for you.

Research the Work

If you are applying for a position and are unsure of what you would be doing, it's important to research the work the company you are applying to has done. Researching will allow you to see the impact the company has made in your community, in the world and for its employees. Does the company do meaningful work? Do they have a résumé full of jobs that have impacted others positively? Are those qualities that matter to you and are important in a job you are applying for?

Ask Questions

The interview process isn't only a chance for employers to ask you questions. It's also a chance for you to get to know your potential employers. If you research before the interview process, it will give you a chance to show them how interested you are in the position by asking thoughtful questions. Ask insightful questions that show your interviewer you did your homework. Questions that ask more than “How long have you been in business?” or “Who are your main competitors?” Ask questions that show insight such as “I saw your core values on your website were X, how would this position demonstrate that value?” These kinds of questions show you are more invested in being apart of the company than being an individual in the company.

Getting Interview Experience

When you're looking for work and trying to keep the lights on at the same time, it's not atypical to blast your resume all over the place in hopes one of them sticks. You're called for an interview, but beforehand you discover it's a job you don't really want. What to do? Glassdoor advises it's better to go ahead and show up. Good things might happen nonetheless.

Go for the interview experience

Attending job interviews can be nerve-wracking, so

the more experience you have under your belt, the more confidence you're apt to gain. Candidates are often advised to do trial runs before attending actual interviews, so if you're invited to meet with a company you don't think you'll end up working for, you can use that interview as a test run of sorts in order to do better in the future.

Expanding your network can help

Attending the occasional needless interview, so to speak, can actually help your career in the long run because every interview you go on gives you the chance to meet new people and make new connections, and that, in turn, can lead to different opportunities down the line.

It's amazing what happens when you show up

You might decide you do want the job. If you're willing to take the time to attend an interview, you might find that the job in question is more appealing than you thought.

A better job at the company might become available

If you go into an interview for a job you're convinced you don't want, there's a good chance that you'll walk away from that interview feeling the same way. But if you manage to wow the people you talk to at that company, there's a good chance they'll contact you the next time a better opportunity opens up.



Information Technology Systems Administrator

The Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU) has an opening for an IT Systems Administrator. This position is responsible for the administration of OPU's CSM/CIS System (NISC) and associated computerized systems/hardware. The environment includes technologies such as Microsoft, Windows Servers, Microsoft SQL servers and Microsoft Clustering technologies. Identify, evaluate and develop database solutions (SSIS) and reports (SSRS) that enhance the technical infrastructure. Also includes Mobile Device Management Systems (Intune), Phone system support, Security (iVUE, AD), reporting (Power BI, Crystal Reports, SSRS) and end user training. Provides technical assistance (troubleshooting hardware/software) to employees.

Qualifications for this position are the following:

- BS Degree in Computer Science or 2 year Associates Degree in Computer Science plus 2 years related work experience is required.
- Experience: Two (2) years' work experience in IT with a BS Degree in Computer Science. Four (4) years' work experience in IT with a 2 year Associates Degree in Computer Science.
- Experience in host operating and networking environments to provide all required functions and services, estimating & monitoring required hardware, coding & executing of administration jobs and monitoring and archiving backup files.
- Maintain documentation for all technical infrastructures.
- Business Intelligence a plus.
- Knowledge of the Utility industry is desired.

Salary Range is: \$67,863.74 to \$89,294.40.

If interested, more information and an employment application can be obtained from our website at www.owatonnautilities.com. Applications deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

Return applications to: Marge.Madson@owatonnautilities.com
Human Resources
Owatonna Public Utilities
208 S. Walnut Avenue
P.O. Box 800
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Meter Serviceworker

The Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU) has an opening for a Meter Serviceworker. Duties of this position include the collection, transfer and editing of meter readings from the field to billing. Inventory, install, replace, test, calibrate and repair all devices involved with the measurement of electricity, water, natural gas including Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) as OPU is transitioning to AMI. Responds to customer service calls regarding metering issues, as well as, performs disconnection of utility services.

Qualifications for this position are the following:

- 2-year Technical College degree is require, ie. metering, electronics, electricity, natural gas, or other related degree.
- Work experience with an AMI metering at a Utility is desired.
- 2-years work experience in the utility metering field is required. Other combinations of training and/or documented experience will be considered.
- Advanced knowledge of computer fundamentals to include windows operating system. Proficient at Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Knowledge of blue prints & schematics; used for testing & maintaining meters.
- Valid Class "D" Minnesota Driver's License is required.

