



Families can make fairy gardens and participate in other craft and nature-related projects at the Earth Day Fun Day held at Turner Park in McGregor on Saturday, May 10.

Celebrate Earth Day and Mother’s Day in McGregor on May 10

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For the second year, the McGregor-Marquette Chamber of Commerce is hosting Mimosas with Mom at the Backwoods Event Center in McGregor. Bring your mom—or anyone you love—to sip on mimosas starting at 9 a.m.

Pose at the photo booth, browse a variety of vendors and participate in a plant swap and sale, then sign up to win one of two gift packages before heading out to shop Main Street merchants. Fifty swag bags featuring goodies from local businesses will be given out to the first people through the door.

The event will run until



Toast to your mom—or mom-like figure—at Mimosas with Mom. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Backwoods Event Center in McGregor and include not only mimosas, but a vendor show, photo booth and plant swap and sale. Fifty swag bags will be given to the first people through the door.

Garnavillo reports string of vandalism

The city of Garnavillo is asking residents to inventory their property after a string of vandalism over the weekend.

A post on the city’s Facebook page reported “an isolated incident of an individual vandalising property in town” from Saturday evening, May 3 to the early morning hours of Sunday, May 4. All damage was mostly done to windows of vehicles and buildings, it said.

“Please check your property, including any outbuildings and parked vehicles, to verify no damage has been done to any of your property,” the post read.

The Garnavillo Police Department asks anyone with a home camera system

or doorbell cameras to check their saved videos or video feed for any suspicious activity during that time. If you find any damage to property, please contact the Clayton County Sheriff’s Office at (563)-245-2422 and file a report so the police department can make contact with you. If you have video that could be helpful, please contact police at (563) 964-2331 or email video to garnavillopd@gmail.com.

According to the post, there is no current danger to the public, and a person of interest was taken into custody in town early Sunday morning on unrelated charges.

Pattison offers some insight into how requested water would be used

By Audrey Posten

Pattison Sand Company owner Kyle Pattison acknowledges he could have done a better job of informing the public about the company’s request to dramatically increase water withdrawals and sources of water at its sand mining operation near Clayton.

According to an Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) water use permit summary report, Pattison would like to modify a permit to triple its current maximum water withdrawal quantity from 976.8 million gallons per year to 3.7 billion—a level that would rank it in the top 10 of roughly 320 quarries in the state.

The request to modify the permit, which the DNR has recommended granting, was the subject of an April 22 public hearing in Elkader, during which not one of the at least 80 people in attendance spoke in support of the water withdrawals.

Attendees criticized a lack of notice and information about the water use, and worried about the withdrawals’ potential impact on the Jordan Aquifer and local wells and municipalities. People also disagreed

with the DNR’s assessment that Pattison’s need for more water is justified, while disputing that a corporation should be allowed to pull water from a public resource without being charged for it.

Two officials from the DNR—Chad Fields, a geologist with the Iowa DNR’s Water Supply Engineering Section, and Bradley Adams, an attorney for the Water Quality Bureau—led the hearing but would not make a statement or answer questions. Additionally, no representatives from Pattison Sand Company spoke at the public hearing, although Pattison said he was in attendance.

“I was at the public meeting and should have spoken to help others better understand,” he said, when later asked by the *Times-Register* for more information on how the water will be used.

According to Pattison, the reason for the request of additional water to be pumped is to quarry limestone below the water table.

“There is a massive flow of water in this area and this much water may be needed to dewater the quarry,” he explained. “If we did not pump the water we use, it would end up in the Mississippi River in a short time. If

we did not pump, at times, our rail tracks would be under water.”

Other than water that evaporates, Pattison reported all the water the company uses goes back into the ground or is pumped into a creek that runs into the Mississippi River.

“With this, our impact on ground water and the river is very little,” in Pattison’s assessment. “From past pump tests and observations, draw down will not impact any wells, including our own. Much of the water pumped is from rain water and our own previously pumped water. This is because we are, for the most part, all internally drained.”

Pattison Sand Company employs 175 people from the area, according to Pattison.

“Being able to pump water as needed is important to all of us,” he stated.

The Iowa DNR is continuing to review Pattison Sand’s application, and a written comment period has been extended until May 27. Fields anticipates the DNR will make a decision 60 days after May 27, at most. “We will also have a public meeting of some sort to communicate the decision and what goes behind it,” he said.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day set

Clayton County Conservation is pleased to host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, June 7, from 8 to 11 a.m. at Osborne. Any Clayton County resident wishing to dispose of hazardous waste must call

Floyd, Mitchell, Chickasaw Waste Management at 1-641-982-4288 to set up an appointment.

When you call for an appointment, they will determine if you are eligible to use their services, if the materials you plan to

bring are acceptable and get an idea of the quantities for staffing and equipment reasons. This is a free program offered by a grant through the Winnebago County Solid Waste Agency. Latex paint will not be accepted.

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