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PREP TRACK AND FIELD

YME hosts home meet / PAGE 1B

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015

INDEPENDENT

GOOD MORNING
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Marshall, Minnesota

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75c

GROUNDWORK

■ Kids and adults joined forces Thursday to continue some major spring cleaning in Marshall

By Jenny Kirk

jkirk@marshallindependent.com

MARSHALL — Amazing things can happen when a city's inhabitants combine vision and organization with dedication and effort.

That is certainly true for the city of Marshall, where various volunteers took part in a massive clean-up project that targeted problem areas throughout the community on Thursday.

"We are all committed to helping Marshall maintain its image as a 'clean' and 'green' community," said Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative's Tom Hoff, who helped coordinate the Marshall GreenStep Initiative event after taking over for 2014 GreenCorps member Hannah Beeler when she moved out of the area.

"Our GreenStep Committee has about a dozen members and meets once a month," Hoff said. "We have a key partnership with the City of Marshall, with some of their staff



serving on the committee. Our committee and city staff observed a problem with litter collecting in the southeast part of the community. A number of factors make that area a particular eyesore, including our westerly winds, the county recycling drop-off site and larger concentrations of large retail stores."

Hoff noted that plastic bags and other plastic film are the most noticeable problems, but that significant amounts of paper, cardboard, bottles, cans and fast-food containers are also present.

Cleaning PAGE 8A



Photos by Jenny Kirk

Top left: Seventh-graders Micayla Murphy, left, Rachel Schwarz, Gia Christian and Raini Grams were among a number of students and community members who helped clean up targeted areas around Marshall as part of a GreenStep Initiative effort on Thursday. **Directly above:** West Side third-graders Noah Kalstad, left, Jamen Hennen and Reese Graven walk along the river bank searching for trash in the Legion Field area on Thursday.

LEARNING THE CONSEQUENCES



Photo by Karin Elton

Marshall High School students participated in Distracted Driving Awareness Week activities Thursday during lunch hour.

Students got a chance to try to drive a golf cart while texting, drive a cart "drunk" while wearing vision-obscuring goggles, including Meaghan Harraghy, pictured, and saw a simulated truck roll over. Cheyenne Hubler said that she does not use her phone while driving.

Dayton declares state of emergency over bird flu

ST. PAUL (AP) — Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton declared a peacetime state of emergency Thursday to fight a deadly form of bird flu that has already killed millions of

mains low.

"The poultry on grocery store shelves has always been safe and will continue to be safe," state Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson

government's payments to the informant. Musse's attorney, Andy Birrell, asked whether his compensation was related to the number of people who wound up being charged.

Defense attorneys also questioned how the FBI could take the informant's word when he previously lied to them about his own involvement. They also

returning equipment. He also said some conversations weren't recorded because of equipment failure or poor sound quality.

The fake passports were initially Abdurahman's idea, Samit testified, but when that fell through, the FBI suggested the informant come up with new contacts for fake passports.

When Assistant U.S. At-

orney testified that the informant has been relocated at FBI expense, but isn't in custody or under constant watch. He also said that the government has made no promises that the informant would not be prosecuted in the future.

They basically own the birds now. ... We're kind of at their mercy," he said. Neither the government nor insurance will pay them for the birds that or the money they'll lose while the farm is out of production. He wasn't sure how long it will take to do a full cleaning and disinfecting of their barns.

Dayton will meet with turkey producers in Willmar — home to Jennie-O Turkey Store, the country's No. 2 turkey processor — on Saturday to hear their concerns and field questions, Dayton said. Fifteen farms have been affected in Kandiyohi County, the state's top turkey producing county. Lt. Gov. Tina Smith and U.S. Sen. Al Franken will accompany Dayton.

State lawmakers are working to provide almost \$900,000 in emergency funding, and Dayton has said he'll sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

"Right now, everybody's pulling together and that's the way it should be," the governor said.

Bird flu FROM PAGE 1A

the first chicken farm in Minnesota to be affected, J&A Farms near Lake Park in Clay County, which is an egg-laying operation.

