

WWII gunner, now 95, gets a nostalgic ride

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FEBRUARY 21, 2019 | THURSDAY

Dennert, Bundy file petitions for city, school board elections

Madison voters should expect to cast their ballots in an election for mayor this spring because a second candidate, Marshall Dennert, a Madison business owner, has filed a petition to run for office.

Officials with the City Finance Office announced on Thursday morning that Dennert had filed his petition. Mayor Roy Lindsay had already submitted a nominating petition to run for re-election.

In addition, Owen Keith Bundy of Madison filed a petition on Wednesday to run for a seat on the Madison School Board. Bundy joins Angi Kappenman of rural Madison and Tom Farrell of

Madison in filing election petitions for seats on the school board. Farrell currently serves as school board president and filed in early February for re-election to a new three-year term.

The current terms for school board members Farrell, Leah Cecil and Camie Sims end later this year.

The city of Madison and the Madison School Board agreed to hold a combined election on April 9 if there were any contested races for mayor or the school board.

Persons interested in running for mayor or a school board seat must turn in their completed petitions by the end of the business day on Friday.

House panel passes science bill despite critics from K-12

PIERRE (AP) — A bill that would let South Dakota teachers decide how much skepticism to inject into lessons on scientific topics such as climate change and the Big Bang passed its first legislative test on Wednesday.

The House Education Committee voted 8-6 to endorse the bill, sending it to the chamber's floor. Republican Sen. Phil Jensen, the bill's Senate sponsor, said the measure would provide protections from termination to teachers who want to help students learn to think critically.

"Now, to those who worship at the altar of global warming, it is perhaps unnerving that their dogma may be challenged," Jensen said. "Please support House Bill 1270 so that our students can learn how to think, not just what to think. To do less is simply indoctrination."

The bill says teachers can't be stopped from helping students understand, analyze or critique "in an objective scientific manner the strengths and weaknesses" of scientific information presented in classes aligned with South Dakota's educational content standards. The standards set

expectations for "what students should know and be able to do" at the end of each grade, according to the Department of Education's website.

Representatives of school boards, administrators and teachers opposed the bill. Education Department official Brett Arenz said South Dakota teachers have the knowledge, expertise and academic freedom they need to teach science and promote critical thinking.

"This bill is not an academic freedom bill. It is about prohibiting local school boards and administrators from carrying out the curriculum that these local boards adopt," Arenz said.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem said earlier Wednesday that she hadn't reviewed the bill.

Mirror legislation failed during the 2017 legislative session in the House Education Committee after passing through the Senate. Critics raised worries then that such a bill would embolden some teachers to start presenting creationism in their classrooms.

But Jensen disputed the concerns, saying creationism

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Photo by Mary Gales Askren

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Cynthia Hetherington (left) receives the CybHER Award from Ashley Podhradsky and Pam Rowland on Tuesday at the 2018-19 NCWIT Award Ceremony on the DSU

campus. She encouraged the young women who received awards to take initiative in shaping their careers.

Hetherington encourages young women to show initiative

Award ceremony honors students

By MARY GALES ASKREN
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday afternoon, the collaborative center at the Beacom Institute of Technology on the Dakota State University campus was filled with the glowing faces of young women who were being recognized for their interest in computing and technology.

Among them was Celina Rowland, a freshman at Madison High School, whose mother Pam Rowland helped

to organize the NCWIT 2018-19 Award Ceremony.

"I know you are all aspiring to greatness," Pam Rowland told the young women. "We want to honor that today and to celebrate."

Thirty-five high school students from North Dakota and South Dakota were being recognized with an Aspirations in Computing award, a Rising Star award, or with an honorable mention from the National Center for Women and Information Technology. NCWIT is a nonprofit chartered by the National Science Foundation which focuses on creating a community for meaningful participation of women in the field of computing, especially

in the areas of innovation and development.

In addition to recognizing the students, two educators received awards. Family and friends joined the award recipients for the ceremony.

Among the speakers was Cynthia Hetherington, founder and president of the Hetherington Group, a consulting, publishing and training firm. A press release indicates she has led national and international investigations which have recovered millions of dollars in high-profile corruption cases. In addition, she trains more than 2,000 individuals in federal, state and local agencies on best practices in conducting investigations.

