



## Winter comes to a close

Panthers fall in 2AA North final

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Two GSL Knowledge Bowl teams headed to state

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# Chronicle

The McLeod County

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March 13, 2019

## GSL School Board accepts bid for parking lot project

Public hearing on bond financing set for April 15

By John Mueller  
Editor

A plan to finally repair the cavernous parking lot potholes at Glencoe-Silver Lake Junior-Senior High School and pave the gravel lot at Lakeside Elementary School won quick approval Monday night. It's the financing piece of the plan that may present a bit more of a challenge next month.

The GSL School Board unanimously accepted Duinick Inc.'s bid of \$965,768 for the project at the March 11 meeting. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$1.2 million. Duinick Inc. is located in Prinsburg, Minn. The company will repair the parking lot on the north side of the junior-senior high school and field house. It will also pave and

stripe the gravel parking lot at Lakeside Elementary School in Silver Lake. The work is expected to begin just after the completion of the school year and be completed in time for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

Duinick Inc. was one of six bidders for the project. Four of the six were below the engineer's estimate. One bid was at the estimate, Michelle Sander, the district's business manager, told the school board.

The school board also voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing on the financing plan for the parking lot plan. It will be held April 15, 6:30 p.m., in the district's community room at 1621 16th Street E. The board will take comment on its plan to fund the parking lot improvement plan funded with a property tax-abatement bond. The bond will be

**Bids**

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Chronicle photo by John Mueller

## Chisel away

Taking advantage of last Friday afternoon's mild temperatures, Sue Goebel climbed a ladder and used a hammer and screwdriver to chisel away at a thick ice dam that built up on the roof of her house on the 1300 block of North Armstrong Avenue.

## Groups trying to narrow costs gap for road project

By John Mueller  
Editor

The gap between expected funding and willingness to contribute more money could delay the start of the expansion of Morningside Drive through the existing railroad line to a roundabout linking the roadway with McLeod County Road 15 north of the railroad tracks.

Representatives of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, City of Glencoe, McLeod County, Buffalo Creek Watershed District and Twin Cities & Western Railroad (TC&W) met Thursday morning, March 7, to discuss closing the gap between funding needed from the watershed district and railroad and project costs associated with the district and railroad. McLeod County



Chronicle photo by John Mueller

Until the city and Twin Cities & Western Railroad close the crossing at North Union Avenue, motorists can still cross the railroad tracks while trains idle in the distance. The city and McLeod County are looking to open a crossing at Morningside Drive and close the crossing at North Union Avenue.

Engineer John Brunkhorst said the facets of the existing plan associated with Buffalo Creek Watershed District indicates the district should contribute about \$500,000 more than it has committed thus far and TC&W contribute about \$1 million more to the project.

The railroad's costs are primarily estimated at about \$1.16 million. The costs are associated with moving and possibly extending its side-tracks, signals and control equip-

**Costs**

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## Kwik Trip eyes groundbreaking, opening late in 2019

With its building permit under review and plans for the storm water pond project almost completed, Kwik Trip is looking forward to a late-summer start to construction of its new store in Glencoe.

Construction of the new convenience store is tentatively scheduled for beginning in August. The building plans submitted to the city indicate the store will be worth about \$1.2 million. Plans for the store arrived at Glencoe City Hall late last month. City Administrator Mark Larson told the city council the plans weighed 42 pounds.

"At this time, there are no red flags from our end. We have had some preliminary site plans to review previously," Larson said last week, adding he doesn't anticipate any issues moving forward. "It is

possible that the building inspector may find issues, but those are typically resolved during the plan review."

The store will be located east of Harpel Bros. Chevrolet-Buick dealership, between East 11th Street and Highway 212. Customers will access the store off of East 11th Street. Kwik Trip's plans for the convenience store call for a facility open around the clock, said Dave Niemi, a spokesperson for the La Crosse, Wis. business. The store will employ about 35 people, 10 on a full-time basis.

Kwik Trip will open a 9,156-square-foot store in an area with plenty of competition nearby. There

**Kwik Trip**

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Chronicle photo by John Mueller

Glencoe native Tom Ische recreated the legendary Arctic Cat Boss Cat snowmobile. The original Boss Cat set a world record in 1971, reaching 125.87 mph. It was destroyed in a fire in 1973. Ische's creation will be on display Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Crow River Snow Pros' Vintage Sled Show at the county fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

## For the love of snowmobiles and speed records

Ische bringing 'Boss Cat' to show Saturday

By John Mueller  
Editor

When he was younger, Tom Ische enjoyed riding Arctic Cat snowmobiles, the faster the better. His collection of sleds is a testament to a passion for the Minnesota made machines.

A Glencoe native, Ische owns dozens of old-school Arctic Cat snowmobiles. But the replica of the original Boss Cat is the crown jewel of his collection. It is patterned after the Arctic Cat rocket-powered snow-

mobile Dale Cormican of Crookston, Minn. drove at 125.87 mph in time trials at Boonville, N.Y. to set a world record in 1971.




The original sled was destroyed in a fire at Arctic Cat's headquarters in Thief River Falls in 1973.

Ische's replica will be on display Saturday at the Crow River Snow Pros' 2019 Vintage Sled Show & Swap Meet Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the McLeod Coun-

**Boss Cat**

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## Weather

				
Wed., 3-13 H: 41°, L: 36°	Thur., 3-14 H: 39°, L: 23°	Fri., 3-15 H: 32, L: 14°	Sat., 3-16 H: 33°, L: 20°	Sun., 3-17 H: 37°, L: 22°

Looking back: Wide swings of temperature are in play this week and weekend.

Date	Hi	Lo	Rn/Sn
Mar. 5	17	-2	0.00"
Mar. 6	24	1	1.20"
Mar. 7	22	-4	0.00"

Mar. 8	36	14	0.00"
Mar. 9	34	28	.2R/6"S
Mar. 10	30	11	0.00"
Mar. 11	32	3	0.00"

Temperatures and precipitation compiled by Robert Thurn, Chronicle weather observer.

## Chronicle News and Advertising Deadlines

All news is due by 5 p.m., Monday, and all advertising is due by noon, Monday. News received after that deadline will be published as space allows.

## Happenings

### Caregiver support group

Lutheran Social Services has a support group meeting Thursday, March 14, 10:30 a.m., at Christ Lutheran Church. The group meets the second Thursday of the month. It is open to all caregivers dealing with the struggle of taking care of a loved one with a chronic illness, and dementia. The care receiver can be living at home or in a facility. The group will discuss many topics dealing with caregiving, and sometimes will have a speaker as well.

Christ Lutheran Church is at 1820 Knight Ave. N. in Glencoe.

### Lions bar bingo, meat raffle

The Glencoe Lions will be sponsoring bar bingo at Glencoe Country Club Saturday, March 16, noon.

Players age 18 and over are welcome to play for cash prizes. The progressive game 16 pay-out amount is \$1,099 if you have bingo within 58 called numbers.

Meat raffles will be held also. The proceeds from the bar bingo and meat raffles will support McLeod Emergency Food Shelf.

### St. Pat's Day in Silver Lake

The 32nd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & After-Glow Party is Saturday, March 16, noon.

All Irish and Irish at heart are welcome. All communities welcome. There are no entry forms to fill out, just get out your green apparel and line up at Lakeside School around 11:30 a.m.

The American Legion Color Guard and American flag will be observed by all as the flag passes by in the parade.

The parade will finish at the intersection of Main Street and Park Avenue. The Irish After-Glow party is a family-oriented event in the Silver Lake Auditorium (lower level) immediately following the parade. The Silver Lake Lions will serve BBQs, pickles, chips, dessert and beverage and mac & cheese for the wee little lads serving from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be prizes and light children activities following the parade.

The Silver Lake Civics Association is hosting its annual bean bag tournament (upper level) from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with food, meat raffles and more.

### Glencoe Legion Aux. meeting

The Glencoe American Legion Auxiliary will meet Monday, March 18, 6:30 p.m., at the Glencoe fire hall.

The fire hall is at 509 10th St E.

### Stewart Legion Aux. meeting

The Stewart American Legion Auxiliary is hosting a 100th birthday party for the Stewart American Legion March 18.

A potluck meal will be served at 6 p.m. at the Stewart Community Center, 551 Prior St.

All military, veterans and families are invited. Anyone else interested in celebrating the American Legion's birthday is welcome, too. Special guests include Department President Jean Walker of Warren, Minn., and Department Commander Darrel Redepennig of Anoka.

Food shelf donations are welcome.

### Glencoe Study Group

The Glencoe Study Group will hold its March meeting Monday, March 18, 7 p.m., at Barb Behrens' house, 1010 Mitchell Court.

Chris Davis will present information on Habitat for Humanity.

### District 18 town hall meeting

This town hall meeting is a time for constituents to voice concerns to the elected officials before the local board of appeals (valuation) meetings in April. The goal is to generate ideas on how legislators can improve the property taxation process for taxpayers.

This event will be hosted at the GSL High School auditorium, 1621 16th St. E. in Glencoe, 10 a.m., Friday, March 22.

Attendees of this town hall will have a chance to hear from and speak with Sen. Scott Newman, R-Hutchinson, Rep. Glenn Guenhagen, R-Glencoe, Rep. Dean Urdahl, R-Grove City, McLeod County Auditor-Treasurer Connie Kurtzweg, McLeod County Assessor Sue Schulz, and McLeod County commissioners.

Parking will be at the north side of the school. GSL will have signs to direct participants to the north parking lot and entrance.

### Silver Lake garage sales

The Silver Lake citywide garage sales will be held Thursday and Friday, April 25-26, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, April 27, 8 a.m. to noon.

### Degree of Honor meeting

Degree of Honor No.182 will hold a social meeting March 26, 1 p.m., in the Silver Lake Auditorium.

### Glencoe seniors' meetings

The Glencoe Senior Citizens meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the seniors' room at the Glencoe City Center. Sheephead is played on Tuesdays, and both sheephead and 500 are played on Thursdays. All seniors over 55 are invited.

For more information, call 320-510-1551 and leave a message.

**To be included in this column, items for Happenings must be received in the Chronicle office no later than 5 p.m. on Monday of the week they are to be published. Items received after that will be published elsewhere in the newspaper as space permits. Happenings in Glencoe, Brownton, Stewart, Plato, New Auburn, Biscay and Silver Lake take priority over happenings elsewhere.**

# GSL's band director Peter Gepson honored for dedication to his profession

Peter Gepson, Glencoe-Silver Lake's junior-senior high school band director, was inducted into Phi Beta Mu, an international honorary fraternity for band directors honoring their dedication and devotion to their profession.

