

REFUGEES GATHERED TO SEND LIGHTS BACK HOME

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"There were a bunch of shower doors in a storeroom, and John started assembling them and creating solar capture units. John was just that kind of guy; with a brilliant mind."

From that original concept, light kits were formed, creating light boxes charged by the sun and capable of charging a cell phone. The kits are \$125 to create, and sponsoring groups join together to build them. The lights are compact and transportable. They take a full day to charge in the sun but can provide 21 hours of continual LED light or 14 days of dim night light. The design has undergone several changes and is currently on the sixth version of the original design.

As events began to unfold in Ukraine, Nonnemacher would lie awake at night wondering how he could help, and he thought of Ruston and John and the technology they created. "I wasn't sure where they were with it, but I gave them a call."

He discovered that much of their work depended on group support and assembly; post-COVID, only a little was happening, most was shut down."

Nonnemacher knew that light and power were desperately needed in Ukraine. Many areas lack power; some remote areas won't see restored power for years. "I started wondering how I could get this technology into the hands of Ukrainians, and I wondered if it would be useful and needed."

Nonnemacher connected with another friend, Joel Burkum, who runs an organization in Romania and Moldova. "When everything began happening in Ukraine, everyone in missions in Eastern Europe sort of did a pivot and shifted focus to efforts there," he said. After reaching out, two weeks later Nonnemacher was in Ukraine unloading potatoes, dog food, and diapers, doing whatever needed to be done. Nonnemacher brought ten light kits with him to see if they would work well and if there was a need.

"I found that I could have brought 150,000 kits with me, and they would all be used; so many people are living in basements with little contact with other people, so many areas with no power, the kits are providing a great need."

Of the first ten units, six were sponsored by United Church of Two Harbors, Nonnemachers home church, and four additional lights were sponsored by Ruston. "I wasn't sure I would get them on a plane, but they went through."

Once the need was identified, Nonnemacher contacted friends in Orange City about sponsoring more builds. In May, he worked with American Reformed Church and Trinity Reformed Church, and on June 19, he met with a group from First Reformed Church for another build.

Churches across the country are now working to send light to the Ukraine. First Presbyterian Church of Petoskey, Michigan is one, and connected to Orange City through its pastor and former resident Ryan Donahoe. Churches in New Jersey, Michigan, and Santa Barbara have all committed support and signed up to build light boxes. Together there are currently 220 light boxes committed.

"The beauty of this is you are sitting across a table and touching every part of the light, and the same box gets passed on to a Ukrainian family to use. The hands-on experience has a real impact," he said. Individuals assembling the lights are invited to write a note inside the box with a sharpie for recipients of the box.

"The First Reformed build had Ukrainian refugees present, and giving them this opportunity is pretty special," he added.

Masha and David Vlasenko, Alina and Eugene Vlasenko, Masha Todikash, and Viktoriia Baturina and her son Luka Baturin all attended the First Reformed Church build night, to send light back home.

Alina Vlasenko has been in Orange City since December 26. "This really gives us hope, we are blessed to be able to do something for Ukraine. It isn't safe there and we all still have



relatives there, we would do anything to help our nation." She added, "Since Kakhovka Dam was bombed and destroyed there is terrible destruction there, everything is gone. This project will help them so much, they have no electricity, and this will make it possible to send light and for people to charge a phone to contact others."

The entire group was eager to help. "All Ukrainians are very grateful for the churches in the area that have supported us, invited us here and welcomed us into this community. We are very grateful for their ministry."

Ray of Life is also shining light back into the communities they were originally created in.

"Ruston is based in a small town in West Virginia. He works closely with the foster care system there, and with the increased need in lights, he has created job training programs for youth that have aged out of the foster care system."

When Nonnemacher visited Ukraine in March, it set the groundwork for Prusa's legacy. "I found out that John Prusa passed away on March 10. On March 13, I was handing out lights that he created in Ukraine, a place that is suffering the same ideological oppression he faced. He was a brilliant man, passionate about his faith, a wonderful husband and father," Nonnemacher said. His vision and work will now continue lighting the way for Ukrainians as communities continue to work to supply more light to Ukraine.

Nonnemacher is overwhelmed at the number of parallels and people that have aligned to make this project work. "For this latest build, I needed some parts that were going to be delayed in shipping, and Ruston found out a youth group from Duluth was in Philippi and could connect them to me to help me get the parts I needed."

He is affirmed speaking to local refugees, hearing many of the same stories and the same needs. "I know, when you speak to someone stateside that has left Ukraine, the first thing they say they do every morning is contact loved ones still in Ukraine to see how they are doing." And all the connecting points along the way allowed Nonnemacher the privilege of helping the people of Ukraine stay connected to loved ones and maintain a light and power source, something so many people take for granted every day.