Salary range is: \$29.59/hr. to \$38.94/hr.

If interested, more information and an employment application can be obtained from our website at www.owatonnautilities.com.
Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

Return applications to:

Marge.Madson@owatonnautilities.com
Human Resources
Owatonna Public Utilities
208 S. Walnut Avenue
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Public Notices

And assigned to: PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Dated: March 14, 2019
Recorded: March 19, 2019
Nicollet County Recorder
Document Number: 327024
Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 1008671-0000061161-4
Lender or Broker: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.
Residential Mortgage Servicer: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Mortgage Originator: Not Applicable
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Nicollet
Property Address: 334 Nicollet Ave, North Mankato, MN 56003-3834
Tax Parcel ID Number: 18.685.0800
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: West Half of Lot 11 of Block 5 in the Village of North Mankato, Nicollet County, Minnesota
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$147,940.21
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above-described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Nicollet County Government Center, Nicollet County Sheriff's Office Lobby, 501 S. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, Minnesota
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorney fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.
If the Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on August 22, 2022, or the next business day if August 22, 2022 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
Mortgagor(s) released from financial obligation: NONE
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.
DATED: January 01, 2022
ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.
Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgagee
7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296
(651) 209-3300
File Number: 045253F01
112644 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10 SPH

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 17, 2017
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$147,184.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Amanda J. Rettke, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 1008671-0000065360-8
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: American Mortgages & Equity Consultants, Inc. SERVICER: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed January 20, 2017, Nicollet County Recorder, as Document Number 318470
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 15, Block 3, Auditor's Plat No. 3, part of the Southeast 1/4 of Northeast 1/4 of Section 12, Township 108 North, Range 27 West
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 402 Monroe Ave, North Mankato, MN 56003
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 18.423.0610
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Nicollet
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$167,111.79
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 9, 2022, 10:00AM
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, 501 South Minnesota Avenue, PO Box 117, St. Peter, MN 56082
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on August 9, 2022, or the next business day if August 9, 2022 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED. Dated: December 15, 2021
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Assignee of Mortgagee LOGS Legal GROUP LLP BY Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Joseph M. Rossman - 0397070
Attorneys for Mortgagee LOGS Legal Group LLP 12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR
SPH LCN 12/23 12/30 1/6 1/13 1/20 1/27 112121

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 15, 2016
MORTGAGOR: Jose Juarez Lopez and Juana Patrocina Perez, Husband and Wife.
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded July 19, 2016 Le Sueur County Recorder, Document No. 405134.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC. Dated February 4, 2021
Recorded February 4, 2021, as Document No. 433966.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100392411201271619
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: M&T Bank
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 292 N Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 207700340
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LOTS NUMBERED ONE AND TWO IN BLOCK NUMBERED FOUR IN SOLBERG'S ADDITION TO LE SUEUR CENTER, NOW LE CENTER, LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA.
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Le Sueur
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$119,691.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$125,080.91
That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 23, 2022 at 1:00 PM
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, Front Lobby, Justice Center, 435 E. Derrynane Street, Le Center, MN
to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on September 23, 2022, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.
MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION

Public Notices

BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." Dated: January 14, 2022
Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee LIEBO, WEINGARDEN, DOBIE & BARBEE, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/ Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888
37 - 22-001170 FC
IN THE EVENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW: THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR
113524 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24 LCN

Public Notices

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333
The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.
ASSUMED NAME: Barrel Services
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 34049 Channing Street LESUEUR MN 56058
United States NAMEHOLDER(S): Name: Address: Ottawa Enterprises L.L.C. 34049 Channing St Le Sueur MN 56058
United States
If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.
By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.
SIGNED BY: Paul Schaffer
MAILING ADDRESS: 34049 Channing Street LESUEUR MN 56058
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: schufferpaul4@gmail.com
Work Item 1252558700025
Original File Number 1252558700025
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
09/07/2021 11:59 PM
Steve Simon
Secretary of State
112908 1/13, 1/20 LCN

Public Notices

Public Notice
The Saint Peter Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the Governors Room of the Saint Peter Community Center (600 South Fifth Street) to receive public comment on the Preliminary Plat of Hallet Pond Second Addition submitted by the Ruth Ann Weelborg Revocable Trust. The subject property is legally described