Phi Beta Mu is the highest honorary international band director's fraternity. It was organized to encourage the building of better bands and the development of better musicians in schools throughout the world and to foster a deeper appreciation of good music and more wide spread public interest. The ceremony was Feb. 14 in Minneapolis as part of the Midwinter Clinic of the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA).

"I looked around the room and saw many colleagues and friends who were current members. Many of these were inducted long ago and have been a part of Phi Beta Mu for decades," Gepson said. "It is notable that many of these same people are fellow directors I have relied on over my career for advice and mentorship. So in many ways, this was their celebration as well."

The group of Minnesota members is highly selective and extremely difficult to become a part of Geneva Fitzsimonds, who teaches band at Edina High School, nominat-



Submitted photo

**GSL Band Director Peter Gepson (right) was recently inducted into the Phi Beta Mu, the honorary international band director's fraternity. Geneva Fitzsimonds (left), a band teacher at Edina High School, nominated Gepson for the honor.**

ed Gepson.

Gepson has taught at GSL since 2011. He had previously taught at the Minnesota school districts of Virginia, Triton, and Albert Lea. Gepson is an active member of MMEA, and has previously served on the state board of the Minnesota Band Director's Association (MBDA).

"Pete is a good band director due to his vast knowledge of instrument pedagogy, as well as his ability to connect with students," Fitzsimonds said. "He knows a great deal about every instrument in the band and is able to help students succeed no matter what

they play. His knowledge of band literature allows him to find just the right piece to highlight his students' skills, while challenging them to be better musicians."

Gepson works with 71 junior high school musicians and 88 senior high band students.

"Pete is able to work equally well with beginners and advanced players. He understands the difficulties kids will face at each stage of their development and is able to coach them to the next level," Fitzsimonds said. "He seeks out opportunities for his students to attend honor bands and events outside of the dis-

trict, and has had many students reach the state level for performance."

Along with the nomination from Fitzsimonds, two additional members wrote letters of support outlining his achievements and why Gepson would be a valuable addition to the fraternity. Once the membership votes on the nomination, Gepson received a unanimous vote to be accepted into the Phi Beta Mu. He is one of about 80 active members of the Minnesota chapter.

## Bids

Continued from page 1

for \$1,433,000 over nine years. The amount will cover the principal amount, 3 percent interest, contingency and issuance costs.

The tax impact the bond will create amounts to an additional \$8 per year on the school district's share of a house valued for taxation at \$100,000. It will add \$19 per year on a \$200,000 house and add \$208 per year to the school district's share of a commercial property valued for taxation at \$1 million. For farmers, the bond would create the same impact on the house, garage and one acre as a residential property. If the abatement bond is approved, farmland valued at \$6,000 per acre would see an additional 19 cents per acre annually added to property taxes. Land valued at \$4,000 per acre would see the tax impact increase by 13 cents per acre if the school board OKs the bond.

Director Jamie Alsleben, the board chairman, said the board opted for issuing the abatement bonds rather than holding a referendum because directors had long heard from residents who wanted the parking lots improved. Issuing bonds following a public hearing spares the district the cost of a bond referendum election.

"It's been something (the parking lots) that's been on a 10-year-plan. It's something we know the public wants us to do. We appreciate their patience," Alsleben said.

With nothing to stop drivers from cutting across the parking lot diagonally, zipping across lanes of parking spaces, Sonju said the planned improvements would make the lot safer and also better able to handle storm water runoff.

The proposal calls for dividing the overall lot on the north side of the school into two sections, one on the east end north of the junior-senior high school and a smaller section on the west side, in front of the field house. Along with repaving and reconstructing heavily deteriorated sections, a concrete island running from south to north side of the lot will prevent drivers from traversing the entire lot without having to slow down. Drivers will have to go around the island, an inconvenience Sonju said is intended to improve safety for people walking across the lot. The island could also have lights on it, he said last fall.



Submitted photo

### Returning to Orchestra Hall

**GSL's Elise Petersen (center) took the stage at Minneapolis Orchestra Hall Feb. 16 to perform with the Minnesota All-state Choir. Peterson sang a solo performance on the Orchestra Hall stage six months earlier. The All-State groups all had their first concert in August. She is pictured with her mom, Krista, and father, Dr. Bryan Peterson.**

As a safety feature, curbs will be installed around the outer section of the lot to dissuade drivers from entering the lot and driving across it transversely.

The plan presented last fall calls for the flat parking lot to be crowned, creating runoff to the north and south sides of the lot rather than allowing water to pool and infiltrate the bituminous pavement and over time, deteriorating the base. The lot would be designed to move the runoff toward the wetland on the east side of the lot and toward the drainage pond on the west side.

### Lakeside lot

The proposal presented last fall for the parking lot in Silver Lake calls for the gravel parking lot to be paved. Painted lines will create four rows of parking.

The preliminary plan indicates the new lot will have about 65 spaces, approximately 19 more than it currently has.

The project as presented last fall would not require approval by the City of Silver Lake because of the size of the project, Sander said.

**In other action at the March 11 meeting, the Glencoe-Silver Lake School Board:**

- Paid bills totaling \$557,649.
- Approved the hiring of Carrie Schoon, DCD long-term substitute; Annaliese Bruellman, long-term substitute for third grade; Keisha Prafke, JV girls' soccer coach; Terry Shogren, head girls' soc-

cer coach;

- Jon Lemke, JV football coach; Alyssa Ebert, paraprofessional.
- Accepted the retirement of Kay Wilson, 7th-12th grade choir teacher, effective June 30.
- Accepted the resignations of Hailey Farrell, paraprofessional at Lakeside, effective Feb. 15; Michelle Renville, MARSS coordinator/food service secretary/administrative assistant effective March 15; Kirsten Luna, high school

Spanish teacher, effective June 30.

- Adjusted special education teacher Kelly Miguel's hours from 6¾ per day to 7 hours due to student needs.
- Approved a contract with the SWWC Service Cooperative for services including special education services, behavior analyst services, health & safety management and other services valued at \$248,661.95.

Brownton Lions

## Fish Fry

Friday, March 22, 2019

Menu: fish, potatoes, beans, coleslaw, bread, coffee, milk

**Brownton Community Center**

Serving 4 pm-8 pm or until fish run out.

**ALL WAITING INDOORS!**

K-6th grade: \$5.00, Adults: \$11.00

*Proceeds go to community projects! • Bring your old eyeglasses!*

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## Kim Bacon

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**5-7 p.m.**

**Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction**

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# Two GSL Knowledge Bowl teams heading to state

Glencoe-Silver Lake will send two teams back to the state meet next month at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd April 10-11.

The defending Class A state champs, GSL advanced from a regional competition Friday, March 8, where 18 teams advanced from 36 teams competing at the sub-region level.

GSL co-coach Vicky Harris said the region competition was "mind-boggling." The team is thrilled it will be so well represented at state. "What a good day GSL had on Friday," she said.

GSL Black started out tied for first place with a written score of 44. The team finished atop the standings in room one in oral rounds with scores of 17-9-6, 18-6-3, 13-12-4, and 9-6-5. In the first two rounds, GSL Black defeated New London-Spicer, Hutchinson, and Willmar.

In the final two rounds the second highest team was GSL Purple, which had

moved up from room three and was determined to be one of the three teams who qualified for state. GSL Black won the meet with 107 points, while GSL Purple took third with 82. Hutchinson finished second with 84.

GSL Black team members are Brett Baumgarten, Jacob Reichow, Jared Lokensgard, Haley Lukes, and Paul Sievert. Friday, GSL Purple included Charles Urban, Kobe Boozikee, Austin Brewton and Nathan Warner. Teammate Eli Kuehn was absent competing at BPA.

Meanwhile, GSL White had begun the meet in the fifth room, and moved up to compete in rooms four and three, finally finishing in eighth place with 73 points. The team had a solid showing, with team members Abby Gronlund, Allie Gronlund, Kayla Reichow, and Rachel Trebesch, as well as Megan Fehrenbach at BPA.

GSL Silver competed in rooms five and four, and fin-

ished in fourteenth with 59.0. The team members were Carlee Oberlin, Kalie Butcher, Devin Forcier, and Cade Herrmann (as well as Nathan Fehrenbach, also at BPA.)

Although GSL has sent two teams to state before, Harris said the team didn't know if it could do it this year. In Knowledge Bowl, so much depends on the particular day and the type of questions at the meet, but this was a good day for GSL, Harris said.

GSL has been to the state meet 10 times before. That experience will help with preparation.

"We have some idea what to do to get ready. But we know this: now begins the oddest month in Knowledge Bowl," she said.

Although most of these students are also involved in spring activities, we need to practice now and then so that we are still good competitors when we get to the state meet."

# City eyes 11th Street extension

By John Mueller  
Editor

Hoping to promote development of Glencoe's east side, the city council is considering approving a grant application that could help fund the extension of East 11th Street toward Diamond Avenue and the city limits.

During a workshop Monday afternoon, March 11, the city council heard a report from Dan Ehrke, Glencoe's assistant city administrator, on an application for a \$1 million grant that could help fund the extension of East 11th Avenue across land north of Starkey Lab's property and link up with an existing roadway that will extend the roadway to the city limits.

The council will consider formally approving the submission of the grant application to MnDOT at Monday night's meeting, March 18.

The city plans to improve East 11th Avenue. With Kwik Trip coming and a potential AmericInn being built in the area, the road needs to be

resurfaced between Morningside Drive and Eagle Avenue. The road was built 25 years ago but not to today's standards, Ehrke said. It is used heavily by big trucks coming from and going to Highway 212.

A local road improvement program grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation could help fund much of the extension of East 11th Avenue across Falcon Avenue crossing the north side of Starkey Laboratories' property and link up with an unnamed road which would take it to the eastern city limits, a linkage councilor Milan Alexander and others see as a development opportunity. The project would cost just over \$1.12 million.

"I like the idea," said Councilor Cory Neid. "I think it needs to be done."

Extending East 11th Avenue would allow the roadway to serve the city's eastern industrial park. The proposed extension is part of the city's approved transportation plan.

Alexander led the push toward Diamond Avenue.

"If the money's going to be there, why not," he said.

The availability of grant funding to extend East 11th Street this year is uncertain, Ehrke said. MnDOT is more likely to have local road improvement program grant funding available for 2020. Ehrke said the grant program couldn't require local matching funds. The city used the money a few years ago to improve a section of North Armstrong Avenue.

Ehrke said Starkey Labs is willing to work with the city on the street project. He said the business doesn't have the demand for parking it once did. Its north parking lot is not used much anymore, Ehrke told the council.

