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Must pre-register no later than Wed., March 26th

To sign up and reserve a table/puzzle

Contact: Andrea at (218) 205-4562

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Grace United Methodist Church, 1100 Friberg Ave.

Mertz Family

Pancake Breakfast Benefit

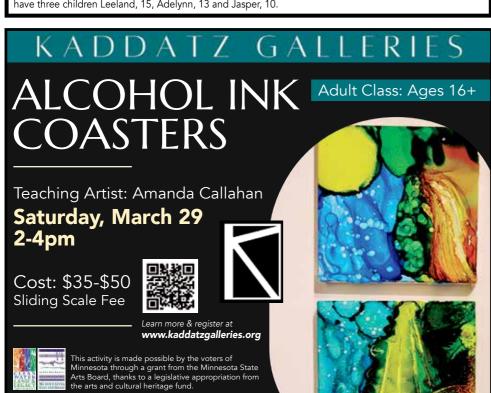
Sunday, March 30 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Silent Auction • Free-Will Offering

Donations to the Luke Mertz Benefit Fund are also being accepted at the Fergus Falls Branch of Bell Bank

In April 2024, Luke Mertz was diagnosed with glioblastoma, stage four cancer. Glioblastoma is a type of cancer that starts as a growth of cells in the brain or spinal cord. Luke's tumor was in the left occipital region of the brain which affects eyesight. He had surgery at Mayo to remove the tumor in May, 2024. Several rounds of chemo therapy and radiation followed which he finished in November, 2024. They have to return every couple of months for tests and lab work. All proceeds from the benefit breakfast will go to help defray the cost of insurance co-pays and expenses for trips to Mayo Clinic for follow-up treatment.

Luke works for Ziegler CAT but has to shorten his hours and Sarah for Otter Tail Power Company. They have three children Leeland, 15, Adelynn, 13 and Jasper, 10.



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SAT., APRIL 5, 2025 · SALE TIME: 10am · Lunch Available Location: Ostby Auctioneering Building - New Effington, SD **Local Collectors, Owner**



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The Dispatcher/Records Clerk is a non-exempt, union position. Salary range for this position is \$24.08-\$33.35. Beginning pay will depend on training and experience. Health insurance is offered with an employer contribution of up to \$1600/month. Grant County offers 12 paid holidays, with excellent vacation and sick accruals. An application may be obtained from the Grant County website, http://www.co.grant. mn.us/ or contacting Human Resources at 218-685-8323, to request an application. Applications must be submitted by mail, email or dropped off at the Grant County Courthouse drop box.

This position is open until Friday, March 21st or until filled.

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Patricia "Pat" Beldo

Age: 74 From: Menahga, MN Passed Away: Thurs., March 6 Visitation: Fri., March 14, 10-11am

at Karvonen Funeral Home, Memorial Service: Fri., March 14,

Location: Karvonen Funeral Home, Wadena, MN

Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral

Online condolences may be sent to www.karvonenfuneralhome.com



OBITUARIES

Paul J. Crandall

Age: 79 From: New York Mills, MN Passed Away: Fri., March 7 Where: Essentia St. Joseph's Hospital, Brainerd, MN

Visitation: Sun., March 16, 5-7pm at Karvonen Funeral Home, Wadena, MN and one prior to the service Prayer Service: Sun., March 16,

6:30pm at Karvonen Funeral Home, Wadena, MN Funeral Service: Mon., March 17, 11am Location: Karvonen Funeral Home,

Wadena, MN Burial to follow at Montrose Cemetery,

Verndale, MN Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral

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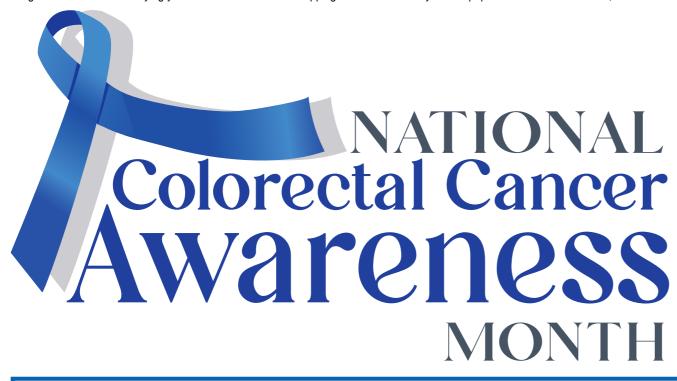


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To Your Good Health



Colorectal Cancer: What You Need to Know About Prevention, Screening and Symptoms

By Dr. Michael Hessenauer I Hematology and Medical Oncology

The bad news: Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, behind only lung cancer. While overall incidence rates have dropped in recent decades, colorectal cancer is steadily becoming more common in those below 55 years old. Those under age 55 are now estimated to make up about 20% of people diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

The good news: Regular screening and healthy lifestyle choices can reduce your risk of colorectal cancer. If cancer does develop, screening

can help detect it at an early stage, when it is more likely to be cured with treatment.