Co-owner Jareb Baer said Thursday he spotted a few dead and sickly birds in their flock of 275,000 hens Monday morning. They got preliminary positive results back from a lab in South Dakota that night for the H5N2 virus, he said. About 1,200 of their birds have died so far.

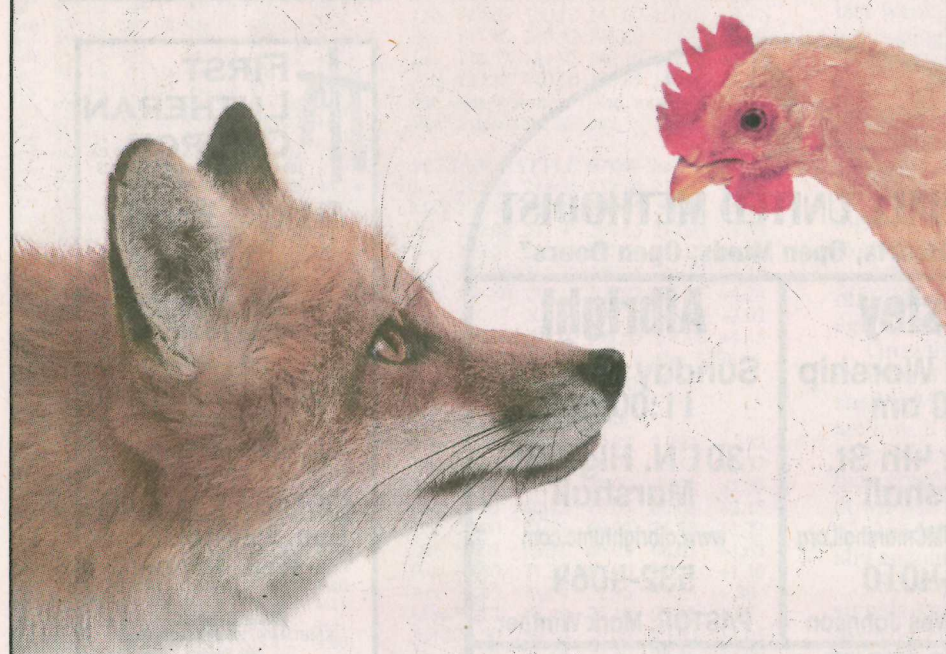
"It was a pretty sick feeling," Baer said. "I kind of knew right away. I didn't even need for the results to come back."

While they awaited final confirmation from the USDA, Baer said they proceeded with plans to euthanize the rest of the flock, which supplied eggs to supermarkets in northern Minnesota. He said their farm hadn't delivered any eggs since last week, and the eggs that were still out there on the market have been pulled back.

USDA officials visited the farm Wednesday and will pay them for the birds that are still alive, Baer said.

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the mastermind of the attack.

Woolfenden's left leg had been sheared off below the knee. He described frantically trying to get his 3-year-old son, Leo, out of his stroller after he heard him screaming and saw he was bleeding from the side of his head. As he lay helpless on the pavement, he spotted Martin and Denise Richard.

"I saw Martin's face," Woolfenden said. "I could see a boy that was, looked like he was fatally injured."

Tsarnaev was convicted this month of all 30 charges against him. Three people were

Gamble, showed the jury a paper mock-up of a metal grate where Tsarnaev placed the second bomb. She said the bomb exploded about 3 1/2 feet from Martin Richard. Dr. David King, a trauma surgeon, testified Thursday that Martin didn't die instantly and that his liver, spleen and intestines were painfully twisted and stretched by the blast.

Martin's parents recently said they want the Justice Department to take the death penalty off the table in exchange for a life sentence and Tsarnaev agreeing to give up his rights to appeal.

Cleaning FROM PAGE 1A

The GreenStep Initiative started in 2012 as a way to take grassroots action to improve the quality of life for people in Marshall, Hoff said, adding that volunteers are trying to help Marshall achieve Level 3 Minnesota GreenStep Cities status.

"Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary program for cities to participate in that challenges them to set policy and take action to protect the environment, conserve natural resources and create a healthy place for people to live and work," Hoff said. "To meet the GreenStep Cities challenge, we need to achieve a number of best practice criteria. One of those best practices is around solid waste management and recycling."