"They see value in it," Ehrke said.

The city is hoping the extension of East 11th Street into the business park will benefit businesses and help create a backage road on the north side of Highway 212.

# Kwik Trip Continued from page 1

is a SuperAmerica on the south side of Highway 212 at Morningside Drive, a Little Dukes gas station and car wash connected to Coborn's grocery store on the west side of Morningside Drive at East 11th Avenue and a Casey's gas and convenience store on East 10th Avenue just west of Morningside Drive.

Kwik Trip believes its model of a small, convenience-sized grocery store offering hot food and drinks to go, along with fresh fruit and produce creates a "value proposition" unlike a typical convenience store.

The company is comfortable it will fit in well in Glen-

coe and confident its new store will be successful despite plenty of convenience store competition in the immediate area. It sees Glencoe as a smaller community under-served from a grocery perspective, Niemi said.

The Highway 212 corridor plays a role in Kwik Trip's interest in Glencoe. The highway is a regional corridor with plenty of traffic flowing by it each day.

Construction on the building will commence after the completion of a storm water pond project. The company is expecting it will open late this year, assuming there are no significant delays involving

construction. Kwik Trip plans to begin hiring staff for the new store in the fall and assigning new employees to nearby stores for four to eight weeks of hands-on training, Niemi said. The staff will be paid \$13 to \$14 per hour, with full-timers also receiving benefits, he said.

The new Kwik Trip will include 10 gas pumps in front of the store and two diesel pumps on the side of the store. It will have a single-lane car wash.

The Glencoe store is one of 40 stores the company plans to build during the coming construction season, Niemi said.

# Boss Cat Continued from page 1

ty Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. The show features restored vintage snowmobiles from the 1950s through today's modern models.

## The Boss Cat

The replica is a thing of beauty, a shiny, sleek bullet. Its fiberglass shell covers the cockpit, engine, track and front suspension. Whether or not it could equal the speed of the original Boss Cat is unknown. At 52, the Glencoe native is not interested in testing its capabilities. He built it with the same nitro-fueled rocket-powered engine and 800 cubic centimeter Kawasaki engine that powered the original Boss Cat. The Kawasaki powered the sled for just a few seconds as the sled took off. Producing up to 1,000 horsepower, the nitro-powered rocket that pushed the sled to 125-plus mph over 1,320 feet, then a world record.

Ische spent five years building the replica. He had the help of and support of his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Brianna. Ische recreated the Boss Cat using information and technical assistance from some of the men who created the original Arctic Cat record-setting sled. He finally completed the project in 2015. The shell was painted at My Own Bodyshop of Glencoe. The sled is as close to 100 percent original as he could make it. He takes it to a handful of shows every year, including shows at Arctic Cat's headquarters in Thief River Falls.

He's not interested in selling the Boss Cat, at least not now. He's been offered \$50,000 for the sled.

## Not easy to maneuver

The sled weighs about 1,300 pounds and is about 15 feet long. Ische built a platform on wheels to help maneuver it around his Performance Engineering shop in Glencoe Township. The sled was designed to travel fast in

a straight line. It doesn't turn well, Ische said.

After the Boss Cat set the world record, it traveled to shows and was displayed in a truck with glass sides. Ische found the original glass-sided truck at a farm in Viking, Minn., a small town northwest of Thief River Falls. He bought it from a farmer a few years back and is working on restoring the truck. He hopes to have the work completed this summer.

Ische's infatuation with Arctic Cat sleds dates back to the early-1970s. His father, Harlan, owned an Arctic Cat

sled back in '73. It was boxy yet powerful. Tom found out how fast it could travel and was hooked. Today he owns over a dozen of the powerful sleds.

He purchased many of the sleds from people within an hour of Thief River Falls. He enjoys restoring the machines to their past glory.

"I've always been an Arctic Cat guy," he said. "I've often wondered why. A lot of them were in rough shape. I guess it's just a passion."

# Costs Continued from page 1

ment further to the east so that once the intersection of Morningside Drive and the tracks is opened for motor vehicle crossing, drivers will only have to cross one set of tracks. The railroad is looking at moving its sidetracks to the east, possibly as far east as Diamond Avenue. The railroad would also fund removing the signal gates where its tracks cross Union Avenue, Brunkhorst said. The city will be responsible for paying for barricades to close Union Avenue's intersection with the tracks.

The city and railroad have already agreed to close Union Avenue in exchange for opening a crossing at Morningside Avenue. The new crossing will provide more direct access to Highway 212 and remove traffic headed for the highway from residential areas along Union Avenue. The city contends closing the railroad crossing at North Union Avenue is a plus for public safety.

Mark Wegener, TC&W's president, said the railroad would be working to refine the costs associated with mov-

ing the sidetracks and the rest of the project.

Wegener said the railroad is interested in moving its sidetracks to the east, and noted it will gain more capacity for rail cars waiting to be used. Without moving the sidetracks, rail cars would occasionally block the crossing at Morningside Drive.

The watershed district is working on a project that runs in conjunction with the railroad-crossing project but is not as far along in the planning process. Don Belter, a member of the watershed district's board, said the costs and timing of the east ditch project the city petitioned Buffalo Creek Watershed District to complete are not finalized. That project includes moving storm water away from land north and east of the high school. It will likely include running a pipe under Morningside Drive. The size of that pipe is to be determined, Belter said. He said the district is not ready to move forward its share of the Morningside project until the east ditch project is ready to be completed.

"It's definitely a timing and logistic problem," Belter said. "We're dealing with several things here that are still in flux, still moving."

As of last month, the project is slated to cost just over \$6.3 million, up from the estimated \$4.96 million preliminary price tag in 2017. The state is expected to provide \$2.35 million in funding. The city and county will each contribute about \$1.64 million. Early estimates provided by the city and county have the railroad contributing \$180,000.

Without more funding from the railroad or watershed district, Brunkhorst said the project might have to be scaled back or more funding sought from taxpayers. He expects the parties to be back meeting again in a month or sooner.

Glencoe City Councilor Milan Alexander, one of the two city representatives at the meeting, is confident a funding solution can be worked out.

Plans indicate the open intersection will eventually serve about 7,400 vehicles a day.



Chronicle photo by Trisha Karels

# WeeFriends visit Chronicle

The WeeFriends 4-year old class visited The Chronicle/Advertiser office on Friday, March 8. After a tour of the office, the group made newspaper hats. Pictured from left to right are Greta Schmidt, Jessa Khouht, Brady Schuette, Brooklyn Weber, Ellie

Behrendt, Avery Sauter, Evelyn Graf, Mason Ortloff, J.J. Montanye, Julia Hanson, Mason Metag, Zoey Barton, Ellie Heldt and Cody Behrendt. Back row, Karin Ramige, Cody Becker and Danny Fairbairn.

**The Big Little Hunting & Fishing Expo**  
**Saturday, March 16**  
**9:00 am-5:30 pm**  
**McLeod County Fairgrounds**  
**Commercial Building**  
**840 Century Ave., Hutchinson, MN 55350**

A Family Event!

**Admission - Free Will Donation**  
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**Where: Pla-Mor Ballroom**  
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## Props to public works

Our view – Under brutal conditions, thanks for a job well done

It's been a brutal winter. It may not be over yet. We all know that.

Almost every day brings a new reason to relocate to a community far warmer than here, a place where the inhabitants have never experienced a snowfall or freezing rain and can't fathom what a polar vortex really is.

If you still have an upbeat view of winter in Minnesota, we commend you.

There are plenty of reasons to give up. Hang in there folks. It will get better.

One of the reasons this winter has been at least tolerable, is the fine work our community public works crews have done. The crews have worked long hours keeping city streets, county roads and highways at the very least passable.

Sunday, for example, after rainfall the previous day that threatened to turn roads to skating rinks, county roads and Highway 212 were clear by the afternoon after an overnight snowfall. By early afternoon, city streets here were clear.

It's easy to complain about the public works crews. The streets aren't cleared fast enough. There's ice left behind in the streets after the plows come through. The streets are too narrow because of all the snow. Drivers can't see oncoming traffic without pulling into an intersection to look around a mound of snow. The rinks aren't cleared for a day or

two. They leave a pile of snow at the end of the driveway.

Let's all just take a breath here, folks.

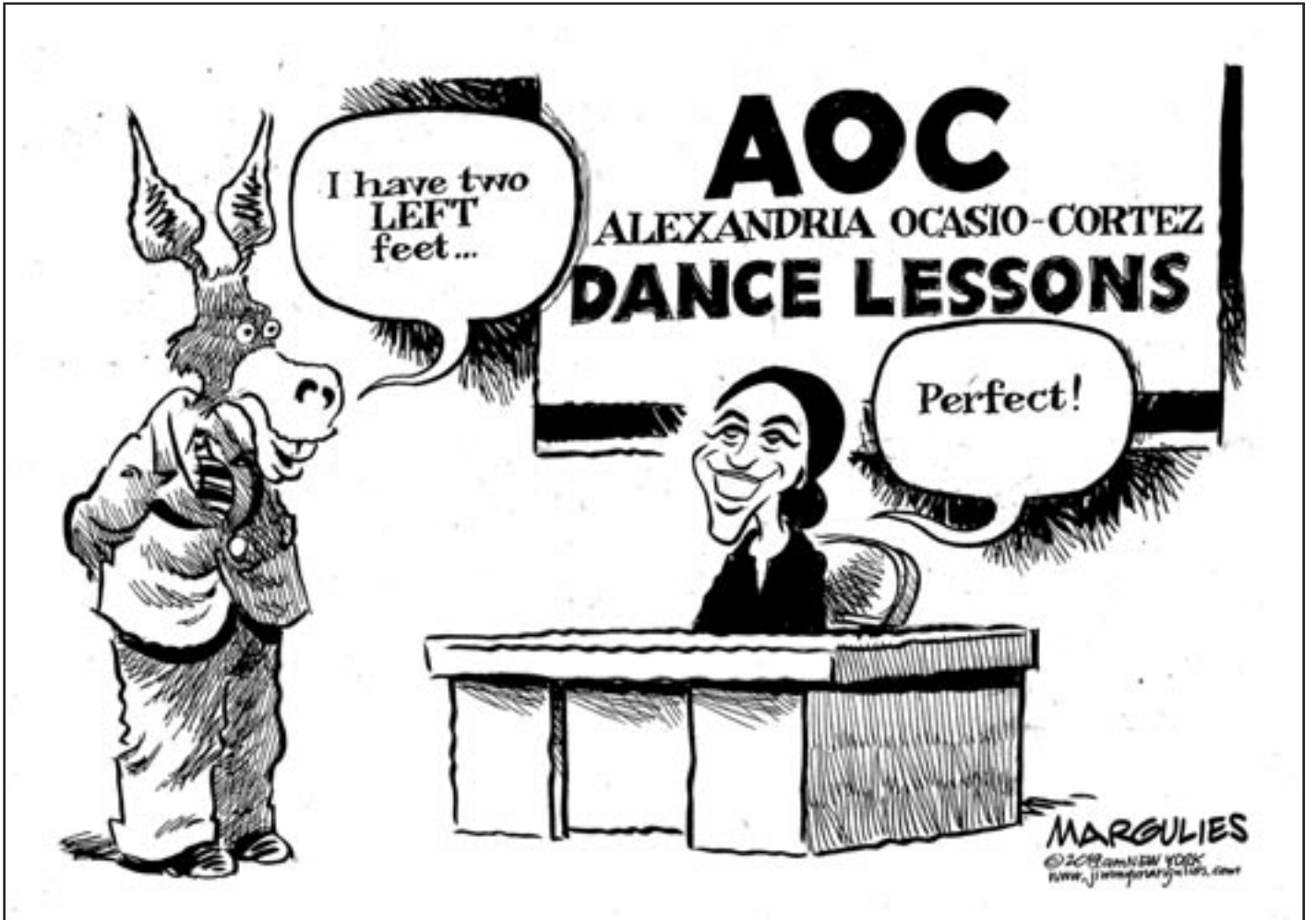
In the Twin Cities, a resident asked a TV reporter with a straight face about the possibility of the plow driver lifting the blade where the driveway empties into the street. The person never thought about the amount of time that would be added to the plow driver's route, the cost of starting and stopping, and the loss of efficiency. You had to see it to believe it.