Public Notices

as: Outlot B, Hallet Pond Addition, City of Saint Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota. All interested persons may offer testimony to the Commission at the time and place stated above. Written comments either in favor, or opposed to the platting may be submitted to the Community Development Director, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, MN 56082 prior to the date of hearing.
113363 1/20 SPH

SOUTHERN MINN SCENE.COM

EDITOR'S
CHOICE

FARMAMERICA

Winter CHARM on the farm

January 22, 2022

www.farmamerica.org

WINTER CHARM ON THE FARM

22-JAN Winter Charm on the Farm Waseca 11 a.m.-3 p.m. "Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, Snow Painting, Winter Walking Tours, Snowshoe Trails, Cross Country Skiing, Campfire, smores and Hot Cocoa. Admission is \$5 per person in advance online." <https://go.evnt.com/974735-0> editor@southernminnscene.com

CARDBOARD CLASSIC

JANUARY 22ND
STRAIGHT RIVER PARK

CARDBOARD CLASSIC

EDITOR'S
CHOICE

22-JAN Medford Cardboard Classic "Straight River Park, Fourth Avenue SW, Medford" 12-5 p.m. "Different classes for different age groups. Awards to first two sleds in each class. Contest for best design, too. Teams of two should create their sleds prior to this event. See rules online." <https://go.evnt.com/993691-0> medfordmncivclub@gmail.com

SYMPHONIC SERIES: RUSSIAN TREASURES



EDITOR'S
CHOICE

23-JAN Symphonic Series: Russian Treasures "Saint Peter High School, 2121 Broadway Ave., Saint Peter" 3-5 p.m. The Mankato Symphony Orchestra will accompany the Academy Award-winning animated film Peter and the Wolf. This concert is truly a treasure trove of fantasy-style masterpieces. Tickets online. <https://go.evnt.com/993684-0> mso@mankatosymphony.org

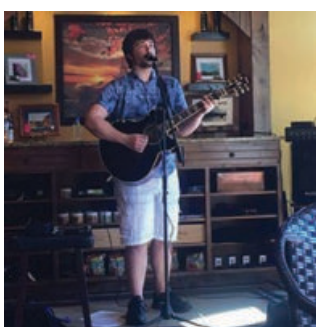
20-JAN The Jorgensens

"Kelly's Lake House Bar & Grill, 1702 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake City" 5-9 p.m. "An acoustic duo, the two troubadours teamed up to record Brianna's debut album 'Wandering' with Kurt acting as producer and arranger for Brianna's multi-instrumentalist talents. It did not take long for the pair to team up as songwriters and performers to form as a team in life on and off stage. The sound is powerful and undeniably fresh, taking root in rock, blues and some southern kissed Americana soul." bandsintown.com



22-JAN Luke Smith

"Foremost Brewing Cooperative, 131 W. Broadway St., Owatonna" 1-5 p.m. "Luke Smith is a baritone singer-songwriter from Faribault Minnesota. He started playing guitar at the age of 13, and briefly attended McNally Smith College of Music where he discovered a passion for songwriting. He writes folk / pop music. In 2014 he self-recorded his debut release: the 'High & Dry EP.'" bandsintown.com



22-JAN Mark Ross & the Three-Nineteen

"Celts Pub, 200 Third St., Farmington" 7-11 p.m. "Mark Ross & the Three-Nineteen are an Americana/Alt Country band from Southern Minnesota. The influences of the music range from Jason Isbell, Ryan Adams, Turnpike Troubadours, Counting Crows, Sturgil Simpson and more." bandsintown.com



22-JAN PopROCKS!

"Torge's Live Sports Pub & Grill, 1701 Fourth St. NW., Austin" 9 p.m.-Jan. 23, 1 a.m. "What is PopROCKS!? It's not just a band. It's a high energy show. Pop ROCKS brings you the best of today's hottest top 40 hits, throwback hip-hop, pop country, party rock and timeless classics all mashed up and delivered in a non stop format. The music of a DJ. The theatrics of a Broadway musical. The live energy of an Arena Rock show." bandsintown.com



22-JAN
Hockey Day
Minnesota
in Mankato
Mankato 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m. "Live games, featuring Edina vs Andover girls, East Grand Forks vs Prior Lake boys and then MNSU vs St. Thomas Division 1 men's games. Wild stream and Shane Martin Band at 8 p.m. Tickets online." <https://go.evnt.com/974751-0> editor@southernminnscene.com