With plastic gloves covering their hands, seventh-grade students were more than happy to head outdoors to help clean up the Marshall Middle School property.

"It's actually really fun, to be honest with you," Gaby Salazar said.

"It's better than being in the classroom," Riley Bakke said.

Salazar, Bakke and Jack Pedersen took turns holding the large garbage bag as they traipsed around the area. After awhile, the bag started getting heavy and ripped a little bit.

"I'm enjoying it except for the simple fact that we have a metric butt-ton of metal in our bag," Pedersen said.

Raini Grams volunteered to be a designated bag holder for the entire group.

"It just got passed to

me," she said. "I'm afraid it's going to rip soon."

At times, Grams resembled Santa Claus with a huge pack slung over her back. The mood among the middle-school students was also jovial.

"It's fun," Grams said about the experience. "And there's less polluted air. It cleans the whole environment."

With so much energy involved, it didn't take long to cover the large grassy area between MMS and Hy-Vee. Trash, in the form of paper, aluminum, plastic and glass, piled up so quickly in a little, marshy area that the students were forced to leave a pile behind, which will be collected by the next group.

"There's so much stuff to pick up," Logan Adkinson said. "I've gotten three huge armfuls already. The best part is being able to go out and hang out with my friends, and I got to help the community while I did it."

MMS art teacher Kelly Pochardt assisted the students during the mission, as did Spanish teachers Lisa Swope and Stefanie Scarset with other fifth- through eighth-grade student groups.

"I feel that the students did a great job of stepping up and working hard," Pochardt said. "It was good for students to realize how much garbage is laying around and the importance of cleaning it up and taking care of our community. What I like about the project was that it allowed students to work together."

When Pochardt asked the students what they thought, she learned that they enjoyed working as a class and seeing all of their classmates participate.

"They also said they liked that they were able to help our environment," she said. "It was a nice day for this."

Along with a handful of MA-TEC students, three sections of third-graders from West Side did their part, helping to clean up the Legion Field area.

"Each class is going to take an area of the park and clean up," third-grade teacher Chace Pollock said. "Stay with your class and don't go acting crazy and run off."

Along with teachers Heather Fossum and Chelsey Evans, Pollock also gave some safety information before heading to designated areas.

"If you find glass, you need to put on these yellow (rubber) gloves first before picking it up," he said.

Third-grader Noah Karlstad didn't find any glass during the clean-up, but he kept the rubber gloves on the entire time just in case.

"I love it," he said about the experience.

Third-grader students Reese Graven and Jamen Hennen were partnered up and put in charge of the large garbage bag for the group.

"It's fun," Graven said.

"And you get to tough dirty stuff with your hands."

While searching for trash, Karlstad, Graven and Hennen found a bird's nest on the ground. After realizing there was still a robin's egg inside, the students carefully returned the nest to the ground near a tree.

While there wasn't much debris being collected, students seemed to enjoy the outdoor experience anyway. Tiffany Davis and a friend debated whether or not they should pick up pine cones, which they referred to as acorns.

"No, they're not trash, they're nature," Davis said.

A number of other students — from MMS, Marshall High School and Holy Redeemer — also pitched in during the day, as did countless community members. Individuals from the Southwest Minnesota State University women's basketball team, SMSU ENACTUS, Karen organization, Marshall Fire Department and Cultures United also joined the clean-up project in various locations.

"It looks like the fourth-graders did a good job of cleaning up this morning," Pollock said. "I guess we're lucky."

The Girls Scouts and the SMSU administration did their part on Wednesday, which appropriately, was Earth Day. The GreenStep Committee and Sentence to Serve took on the toughest task, which included clean-up on the southeast edge of Marshall — the empty lots by Menards, Pizza Ranch and Wal-Mart.

In 2013, the first effort to organize a clean-up was limited that area, Hoff said. Though it was clear that there were more areas that needed attention, there weren't enough volunteers to make it happen. But people stepped up to help in the effort this year, he said.

"The Marshall GreenStep Community Clean-up was expanded this year with the help of our 2014 GreenCorps member (Beeler)," he said. "She recruited about 14 groups to clean areas that were identified by GreenStep members and city staff as high-need areas."