Cities have a limited amount of money dedicated to staffing public works functions. Streets and roadways must be kept clear for emergency service vehicles. This winter is one for the record books. City, county, township and state budgets for snow relocation are being stretched beyond what was expected. After all, who expected one of the top years for snowfalls?

If you still wish to complain the plow scraped the grass on the boulevard or the blade pushed snow into the mailbox at the end of the driveway, feel free. That's your right. But before you blast off, think about how difficult their job has become and give the folks at your local public works department a break when you're done.

They've earned it.

-jm



## A brutal winter is generating 'senior moments'

As soon as I did it, I knew it was a mistake. But it was too late, the 'senior moment' was over.

I happened to be on top of my flat roof in the back of our house, shoveling off the heavy snow onto the yard. The first two-thirds of the two feet of snow were light and fluffy. The other one-third was not. It was compressed snow, turned into ice, turned into water.

In other words, it was heavy.

I didn't want to shovel too deeply for fear of damaging the roof membrane. But I wanted to get enough off to ease the strain on the roof and quicken the pace for getting rid of the monster icicles on the roof eaves. They are world class icicles this winter.

In order to get onto the flat roof, I had two options: one was to use a ladder, the other was to climb through an upstairs rollout window that was just wide enough to squeeze through. I chose the window because the ladder was in the garage behind who knows what and would have taken me almost as long to extract it than to clear the roof.

Anyway, all went well, much of the snow was tossed off the flat roof and then I had to decide: Should I haul the



**Rich Glennie**

sloppy, wet shovel back through the house, or just toss it off the roof?

I chose the easy way and gave the shovel a toss.

That's when it hit me. Why'd I do that? It landed in the middle of the yard that required wading through the snow drifts to retrieve it. Walking in snowbanks up to your knees is like running in water. It does not work well, and it can be exhausting.

That, however, was not the only 'senior moment' of the week.

Earlier, I was driving on Highway 22 near Miller Manufacturing, heading to

Hutchinson. I accelerated to 70 on the speedometer, but it didn't seem like I was moving very fast. It got up to 75 and 80, but still didn't feel right. Then I looked down. I had accidentally hit the metric button on the speedometer. I was going 70 kilometers an hour or about 45.

No wonder it didn't feel right! Another slap to the forehead. It's been one of those winters.

The only thing that would top it off might be getting hit by one of the huge "snow boogers" that line Union Avenue near the railroad tracks. It seems the vehicles speeding over the tracks knock off the snow clumps from the vehicle wheel wells and onto the street. It looks like a mine field.

I can only imagine the accident report. "Old walker struck and killed by flying snow booger." It's not exactly what I want on my tombstone.

But it could be worse. You could be killed when an airliner empties its toilets over a residential area from 30,000 feet. Perish that thought.

**Rich Glennie was the editor of The Chronicle for 23 years. He retired Aug. 1, 2014.**

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You can **vote** online at [www.glencoenews.com](http://www.glencoenews.com)

**Question of the week**  
*Is the plan to open the intersection of Morningside Drive at the railroad tracks jhnb close the Union Avenue crossing a good idea?*

- 1) Yes.
- 2) No.
- 3) Not certain.

Results for most recent question:  
**Would you be willing to consider supporting some form of reasonable gun control?**

- 1) Not under any circumstances – 42%
- 2) Yes – 23%
- 3) Can't say without the details of a bill – 35%

66 votes  
Next poll runs March 13-19.



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The McLeod County **Chronicle**  
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Letters The McLeod County Chronicle welcomes letters from readers expressing their opinions. All letters, however, must be signed. Private thanks, solicitations and potentially libelous letters will not be published. We reserve the right to edit any letter. A guest column is also available to any writer who would like to present an opinion in a more expanded format. If interested, contact the editor. info@glencoenews.com.

Ethics The editorial staff of the McLeod County Chronicle strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. We appreciate errors being brought to our attention. Please bring any grievances against the Chronicle to the attention of the editor, John Mueller, at 320-864-5518, or info@glencoenews.com.

Press Freedom Freedom of the press is guaranteed under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press..." Ben Franklin wrote in the Pennsylvania Gazette in 1731: "If printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody there would be very little printed."

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# History

## From the Brownnton Bulletin archives

### 100 Years Ago

March 13, 1919

O.C. Conrad, Editor

Under the proposed Babcock road law, by which a hundred million is to be expended in building hard roads in Minnesota, the expense is to be borne by an auto tax. This tax is now practically decided on, and will depend on three conditions, price, weight and horsepower of car, with three grades as to the age of the car, namely: new cars, one to three years old cars, and cars over three years old. A new, high priced, heavy and high powered car will be taxed about \$75 the first year, about \$60 the second and after that \$40 to \$50. A Ford will figure probably at \$25 to \$30 the first year, and a fourth less each year for the two successive years. It is figured that the savings on tires and running mechanism will easily equal the tax to be paid. However, the plan depends upon the adoption by the people of the constitutional amendment authorizing the bond issue.

A few days ago a chipmunk was seen drinking at a pond in Brownnton. He may have been an escaped pet from a nearby house; or possibly turned loose by some boy who had tired of his pet. While the chipmunk was drinking a turtle rose to the surface, swam to the curbing and climbed up on the stone to sun himself. The chipmunk watched the turtle for a second, then darted at it fiercely. The turtle quickly drew in his head; and the chipmunk ran to the turtle's rear and bit at the tail, which the turtle quickly folded in out of the way. The little chipmunk then began biting at the shell of the turtle, and he tried to get in between the two layers of shell in order to find a vital spot where he could bite the turtle. Finally a man interfered, and picked up the turtle to throw it in the water; and even then the chipmunk jumped up in the air and tried to reach it. When the turtle was thrown into the lake, the chipmunk ran chattering to the water's edge; and then scampered up into a tree.

### 75 Years Ago

March 9, 1944

Milton D. Hakel, Editor

Brownnton donations to the American Red Cross War Fund now totals \$687.00 with several pledges still outstanding according to local chairman Mrs. Lee Arnold. The reaching of Brownnton's quota on the second day of the drive, again gave this village the distinction of leading the county in meeting its obligation.

It will be Brownnton vs. Hutchinson for the Dist. 12 basketball championship at Hutchinson Friday night. Brownnton gained the finals by trouncing Renville 46-41 while Hutchinson edged out Central 39-36 in Thursday night's game. The defending champion Tigers and the Orange and Black will promise a terrific battle. The game is a toss-up. Thursday night, Renville started very fast and rolled up 11 points before Brownnton could get a field goal. Starting the second quarter with a 11-3 deficit Brownnton got down to work and crept up to within one point of the Red and Black at halftime 20-19. Brownnton went ahead on a field goal by Zimmerman at the start of the second half and never were headed thereafter. They kept the pressure on during the nip and tuck third quarter and come out with a 34-30 lead. Brownnton's speed and stamina proved the vital factor in the last quarter with Supt. Hawkinson's team outscoring Renville 12-11 to maintain the winning margin. Brownnton High School advanced through the first week of the District 12 basketball tournament safely by defeating Stewart 36-26 and Olivia 45 to 31.

### 50 Years Ago

March 6, 1969

Charles H. Warner, Editor

The Rev. Hans James Lillejord of Thief River Falls will be installed pastor of Grace Lutheran Church of Brownnton at special services Sunday. There will be an installation service at 9:30 with a reception at the school at noon. Pastor Lillejord will conduct his first service Wednesday evening. Hans James Lillejord

was born November 22, 1939, in Minneapolis. He was the second of three sons of Hans C. and Adeline Lillejord. The first seven years were spent on a farm near Winnepeg, Manitoba. In 1947 he moved with his family to Lanesboro. He graduated from Lanesboro high school in 1957, and also graduated from St. Olaf college and Luther Theological seminary. His year of internship was spent at Hope Lutheran church in San Mateo, Calif. After graduation from the seminary in 1965 he moved to Mobridge, S.D., where he served Trinity Lutheran in Mobridge and Our Savior's Lutheran in Timber Lake. In the fall of 1967 he was called to Trinity Lutheran in Thief River Falls, where he served as assistant pastor in the fields of youth and education. He was married January 2, 1966, to the former Patricia Williams of San Mateo, Calif. The Lillejords have a year and a half old son, Hans Christopher. The past year Mr. Lillejord has done graduate work at the University of North Dakota in the field of counseling.

### 20 Years Ago

March 10, 1999

Lori Copler, Editor

The City of Stewart cleared one hurdle only to face another in its quest to get its storm water improvement project under way. On Monday, March 1, the High Island Watershed Board granted the city a permit to drain city storm water into the watershed's Project 3 in general, and Ditch 39 in particular, following a two-hour hearing attended by about 45 area farmers and residents. But despite the approval, the city has another issue to grapple with — the city's plans had called for an open ditch from a proposed storm water holding pond to Ditch 39. But the watershed board ruled that that proposal would constitute an extension of the existing ditch, which would require a separate procedure and hearing. However, said the board, the city could still pipe its water underground to the ditch from the holding pond if it is so desired.

