



OMRO HERALD

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Three-vehicle crash results in one fatality

By Tony Daley

Three vehicles on Sunday, June 24 were involved in an accident on State Highway 21 between Omro and Oshkosh.

The accident caused serious injuries and had a woman declared deceased at the scene.

Multiple fire and law enforcement agencies responded, with lane closures in effect for several hours.

According to an official release, at 9:47 a.m. the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, the Omro Rushford Fire Department, the Oshkosh Fire Department, the Omro Police Department and the Wisconsin State Patrol responded to this traffic crash at the intersection of State Highway 21 and County Road FF/Reighmoor Road in the town of Omro.

The release states, "A blue Chevrolet Monte Carlo driven by Dar-

"A BLUE CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO... WAS STOPPED EAST BOUND ON STATE HIGHWAY 21, WAITING FOR ONCOMING TRAFFIC TO CLEAR..."

— ACCIDENT REPORT

lene Erickson, age 73 of Oshkosh, was stopped east bound on State Highway 21, waiting for oncoming traffic to clear, and preparing to turn north, or left, onto Reighmoor Rd."

The release further states, "A white Jeep Compass driven by Holly Nowak, age 42 of Oshkosh, was also east bound on State Highway 21."

SEE FATALITY, PAGE 4

Omro Fourth of July returns Wednesday

By Tony Daley

Awesome authenticity packs place-making power to draw people to a community, and the Omro Fourth of July is just such a powerhouse, coming soon.

It's the Fourth of July celebration in Omro that always celebrates on July 4, presented by the city of Omro and Future Omro Chamber: Main Street.

Omro welcomes local residents and visitors to the Omro Fourth of July on Wednesday, July 4.

Future Omro Chamber: Main Street will be coordinating a "Show Stopping 4th Under the Big Top," as always, aided by the generosity and commitment of many community sponsors.

The Omro Fourth of July will include:

- Parade at noon
- Arts & Crafts Fair, Scott



OMRO HERALD FILE PHOTO

CUTE LITTLE HORSES MAKE for big entertainment during last year's Fourth of July celebration in Omro. This year's parade will once again hit the streets at noon as part of a full day of activities.

Park, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Historical Society Pie & Ice Cream, Old Clock Tower, 10 a.m.

• American Legion Pancake Breakfast, Tanner's, 7-11 a.m.

SEE OMRO FOURTH, PAGE 3

OCC, Future Omro partnering on Cycling Without Age fundraising initiative

Bike-based worldwide phenomenon being brought home for area senior riders

By Tony Daley

Many Omro seniors in the skilled facility will again be feeling the wind in their hair and sun on their cheeks.

The Omro Care Center has partnered with Future Omro Chamber-Main Street to fundraise, participating in what has become the global "Cycling Without Age" phenomenon.

Started in Denmark in 2012, Cycling Without Age has grown internationally, with the trishaw, or bicycle driver and two passengers.

This specialized bike is a primary tool

for providing senior citizens with certified pilot-guided rides that enliven relationships and shared stories among riders and pilots.

SEE CYCLING, PAGE 4

ADA ramp almost done, reports Public Works Director

By Tony Daley

Director of Public Works for the city of Omro, Mark Van Pelt, has reported the ADA ramp nearing completion.

Kudos on how it turned out came from Omro Common Council members on Tuesday, June 19 during an update on the project, which combined Future Omro Chamber: Main Street, municipal utilities and numerous other community contributors on a long-awaited project realization.

Van Pelt said, "The tear-out went well and we probably got done a day sooner than usual."

He added that the railing is still a little bit behind schedule, but efforts targeted the main goal of getting business doors open, with the ramp usable as of this past Monday.

The rest of the railing in-



OMRO HERALD PHOTO

WORK IS NEARING COMPLETION on the Main Street ramp project that will provide ADA access and downtown value. Sidewalk use and parking spots are already available, though construction horses will remain up for a while.

stallation may go into the end of the week of the Fourth, Van Pelt said, and the front door to the brewery is usable.

Meanwhile, the sidewalk out in front for pedestrians is already

SEE ADA RAMP, PAGE 4

Council majority approves well testing at industrial park site

By Tony Daley

The Common Council approved moving forward with testing a "Well Site #2" for a potential third well in the city of Omro.

The vote last Tuesday, June 19 carried the decision by an aldermanic majority, following workshop discussions earlier that evening.