During March, Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, please consider making your own plan to limit your risk and improve your awareness of colorectal cancer. I would like to highlight three areas:

Prevention

Dietary and exercise habits are important to limit risk of colorectal cancer. Studies regarding the association between lifestyle choices and colorectal cancer risk have many confounding factors, so establishing specific recommendations is difficult. Here are a few principles:

- Regular physical activity likely reduces risk of colorectal cancer.
 - o One review showed that people with the highest activity level had a 27% reduced risk of colorectal cancer compared to the least active people.
- Increase fruits and vegetables in the diet.
 - o One study showed that people who eat below 1.5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day had a higher risk than those who ate more than 2.5 servings per day.
- Limit intake of red and processed meats.
 - o Association with colorectal cancer is seen with consumption of red meat over 100 g/day and processed meats over 50 g/day. However, other studies have not seen the same connection between red and processed meat intake and colorectal cancer
- The above dietary and exercise changes may limit risk of weight gain and diabetes. Both obesity and diabetes have been linked to colorectal cancer.
- Quit smoking.
- o Cigarette smoking increases risk of colorectal cancer, in addition to risks of many other health conditions.
- Limit alcohol intake.
 - o One study showed an increased risk of colorectal cancer in those drinking 2 or more alcoholic drinks per day.

Screening and Early Detection

Most colorectal cancers begin as precancerous growths in the lining of the colon. These growths

are called polyps. Removing polyps before they transform into cancer can prevent development of colorectal cancer.

Screening is the best way to find these polyps or colorectal cancer early. Many people with colon cancer do not have symptoms of the disease. Most people with early-stage colorectal cancer can be cured. The USPSTF (US Preventive Services Task Force) recommends beginning colorectal cancer screening at age 45. Screening recommendations may vary based on family history of colorectal cancer, presence of inflammatory bowel disease, or other risk factors. The interval between screening tests depends on the results of the test and your risk factors for colorectal cancer. The final decision regarding colorectal cancer screening details should be made between you and your primary care provider.

Recommended screening options include but are not limited to:

Colonoscopy: A procedure that allows a doctor to examine the inside of the colon for abnormalities. A long, flexible tube is inserted into the rectum, allowing a view of the entire colon. The doctor can remove polyps and take samples of suspicious masses, if present.

Stool DNA test: A test that looks for DNA changes and small amounts of blood shed in the stool. Using a test collection kit, a stool sample is collected and then submitted to a healthcare provider's office or mailed to a designated laboratory.

Be aler

No diet and exercise regimen or screening strategy will be 100% effective at preventing colorectal cancer. Being aware of the symptoms of colorectal cancer can also lead to early detection. Most of the time, these symptoms are due to a non-cancerous cause, but they should lead to medical evaluation if they are worsening or last longer than two weeks.

- Diarrhea, constipation, or other changes in bowel habits
- Abdominal discomfort
- Blood in the stool or rectal bleeding

Colorectal cancer is the nation's second deadliest cancer. Regular screening offers the best chance to detect cancer early, when it can be cured. Diet and exercise changes remain important in reducing your risk of colorectal cancer. If you have not considered colorectal cancer screening, I encourage you to discuss it further with your primary care provider.

About the Author

Lake Region Healthcare (LRH) welcomed Dr. Michael Hessenauer to our Hematology and Medical Oncology department at the Cancer Care & Research Center in September 2024.

Dr. Hessenauer received his medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University College of Medicine in Syracuse, NY. He then completed residency in Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and a fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Mayo Clinic.

He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Medical Oncology. Most recently he has served as a Medical Oncologist and Hematologist at Intermountain Cancer Center in Northern Utah.

His clinical interests include the entire scope of both Medical Oncology and Hematology, and he feels called and privileged to guide patients through challenging times. In his spare time, Dr. Hessenauer enjoys watching his toddler explore the world, exploring Minnesota state parks and bike trails, and keeping up with his favorite sports teams.





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- · Lead and organize meetings to sustain project controls and ensure projects meet quality, budget, and timing expectations.
- Produce written reports and presentations regarding project progress.
- · Coordinates with internal and external project stakeholders to communicate progress and potentially raise risk concerns as appropriate.