## From the Chronicle archives

### 30 Years Ago

March 15, 1989

Bill Ramige, Editor

Roger Neubarth, assistant fire chief, retired after 20 years on the Glencoe Fire Department on March 1.

The city of Plato won a \$16,324 grant from the Celebrate Minnesota 1990 grant program to repair picnic stands and the gazebo in the park, and install picnic tables and jungle gym playground equipment. Lloyd Graupmann, Plato's project director, said the second phase of the program involves a community celebration planned for late June in 1990. The celebration will coincide with the U.S. Olympic festivals taking place in Minnesota and highlight the 98th year of amateur baseball in Plato.

Jackie Emch-Albright, formerly of Glencoe, was named special assistant to Minnesota Attorney General Skip Humphrey. Albright is the daughter of John and LaVonne

Albright of Glencoe, and was admitted to the practice of law in October. She is married to Bradley Emch, the son of Ken and Lois of Glencoe.

### 20 Years Ago

March 17, 1999

Rich Glennie, Editor

Cliff Bussler of Brownnton was inducted into the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame on March 11. "The day, it's one I'll never forget, Bussler said. "The nice part was all the family was there. It was a very meaningful event. It's definitely the highlight of my career. And the timing couldn't have been better." Earlier in the week, Bussler and his wife, June, sold their farming operation to end a 50-year career.

The long-awaited official opening of the Panther Field House occurred over the weekend with three days of ceremony, events and fun.

Glencoe-Silver Lake graduate,

Robyn Ruschmeier and her team the Blazers of St. Benedict, boarded a plane today bound for Connecticut and the Women's NCAA Division III Final Four Tournament.

### 10 Years Ago

March 18, 2009

Rich Glennie, Editor

An official ground-breaking ceremony for the 40-unit Cedar Crest assisted-living facility took place Saturday morning in Silver Lake. The facility will be located on the west end of Main Street.

Howard Manthei, a highway superintendent of the McLeod County Highway Department for over 36 years will retire on April 17.

Musher Paul Gebhardt and his veteran leader Houston are nearing completion of another Iditarod marathon. As of Tuesday morning, Team Gebhardt was moving up the Bering Sea coastline, some 229 miles from Nome.

## From the Stewart Tribune archives

### 100 Years Ago

March 14, 1919

Lester Koeppen, Editor

Wheat hoarding cases in which food administration agents forced Minnesota farmers to sell their grain and give the proceeds to the Red Cross are to be reviewed by investigating boards which may order part of the money refunded, it was admitted by A.D. Wilson, Federal food administrator for Minnesota. Investigation of the activities of the men sent out to discover hoarded wheat caused the decision to reopen the cases, Mr. Wilson stated. The probe was carried on by Mr. Wilson and W.H. Williams. The food administrator declared that some of his agents probably were "carried away by enthusiasm and the patriotic feelings of the hour" and dealt too harshly with the farmers in some instances. Vidian B. Vye of St. Paul, who discovered thousands of bushels of hoarded wheat in the New Ulm and Sleepy Eye district last summer, has been criticized in the investigation, and a considerable number of the cases he handled are among those to be retired. It is probably that local boards whose members represent the food administration, Red Cross and farmers will hear whatever cases farmers wish reopened, said Mr. Wilson.

### 75 Years Ago

March 9, 1944

Harry Koeppen, Editor

Postoffices throughout the nation were advised last week to prepare to put new rates into effect March 26th which will cost users of postal services an average of one-third more under the new tax act passed by Congress Friday. The regular postage rate for first class mail under one ounce remains at 3c, says Postmaster L.L. Krouss. Under the new regulations, all local letters which were formerly mailed for one cent will be two cents, while all mail on the rural routes will be 3c per ounce if sent first class.

Air mail rates will advance from 6c to 8c an ounce, except to and from servicemen, which will remain at 6c for each half ounce. Fees for insuring parcels and C.O.D. deliveries are doubled under the new rules. Cost of sending registered mail is up one-third. Mailing of parcel post will be up one cent per package, or 3%, whichever is higher. On money orders the rate will increase on drafts up to \$2.50 from 6 to 10 and \$5.00 from 8 to 14 cents and between \$5 and \$10... from 11 to 19 cents. The rate on money orders of \$100, highest the post office sells, will cost 37 cents as against 22 cents now. Postmaster Krouss said that circulars are being prepared for business firms and individuals so that they may familiarize themselves with the new rates before they take effect.

### 60 Years Ago

March 12, 1959

Kermit T. Hubin, Editor

Announcement of Honor Students was made recently, by the Stewart Public School. Sharing honors as Co-Valedictorians are Sandra Proehl, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Proehl of rural Stewart; and Lois Schulz, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. M.A. Schulz of Stewart. Selected as Salutatorian was Marcia Bauer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bauer, of rural Stewart. Miss Schulz plans to enter Gustavus Adolphus college at St. Peter upon completion of her high school career. Miss Bauer has made no plans to attend college as yet.

Burglars were at work in Stewart early last Thursday morning, when they gained entrance to the Coast-to-Coast Store and the Municipal Liquor Store. Sheriff Leon Odegard arrived in Stewart that morning to investigate the break-ins. The loss was figured at over \$1,000 in merchandise and cash. They gained entrance to the Coast-to-Coast Store by jimmying the front door. They took such items as watches, elec. razors, guns,

radios and the like. Mr. Webster figured his loss at over \$960. After failing to get into the Municipal Liquor Store by the same means, they broke out a glass in the front door, and once inside, took \$50 in petty cash, some juke box nickels, a pistol and blackjack. Since the time of this robbery, there have been a number of others reported in the area. Authorities are working on them.

### 50 Years Ago

March 13, 1969

Kermit T. Hubin, Editor

Delmar Pittman of rural Stewart was released from General hospital, Minneapolis on Monday of this week, after being hospitalized since last Tuesday night. He had been beaten up by two hitchhikers that he picked up in downtown Minneapolis. As Delmar started home from Minneapolis about 5 p.m. he stopped to give the men a ride. He volunteered to take them to their destination as he was not in any special hurry. Not knowing the whereabouts of the place they mentioned he asked them to direct him. When reaching the area of 25th St. So., they had him stop the car, and in the scuffle that followed, the man in the back seat hit him over the head with a wine bottle. Later the police found evidence that he was also hit by a 2x4 board. The men took his money but left his billfold and cards scattered on the ground. The car keys were found later near the car. When he gained consciousness he made his way toward the first lighted business place he could see and there asked the men to call for help. It was around 10 p.m. when he was admitted to General hospital where his cousin, Lowell Becker Jr. formerly of Buffalo Lake happened to be on duty as intern. 180 stitches were taken to close the cuts on his head. He also suffered several broken ribs. Delmar returned home Monday and is recovering very fast from his tragic experience.

## From the Silver Lake Leader archives

### 75 Years Ago

March 11, 1944

Delbert Merrill, Publisher

Monday evening, several businessmen and their employees met with the village council and after much discussion, decided to close their places of business all day every Sunday, starting Sunday, March 19th. No official ruling was made by the council as the agreement is entirely voluntary with the businessmen cooperating under the plan. The Sunday closing is the first real attempt to give the store owners and their employees one full day each week away from their stores. Emergency needs may be met, however, by owners of any of the following businessmen cooperating with the Sunday closing: A.L. Danek, John Navratil, Joseph Horejsi, Frank D. Slanga, Joseph Lowy and John Svanda. Louis Marx will close his restaurant at 1 o'clock Sundays and week days at 10 p.m.

The Red Cross War Fund Drive officially starts Monday in Silver Lake. Every home and business place will be visited by volunteer workers. The Red Cross is more than just a worthy cause, it's an imperative one. Both on the home front and overseas, it is an essential part of the war program. By its official charter, the Red Cross is "the official medium of communication between the people of the United States and their army and navy." To those unfamiliar of the Red Cross, it is the charitable agency that takes care of the following: maintenance of blood donor centers, making of surgical dressings, food parcels packed for prisoners of war, the maintenance of service canteens and recreation centers for our boys in the service, nurses aids corps, quick and thorough response to disaster on the home front, and many other activities. The Red Cross is in constant contact with the boys overseas, caring for their needs on every front. The American Red Cross does all this and more without receiving government aid. It is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from the American people. When the Red Cross solicitor comes to your door, you are

asked to give generously, at least double of what you gave last year. \$850 is the quota for Silver Lake.

### 60 Years Ago

March 12, 1959

Wilbert Merrill, Publisher

Burglars have been making an unusual number of breakins in nearby towns lately and authorities both state and local working on the cases that found both cash and merchandise being taken. Stewart — last Thursday, thieves broke into the Municipal Liquor Store for liquor and cash and into the Coast to Coast Store for a total value of about \$1,000. Lester Prairie — Friday night or early Saturday morning, thieves broke into six places, the Lester Prairie Liquor Store, Biese's, Hausladen, Central MFG and Imp Co. and the Red and White Store for a total of about \$2,000. There were also breakins and thefts at Norwood, Young America, Carver and Chanhassen in the past few days.

Funeral services for Mrs. Frank Pihlal, 83, were held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3 at the Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake with Dr. E.J. Rose officiating. Mrs. Pihlal died Saturday afternoon, February 28 at the Hutchinson Community Hospital as the result of burns sustained in an accident at her home. She was born on December 28, 1875 in Hassan Valley Township, the daughter of James Sr. and Nettie Zavoral. She spent her youth on the family farm. Mrs. Pihlal was a long-time member of the Ladies Aid of her church as well as a long-time member of the Royal Neighbor Lodge to which she was a faithful member.

### 25 Years Ago

March 10, 1994

Ken and Dorothy Merrill, Publishers

A new position but a familiar face. George Ring, who had been a full time employee of the Silver Lake municipally owned liquor store, has been appointed new liquor store manager. George has worked at Silver Lake Liquors for over one year, having started in November

1992. "It is a newly remodeled building, with a good professional staff," George said. George is happy to be in the position and in the community and hopes the loyalty of the people will continue as he takes over the management duties. The prices are competitive and will remain so according to George with special promotions, senior citizen discounts, and volume discounts to all customers. George hopes to continue the friendly atmosphere of the establishment and wants it to be a good place to meet friends. George has recently hired new full time bartenders. Victoria Lundell began work this past Monday. Shari Brundell will be joining the staff within two weeks. Both come with a working background in the food service industry. George Ring's experience includes working at FMC Corp in the metro area with both line and management experience. He attended Hennepin Technical College, graduating with a marketing management degree in 1993. He has had 1 1/2 years of bartending experience working the Squire Inn in Montrose.