The action is for Omro to advance on examining a south side industrial park well potential while eliminating, at least for now, testing of another site on the north side of town.

SEE WELL TESTING, PAGE 4

Tracey Miller latest postsecondary success from Omro School District

By Tony Daley

For Tracey Miller, the School District of Omro's latest postsecondary success in our exclusive series for the *Omro Herald*, Omro's influences have been pow-

erful and varied, influencing and preparing her to become a teacher.

Those unforgettable times, says Miller, a member of the Omro school district's high school

SEE MILLER, PAGE 7

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Cycling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The broad-base efforts to raise funds to purchase a trishaw bike for local-area use will begin in earnest this July 4 when a Cycling Without Age representative actually brings the trishaw to be part of the parade.

This is an opportunity for the community to actually see what a trishaw looks like and help gain an understanding of the functions it will serve.

"This will be the kick-off to bringing this program to Omro," explained Omro Care Center Activities Director Gale Pierce.

Added Omro Care Center Administrator Bill Watson, "It's about the right for seniors to have the wind in their hair," addressing the value of giving residents of skilled facilities, such as Omro Care Center, the ability to get outside into the natural environment.

Further commenting on the Cycling Without Age features, including its piloted trishaw rides

and incomparable opportunities for making friends and interacting in the world, Bill added, "It speaks to the level of disability of many of the people we have here who can utilize this program."

Hallmarks of Cycling Without Age also include generosity of volunteer pilots operating the vehicles, and their ability to talk to senior riders, sharing stories and history together, while the slowness of the transportation provides a chance for riders to greet new friends along routes and fully enjoy the splendor of being outside.

Meeting with the *Omro Herald* at the Omro Care Center on Thursday, June 21, Bill and Gale were joined by partner and Future Omro Chamber-Main Street Executive Director Dana Racine.

Together, they are filling out a dynamic cohort beginning to electrify the Cycling Without Age initiative fundraising among community members, businesses and other charitable resources.

The primary goal is to get at



OMRO HERALD PHOTO

THE OMRO CARE CENTER has partnered with Future Omro Chamber-Main Street to fundraise, participating in what has become the global "Cycling Without Age" phenomenon.

least one trishaw-bike at this well-known four-star skilled care facility in Omro.

The cost to Omro Care Center and Future Omro of the rickshaw is lowered to approximately \$5,000 per unit by the matching amount supplied as part of an application to participate in a program being administered by Cycling Without Age and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

"In seeking funds to bring this program to the city of Omro," Dana said, "our three missions tie perfectly together into this amazing program, a program of enrichment for area seniors that fundraising partnerships will bring to enhance our community."

"Cycling Without Age is about activities for the mind, spirit and

body," Dana said. Bill, Dana and Gale agree that this kind of programming has the power to nurture and enrich senior riders and their visiting guests.

"This is an intergenerational experience," said Gale.

There are also health factors and healing agents embedded in the benefits of the Cycling Without Age opportunity.

In some cases of dementia, for example, Bill noted, there can be withdrawal, which can be mitigated by extraordinary, non-routine activities such as being able to travel around as a trishaw passenger.

"It can relight a fire for a period of time," Bill said. "If you can take a senior out of a facility and stimulate them, this is something

the initiative is really about."

Bill, Gale and Dana — as the Omro Care Center and Future Omro fundraising team for Cycling Without Age — are looking to donors in the community to assist in acquiring for seniors the chance to have unforgettable experiences, improving individual outlooks, dignity, joy and quality of life.

"Fifty percent [of Cycling Without Age participants] report making new friends," Gale references statistics. "Eighty-two percent have more energy."

The Omro Fourth of July parade will be a powerful reach-out to the community. Gale was able to coordinate by contacting the Cycling Without Age's Global Community Captain to bring a trishaw to Omro, launching the Omro Care Center and Future Omro fundraising campaign.

"Please stop by for a visit to get a good look at the trishaw and ask questions," Gale wants everyone to know.

Omro is one of the many cities in Wisconsin that Cycling Without Age will be visiting to promote its program.

Wind in the hair, rosy cheeks, anecdotes and stories and histories shared: these are all part of the amazing Cycling Without Age experience that is about to become a reality in Omro.

All donations and contributions for the Omro Care Center trishaw fundraiser can be sent to the Future Omro office at 130 Larrabee Street, Omro, WI 54963 and questions directed to Dana at (920) 685-7005, ext. 22.

