

Jonah Olson Completes State Leadership Program



The West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to congratulate Jonah Olson, Resource Conservation Technician, for successfully completing a one-year leadership development program sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD).

The 2022-2023 MASWCD Leadership Program brought together 28 participants from across the state to strengthen their leadership capacity for conservation work in Minnesota. The group was comprised of local SWCD staff and board members, staff from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and regional staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The group met for seven in-depth multi-day sessions focused on leadership topics including: building personal leadership skills, developing shared vision, practicing ethical leadership, strengthening team leadership,

facilitation and communicating to make a difference.

Jonah Olson, “This program helped me to challenge the perception that I had of myself, and I learned that leadership opportunities can present themselves in many ways. I’m excited and proud to help lead Minnesota’s conservation successes into the future along with my leadership cohort from across the state.”

This was the thirteenth group to complete the statewide leadership program; more than 260 staff and elected supervisors from county, state, and federal agencies working in conservation have completed the program since 1996. The content is designed and delivered by staff of the University of Minnesota Extension in partnership with the president of Leadership Tools consulting firm. For further information about the MASWCD Leadership Program, contact the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts at 651-690-9028 or visit the MASWCD website at www.maswcd.org.

DNR Seeks Applications For Advisory Committees

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is recruiting new members to serve on key advisory groups related to Minnesota’s natural heritage, aquatic invasive species, outdoor recreation, and Lake Superior Coastal Program. Interested people can learn more or apply on the Engage with DNR website.

The Minnesota DNR strives for each committee membership to include a diverse mix of backgrounds, perspectives, locations and lived experiences so that we can benefit from the breadth of knowledge and insight that such diversity brings, and so that our advisory committees are reflective of all Minnesotans.

Natural Heritage Advisory Committee

The Natural Heritage Advisory Committee advises the Minnesota DNR on issues relating to sustaining the state’s natural heritage, biological diversity and ecosystem services. NHAC members make recommendations to help protect high quality prairies, forests, wetlands and other native habitats, and the diversity of plants and animals they support.

New member appointments with three-year terms will begin in January 2024 and extend through December 2026. Minnesota residents with interest or expertise in sustaining our state’s natural heritage can apply online until 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22. Interested applicants can learn more by visiting the committee webpage of the DNR website.

Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee

Aquatic invasive species present one of the state’s most pressing natural resource issues. Preventing the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, invasive carp, stary stonewort and other invasive plants and animals is of critical environmental, recreational and economic importance. Minnesotans interested in serving on the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee may apply online until 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22.

The Minnesota DNR established the advisory committee in 2013 to help guide the agency’s AIS prevention and management activities. The committee comprises 15 members who serve three-year terms. Members provide advice and diverse perspectives on programmatic direction, emerging research needs, communications, and funding strategies. Interested applicants can learn more by visiting the committee webpage of the DNR website.

Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee

People with enthusiasm for Minnesota parks and trails can help guide efforts to provide welcoming, engaging, accessible, rewarding and sustainable outdoor recreation experiences for everyone. The partner agencies of the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee include the Metropolitan Council, the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The mission of the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee is to “champion the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan by providing recommendations to enhance promotion, coordination, and accountability throughout implementation of the plan.”

Terms are two years, with the option of being re-appointed for a maximum of three terms. The committee meets every two months at park and trail facilities around the state, with an online meeting option. Meetings typically include tours of state and regional parks and trails and provide members with the opportunities to experience the impact of projects and programs supported by the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund.

Online applications opens in a new browser tab will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22. More details are available on the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee website opens in a new browser tab.



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Five Natural Wound Care Solutions For Minor Injuries

Many people look for natural products with “clean” ingredients, especially in the food, beverage, skin care and beauty categories. In fact, the market for clean label ingredients is projected to reach \$64.1 billion by 2026, according to Allied Market Research.



For many common ailments or minor injuries, there’s a natural treatment that can be used in place of hard-to-pronounce ingredients and preservatives.

“This same kind of clean ingredient demand is migrating to the first-aid space with many of these natural alternatives being used to treat anything from scrapes and bug bites to wound odor and pulled or sore muscles,” said Dr. Billy Goldberg, a “New York Times” best-selling author and emergency room physician. “In fact, some companies are beginning to incorporate these kinds of natural and efficacious ingredients right into their products.”

Goldberg and the first-aid experts at CURAD, which have made adhesive bandages since 1951, offer these suggestions for natural ingredients you can use at home to treat common ailments:

Epsom Salt - Named for a bitter saline spring at Epsom in Surrey, England, Epsom salt is not actually salt but a naturally occurring mineral compound of magnesium sulfate. Long known as a natural remedy for several ailments, Epsom salt can be used to relax muscles and relieve pain in the shoulders, neck and back. It can also be applied to sunburns or dissolved in the bath to help relieve sore muscles or detox.

Aloe Vera - Few things soothe sunburn like aloe vera. With analgesic, anti-inflammatory and soothing properties that ease the healing process, aloe vera gel contains phytochemicals that help reduce pain and inflammation. Also helpful in the healing process of cuts and scrapes, some adhesive bandages are infused with aloe vera in the wound pad and surface of the bandage, which is enriched

with the antioxidant vitamin E to help soothe and moisturize skin.