Hoff said he is optimistic that the focus on clean-up will continue in the future. It's possible to make a positive difference if enough people help chip in, he said.

"Our city staff does such a great job on our parks that they don't require such an intense effort, but there are many areas that collect large quantities of litter throughout the year," Hoff said. "I know there are areas that we did not get to this year, but we hope to expand the project each year and enlist more community members to help. We know there are many people that want to help, so we just need to develop a system that can better coordinate more sections of town and more volunteers."

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urday. That's not the record though. A Wagner T206 American Tobacco Co. card rated in better condition sold for \$2.8 million years ago.



12 Number of states that ban Sunday liquor sales (Minnesota is still one of them, but growlers will soon be available).

202

Number of arrests made during Monday night's riots in Baltimore.

144/19

Number of vehicle/structure fires during the riots.

89 Age of wrestling legend and Minnesota's own Verne Gagne, who died Monday.



A group of 15 people — 13 from Marshall and two from Redwood Falls — journeyed to Haiti on a mission trip April 1-8. They experienced first hand a developing country that is suffering from the effects of the 7.0 earthquake of 2010 — malnutrition and poor education, housing and health care.

Seven of them presented to fellow Fellowship of Christian Athletes Tuesday morning during their regular weekly "huddle" or meeting.

Lexi Saugstad was struck by the difference in attitudes between Haitians and Americans.



From left: Ashtin Hmielewski, Morgan Saugstad, Melodee Grant and Rebekah Bergjord pose with an orphan who lives at the Mission of Hope Haiti campus.

to help you. They wanted to work, and they did it with so much joy."

"I saw a boy who picked up a plastic bag, and he reached into his pocket and had this fishing string," said Rachel Miller. "He was so pumped 'cause he had this bag. He made a kite out of it."

FCA supporter Rachele Carver organized the trip. Carver, who moved to Marshall about two years ago, belonged to FCA where she used to live. She had been to Haiti on a mission trip in 2010 and

Haiti PAGE 8A

MARSHALL NOT ONLY GREEN, IT'S CLEAN NOW, TOO

By Jenny Kirk

jkirk@marshallindependent.com

MARSHALL — Marshall is now a cleaner place to visit, live and work thanks to the efforts of more than 325 GreenStep City Clean-up volunteers who picked up 840 pounds of trash last week.

According to coordinator Tom Hoff, 8,175 volunteer hours were worked between the 327 volunteers.

"That is a lot of pieces of trash considering that a piece of paper, an empty soda can and a plastic grocery bag all weigh less than half an

ounce or .03 pounds," Hoff said.

A GreenStep Initiative was started in 2012, Hoff said, as a way to take grassroots action to improve quality of life in the city of Marshall. GreenStep Committee members and other volunteers are attempting to help Marshall achieve Level 3 Minnesota GreenStep Cities status, he said. After a much smaller scale clean-up effort last year, the environment-conscious group decided to thoroughly expand the clean-up project this year. Along with the GreenStep members, the city of Marshall was instrumental in getting the project off the ground.

"The first Marshall GreenStep Clean-up

Project went very well," Hoff said. "Based on the amount of trash that volunteers collected and the feedback they provided on the post-event survey, we will be better prepared next year to know how many volunteers to deploy to each of the problem areas."

Fourteen different areas across the city of Marshall were identified as target spots to clean up. Fifteen members of Cultures United collected the most trash, picking up 110 pounds behind Shopko.

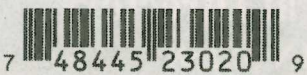
Clean PAGE 7A



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LOCALLY

ABANDONED CHILDREN IN INDIA IS TOPIC OF MONDAY PRESENTATION

Legacy Foundation Luncheon is hosting a noon luncheon Monday at the Marshall Area YMCA featuring presenter Gregg Stern from Crisis Rescue International, an organization committed to reaching out to children who are sold into prostitution, slavery and abandoned in the streets of India. Contact Keith for reservations at keithm@grill-worksinc.com, or leave a voicemail at 507-828-5535. There is a \$10 fee for lunch and the program.