In a dynamic, forthright manner, Hetherington shared personal stories and encouraged the young women to show initiative in realizing their dreams.

"I am an intelligence officer," she said. "Investigators can tell you about what happened. An intelligence officer will tell you what is going to happen. They get in front of the problem."

She talked about her career path, about beginning as an electrician and becoming a librarian before getting interested in technology. Each position shapes the way she does business now.

Continued on page 2

BLSD, Excel make arguments in South Dakota Supreme Court

By CHUCK CLEMENT
Staff Reporter

Attorneys for the Brant Lake Sanitary District and Excel Underground made their arguments before the South Dakota Supreme Court on Wednesday regarding a lawsuit that the sanitary district lost in February 2018.

The Brant Lake Sanitary District had filed a lawsuit against Excel Underground for not completing the installation of a sanitary-sewer system for more than 220 customers in the lake community. BLSD lost the lawsuit in early 2018, and the district was ordered to pay the Sioux Falls contractor \$1.57 million plus interest.

BLSD's attorney, Elizabeth Hertz of Sioux Falls, argued that several errors had occurred during the jury trial in Madison's Third Circuit Court that went against the sanitary district's case. Among those errors, BLSD was not allowed to argue for damages related to work not completed, that the design engineers were agents of BLSD, and Excel received damages amounting to more than what the original contract was worth.

Hertz told the state Supreme Court that BLSD wasn't able to make all of its claims regarding damages to the jury during the lawsuit case. In addition, the judge

presiding over the lawsuit instructed the jury that the design engineers, Schmitz, Kalda & Associates of Sioux Falls, had served as the sanitary district's agent. Hertz argued that SKA (the engineering firm) did not serve as BLSD's "alter ego" and the engineers were only hired as independent contractors to work on the project.

Hertz argued that Excel should not have received more in monetary damages than what the contract was worth. Hertz said Excel had argued its reputation was damaged due to the company's removal from the Brant Lake project, and its officials had asked for compensation for the loss of future profits.

According to Hertz, such losses were speculative, and Excel had also offered inadequate proof of future business losses.

In his opening statements, Daniel Brendtro of Sioux Falls, Excel's attorney, told the Supreme Court justices that no one had argued during the jury trial that Excel did not suffer damages due to its removal from the sanitary-sewer project. Brendtro said despite Hertz's comments, a certified public accountant and Excel's owner had testified about the damages that occurred to Excel. He added that the construction

contractor had provided more evidence regarding Excel's economic losses than what Hertz had alluded to during her opening statement on Wednesday.

Brendtro argued that Excel Underground was not responsible for added construction costs due to design changes. Also, within the construction contract, Brendtro said BLSD was responsible for defects within the design plans.

In her rebuttal, Hertz told the justices that lawsuit damages should be limited to the amount that is actually recoverable from the construction project, not projections of future income. She added that Brant Lake Sanitary District should not be held liable for the work performed by its design engineers.

Excel started installing the sanitary-sewer system in July 2012, and witnesses had testified that the project had its troubles from the start. During the construction project, Excel Underground worked with the design engineers, Schmitz, Kalda & Associates, and the providers of grinder pump stations, distributor Electric Pump Inc. and manufacturer Environment One Corporation.

During construction, disagreements arose between

district officials and the construction contractor, involving changed work orders and schedule delays. Although Excel received some payments for its work, the sanitary district was accused of denying a contract extension and refusing to make a payment.

The work was not completed before the winter of 2013 and complaints were made about the design of and work performed on the project. On Jan. 20, 2014, BLSD terminated Excel's contract.

In February 2014, Brendtro, Excel's attorney, filed a complaint in Minnehaha County saying that the sanitary district had breached its contract with Excel and the contractor had suffered damages. That filing led to a trial in Madison's Third Circuit Court in late January 2018 with a seven-person jury returning a verdict on Feb. 1 that allowed Excel Underground to recover \$1.57 million in damages and \$456,800 in interest.

After the verdict in the lawsuit, the BLSD was given the opportunity to make appeals. The BLSD was given a limited time period to file an appeal for a new trial in Third Circuit Court. The new trial was not granted, and the sanitary district was given 30 days to file an appeal with the S.D. Supreme Court.