Hydrogen Peroxide - A mild antiseptic that can be used to prevent infection of minor cuts, scrapes and burns, hydrogen peroxide is often used for the initial cleaning of wounds. Simply apply a small amount on the affected area - alternating with water to avoid killing good bacteria - to help release oxygen, which causes foaming that aids in cleaning and the removal of dead skin.

Baking Soda - Bicarbonate of soda, commonly known as baking soda, can be used for more than baking. From removing stains to cleaning teeth and more, it can also be used to help treat a variety of wounds. In addition to being an odor absorber, it can be applied to insect stings and bites, such as those from bees or mosquitoes.

Whether making a paste using baking soda and water then applying to the bite or using an option like adhesive bandages featuring baking soda, the chemical compound can help soothe the skin. In addition to absorbing wound odor, the bandages provide skin-friendly comfort and stretch with a four-sided seal to keep dirt and germs out.

Manuka Honey - A honey native to New Zealand, manuka honey contains methylglyoxal as an active ingredient and has unique antibacterial properties that speed healing and help prevent and fight infections when applied as a topical wound treatment. It may also help soothe coughs and sore throats, prevent tooth decay and improve digestive issues.

Learn more about natural first-aid products at CURAD.com. (Family Features)

Pelican Rapids Hosts OTC Commissioners’ Open House



Otter Tail County Commissioners invite County residents to attend the upcoming open house at Lake Region Electric Cooperative at 1401 South Broadway on Monday, September 18, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This is not a board of commissioners meeting but an opportunity to engage with your commissioners and learn about other Otter Tail County initiatives, and projects in the Pelican Rapids area.

Commissioner Wayne Johnson, District 2, welcomes long-time residents, those new to the area, and anyone interested in learning more about Otter Tail County to attend this event. “This is a good time to engage directly with your County Commissioners and participate in conversations to address your questions and comments. We look

forward to seeing you at the open house.”

Community members are invited to ask questions of the County Commissioners following brief presentations by County department staff. Employees from several service areas will be available to share information and answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

The public is encouraged to stop by the open house to meet Krysten Foster, the new Highway Engineer, and Heather Jacobson, the new County Assessor. Staff from the Solid Waste Department and Community and Economic Development will provide information on various local opportunities related to housing, child care, workforce development, and more. Everyone is welcome.

Being Septic Smart In Minn. Free Training Event

Septic Smart Week is an occasion to bring attention to the importance of homeowners maintaining septic systems. Otter Tail County Land and Resource Department and the University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program will offer a free event on Being Septic Smart.

The online webinar will be held in conjunction with Septic Smart Week on Tuesday, September 19, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. The Being Septic Smart training informs property owners of how septic systems work. Dr. Sara Heger of the Onsite Sewage Treatment Program at the University of Minnesota’s Water Resource Center and Land and Resource Director Chris LeClair will host the event.

Chris LeClair, advises, “A majority of residents in Otter Tail County have private septic systems and wells. I encourage property owners to learn how their septic system works and how to properly use and maintain it. This knowledge will lead to a longer life of the septic system and protect drinking and surface water long into the future. We look forward to seeing you at the webinar.”

Septic systems are designed to last 20-30 years but can last longer depending on use, care, and maintenance. Being Septic Smart provides information that enables property owners to maximize their septic investment so their system can function during and beyond its design lifetime, with information that includes:

- How a septic system works.
- The purpose of the tank and drain field or mound.
- The importance of clean water’s role played by the soil underneath the soil treatment system.
- How often the tank should be pumped.
- Whether additives are a good idea.
- How to prevent winter freeze-ups.
- and much more.

The Being Septic Smart webinar is free; participants are asked to register for the event. Please register using this link: bit.ly/3sAIY2o or emailgrowth@ottertailcounty.gov for the registration link.

Chase Covers A Lot of Ground Before Stopped

It was a long chase that covered a lot of ground before a 38-year-old Moorhead woman was finally taken into custody on Tuesday evening, August 22.

The incident began in Alexandria about 8:30 p.m. on August 22. Local police tried to make a stop for a traffic violation but the driver of the Ford Mustang fled instead. The driver was able to elude Alexandria Police pursuit.

The Minnesota State Highway Patrol was alerted to the incident and they were keeping an eye out for the fleeing suspect vehicle. About two hours later the suspect Mustang was spotted speeding on Interstate 94 near Rothsay. Pursuit began again as the driver of the vehicle refused to stop and fled from the attempted stop scene.

The chase was on and the fleeing car made it nearly 30 miles before being stopped. The high speed pursuit went through northern Wilkin County and continued over into southern Clay County. Sheriff’s deputies were finally able to deploy a tire disabling device to flatten the tires. It still took a State Trooper ramming their squad car into the side of the fleeing car’s rear bumper to finally bring the



CRYSTAL GAIL BORSETH

chase to an abrupt halt.

Crystal Gail Borseth, 38, was taken into custody at the scene. She was then transferred to the Otter Tail County Jail where charges against her were processed. There will be a long list of charges that she will eventually have to answer to in court. No court date for those charges has yet been set.

A male passenger in the car with Borseth was interrogated at the scene. He was released with no charges being filed.