### 10 Years Ago

March 12, 2009

Ken and Dorothy Merrill, Publishers

Monday night the GSL School Board moved through the meeting with no major issues of concern on the agenda. After the meeting was called to order, Supt. Chris Sonju recognizes students in FCCLA, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, and Science Fair for their accomplishments and awarded them with certificates. The position open on the GSL School Board, after the resignation of Sarah Everding, was filled with the appointment of Jamie Alsleben. The GSL Personnel Committee had interviewed candidates Jon Lemke, Laura Donnay, and Jamie Alsleben on February 26 and recommended that Jamie Alsleben be appointed to fill the vacant seat until the 2010 election. He is a lifelong resident of Glencoe and currently is a teacher in the Eden Prairie School District.

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The Professional Directory is provided each week for quick reference to professionals in the Glencoe area — their locations, phone numbers and office hours. Call the McLeod County Chronicle office for details on how you can be included in this directory, 320-864-5518.

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## Obituaries

### Carol Winterfeldt, 90, of Prior Lake

Carol E. Winterfeldt, 90, of Prior Lake, formerly long-time resident of Brownton, passed away Saturday, March 2, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital.



Carol Winterfeldt

Funeral services were held Friday, March 8, 1 p.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brownton, with interment in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

The Rev. R. Allen Reed was the officiating clergy.

Dawn Wolter was the organist and "How Great Thou Art," "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," "Lift High the Cross," and "Amazing Grace" were the congregational hymns.

Justin Winterfeldt, Zachary Winterfeldt, Charlie Winterfeldt, Mark Winterfeldt, Tom Petersen and Kyle Green were the casket-bearers.

Carol E. Winterfeldt was born Aug. 20, 1928, in Brownton. She was the daughter of Martin and Edna (Hagen) Braun. She was baptized as an infant by Rev.

C.H. Kowalski and confirmed in her faith as a youth May 24, 1942, by Reverend Garhard Schmidt, both at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brownton. She received her education at Brownton High School and was a graduate of the Brownton High School Class of 1946.

Carol was united in marriage to Martin Winterfeldt Oct. 17, 1959, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brownton. This marriage was blessed with two children, Alan and Aaron. Mrs. Winterfeldt resided in Brownton for many years and most recently resided in Prior Lake since 2010. Carol and Martin shared 54 years of marriage until the passing of Martin, Jan. 7, 2014.

Mrs. Winterfeldt was employed as a clerk for the City of Brownton for many years. She was also employed as a bank teller at First State Bank in Brownton. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brownton where she served on the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Mrs. Winterfeldt was also an active member of Concordia Ladies Aid.

She enjoyed bowling, vol-

unteering, fishing and knitting club. Mrs. Winterfeldt especially enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Mrs. Winterfeldt passed away Saturday, March 2, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the age of 90 years. Blessed be her memory.

Mrs. Winterfeldt is survived by her son, Alan Winterfeldt and his wife, Robin, of Shakopee; grandchildren, Alyssa Green and her husband, Kyle, of Shakopee, Miah Winterfeldt of Bahrian (Persian Gulf), Justin Winterfeldt of Savage, Zachary Winterfeldt of Shakopee; great-granddaughter, Emma Green of Shakopee; many other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Winterfeldt is preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Edna Braun; husband, Martin Winterfeldt; son, Aaron Winterfeldt; brother, Wilbur Braun; sister, Elaine Winterfeldt.

The Dobratz-Hantge Chapel in Hutchinson handled the arrangements. Its Web site is www.hantge.com where online obituaries and a guestbook are available.

### Glen Wraspir, 77, of Silver Lake

Glen H. Wraspir, 77, of Silver Lake passed away Friday, March 8, at Cedar Crest Estate in Silver Lake.

Mr. Wraspir was born April 1, 1941, in Silver Lake, the son of Henry and Mildred (Cuhel) Wraspir.



Glen Wraspir

He was baptized. Pastor Walter B. Beach later confirmed him in his faith as a youth June 5, 1955 at The Congregational Church in Silver Lake.

Mr. Wraspir was a graduate of Silver Lake High School in 1959.

Mr. Wraspir was united in marriage to Doris Ondracek Sept. 8, 1962, at The Czech Brethren Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake. Dr. E. Joseph Rose officiated. This marriage was blessed with two children, Dale and Debbie. They shared 56 years of marriage.

Mr. Wraspir held employment at The Powell Candy Company for a short time be-

fore entering a partnership with his father in a building and house moving company. He then began working for AG Systems Inc. in Hutchinson until his retirement, where he truly was a jack of all trades -- a welder, draftsman, designer -- just about everything.

Mr. Wraspir enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, gardening, ice fishing and playing cribbage with his friends almost daily. He also liked camping, deer hunting and snowmobiling. He loved to tinker around with things, and fix them if broken. He loved working with wood and making many things. Mr. Wraspir enjoyed making homemade sauerkraut, horseradish, sausage, bologna and Wieners. He was a honorary lifetime member of the Silver Lake Sportsmen's Club and spent many years as its chief cook, making turtle soup for the annual stag party. Mr. Wraspir was a faithful member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake.

Mr. Wraspir is survived by his loving wife, Doris M. Wraspir; children, Dale (Betty) Wraspir of Silver

Lake and Debbie (Reggie) Krueger of Watertown; grandchildren, Claire, Ethan and Andrew Wraspir and Bailey (Derek) VanDeVeire, Julia (Nathanael) Hostetter and Kelsey Krueger; brother, Larry Wraspir of Howard Lake; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Mildred.

Funeral services for Glen Wraspir will be held Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m., at Faith Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake.

Interment will follow at Bohemian National Cemetery in Silver Lake. A visitation will be held Friday, March 15, 4-8 p.m., at the church.

Casket-bearers will be Claire, Ethan and Andrew Wraspir, Bailey and Derek VanDeVeire, Julia and Nathanael Hostetter, and Kelsey Krueger.

The Maresh Funeral Home in Silver Lake is serving the family. Its Web site is www.mareshfuneralhome.com where online condolences may be offered to the family.

### Jeffrey Rehmann, 47, of Lester Prairie

Jeffrey J. Rehmann, 47, of Lester Prairie died Wednesday, March 6, at his residence.

Funeral services were Tuesday, March 12, 2 p.m., at St. Peter Lutheran Church (77 Second Ave. S.) in Lester Prairie with Rev. Joshua Arndt as officiant.



Jeffrey Rehmann

Visitation was held all at the church Monday and Tuesday, March 11-12, 4-8 p.m., and one hour prior to the funeral. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Jeffrey Jon Rehmann was born May 31, 1971, in Arlington, the son of Gary and Linda (Schrupp) Rehmann. He was baptized as an infant at the St. Peter Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie by Rev. Harold A. Bode. Jeff later confirmed his faith in the Lord at St. Peter Lutheran Church by Rev. Steven Vaudt.

Mr. Rehmann attended Helen Baker Elementary, Glencoe Middle School and was a graduate of Glencoe High School. He furthered his education at St. Paul Technical College. Mr. Rehmann worked at Dura Supreme Cabinetry in Howard Lake and for the last 20 years he has been employed at Littfin Lumber in Howard Lake.

To say Mr. Rehmann was an avid sports fan is a gross

understatement. He followed whichever team was in season, be it the Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, Wild or the Gophers. He also enjoyed attending high school football and basketball games. Mr. Rehmann would often ride the fan bus to Lester Prairie Bulldog away games. Whenever one of his teams won a title, Mr. Rehmann would order a T-shirt as a remembrance. He could have opened a sporting goods store with all of the T-shirts, jerseys and caps he amassed.

Mr. Rehmann was a big help around the house and would gladly pick produce from the garden, but when asked to hoe the weeds, he would say, "use the tiller." He'll be remembered for his kind and loving personality who was a friend to all.

Mr. Rehmann is preceded in death by his grandparents, Irvin and Margaret Rehmann, Leslie and Evelyn Schrupp; uncles, Bob Schrupp, Richard Stockman, Timothy Schrupp; cousin, Mitchell Manthey.

Mr. Rehmann is survived by his loving family; parents, Gary and Linda Rehmann of Lester Prairie; brothers and sisters-in-law, Dan and Leah Rehmann of Chaska, David and Kit Rehmann of Waconia; nephews and niece, Bryce and Nate Bacon, Alex Rehmann, Mason and Emerson Rehmann; aunts and uncles, Marjorie Stockman of Plato, Jane and Duane Pieschke of Norwood Young America, Cindy and Mark

Noennig of Sabin, Lori and Rodney Manthey of Norwood Young America, Bill Schrupp of Norwood Young America, Raeann Crosby of Norwood Young America, Linda Schrupp of Waterford, Mich., Randy and Bonnie Rehmann of Lester Prairie, Ardys and Norman Lutter of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Amy and Robert Genrich of Carver; cousins, Todd (Sabrina) Stockman, Tammy (Hans) Knutson, Trish (Curt) Olson, Tony Stockman, Jennifer (Jeff) Otto, Jill (James) Kriens, Josh Pieschke, Carrie (Andy) Nemzek, Katie (Brian) Gustafson, Caleb Noennig, Josh Noennig, Miranda Manthey, Tyler Manthey; Kimberly (Steve) Bozzo, Matt (Emma) Schrupp, Brandon Schrupp, Kevin Schrupp, Rachel Crosby, Katie (Kevin) Brecht, Josh (Jamie) Rehmann, Nikki (Brett) Kutner, Jim (Stephanie) Lutter, Joel (Christy) Lutter, Karen (John) Lewis, Kevin (Catherine) Gennrich, Brian Gennrich, and Rachel (Nate) Boucher; other relatives and many friends.

Dave Prehn, Dan Gueningsman, Tony Stockman, Corey Renken, Kevin Gennrich, Josh Noennig, Josh Pieschke, and Adam Birkholz served as casket-bearers.

The Johnson Funeral Home in Waconia handled the arrangements. Its Web site is www.johnsonfh.com where online obituaries and guestbook are located.

## Death Notices

### Verona Howell, 98, of Glencoe

Verona Howell, 98, of Glencoe passed away Sunday, March 10, at Woodstone Senior Living in Hutchinson.

No services will be held.

The Johnson-McBride Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. Its Web site is www.mcbridechapel.com where obituaries and an online guestbook are available.

### Brownton receives report on 2019 streets project

By Jakob Kounkel  
Staff Writer

At a Brownton City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 5, the council received a feasibility report and called for a public hearing improvement meeting at a future city council meeting for the 2019 street improvement project.