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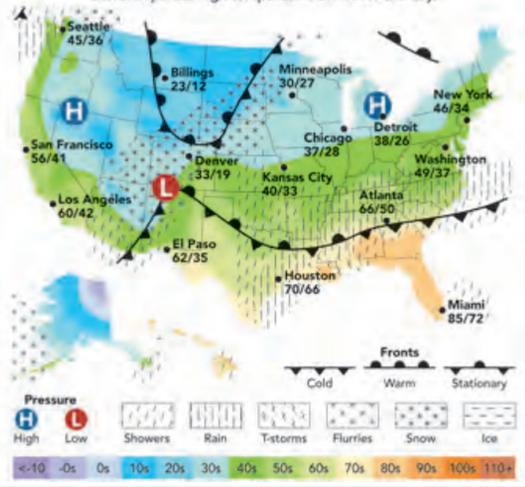
Yesterday's High: 18 | Low: 4 | Snow: 6 inches

Your Daily Leader forecast

Tonight Snow starting late. One inch expected. Low 14.	Tomorrow 1-2 inches of snow, mixed with freezing drizzle Fri. night. High 27. Low 19. SE wind 10-15 mph.	Extended Patchy blowing snow Sat-Mon. Blustery. Highs 26, 13, 7. Lows 8, -4, -2.

Forecast for Friday, February 22, 2019

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



Customers angry that disabled Walmart greeter could lose job

By The Associated Press

Pretty much anyone who shops at the Walmart in Selinsgrove, Pa., knows store greeter Adam Catlin, who's been welcoming customers with a huge smile and a hearty hello for more than a decade.

But Catlin, who has cerebral palsy, fears he'll soon be out of work after the store manager told him his job description was changing — and would now include tasks he's physically unable to do.

"It was a shock," Catlin, 30, said Wednesday in a phone interview. "I never saw it coming."

Neither did Catlin's family. They say that Walmart is acting heartlessly toward one of its most dedicated workers. Walmart says it's hoping to keep him in the store.

Catlin has served in the traditional "people greeter" role since graduating from high school. But at many Walmart locations, the job has morphed into that of "customer host," and those workers are now responsible for helping with returns, checking receipts to help prevent shoplifting, and keeping the front of the store clean.

Catlin, who uses a walker and is legally blind, said he was told by store management that, come late April, he'd need to be able to lift at least 25 pounds, stand for long periods, write reports, and read receipts in order to be able to stay on as a customer host. "I wouldn't be able to," he said.

Catlin's plight became public after his mother, Holly Catlin, wrote about it on Facebook on Monday night. Catlin is so associated with the Selinsgrove Walmart that he cut the ribbon at the store's grand reopening and is often



IN THIS DEC. 14, 2018 photo provided by Holly Catlin, Adam Catlin gets out of a car before starting his shift at a Walmart in Selinsgrove, Pa. Catlin, who has cerebral palsy, is afraid he'll be out of work after store officials changed his job description to add tasks that he's physically unable to do.

recognized when he's out and about.

"Everybody loves him. He just lights up the whole place like a full moon," said Walmart shopper Ellen English, 51. "They can't do that to Adam."

Walmart spokesman Kory Lundberg called Catlin a "valued member of the team and part of what makes our Selinsgrove store special." In a statement Wednesday, he said Walmart is "looking for a solution that keeps him in the store."

Two other disabled Walmart greeters — one in Illinois,

another in South Carolina — are currently dealing with the same issue, said Cheryl Bates-Harris, senior disability advocacy specialist at the National Disability Rights Network. One worker previously said he lost his greeter job because of a disability.

Under federal law, employers must provide

House panel passes science bill

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wouldn't be allowed to be taught because it's not covered in the state's content standards. Educators who are teaching within the standards are on "safe ground," Jensen said.

"But if you go off and you start teaching creationism, then you're on shaky ground and you could be fired, and rightfully so," he said.

Hetherington encourages women

Continued from page 1

"In library science, we share information," Hetherington said. This is not the way the military or the law enforcement agencies with which she works operate, she added.

"We need to change this paradigm. We need to be inclusive," she said.

She encouraged the girls to contact her if they had questions and to contact companies for which they wanted to work. She advised them to ask for guidance in preparing for employment.

She talked about starting out as an electrician, wiring buildings and laying cables. She was interested in this field because her dad owned an electrical company and her brother had apprenticed with him.

