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Dreaming of horses and a place to put them... Young Riders and saddle club fund-raise to build new horse barn at Aitkin Fairgrounds



Zoey Van Camp, 9 years old from Aitkin, grooming, pampering and loving on "Dassi" the day after Zoey and her family rescued her from a kill pen. Photos courtesy of Kristi VanCamp.

By ANN SCHWARTZ
When the old, failing horse barn at the Aitkin County

Fairgrounds was torn down in 2008, the plan was to raise funds and quickly replace it.

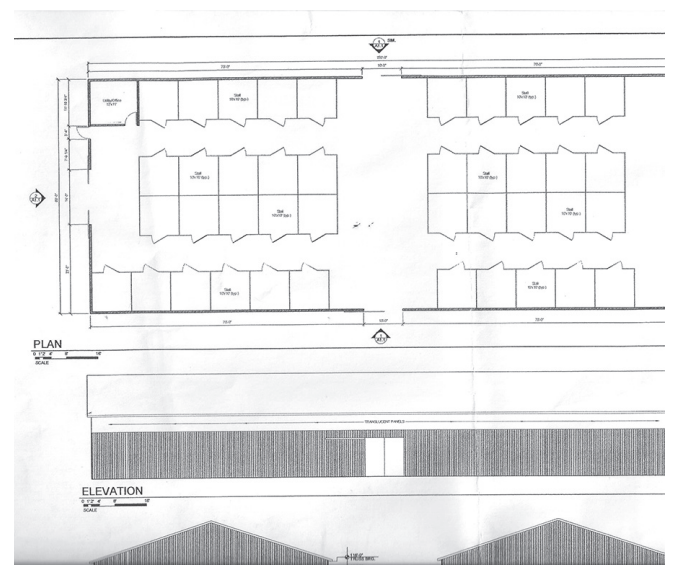
However, life doesn't always go as planned, and, facing the 2017 horse show

season, the Aitkin County 4-H Young Riders Club and the Aitkin Bit N Bridle Saddle Club still don't have a place for their horses to call home.

But they aren't giving up. Lance Baumann of Aitkin

and others are spearheading an effort to raise \$180,000 to build a new horse barn with 50 stalls -- doing much of the work themselves.

To date, through grants, **Continued on Page 7**



An architect's rendering of the proposed horse barn with 50 horse stalls at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds.

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Crosby-Ironton boys' basketball team on their way to the Class AA state



The Crosby-Ironton basketball team after they won the MSHSL Section 7AA title game at Romano Gym in Duluth on Saturday, March 18. Front: Isaac Burley, Trey Stangel, Layn Tuper, Cayden Turk, Dakota Mitchell, Sam Jordan; Back: Kyle Skeim, Jon Jacobson, Noah Gindorff, Jack Silgen, Trey Jacobs, Evan Edmundson, Will Silgen

Crosby-Ironton Rangers boys' basketball team was on their way to the Class AA state tournament on Wednesday morning to play at Williams Arena at 8 p.m. (after NewsHopper's deadline) against Breckenridge.

The Rangers achieved the honor by breaking No. 1

seed Esko's four-year section championship streak by defeating the Eskomos 52-46 in the MSHSL Section 7AA title game at Romano Gym in Duluth on Saturday, March 18.

The Rangers, who also defeated the Eskomos three weeks ago in overtime, led 28-17 at halftime thanks to 13

points from Evan Edmundson. And Trey Jacobs who finished the game as the Rangers leading scorer with 18 points.

The Eskomos trailed for most of the game, but they cut the Rangers' lead down to 4 at one point. With a minute left to go in regulation the lead was at six.



With local fire department fire trucks sirens screaming, the Crosby-Ironton Rangers boys' basketball team are given a rousing send-off as they depart Wednesday, March 22 at 9:30 a.m. for the Class AA state tournament.

Three boy athletes join the 1000 Point Club as McGregor Mercs celebrate

By ANN SCHWARTZ
McGregor Mercury's Boys'

Basketball Coach Josh Wahlin has been with this group

of young men for many years. The phy-ed teacher at McGre-

gor, he has coached basketball for nine years, all of them

in McGregor.

He started with this group when they were young and after this year nine seniors will be gone. But it was fun to post a winning record of 24 wins and 3 losses in the regular season and making it to the first round of subsection playoffs. "We met and exceeded all the goals we set at the beginning of the season," observed Wahlin.

However, when the team traveled to Pequot Lakes on March 11 to face the Verndale Pirates in a subsection playoff battle, they weren't on their game and lost 61-41.