"My mantra has been, light brings hope, and hope keeps people alive," adding "This is something useful that we can do. The Ukrainians need this."

Nonnemacher continues connecting with local churches and communities to find others interested in sponsoring a light. For \$125, a light kit can be created, assembled, and sent to Ukraine. For an additional \$20, groups can also send a water purifying kit, WHO-approved, that can purify up to 100,000 gallons of water.

For more information about Ray of Life, or to connect with Dave, call 218-626-7222, or email dave_nonnemacher@new-horizons.ro.

District Court News

Filed in Small Claims against:

Joshua M. Kelderman and Katie J. Kelderman, Sioux Center, defendants, in favor of Accounts Management, Inc., plaintiff, in the amount of \$410.70, plus interest and court costs.

Joshua Cervantes, Hawarden, defendant, in favor of Sioux Body Shop, Inc., Sioux Center, plaintiff, in the amount of \$69.55, plus interest and court costs.

Alexa Olguin, Sioux Center, defendant, in favor of Accounts Management, Inc., plaintiff, in the amount of \$1,040.01, plus interest and court costs.

Gretchen M. Heronemus and Justin A. Heronemus, Alton, defendants, in favor of Accounts Management, Inc., plaintiff, in the amount of \$150.00, plus interest and court costs.

New Lawsuits filed:

Hiller Lumber Company, Doon, plaintiff, vs. Bakker Building Remodelers, LLC, and Jeffrey Bakker, Hull, defendants. The plaintiff prays for a money judgment against the defendant in the total amount of plaintiff's damages to be proven at trial, plus pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs, and for such other and further relief as the court deems just and equitable.

State of North Dakota by and through Student Loans of North Dakota, plaintiff, vs. Angela K. Hogg, O'Brien County, and Donna M. Sturtevant, Sioux County, defendants. The plaintiff prays for judgment against the defendants for \$40,339.81, plus interest and court costs.

Civil Cases Closed:

Citibank, N.A., plaintiff, vs. Kevin Govoni, Boyden, defendant, for the amount of \$6,738.38 and for the costs of this action.

Civil Cases Dismissed:

Consumers Supply Distributing, LLC, plaintiff, vs. Van Beek Nutrition, LLC, Orange City, defendant, dismissed without prejudice.

Compact Construction Equipment d/b/a Bobcat of Lubbock, plaintiff, vs. Meadowvale Dairy, LLC, Rock Valley, defendant, dismissed with prejudice.

Information was filed in District Court on:

James C. Holcomb, Orange City, driving while barred, driving while license denied or revoked.

Tomas Martin Martin, Sioux Center, driving while barred.

Nathan L. Hoiland, Rock Valley, possession of a controlled substance- marijuana.

Luther G. Hofmeyer, Orange City, possession of a controlled substance- marijuana.

Yunior Y. Rodriguez Arauz, Rock Valley, driving while license denied or revoked.

Terry L. Stephens, Pleasanton, Neb., OWI- first offense.

Criminal Cases Closed:

State of Iowa vs. Joshua E. Uhl, Rock Valley, defendant. The defendant now stands convicted of the crime OWI- first offense. The defendant shall serve 180 days in the Sioux County Jail with all but 48 hours suspended and with credit for time already served. The defendant shall pay a \$1,250.00 fine, crime services surcharge, and court costs. The defendant shall be placed on probation for a period of one year.

State of Iowa vs. Ashlee A. Launderville, Alton, defendant. The defendant now stands convicted of the crime possession of a controlled substance- methamphetamine, first offense. The defendant shall serve 365 days in the Sioux County Jail with all but two days suspended. The defendant shall pay a \$430.00 fine, crime services surcharge and court costs. The defendant shall be placed on probation for a period of one year.

State of Iowa vs. Bobby T. Karau, Rock Valley, defendant. The defendant pleads guilty to the amended offense Count I: indecent exposure- masturbate in public in the presence of another not a child. The defendant shall pay a civil penalty of \$430.00 and an additional civil penalty of \$260.00. The defendant shall complete a psychosexual evaluation and follow any recommended treatment/rehabilitation/monitoring as directed by said evaluation and defendant's probation officer. From the date of the defendant's release from custody, the defendant shall register as a sex offender in the state of Iowa.

State of Iowa vs. Samantha A. Mackie, Hawarden, defendant. The defendant now stands convicted of the crime of possession of methamphetamine- first offense. The defendant shall serve 365 days in the Sioux County Jail with all but 48 hours suspended and with credit for any time already served. The defendant shall pay a \$430.00 fine, crime services surcharge, and court costs. The defendant shall be placed on probation for a period of one year.