The project covers five additional locations to the 2018 street improvement project: North First Avenue, from Division Street to the dirt road that runs west of North Second Street; South First Avenue, from the southernmost part of Brownton to South Third Street; South Fourth Street, from South Fifth Avenue to South Eighth Avenue; and North Ninth Avenue, including part of the alley.

Though the project is in its early stages and figures aren't solidified, the total estimated project cost is \$312,000, with a maximum 28 percent assessment to benefitting parties. The city still has grant money left over from its last street improvement project, meaning the city's tax dollars will only be used for the money left over after assessments and grant money has been applied.

On the feasibility report, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Brownton's engineering firm, projected the general levy to absorb \$231,000, or 72 percent of the project, which doesn't include the aforementioned grant money.

The 2019 street improvement project has yet to undergo a public bidding process, and only through bidding and a reconciliation of all project-related costs would the actual value of the work be determined.

### St. Cloud VA hosting job fair March 21, April 17

To assist Veterans in successfully landing their desired career opportunity, the St. Cloud Area Veteran Employment Connections Group is hosting veteran job fairs Mar. 21 and Apr. 17.

The fairs run 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day, at the St. Cloud VA auditorium (Bldg. No. 8), 4801 Veterans Drive, in St. Cloud. Two separate dates are planned to accommodate the large number of St. Cloud area businesses seeking to fill job openings with veterans.

The job fairs are open to all veterans. No preregistration is required.

### Thank You

Thank you to the doctors & staff at GlenFields Living with Care. Thank you to family & friends for all the overwhelming kindness, cards & flowers that were offered to us during our weeks of sorrow. Thank you to Pastor Mastin at St. John's Church, Plato, those who served lunch, organist, pallbearers, & all those who helped our family in any way. Thank you to McBride Funeral Chapel & those involved in organizing the burial at Fort Snelling. God's Abundant Blessing to all of you. The family of Norman Anderson



## Weather Corner

By Jake Yurek

We flip the switch and change seasons this week (finally) as warmer weather and rain enter the forecast. We got a quick taste of the rainfall portion of this week's forecast last Saturday before the snow started. This was both good and bad. Good, because it cut down our snowfall totals by 3-6 inches; bad, because it saturated the snow and caused a few buildings to collapse under the weight of the snow. Totals ranged from 4-9 inches in our general area, more as you head west towards Hutchinson and north towards Litchfield. This week will feel nice temperature-wise, with highs in the 40s but clouds will linger at least through Thursday bringing a cold rain Tuesday through Thursday. The bulk of the rain should hit Wednesday/Thursday with some forecast models hinting at 1-2 inches of rain for some areas (maybe a clap of thunder?). This again could be thought of as good and bad news. Good, because it'll rapidly cut into our snowpack; bad for the same reason: the rapid melt with rain on top will cause some flooding issues since the ground is a frozen block of concrete. Initially, the rain could cause some more building/roof issues, but I'm hoping with our highs staying above freezing from Tuesday through Thursday that enough will melt and ease the threat. There's a very weak chance of snow on the back side of the storm Thursday, but for the most part, snow will be held in the Dakotas and Nebraska during this storm (thankfully). After the storm passes, we'll enter a much quieter period with highs near freezing and hopefully plenty of sunshine this weekend. Taking a look at the extended forecast shows quiet weather into next week with a slow warming trend. Happy St. Patrick's weekend!

Ma dobry weekendem Mit dobry vikend

Wednesday night: Lows 34-40, rain.  
Thursday: Highs 37-43, lows 23-30, rain early/ possible mix late.

Friday: Highs 28-34, lows 14-20, clouds.  
Saturday: Highs 28-34, lows 14-20, mostly clear.  
Sunday: Highs 30-40, clear.

**Weather Quiz:** Would it have been better for roofs this past weekend if the precipitation had been all snow or were some roofs saved by the rain that fell first?

**Last week's question:** Where did our recent cold pool of air go? Is there any chance it could come back again this year?

**Answer to last week's question:** Luckily it finally got pushed way up into Canada around Hudson Bay and all indications point to it not coming back. That's not to say we won't get cold bouts but just not record breaking cold... I hope!

Remember, I make the forecast, not the weather.

### In loving memory of Dorothy LaMott

who passed away two years ago  
March 20, 2017

We think of you in silence,  
And often speak your name,  
But all we have are memories,  
And pictures in a frame.  
We found the strength to face this,  
And courage to bear the blow,  
But what it meant to lose you,  
No one will ever know.  
They say time heals all sorrows,  
And helps one to forget,  
So far, time has only proved,  
How much we miss you yet.  
To some you may be forgotten,  
To others a part of the past,  
But to us who loved and lost you,  
Your memory will always last.  
Your memory is our keepsake,  
With that we will never part.  
God has you in His keeping,  
And we have you in our hearts.



Sadly missed by,  
Ed, Roxanne, Nancy,  
Connie & Bruce

### Thank You

The Scharpe family would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to our community as we worked through the loss of our beloved son and brother, Aaron. We could never have imagined the outpouring of support we received throughout the past weeks. Thank you for the prayers, food, cards, and memorials. We want to extend a special thanks to Pastor James Carlson and the Zion Church Women, the City of Chaska, Gregg Borchert and Kolden Funeral Home for their care and dedication to our family during this difficult time. We feel blessed to be a part of such a caring community and cannot thank you enough for your support. May Aaron's smile and humor continue to resonate with all of you.

The Scharpes  
Steve, Cindy & Malorie

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## Community Calendar

Thurs., March 14 — AA Group mtg. next to Post Office in Stewart, 8 p.m., call 320-212-5290 for info.

Sun., March 17 — **ST. PATRICKS DAY**

Mon., March 18 — Tops Weigh-In mtg., 5-5:30 p.m.; Brownton Senior Citizens Club, Brownton Community Center, 1 p.m.; Brownton Lions; Stewart American Legion Post 125 & Auxiliary mtg., Stewart Community Center, 7 p.m.

Wed., March 20 — **First day of Spring**

Thurs., March 21 — AA Group mtg. next to Post Office in Stewart, 8 p.m., call 320-212-5290 for info.; Stewart Lions

Mon., March 25 — Tops Weigh-In mtg., 5-5:30 p.m.; Brownton Senior Citizens Club, Brownton Community Center, 1 p.m.; Brownton Rod & Gun Club, 7 p.m.

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# GSL art students recognized at State Capitol Rotunda for Youth Art Month

By Jakob Kounkel  
Staff Writer

Glencoe-Silver Lake art students, from Lakeside Elementary to the high school, recently exhibited their work at the Minnesota State Capitol on Saturday, March 9. Students and GSL art teachers Shanda Landes and Andrea Wigern submitted pieces for three categories: a flag contest, general art submission and future art educator spotlight award.

Via Art Educators of Minnesota (AEM) and for Youth Art Month during March, students' artwork faced a competitive judgment process, and, as Landes put it, "We kind of dominated this year." GSL took a majority of the competitive placements — a feat that doesn't happen every year.

From Lakeside Elementary, in the flag design contest, Natalie Ackerson placed first, Abby Schauer placed second and Abby Kaczmarek received honorable mention. Ackerson, for being the winning flag design, had her flag design materialized into a real flag — a special honor for all first place flag design winners at each level — and her design will be turned into a poster.

For the flag contest at the GSL middle school level, Teagan Aldrich placed first, Megan Becker placed second, Marisol Ignacio placed third and Mitchell Penaz received honorable mention. Aldrich's

piece will be turned into a postcard, and in the high school, Abby Maunu took second place for her flag design.

The students' flag designs will be used in publications around the state to support Youth Art Month, and all first place winners at each level were invited to read their essays, "What Art Means to Me" at the State Capitol Show.



Teagan Aldrich presenting her "What Art Means to Me" speech at the State Capitol.

In her speech at the Capitol, Teagan Aldrich said, "Art, to me, is a way to put mental thoughts and feelings into a visual form. It is a way to show more than words can — a vision that you cannot share any other way can be shared using art, so now this vision can be understood and make

it easier to work with, or simply think about. This can work for emotions too. Art makes it easier to express and deal with different feelings that you want to spend more time on, or get out of your system... A gallery is a place where you can look into someone's mind. You can see how their brain works and empathize with them. Art is pure thought visualized, and is very important to me."

In general submitted art, which Landes and Wigern chose themselves, those who had their artwork exhibited were: Carly Major, ninth-grade; Teagan Aldrich, seventh-grade; Autumn Schuch and Luke Schmieg, sixth-grade; and Samantha Mattson and Hailey Robb, fifth-grade.

As for the future educator spotlight award, an honor bestowed for potentially seeking a career in art education, Alyssa Rhode, a high school senior, placed fourth. Landes herself nominated Rhode because she voiced her interest in becoming an art teacher.

"She really has the skill level and, I think, the desire," Landes said. The future art educator spotlight award carries special meaning to Landes and Wigern, who enjoy watching passionate art students delve deeper and develop their craft.

But a passion for the visual arts isn't lost on GSL's art educators, who see first-hand how coordinated events like AEM's Youth Art Month can

thrust students into the visual arts limelight along with other like-minded students and teachers who value their work.

"Art will give students a voice who are more quiet, who are more introverted. Maybe other things aren't their cup of tea," Wigern said. "I think of us as their art coach, in a way, to help them finish. They've got this wonderful idea; now they just need the encouragement to go that extra mile and put the extra effort in to finish."

"I think when somebody like us gets excited about what they're doing, then they'll kind of say, 'Oh, wow, I must be onto something here,' and they'll work even harder," Wigern said.

"(Youth Art Month) gives them a voice. And being able to express ideas that they otherwise wouldn't be able to say," Landes said.

Not least on the list of benefits stemming from visual arts recognition and education is an acknowledgment among the school community.

"It's awareness that we're here," Wigern said, "And we're very small."

Students will give similar presentations and display their work to the GSL School Board at a future meeting, where the public is again invited to attend to recognize students for their dedication to visual arts.

# Stewart quashes sidewalk penalties

By Jakob Kounkel  
Staff Writer

At a Stewart City Council meeting on Monday, March 11, the council discussed sidewalk issues and accepted a quote to remodel the kitchen in the fire hall.

The majority of the brief meeting focused on discussion and an eventual resolution to suspend the enforcement of the city's sidewalk ordinances because of record amounts of snow until May 1.

Mayor Jason Peirce highlighted the potential for selective enforcement between the city's ordinances on designated public sidewalks. Designated sidewalks, according to the mayor, are funded and maintained by the city, barring snow removal, which is the responsibility of the property owner.