The second-seeded Mercs just couldn't pull it off. "We didn't have a good game and their defense was very intense," said Wahlin.

There were many highlights to the winning season however, Cole Gelhar had 21 points in the Verndale game and he, Billy Staska and Carson Passer, just a junior, all made the 1000th Point Club this basketball season. "It's unusual to have one player who scored 1,000 points, let alone three," Wahlin ob-

served.

Another fun event is when WCCO TV covered the boys. "We had a lot of community support always, but when WCCO came it brought everyone out of the woodwork," laughed Wahlin. The WCCO visit brought much publicity for McGregor and still is available at <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2017/03/08/mcgregor-basketball/>.

Bob Staska, McGregor athletic director with a son on the team, had this to say: "This year's boys' basketball team was a fun team to watch. They have put in a lot of time and hard work over the past few years to make themselves better. Not only were they successful on the basketball court, but also they are excellent students in the classroom and are great representatives of their school and community."

All in all, put a big WIN in the column for the McGregor Mercury Boys' basketball season of 2016-2017 - a season that will be remembered and reminisced about for many years to come.



McGregor Mercs basketball team: Front L-R Katie Boyd, Ethan Marotz, Johnny Huspek, Kacie Boyd. Middle L-R Joey Jacobs, Carson Passer, Coach Matt Carlstrom, Zach Hawkinson, Zach Kruse. Back Row L-R Coach Anthony Pierce, Billy Staska, Sasho Javor, Joe Baker, Cole Gelhar, Head Coach Josh Wahlin. Not pictured Josh Benjamin

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

AA- Aitkin - Meeting closed Wednesday 3 pm Aitkin Alano Club

AA - Aitkin - 322 1st Ave. NE 218-927-6240 Sun. Women's Meeting 5:30 pm, Tue. Open Meeting 8 pm, Wed. Women's Meeting 6 pm, Thu. Sober Sailors Open 9 am, Friday Night Grape Vine 6:30 pm.

AA Garrison: Monday Night AA (open) 7:30 PM and Wednesday 7:30 PM at Community Alliance Church, 9475 Jefferson St.

ALANON - 322 1st Ave NE, Aitkin 6:30 pm Thursday evenings.

ALANON Garrison: Wednesday 7:30 PM at Community Alliance Church, 9475 Jefferson St.

Aitkin Friends of the Library meet 4th Tue. each month, 1 pm, Aitkin Public Library.

Aitkin Women of Today meet 2nd Mon. of month, 6:30 pm, Mille Lacs Energy Coop, info call 218-927-4558. Evening care is available and free. All are welcome!

American Legion Aitkin Lee #86 & Unit 86, meets the 2nd Thurs. of each month at 7 p.m.

Art Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Jaques Art Center in Aitkin, 1-3 pm "Ask an Attorney," Aitkin Co. Sheriff's conference room, 4th Tues. of month at noon.

Blow-Hards, a lung disease support group, meets the 4th Thu. of each month, Kanabec Hospital in Mora. Contact Carol, 320-225-3646.

Buddhism-Nichiren meetings held at the Brainerd Public Library conference room on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 1 pm. For information contact Mike Engblom-Bradley 936-525-7843.

Care N Share Community Cafe Community Meal, Wednesday Located in the fellowship hall in the Wesleyan Church on Highway #6 in Emily. Please call Sharon - 612 669-3295

Caregiver/Memory Loss Support Group. Meets the first Wed., 1-2 p.m. at Birchstreet Center, downtown Aitkin. 218-927-1383.

Circles of Support meets every Tue., 6-8 pm If you are living paycheck to paycheck and are ready for a change, Circles may be right for you, call Brandi, 800-997-5723.

Clear Lake Grange meets second Tue. each month, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting. Meet in member's homes. Info call Vern 320-684-2244 or Roxy 218-927-1383.

Clothes Closet offers free clothing to men and women in need. We are open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 8 a.m. - noon. NARROWS COMMUNITY CHURCH, 6297 Woods Bay Drive NE, Outing (follow the yellow signs). Call 320.857.0182 for more information.

Cooks Night Out - 3rd Wed of month, McGregor Comm. Ctr., 5:30 p.m., no restrictions, donations welcome.

Cuyuna Rock Gem & Mineral Club, meet 2nd Sat. each month, 2:30 at Cuyuna Range Community Center, lower level.

Dance every second Tuesday at Moose in Grand Rapids.

Dance at VFW in McGregor every 1st Monday of the month, except holidays which will be on the following Monday

Dance at Waukenabo the second and last Wednesday of the month.