22-JAN Dinner and Stand Up Comedy

"Cannon River Winery, 421 Mill St. W., Cannon Falls" 5:30-10 p.m. "An evening of food, friends, wine, and a huge helping of belly laughs. This event makes a great gift and is the perfect cure for January cabin fever. Tickets available online." <https://go.evnt.com/993696-0> info@cannonriverwinery.com



22-JAN Wayne and the Boys

"Minnesota Wing King, 43539 French Hill Road, Saint Peter" 7-10 p.m. "Join for fun and songs for everyone. Great food, drinks and atmosphere. Wayne and the Boys is a one-man-band from Coon Rapids Minnesota featuring a wide variety of music from a list of over 900 songs." <https://go.evnt.com/993686-0> wayne61348@msn.com



22-JAN Smokescreen Live "Blue Moon Bar and Grill, 300 S. Webster St., Kasota" 9-11:59 p.m. Smokescreen will offer its rock music to the Blue Moon for the night. <https://go.evnt.com/993700-0>

Reach Editor Philip Weyhe at editor@southernminnscene.com or 507-931-8579 or follow him on Twitter @EditorPhilipWeyhe. ©Copyright 2021 APG Media of Southern Minnesota. All rights reserved.

ARTS CENTER OF SAINT PETER: Souper Bowl solutions in the works

By ANN ROSENQUIST FEE
Guest Columnist

Well thank goodness this pandemic has made itself comfy in the guest room of our figurative homes, because how else would the Arts Center of Saint Peter get to refine our no-soup Souper Bowl?

In 2020, of course, COVID showed up and the world shut down the day before our traditional winter fundraiser (known as "Souper Bowl" because it involves soup and bowls, and at one point it coincided with football season, a pairing we still find hilarious), so we canceled.

Last year, we threw a pandemic-proof Souper Bowl that allowed small, socially distanced groups of advance ticket-holders to purchase bowls filled not with actual soup but with coupons from the St. Peter Food Co-Op & Deli and Patrick's on Third — the best we could do at a time when nobody wanted to be shoulder-to-shoulder in a small space serving or sipping soup, no matter how lovely the bowl or how good the cause.

This year, we're doing some form of a bowl sale at the Arts Center on Thursday, March 17, with some kind of advance ticket system and some kind of coupons, instead of soup, and some kind of fundraising goal and some kind of formula — like, any minute now, one of us will come up with it — to arrive at the number of bowls we need to create in order to make the goal despite that we're still restricting the number of potters who can use the clay studio simultaneously, so bowl-making is a less-festive, solitary, asynchronous process versus the feel-good throw-a-thons that formerly preceded the biggest event of our year (in regular years, in the pre-pandemic before-times).

Would this degree of uncertainty a mere eight weeks from game day have previously given us hives? Oh you bet. But we, like many artists and other survivalists, have recalibrated to all-new standards of what



ROSENQUIST
FEE



Stephanie Thull, left, and Emily Stark observing pandemic protocols at Souper Bowl 2021. (Photo courtesy of Arts Center of Saint Peter)

successful planning and follow-through look like. If you, too, have let this natural disaster retool your expectations in terms of what happens when and how much info you really need in advance, then join us in reserving some amount of time on Thursday, March 17, to attend a Souper Bowl event during some stretch of the afternoon, in our gallery, where you'll spend some amount of money to support the Arts Center and indulge yourself in one or more artful, unique, locally produced bowls. That's the one sure thing—the quality. As noted, the process has shifted from a group effort to a solitary one in which photos and group chats are the potters' only real means of encouraging and influencing each other. We weren't sure how that change would show up in the look and feel of the bowls last year, but as it turned out, the shapes and colors were some of the most stunning we'd seen in the event's 25-ish year history.

So please, save the date. Gorgeous bowls are guaranteed. As for the rest, keep watch at artscentersp.org and "Arts Center of Saint Peter" on Facebook, and we'll let you know just as soon as we do.

— Ann Rosenquist Fee is the executive director of the Arts Center of Saint Peter.

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"The ROMANCE Issue"

Featuring stories about Winter Activities, Gifts for your Valentine, and some area Romantic Stays & Dinner Dates. Also columns about the Minnesota Scene, A Spotlight on a local A&E Business, Through a SoMinn Lens, Mollywood Blvd, Food & Dining and The Bookworm Sez.

The February edition will be inserted into your paper either on January 26th or 27th.