"I said, 'Dad, I want to come out and be an apprentice with you,'" Hetherington said. "Do you know what he said to me? 'No.'"

She recognized that he was protecting her because some of his company's projects were not in the safer parts of town, but his refusal also fueled her desire to become an electrician.

In speaking about her experiences, she noted she has been mentored and helped by others throughout her career. However, she also explained why others have played this role in her life.

"Every step of the way, there was a man or woman supportive of me. It's because I showed initiative," Hetherington indicated. She encouraged the girls to also show initiative.

"I don't want to hear you talking about it. I don't want to hear you stressing about it. I just want you to try it," she said.

"You are the promise we gave ourselves," she told the

reasonable accommodations to workers with disabilities. The law requires an "interactive process" between employer and employee to evaluate requests to be accommodated.

"This job is his main thing in his life, it's his driving force, it's his heart," said his sister, Amber Piermattei. "It just gives him self-worth to get up and punch that clock like everybody else and be in the community...He's dedicated to this place, and for them to just sweep him out the door because he has different abilities, I think, is a disgrace."

Catlin isn't the first Walmart greeter with a disability to be impacted by the changeover to customer host. In 2016, Danny Ockenhouse, who uses a wheelchair, said he lost his greeter's role at a Walmart in East Stroudsburg, Pa., because he couldn't keep up with the newly physical demands of the job.

"I just want my job back, and I want to be appreciated," Ockenhouse, who'd worked there 21 years, said at the time. He wound up getting a severance package.

Piermattei said her brother loves his job so much that he doesn't like to take paid vacation — to Catlin, it's cheating the company. After having a heart attack a few years back, Catlin told the doctor that he needed to be released from the hospital by morning so he could make it to work. "What I want is to be the greeter, and to be able to sit down and do my job," Catlin said. "I hope everything works out."

Democratic Rep. Erin Healy, an opponent of the measure, said she's worried that passing it would set up school districts for legal liability.

"That's not going to help our kids. That's not going to help them get the education that they need," she said. "It's just going to hurt our school districts."

young women, explaining that women working in computer and cyber sciences want them to succeed. "We promised ourselves you would be good at our jobs."

Hetherington encouraged the girls to pursue their interests.

"Believe it or not," she said, "once you find something you're interested in, you'll be good at it, and then you'll become great at it."

She told them they didn't have to feel locked into a career field, that they would have the opportunity to change paths, just as she has. However, she emphasized the importance of getting an education.

"Nobody can take your education away from you," Hetherington said.

She reiterated the importance of showing initiative, saying it is a key component to becoming successful. She reminded the young women that they had won the Aspirations in Computing award because they had stepped up.

"A lot of times, your ambition will get you in the door. Once you're there, you'll have your goals, you'll have your dreams and you'll have your future," she indicated.

Hetherington redefined what it means to be confident and in control as a woman. This includes being aware, being informed, being oneself and taking credit for one's accomplishments.

She concluded her presentation by making reference to her first professional disappointment, when her father would not let her become an apprentice.

"Turn the chip on your shoulder into the fire in your belly. That fire in your belly will help you succeed," Hetherington said.

PRIME TIME TOGETHER...

With Kids

by Donna Erickson

Seize the day with fun indoor play



SUPERVISED BY HIS MOM, Leo Anduri, 4, creates an original exercise "routine" on a rainy day in Fairplay, Colorado.

It was a very cold day. How cold was it? When I tossed a pitcher of water up into the air from our Minneapolis front door a couple of weeks ago, fireworks of ice crystals instantly appeared and exploded in all directions. I braved opening the door again because I couldn't resist blowing multitudes of soap bubbles to observe flash-frozen icy spheres dance as they descended and bounced on the ground.

We were frozen in our tracks as the polar vortex shut us down, giving our loyal mail carrier a day off and closing schools.

"No outdoor play" recommendations because of dangerous windchill had parents scrambling for indoor ideas. Letting children create on a free day was the mantra of a friend who cared for two school-age girls. While one did an "alphabet search," hunting for objects around the house beginning with letters A-Z and photographing them with Grandma's cellphone, the other went online to Target's website to pretend shop by jotting "purchases" on a sheet of paper, the challenge to "spend" less than \$50.