Deerwood Lakes Lions meet the 2nd Monday of every month, 5:30pm social, 6:00 pm dinner/meeting, at the Heartwood Senior Living. Call 218-831-5683, if you need more information or would like to join our club. Lions affordable hearings aids available to those who qualify. For more information, call Diann Bates 218-

546-5237 or 218-838-4768 cell.

Evergreen P.A.C. ATV Club meetings 1st Thu. each month, 7 pm, Jackson Hole, Lawler, open to public.

FASD Caregiver Support Group - For caregivers of individuals with a diagnosed or suspected Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Meet with other caregivers (adults only please) for support, understanding, and networking. Meetings are 9 am the second Saturday of each month at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 418 8th Ave. NE, Brainerd. For more information, please contact Sheila York at 218-820-5903 or syork@mofas.org

Friends of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge meet 3rd Wed. each month, at 1 pm. at the Visitor Center at 36289 State Hwy. 65, McGregor 218-768-2402

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Meeting Tuesday evenings, 6:30 pm small conference room at Aitkin Library. No dues, fees or weigh ins. For more information call: 217-248-6434. www.foodaddicts.org

Food Shelf (Aitkin) Open every Wednesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm. 102 4th St. NW, Aitkin

Food Shelf (Aitkin) at First Lutheran Church open on 2nd and 4th Thurs, 9:30 am-5 pm, at 107 2nd St SE, Aitkin. Must register by 4:45 pm to be served.

Food Shelf (Aitkin) Emergency Food Shelf at St. James Catholic Church, Aitkin. Hours are Tuesday from 12 to 3 pm. To enter the food shelf go to the South side of the building, go to the 4th door and look for signs.

Food Shelf (Garrison) Open Tue. & Thu. 1-5 pm, at 9541 Madison Street; Garrison. For emergency Food Shelf, call 320-692-5399 and leave a message.

Food Shelf (Hill City) Trinity Lutheran Church 3rd Saturday 8 am - Noon or by Appt.

Food Shelf (Jacobson) Carmel Lutheran Church 60346 240th Ave, 1st and 3rd Thursday, 4 - 6 pm

Food Shelf (McGregor) 45898 Hwy 65 2nd and 4th Wednesday of Month 9 am - Noon

Garrison Fire Auxiliary meets 2nd Thu. 7:30 pm, Garrison Fire Hall.

Garrison Thrift Store, Thurs.-Fri. 10-4, Sat. 11-4.

Heart to Heart Support Group, 4th Tue. of month, 2 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.

Jacobson Seniors meets every Thu., 10-2 pm at Jacobson Comm. Ctr. Potluck at noon. Beverage provided. All are welcome. For more info., 752-1515.

Lymphedema Support Group, 3rd Mon. of month, 6:30 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.

Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club, Mon. 5:30 pm in Pequot Lakes, for more info call Brett 651-270-5648 or facebook/Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club

McGrath City Council, first Thu. of the month, 6:30 pm at fire station hall.

McGrath Senior Center meets every Mon. 1-4 pm, cards & games, all are welcome.

McGregor Community Meal served at the Community Center on Highway 65 on the Third Wednesday of each month serving from 5:30 - 6:00 pm.

McGregor TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) meets Thu., 4 pm weigh in, 4:30 meeting, Minnewawa Sportsman's Club, Goshawk St. (Co. Rd. 6). 218-768-2340 for more info.

MS Support Group, meets the 1st Thu. of the month at 7 pm, 606 NW 5th St, Brainerd, 218-824-5228.

Mystic Masonic Lodge meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm except June, July & August meet only 1st Tuesday at 7 pm over the Eye Care Center in Aitkin.

National Alliance on Mental Illness meet Fri., 2:30, Community Presbyterian Church, 703 Pokegama Ave., room 105, Grand Rapids, Call Terrence at 218-327-1347.

North Central MN Farm & Antique Assn. meet 1st Wed. of month, Blackberry Town Hall. Info: Bruce 218-752-6592.

Order of Eastern Star, Woodland Chapter 122 in Aitkin meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays September through May and 2nd Tuesday in June and 4th Tuesday in August at 7:30 PM above the Eye Care Center in Aitkin; dark July, January & February.

Operation Minnesota Nice meets 3rd Monday each month at 6 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hill City. For info call Tina Harcey at 218-697-8144. www.operationminnesotanice.com.

Praise & Worship Services, 101 S. Maddy St., McGregor, Interspersory prayer Wed 6-7 pm; Praise & Worship Services Sat. 2 pm, Sun 10 am.