WEATHER

TODAY:

Mostly sunny

High: 80-85



SUNDAY:

Scattered thunderstorms
High: 70-75

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could try to extract something from Bakk to assure the yearly rent for a new Senate office building he championed. And for Bakk, a past candidate for governor, future political aspirations may be on his mind.

THE BOTTOM LINE: "I think the sweet spot for the speaker and I is to figure out how I get a transportation bill and he gets a tax bill. Once we figure out what those two pieces cost then we'll know how much money is left for the other budget divisions to spend."

risk among... caucus by courting Democratic votes for a two-year budget almost certain to be Minnesota's largest-ever.

THE BOTTOM LINE: "If Tom (Bakk) and I and the House and the Senate agree on provisions, we may want to push the envelope and send the governor things that he is uncomfortable with. ... We have to measure if the governor is resolved when he says he's going to not accept positions or veto bills."

ment in the planning or execution of this act," he said in a statement.

Wildstein, a former official at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges, saying in court that he and the other Christie loyalists closed lanes and engineered the gridlock in September 2013 as political payback against a Democratic mayor.

He also said the three of them concocted a cover story: It was all part of a traf-

Clean FROM PAGE 1A

"It was a lot of work," said Tina Quinones, who not only oversaw the Shopko effort, but did her fair share of clean-up as well. "There was so much trash."

Quinones said that someone did have the fortune of finding a \$20 bill, though, which led to discussion on whether or not that person should split it with the entire group.

"Someone also found one dollar, and we joked about splitting that between everyone, too," she said.

Ninety Marshall Middle School volunteers collected 86 pounds of litter and debris, including a tire, lots of plastic and some metal objects. GreenStep Committee members, along with volunteers from Sentence to Serve and Healthy 56258, amassed 85 pounds of trash from lot between Menards and Pizza Ranch.

"We know that litter is never going to go away completely, but I think we have an opportunity for it to be lessened and for Marshall to maintain its reputation as a 'clean and green' community," Hoff said. I would see this project continuing next year and possibly expanded to some additional areas of the community. I know we have more community volunteers that are willing to come forward and help out."

The Girl Scouts group of 10 collected 79 pounds from the Running's storage area, new liquor store grounds

and behind Pizza Ranch. The Karen organization picked up 71 pounds of garbage near the intersection of 4th Street and Minnesota Highway 23.

Marshall Fire Department volunteers plucked 66 pounds of trash from Main Street and alleys. Southwest Minnesota State University ENACTUS also gathered 66 pounds of waste from the lot near Dickey's, while MMS eighth-graders compiled 63 pounds from Independence Park.

Volunteers were asked to rank the item of trash found based on most to least frequency.

Eighteen percent of the items were deemed to be pop cans and bottles, followed by plastic bags (17 percent), paper (16), plastic other than bags (14), cardboard (13), fast-food containers (10), household items (6) and other (5).

The volunteers were also asked for their thoughts regarding the source of the litter in their respective clean-up areas. Some of the reasonings for the trash included: thrown from cars, blown from garbage cans, people throwing litter while walking, from shopping carts, from nearby college campus and apartments and wind.

A total of 13 suggestions were made by the volunteers regarding how litter might be prevented or reduced. Suggestions varied, from displaying trash containers

more prominently to more education about recycling to mowing the tall grass in order to prevent trash pile-ups to displaying 'no littering' signs.

Hoff said he'd welcome additional recommendations from people.

"If community members have suggestions about ways to address the problem of blowing plastic bags, containing construction debris and preventing litter and recyclables from blowing from dumpsters and residential carts, we would be very interested in hearing about those possible solutions," he said.

One of the biggest keys may be public awareness that littering is not tolerated. That, along with an even larger core group of concerned citizens could be what it takes to reach new heights in the future.

"I can speak from my experience and what has been shared with me by other volunteers, that when you clean a problem area you feel a great deal of pride about the work you accomplished," Hoff said. "That emotional attachment to your work makes it difficult to see things deteriorate back to the original state you found it in. If we can get more people attached to the efforts of this project in the future, I think there will be more visibility of the problem of litter and hopefully some additional solutions will come forward."



CHEMICAL ENGINEER



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