To be successful in this role, we're looking for candidates who possess the following skills and traits:

- · There's a lot of innovation in our industry and we want positive, can-do people who are resilient through the challenges that sometimes come with change.
- · Must have demonstrated experience with typical office software such as Outlook, Excel, Word, and PowerPoint.
- · This role is heavily collaborative, so someone who is team-oriented with exceptional communication and interpersonal skills is most likely to succeed and enjoy the role.
- You'll love this role if you're detail-oriented while able to see the big picture.
- Project and contract management experience utilizing tools and/or techniques in developing, managing, and implementing multiple projects and contracts concurrently.
- · A bachelor's degree in business or accounting preferred but we'd be excited to hear about any relevant work experience.

Selected candidates will be required to complete a pre-interview assessment.

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If this sounds like a great fit for you, apply today. Don't wait too long though! To apply, visit our careers page at www.otpco.com. We'll accept applications through March 24, 2025. Selected candidates will be required to complete a pre-interview

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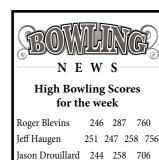
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Announcing 2025 Fergus Falls Area **Habitat for Humanity** TRADES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity Affiliate will offer three \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who intend to pursue training at a technical or community college in the construction trades. One scholarship will be awarded to a Fergus Falls High School senior. one will be awarded to a Battle Lake High School senior and one will be awarded to an Underwood High School senior.

To obtain an application form for the Fergus Falls scholarship, please contact the Fergus Falls High School Counseling Office. The deadline to submit a completed application with transcript and letter of recommendation is April 4, 2025. The recipient of this award will be announced on May 5 at the Senior Recognition

In Battle Lake, seniors who wish to apply for the scholarship should complete the Kent McAllister Thiel Scholarship form. This application form is available through the Battle Lake High School Counseling Office. The recipient will be announced on May 20 at the Battle Lake Senior Awards Ceremony.

In Underwood, seniors who wish to apply for the scholarship should contact Mr. Gilbertson. The deadline to submit a completed application with transcript and letter of recommendation is April 4, 2025. The recipient will be announced May 14 at the Underwood High School Awards Ceremony.

Seeking to put God's love into action, Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build affordable homes that give hope and stability to families in our local communities. To learn more about Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity, please check the website at ffhabitat.org, call 218-736-2905, or email info@ffhabitat.org



FROM THE OFFICE

By Bev Johnson, WOT Master Gardener

Master Gardeners (MGs) are amateur horticulturists. They have had classes taught by professors from the University Of Minnesota. They can usually tell you what disease is making your tree/shrub/ flower sick and what to do for it. If one isn't in the office to answer questions. the secretary will hook you up with one. There are times when the MG is stumped, even though the office is chock full of reference books and phone numbers of various professors who are horticultural specialists. Here are a few of the more amusing calls.

A lady called and asked if someone could identify a spider. "Sure, just bring it in". "I can't do that". "Why not?" "I just flushed it".

Florida had just had severe hurricane damage when the office got a call from there. The M.G. wasn't aware that the call wasn't a local one until the caller asked how he could get rid of roof rats. She asked for his phone number and told him she would call him back. She then called a family member who lived in Florida and found all about roof rats. You don't plant trees close to your house because the roof rats will climb up the trunk to get to your roof, then crawl through the roof ventilation and make themselves at home. There are specialists who deal with them in semi tropical climates. The M.G. called the gentleman back and relayed the message. Then she asked why he called Minnesota rather than the local Extension office. "I'm from Minnesota and people there are smarter than these locals."

A M.G. was working at a local nursery, watering a batch of shrubs that had just been delivered. She noticed a bright yellow splotch on one pot and bent to

take a look. It was some kind of creature, so she peeled it off, put it in her hand and took it into the office to show it off. It was met by a room full of 'lck" "Yuck" "Ish" and "what the heck is that?" A lady from California who was getting her summer plants chuckled and identified the 6-inch fat bright yellow thing as a banana slug. Native to the West coast. Made sense as the shipment had come from Washington state. The slug was put in a iar and watered and fed. It was quite an attraction for a while.

At one time, a Master Gardener had a Saturday call-in radio show. The announcer was not a gardener. The M G had been at the office earlier in the week when a lady brought in a Tomato worm in a jar. She said she had put on heavy canvas gloves to pick it off her tomato plant as she was sure that the big black stinger on its backside might be poisonous. The M.G. explained that actually that 'stinger' was just a growth to discourage birds from eating it and was not dangerous. The gal was a bit embarrassed. It is an ugly thing, bright green with a big black "stinger" on its back side and about 3 1/2 to 4 inches long and as thick as your thumb. The announcer said he had never seen one so, at lunchtime, the M.G. took the critter to the radio station, put it on her hand and walked into the announcer's booth to show the guy what they looked like. He took one look, jumped up, threw his sandwich across the room and yelled "what the heck is that thing?" When he calmed down and the M.G. stopped laughing, she told him what it was. The big guy was a bit embarrassed but was able to laugh about it.

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