A preschool teacher said her grandkids enjoyed creative thinking by making up clever activities based on nursery rhymes. For example, before preparing hard-boiled eggs for lunch, they recited "Humpty Dumpty" and came up with ways to protect him (bubble wrap!) from cracking on a "fall" from a shelf.

While you're not likely to get the brutally cold slap in the face we experienced, there are

still stormy and rainy days that will keep your kids inside in the weeks ahead.

Here are three more fun indoor activities:

Be weather watchers. Check the weather online and in this newspaper. What are the conditions in another state or country where your friends and relatives live? Older kids can be reporters in a pretend weather center. One can be on location (by a window) while the other is in a mock "studio." What's the weekend prediction?

Get moving! Physical activity is a fun and natural part of life. Challenge kids to come up with an exercise routine to their favorite music. Be their student and let them teach the moves to you.

Tell stories. Cut out a picture from this paper, or use a printed photo from your last vacation. Encourage your child to tell a story, real or imagined, about it. Start by saying where it occurred, when it happened and what the character was doing. If your child gets stuck, encourage her by asking "And then what happened?"

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Entre Nous Study Club meets

A Norwegian extravaganza met the members of Entre Nous when they gathered with Marilyn Hexom. A table decorated with art and cuisine of KrumKaka, Mandelkransse, Rommergrøt and VerdensBeste Spice was a feast for the senses.

Tiny whimsical, hand-carved and painted wooden elves, hand-painted plaques, candle holders and small paintings embraced the Norwegian theme.

Hexom led a Norwegian "Uphda" prayer, and each member told a Norwegian joke that Hexom had prepared. Nuts and chocolates completed the delicacies.

As a hostess gift to each member, Hexom had made Hardugner light catchers.

President Barb Egberg opened the meeting with the members reciting the Collect. Nancy Miller took roll call with six members present. The treasurer's report was given by Hexom.

Inviting new members was discussed, as were the scrapbook and members for consideration. Marian Wheeler moved to adjourn.

Egberg presented a book review of "A Refuge Assured" by Jocelyn Green. The novel begins in Paris in 1792, a time

of great unrest in France. Revolution was the order of the time and anything to do with the nobility was hated and sent to the guillotine.

Vivienne is the main character of the novel, along with many other lesser characters that intertwine with her. Vivienne is a lace maker and has been making lace for Queen Marie Antoinette's clothing. Now, however, with the Revolution, lace makers, due to their association with the royalty, are sought out, judged, found guilty and sent to the guillotine.

Vivienne is very creative and, with the help of many of her friends and enemies, finds a way to smuggle her lace out of the country and come to America.

Here in America, others fleeing the fear and death in France establish a small settlement in the northern woods of Pennsylvania just for French refugees. The settlement they named Asylum.

Vivienne finds a way to meet other influential women in Philadelphia and is able to sell her lace, which enables her to make a living. Vivienne did marry and with her husband adopted a son. Later they had two daughters of their own.

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The Gathering would like to offer a sincere thank you to the following churches, businesses and community organizations who gave of their time and talents to provide a meal in 2018.

The Gathering provides nourishment to body and soul through food and fellowship with others. Our community is truly blessed!

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 4-H Country Cousins and Country Swingers | Mustang Seeds |
| 4-H Leaders | Nicky's |
| Chester United Methodist Church | Old Farmhouse Cafe, Chester |
| Church at the Gate | Our Savior Lutheran Sunday School |
| Donna and Friends | PEO BN |
| East River Electric | PEO Chapter CP |
| Farmers Elevator | Persona Inc. |
| High Plains Alternative School, Chester | Pizza Ranch |
| Kiwanis Club | PPD |
| Lake Co. Democrats | Presbyterian Church |
| Lake Madison Lutheran Church | Prostrollo All-American Auto Mall |
| Lions Club | Rotary Club |
| Living Hope Wesleyan Church | Sioux Valley Energy |
| Madison Cancer Support Group | St. John Lutheran Church |
| Madison Daily Leader | St. Peters Lutheran Church, Wentworth |
| Madison Education Association | Trinity Lutheran Church |
| Madison High School — | Trinity Lutheran Church — Youth Group |
| Culinary Arts Students | United Methodist Church |
| Madison High School — | — Missions Committee |
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