ADA Ramp

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

open, Van Pelt said on June 19, with work still to go on the ramp.

Answering a question by Alderperson Tim Doolittle, Van Pelt added there will be some epoxy filler put to fill gaps between the curb and new sidewalk.

The ADA Ramp Project is a Future Omro Chamber: Main Street collaboration for in-kind work and monetary funding support provided by notable community supporters including Martenson & Eisele, All-ways Concrete, Monroe Fabrication, BID, OADC, Omro Public Works and the City of Omro.

WIS-116 reconstruction update

Director of Public Works Mark Van Pelt's latest update to alderpersons addressed WIS-116 reiterated the Monday, July 9 scheduled closure still set for the west side car bridge to all but northbound vehicular traffic, with specialized exceptions for emergency services unit access needed to traverse both ways.

"We're pretty much on schedule," Van Pelt said to the Common Council on Tuesday, June 19.

The latest news includes:

- Work scheduled to go up Spruce Street around 250 feet with water main and sewer
- Closing of Spruce Street in the next week or two
- Reroute traffic along graded-gravel Cedar Street for probably two days

Answering Alderperson Todd Yari's inquiry based on his constituents' feedback on sidewalk access during the approximately 30-day bridge closure, Van Pelt indicated sidewalk will probably not remain open due to involved scope-of-work including pouring of concrete and other structural elements, though Van Pelt said he will make inquiries about further clarification on this matter.

Nevertheless, the Director indicated the probability of the bridge sidewalk being closed because of the work flow.

Alderperson Larry E. Wright recommended the walk bridge as an alternative, while City Administrator Linda Kutchenriter added that the city is providing some bike and vehicle parking accommodations on city lots at different locations.

Fatality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According Sheriff's Office information, Nowak was attempting to use the paved portion of the road to go around the Chevrolet, when the Novak's Jeep collided with Erickson's car.

"The impact pushed Erickson's car into the oncoming west bound lane of State Highway 21, and into the path of a motorcycle being operated by Billy Luke, age 48 of Lyndon Station, Wisconsin."

As indicated, "Billy Luke and his passenger, Justine Luke, age 47, were both ejected from the motorcycle."

Billy Luke sustained serious injuries.

His wife, Justine Luke, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The release states, "Both Erickson and Nowak were treated for minor injuries and released."

As a result of the accident, the intersection was closed for five hours to allow for clean-up and reconstruction activities.

"The crash investigation is still ongoing," states the Sheriff's Office release, which also indicates, "As always, our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the Luke family."

Well Testing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The city, directed via resolution with a friendly amendment approved last week, will bid on the base for a "Site #5 with [an] alternate for Site #3" but, if Site #5 tests good, then not test Site #3."

Councilperson Tim Doolittle, opposing the resolution on June 19, explained to the *Omro Herald* that he was not in favor of the south side location.

"I believe [the potential third well for the city of Omro] should be on the north side. They're going to have to build a river crossing [referring to another conversational topic held during well-test talks] and enter cost on that, sooner than later, down the road."

Doolittle added that the proposed financial savings was, for him, a moot point.

The alderperson argued for testing sites on both the north and south sides simultaneously, rather than just having testing performed at the one, south side site.

Alderperson Doolittle argued that, if the south side, industrial park-located Site #5 for a po-



OMRO HERALD PHOTO

BOB UPHOFF, Team Leader and Project Manager for well consultants MSA Professional Services to the city of Omro, talks with alderpersons during the Tuesday, June 19 Common Council workshop.

tential Well #3 does not pan out, consultants would have to return for a north side testing.

This would ultimately be cost

out with more expense because of re-deployment of labor and equipment.

"I understand us looking out for cost and savings as a whole," Doolittle said about Omro's intentions on savings, though those cost factors might or might not work out depending on test results and other variables. "But I like to look at the bigger picture," opined Doolittle. "Let's do this whole thing."

According to the resolution brought to the floor on June 19, the city had awarded a bid for test-well drilling in the Fox and Hound Park, where elevated levels of radium, iron and magnesium would have necessitated additional treatment claimed at "considerable expense to the [City]." MSA Professional Services has investigated several other locations for a well throughout the community, as attachments detailed. By carrying the majority resolution on this legislative piece, council has authorized City Administrator Linda Kutchenriter to prepare necessary easements and documentation necessary to move forward with well testing.

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