State of Iowa vs. Humberto V. Morales Morales, Orange City, defendant. The defendant now stands convicted of the crime driving while license denied or revoked. The defendant shall pay a \$1,000.00 fine, crime services surcharge, and court costs.

State of Iowa vs. Michelle Santana, Rock Valley, defendant. The defendant now stands convicted of the crime compulsory education violation- second or subsequent offense. The defendant shall pay a \$250.00 fine, crime services surcharge, and court costs.

State of Iowa vs. Manuel E. Flores Lue, Worthington, Minn., defendant. The defendant now stands convicted of the crime OWI- first offense. The defendant shall serve 180 days in the Sioux County Jail with all but 48 hours suspended and with credit for time already served. The defendant shall pay a \$1,250.00 fine, crime services surcharge, and court costs.

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PRO TIPS

ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU

Housing supply and affordability

Submitted by PAM HASKAMP
Realty Associates



June is National Homeownership Month. During National Homeownership Month, we recognize the power of owning a home when raising a family, planting roots in a community, building equity, and passing down generational wealth to continue the American Dream for generations to come. We recognize that a place to call home, regardless of owning or renting, is essential to a life of security, dignity, and hope.

Potential homebuyers are encouraged to explore incentives during National Homeownership Month.

If you have been thinking about buying a home, there might be no better time than June, which is annually recognized by such organizations as the United States Department of Agriculture, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers as National Homeownership Month.

These entities work with lending institutions, Realtors, housing counseling agencies, community organizations and many others to make individuals aware of programs that will assist them in the quest to become homeowners.

It is vitally important to team with a realtor that knows the market and has history with the community they serve. Home buying is a one stop shop. Choose a locally owned office and discuss with them your real estate needs. They will find you what you want. Realty Associates is Orange City area's only hometown owned and operated real estate company to serve Orange City area for over 34 years with nine agents combined 97 years experience.

Magistrate News

- Nancy Lopez, Hull, speeding.
- Karen G. Acosta Rosales, Hull, seatbelt.
- Carlos A. Martin Martin, Sioux Center, possession/purchase of alcohol by a minor.
- Dominic J. Konz, Rock Valley, failure to provide proof of financial liability.
- Sharon C. Tello Garcia, Boyden, failure to provide proof of financial liability.
- Daniel J. Brenneman, Sioux Center, speeding.
- Elder E. Lorenzo Mejia, Hull, no valid driver's license, failure to provide proof of financial liability, failure to stop in assured clear distance.
- Roger L. Erickson Jr., Ireton, seatbelt, failure to comply with safety regulations.
- Juan C. Ramos Ramos, Sioux Center, no valid driver's license.
- Jaxton E. Jungers, Hawarden, speeding.
- Miguel A. Robles, Sioux Center, speeding.
- Jaxon L. Rus, Rock Valley, seatbelt.
- Juan L. Cuellar Bonilla, Rock Valley, minnow nets or seines-general.
- Jose J. Claros Ramos, Rock Valley, minnow nets or seines-general.
- Roger D. Gomez Sanchez, Rock Valley, minnow nets or seines-general.
- Toby J. Driesen, Hull, no valid driver's license.
- Linda A. Carrillo, Rock Valley, speeding.
- Fernando T. Reyes, Orange City, speeding.
- Edgar S. Lopez Niz, Sioux Center, failure to provide proof of financial liability, no valid driver's license, open container.
- Jeremiah J. Hartog, Boyden, speeding.
- Caitlin F. Post, Hawarden, speeding.
- Yosbyn H. Ramirez Cax, Granville, no valid driver's license.
- Rylee B. VanNort, Hawarden, speeding.
- Graci J. Hopcroft, Alton, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor products.
- Logan B. Siebrecht, Boyden, speeding.
- Israel Gomez Ixcallao, Sioux Center, no valid drivers license.
- Carlos E. Orellana Castillo, Rock Valley, open container.
- Samantha R. Gengler, Maurice, speeding.
- Angel M. Bengard, Alton, speeding.
- Kadence, M. Breuer, Hull, speeding.
- Todd M. Bradwisch, Orange City, failure to yield upon entering highway.
- Tad D. Wells, Rock Valley, speeding.
- Karla Talavera, Rock Valley, failure to have valid license, failure to yield upon left turn, operating a non-registered vehicle.
- Jose M. Vargas Hernandez, Sioux Center, unlawful passing of a school bus- first offense.

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