Recovery Worship Service, Cascade United Methodist Church, Crosby/Deerwood, 1st Sat., 5 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Rosary is ongoing the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm at the Big Fish, Garrison, contact Jean at 218-764-2665 for more info.

RSVP Bone Builders (Osteoporosis exercise program) Tue & Thu: 10-11 First Lutheran Church, Aitkin; 11:30-12:30 Blackrock Terrace, Aitkin; 12:45-1:45 Journey North Church, Aitkin; Wed: 10-11 Malmo Evangelical Free Church, Malmo & Fri: 10-11 Bethesda Lutheran Church, Malmo. Free of charge. Info call 218-927-1383.

Second Tuesday Card Party, Deerwood American Legion. Open to public, 1 pm social, card playing 1:30-3:30 pm. Cost \$3 per person. Refreshments.

Senior Dance at Deerwood Legion, 1-4 pm, 1st and 3rd Fri. each month.

TOPS Aitkin (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Every Tues at East Entrance, First Lutheran Church, 101 2nd St SE, Aitkin Weigh in at 4:30pm and meeting at 5pm

TOPS Deerwood (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Mondays 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Deerwood Legion, 23659 Forest Rd, Deerwood. For more information, please contact Lucy Bartz 218-839-2218 or Gwenn Smith 218-246-2180.

TOPS Ironton (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meet Monday, 4 pm weigh-in, 4:30 pm meeting at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crosby. Call Mabel Semler 218-546-6523 for meeting location information.

Weight Watchers meets every Tuesday at 5:45 pm at the Sno-Serpents building in Deerwood at 24197 Mohs St (next to the Deer Stand restaurant). Weigh in begins at 5:15 pm. For more information, call 218-820-9725.

White Pine Riders ATV Club meet 2nd Sat. each month (Feb. - Oct.) at McGrath Fire Hall, 10 am, open to public.

March

24th - Crofft Pub & Grub Karaoke Contest Grand Finale, Crosby, 8 pm

25th- FORTY CLUB BANQUET CENTER'S WEDDING EXPO AND BRIDAL SHOW 2017 10am -3:30 pm \$5 advance purchase and \$6 day of event, Bridal Fashion Show at noon

26th - Sloppy Joe Fundraiser 1-5 pm at the Woodtick Inn, Cuyuna. Silent auction, raffle by St. John's Lutheran Church of Cedarbrook for a mission trip.

28th - Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge Job Fair, 11 am - 7 pm in the Main Lodge. Hiring for all positions for the 2017 season. For more information contact 218-678-4640

29th - Cuyuna Lakes Ministerial Association Lenten Worship and Soup Lunch, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Crosby, noon.

31st - George Winston Solo Concert in the Chalberg Theatre on the Brainerd campus of Central Lakes College, 7:30 pm . Tickets for the George Winston concert are available through the CLC Theatre Box Office at (218) 855-8199, or online at www.clcmn.edu/arts.

31st - Heartland Symphony Orchestra 40th anniversary special. More details at 218-568-9200.

April

5th - Cuyuna Lakes Ministerial Association Lenten Worship and Soup Lunch, Life Spring Church of Crosby hosting at Heartwood Senior Living Community, Crosby, noon.

5th - Hallett Community Center Annual Chili Cook-Off, Crosby, 11am - 1 pm \$4 adults, \$2 kids.

6th - C-1 Junior High Science Fair ,5 p.m.

7th - Sons of Norway Tusenvann Lodge #1-659 meeting 6:30 pm at the IREC Bldg in Isle. Kaldtbord served and the program will be local author Candice Simar speaking on her latest book "Shelter Belts." She will also be signing them. Bring a friend or neighbor. Fun will be had by all! Questions, call Candice at 1-320-983-2886 or Gary at 1-218-927-6557.

28th & 29th - "The WhiteSidewalls" A 50's Rock'n Roll Revue at 40 Club Convention Center, Aitkin \$15, doors open at 5 pm, show at 6 pm

May

4 & 5- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crosby, Rummage and Bake Sale.

21st - Aitkin Habitat for Humanity "Toolin' Tour," a six-hour motorcycle ride through Aitkin County, noon to 6 pm will raise funds for the Aitkin Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Proceeds will help construct a new home in Aitkin. The Ride for Habitat will leave from the historic Butler Building in Downtown Aitkin (301 Minnesota Avenue North) and end at the Aitkin American Legion Post 86 (20 1st Avenue NE) with food, music, a silent auction and fun prizes. To register for the ride or to inquire about becoming a sponsor for the event, call 218-927-5656 or email annschwartz@habitatforhumanityaitkincounty.org.