Councilor Kevin Klucas, who from the beginning thought the city shouldn't be enforcing the ordinance requiring property owners of designated streets to clear the snow within 24 hours after snow stops falling. If a property owner fails to clear snow, the owner would get billed for the labor when the city comes to remove the

snow. "This is a very bad year," Klucas said, as he asked the council to consider suspending penalties to the city's residents. The council adhered to quash the enforcement of the city's sidewalk ordinances unanimously.

After voting, Stewart Fire Chief Dean Nelson presented the council with quotes to remodel the fire department's kitchen, which has had the same flooring and cabinets for more than 40 years. The council accepted a bid from Andrew Wakefield Construction for rolled vinyl flooring for \$8,720, the second highest bid. The lowest bid came in \$200 less from the same company, but the council chose the more expensive option to stay uniform with what the fire hall has now, and because, the council said, vinyl flooring will last longer.

In other business, the Stewart City Council hired a new emergency medical responder to join its team, Jessica Fegley. She's finished with the required classes and has yet to take a standardized test for admission as an EMR. She works at the Hutchinson hospital and lives in Stewart.

# McLeod County Board accepts \$10,000 VSO grant

Grant to be used for veteran outreach, local advertising

By Jakob Kounkel  
Staff Writer

At a county board meeting on Tuesday, March 5, commissioners accepted a \$10,000 grant for the McLeod County Veteran Services Office (VSO) from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs — the only non-county dollars the department receives.

The program — the County Veterans Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program — is aimed at being supplemental to the county's operating budget, which Veterans Service Officer and Director Jim Lauer said is one of the smallest budgets among county departments.

According to Minnesota statute, the grant must be used, "...to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social services agencies, education institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office..."

In recent years, the state legislature has guaranteed a baseline grant of \$7,500 with incremental increases depending on veteran population. McLeod County received an additional \$2,500, meaning the county's veteran population is between 1,000 and 3,000, if not a slightly bigger number. Lauer said they have records for nearly 10,000 veterans, living and deceased, who have sought assistance in McLeod County.

Lauer said the grant is an essential part of the department's ability to reach out to McLeod County Veterans for aid, changes in legislation, events notification, or any other reason to be in contact with as many veterans as possible.

Aside from advertising, the VSO is planning on using the grant dollars for booth space at the McLeod County Fairgrounds, other outreach booths, postage for direct mailings, inserts in newspapers, and other outreach related expenditures.

"You get the most bang for your buck if you use (the grant money) on advertising," he said.

In years past, the McLeod County VSO has spent its grant dollars in a similar fashion. From 2015 to 2017, the VSO allocated the grant money for advertising on local radio stations, outreach fliers for veterans booths and local newspaper inserts.

The grant money must be used for any non-operating expenses, according to Lauer, leaving a diverse and unique mode of utilizing extra money. Last year, for example, since the county doesn't allocate its VSO any money for hardware, it purchased an office printer/copier, two laptops with accessories and a portable printer for home visits. There was still some money left over for newspaper inserts as well.

The VSO grant, "gives us a better ability to do our jobs," Lauer said.

"Outreach is vital because, historically, 60 percent of veterans never seek a veterans benefit after leaving a veterans' benefit after leaving military service. The percentage of their families that do not do so is even greater. When you realize these benefits include educational, housing, healthcare, employment, disability, long-term care, death, burial and potential survivors benefits, we can't just sit in our offices and wait for people to come to us," he said.

Lauer stated he has a particular passion for what he and others in the VSO do. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in September of 2003 after 25 years of service, first as an infantryman and later as an aviator. Lauer's been working as McLeod County's VSO since November of 2004.

# Elected officials get emergency management seminar

By Jakob Kounkel  
Staff Writer

The Minnesota Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Joe Kelly was in Glencoe speaking about natural disaster emergency management in the old board room in the basement of the courthouse last Tuesday, March 5. His audience was many of the elected leaders of McLeod County, ranging from city council members to county board commissioners to police chiefs.

Kelly made it clear that natural disasters happen in Minnesota despite "blue sky budgets," a term he used to describe the lack of disaster mitigation dollars in an ordinary Minnesota county. He said even small disasters could be crippling to a small town or county, even with proper preparation and budgeted money.

"If you don't think this could happen to you, you're wrong," Kelly said, pointing to a picture on a slide of Minnesota cities that have been impacted by weather-related disasters. "We're talking about stuff that happens in Minnesota a lot," Kelly said, and added more than half of Minnesota counties had used federal or state emergency aid in the last decade.

In fact, according to Kelly, Minnesota is one of the worst

places to live for disasters, most commonly as a result of extreme flooding: "Flood damage is the most insidious, the most common and the most costly."

Talking about flood damage seemed appropriate to the elected leaders, who on more than one occasion mentioned the vast amounts of snowfall this year. When the snow melts, it has to go somewhere, and when the ground is still frozen, melted snow begins to pool above the surface.

Kelly mostly talked about the steps the elected leaders can take and the proper procedure for receiving federal or state dollars for emergencies, and what level of disaster qualifies for aid. For example, McLeod County would have to receive \$138,540.78 in eligible damage to be eligible for federal disaster aid, and \$69,720.39 to gain state emergency aid cost share.

McLeod County Emergency Management Director Kevin Mathews has been talking with city councils in recent months to solidify a unified emergency management plan. The only city not on the same procedure is Hutchinson, which has developed its own response methods.

# Sibley County Veterans Services Office moved to courthouse

The Sibley County Veterans Service Office has moved to the Sibley County Courthouse in Gaylord, 400 Court Ave.

Its office hours are 8 a.m.

to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Hours may vary to meet the needs of veterans and their family members.

## Silver Lake City Council Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m., March 18, 2019 Silver Lake Auditorium Call to Order

### Consent Agenda:

1. Approve minutes from Feb. 19, 2019 regular meeting.
2. Approve minutes from Feb. 26, 2019 special meeting.
3. Approve payroll #5, #6 and February ambulance.
4. Claims to be paid:

### Public Comment

### Old Business:

1. Main Street lots purchase proposal.

### New Business:

1. PeopleService informational meeting.
2. Resolution 19-08: Resolution approving source water protection grant.
3. Resolution 19-06: Resolution approving property/casualty insurance premiums.
4. City website updates.

### Department Business:

1. Public Works
2. Public Safety
3. Municipal Liquor
4. Community development
5. Administration

### Open Discussion Adjourn

# State encouraging Farmers to take annual survey

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is encouraging farmers to take part in its annual pesticide and fertilizer use survey. This year, the voluntary phone survey is directed at wheat and hay growers.

The data from the survey helps the MDA track the use of agricultural chemicals on Minnesota farms and provides guidance to educational and research programs.

The survey should begin March 18 and be completed by April 5. Questions will focus on the 2018 growing season and survey farmers on pesticide and fertilizer applications on wheat and hay grown in Minnesota. Producers are not asked any personal questions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricul-

ture Statistics Service conducts the survey for the MDA out of its regional offices in Missouri.

Minnesota farmers may be getting calls from multiple agencies and companies conducting a variety of surveys this time of year, but the information gathered from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture survey is critical for research purposes.

For more information about the MDA's annual survey, or if you wish to view results of previous surveys, visit the MDA Web site at <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/> pesticide-and-fertilizer-use-surveys or call the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at 651-261-1993 between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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National

*Agriculture Day*

**March 14, 2019**

**www.AgDay.org**

## The various benefits of farm-to-table

**F**ew things are more satisfying than biting into a fresh tomato right from the garden or seasoning a meal with herbs picked from a windowsill greenhouse. Restaurants recognize the value of such experiences, and more and more are relying on locally sourced products in their kitchens.

The farm-to-table movement is not new, but it has gained momentum as consumers become increasingly enamored with the flavor and environmental impact of locally sourced foods. The National Restaurant Association found that farm-to-table food was one of its top 10 trends for 2015. Furthermore, the group says that one in five consumers are willing to pay more for local food, and 41 percent admit that locally sourced ingredients influence their decisions when choosing where to dine.

Newcomers to the farm-to-table dining experience may not understand all the fuss surrounding this popular trend. The following are some of the key benefits of farm-to-table.

· **Peak freshness and ripeness:** Local produce ripens on the plant and can be harvested at the last possible minute before it turns up on a plate. This helps ensure that it contains the highest amount of nutrients and flavor, according to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Food that has to travel further is often picked well before it is ready, ripening on the way to stores or other vendors.

· **Better for the environment:** Food that needn't travel far before reaching diners' plates saves roughly 500 gallons of diesel fuel to haul produce a distance of 1,500 miles. This conserves fossil fuels and prevents harmful

emissions from entering the atmosphere.

· **Supports neighboring farms:** Supporting farm-to-table restaurants and other eateries keeps business local in two different ways. It not only benefits local restaurants, but it also directly supports neighboring farms, fisheries and other suppliers.

· **Accessibility to seasonal choices:** Farm-to-table eating provides a wide variety of in-season foods. This can translate into tastier foods because they are grown and harvested during their optimal growing season.

· **Reduces factory farming:** According to O.info, the informational resource powered by Overstock.com, farm-to-table and local farming can reduce reliance on large, profit-driven corporations that may focus on maximum production over animal health and welfare. Local farms may be more inclined to treat their animals well and institute sustainable practices.

· **Learn about the community:** A person might live in an area and never know that a local vineyard is in the vicinity or that a producer of straight-from-the-hive honey is nearby. Exploring farm-to-table resources can open people's eyes to local businesses doing great work in and around their communities.

Farm-to-table is a popular movement that people are embracing for various reasons.

## Agriculture and the economy

**M**any people rely on the agriculture industry for their foods, but think little of the impact that agriculture has on the larger economy. However, data indicates that agriculture can serve a significant role in the process of solidifying the economy of a country, particularly developing nations. Agriculture also can contribute to the economic prosperity of advanced countries. IPP Media points out that the economic history of many developed countries indicates that agricultural prosperity contributed heavily to their economic advancement. When the basic food supply is strong, the national economy can be strong as well. Particularly in the early days of the United States, farming held a crucial place in establishing the American economy and culture, and still shapes the country today. Many states find that farming and other agricultural pursuits contribute much to the local and national economy. For example, new research from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Extension show that agriculture is a powerful economic force in Wisconsin. Agricultural businesses help generate more than \$83 billion in activity and have created more than 400,000 jobs in that state. The public should not disregard how strong a factor agriculture can be in establishing a strong economic environment. Safeguarding agricultural jobs and the agricultural industry is crucial to economic stability.



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