

Community Calendar

April 17

Mitchell — An all-you-can-eat spaghetti feed will be at Company and Grill from 5 to 8 p.m. All proceeds will support Concert in Park that will be on on June 28

308-783-2319

Scottsbluff — McDonald's will host Breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 8 to 10 a.m., along with prizes and pictures with the Easter Bunny. An egg education

April 22

Scottsbluff — The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library will host a free online communication class from 6 to 8 p.m. Registration is required. Information: 308-630-6250

15 percent of all sales that day from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. A 50/50 raffle will also take place. Information: 308-635-2522

April 24

Schwartzkopf: Judge upholds ruling

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Deputy Attorney Jeremy Anderson, argued that a vehicle could be defined as a "structure."

In his ruling, Dobrovolsky agreed with Worden's ruling, citing the statute definition that for graffiti to be a crime, it must be affixed to a rock, tree, wall, bridge, fence, gate building or other structure, such as a building. The law does not include a vehicle or define it as falling under a subsection that cites "other tangible"

property. The statute refers to the word "structure," as applying to a building, he said, and no legal authority could be found that would support a finding that a vehicle could be said to be a structure.

Dobrovolsky also cited the legislative intent behind the statute, citing that the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee only cited a building when it introduced the bill resulting in the statute in 2009. The ruling was an advisory ruling, setting precedent to be considered

in future cases referencing the statute.

In a statement Tuesday, Morten said that he and Alysha Schwartzkopf's family were pleased with Dobrovolsky affirming Worden's ruling.

"The county judge did the right thing when he looked at the plain meaning of the statute and based his ruling on that," Morten said. "Graffiti might mean different things to different people, but under the law in Nebraska, it is quite specific and judges should not re-

write statutes.

"Also, Ms. Schwartzkopf was in no way motivated by any racial animus, so we are happy the case was dismissed," he said, reiterating Schwartzkopf's defense. At trial, Morten said Schwartzkopf did not have racial intent in writing a racial slur on classmate Isaiah Wilson's vehicle but said she had done so because of a bet.

Scotts Bluff County Attorney Doug Warner had not yet returned a call seeking comment on the ruling.

ROTARIANS: Help bring clean water to villages

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glaring needs of the people there. Thousands of people live with no electricity, little to no transportation and no clean water.

A Rotary club member, Schon said one of the six focuses of Rotary International is bringing sanitation to Third World countries. With the region's schoolchildren in mind, Schon teamed with Rotary International and Colorado State University-based Running Water International to spearhead the gathering of the necessary funds to install gravity-powered, bio-sand water filtration systems at each of the 68 Meru schools.

The five-year, \$180,000 undertaking took its first steps last year when the mission team initiated the project's first phase, bringing new filtration systems to the 24 schools deemed the most in need. Much of the region's water is delivered in jugs aboard mule carts, so Kaaga Synod Bishop Catherine Mutua of Kenya said the new filters

are a healthier, more efficient means of supplying the schools with water.

"They are not getting sick as much as they used to, because they are drinking clean water," she said. "The clean water system has blessed our children and has been of great value to teachers and to parents. It has touched the entire community."

The supply of clean water has reduced medical bills and water expenses, allowing some schools to institute lunch programs, in which school staff can prepare healthier food for students, Mutua said.

"They have been able to move on in so many ways," she said.

In addition to bringing clean water, mission efforts also focused on meeting other needs, such as food, clothing and education. Before last year's trip, the team collected donations, which they used to purchase chickens, school uniforms and other supplies as well as arrange medical clinics that ultimately served the needs of about 2,500 people.

Schon said the team used a portion of the funds to buy goats, an animal that can have an immense impact on an African family. Sixty-five dollars buys one goat, and he said a person who owns three goats can be entirely self-sufficient.

Much has been accomplished, but the work is not finished. The number of people in need is overwhelming, Schon said and the team plans on returning in July.

"We're going to assess what we've already done and make sure it's still working and then move on," he said. "We still have 44 schools to go."

Those who are interested in contributing to the July 2014 mission trip and clean water initiative can purchase and name a goat for \$65 or support the purchase of medical or school supplies.

Tax deductible donations can be made to the Trinity Methodist Church, P.O. Box 100, Scottsbluff, NE 69363 or by contacting Joe Schon at jschon2agromac.com or 308-641-5140.

PANHANDLE HUMANE SOCIETY

10am—Registration

11am—Race

12pm—Back Garden