June

3 - "Hephzibeth, Woman of Iron" by Lauren Nickisch. More details at 218-568-9200.

July

12-14 and 18-20 - Pequot Lakes Community Theater production of the musical "Legally Blonde" sponsored by Zorbaz. More details at 218-568-9200.

Send the NEWSHOPPER Your Photos and Events!

Got an interesting photo and story to share?



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Wed., April 12 Chicken Wings
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Fri., April 14 Walleye Dinner
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Woman of the Moose Thurs., April 6 & 20 (1st & 3rd Thursdays) Homemade Pizza
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OBITUARIES

ANN LINDBERG



Ann E. Lindberg, 81, of McGregor died Sunday, March 19, 2017 at Essentia St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth.

Funeral service will be at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will be in Rabbit Lake Cemetery.

She was born May 4, 1935 in McGrath to Olaf J. and Frances L. (Isley) Otterson. She attended grade school in Wealthwood and graduated from Superior Central High School in Superior, WI. Ann married the love of her life, John Lindberg, on October 28, 1979 at the Blackberry Church in Blackberry near Grand Rapids. She worked beside her husband at Lindberg Pharmacy in McGregor for 23

years, before retiring in November of 2001. She enjoyed spending time with her family and occasional visits with her children at Mille Lacs Lake in the summer. She was a member of the Aitkin Seventh Day Adventist Church. She was everybody's friend and loved by all who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, John "Jack" Lindberg, McGregor; sons and daughters-in-law: Steve and Jenny La Flamme, Apple Valley; Bill La Flamme, McGregor; Bob and Heidi La Flamme, Superior, WI; daughters and sons-in-law: Linda and Mike Lundgren, Circle Pines; Debbie Hagen, McGregor; and Laura and Alan LePage, Blaine; numerous grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home of Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to sign the online guest register.

BETTY QUADERER



Betty Jane Quaderer, 89, of McGregor died Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at her home near McGregor.

Services will be held at the East Lake Ceremonial Building on Monday, March 20, 2017 starting at 10 a.m. with Spiritual Leader Larry "Amik" Smallwood officiating. A private interment will take place at a later date.

She was born May 10, 1927 in Cloquet to Tom and Emma (Smith) Benjamin. She attended the Flandreau Native American School where she graduated from High School. She married Amos Quaderer in 1955. They lived in Minneapolis where she worked and raised her family. Upon her retirement in 1989 she

moved to the McGregor area and has lived here since. She had a passion for fishing. She loved the outdoors and also spending time with her family.

She is survived by children: Debra Knutson, Gloria (Terry) Lowrie, Linda Quaderer, Daryl Quaderer, Jill Valentino (Faron Jackson), and Louis Quaderer. Also surviving are numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Pamela; sons: Danny and Rodney; sisters: Jessie, Alice, Maggie and brothers: Joe, Frank, and Jerry.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home in McGregor. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to sign the online guest register.

VIVIAN ANDERSON

Vivian Anderson, 96, of Aitkin, died Sunday, March 29, 2017 at the Aitkin Health Services in Aitkin.

Arrangements are pending with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin.

Cuyuna Range Community Band looking for area musicians

The Cuyuna Range Community Band is seeking musicians to join them for their upcoming 2017 summer season.

The CRCB is a volunteer concert band, which performs at area community celebrations and venues throughout the summer months including

Emily Day, Aitkin Riverboat Days, Crosby in the Park, Deerwood Summer Fest, and the Crow Wing County Fair to name just a few.

Band membership is open to musicians 17 years of age and older. Rehearsals are held weekly on Tuesday evenings

at the Aitkin Growth Center, beginning in April 20. In some instances, depending on availability, an instrument could be provided.

For more information contact Rich at 320-630-0149 and leave message or e-mail rich@pioneerdmach.com

Future of Crosby's library uncertain

A vote to include the Jesse F. Hallett Memorial library in Crosby to the Kitchigami Regional Library System failed on Thursday, March 17. The vote tally was a 4-4 tie vote with one member abstaining.

If the KRLS board had accepted JFHML in to the system, the Brainerd Public Library would have lost \$64,000 from their budget to the newly acquired library.

The city of Crosby receives

\$100,000 from a gift from the Hallett Charitable Trusts. Additional funding from Crow Wing County or the city of Crosby to overcome the shortfall is needed.

Crow Wing contributes more than \$509,000 in tax dollars each year to KRLS, the minimum contribution required by state law.

Crow Wing County Board Chairman Doug Houge informed the KRLS board the

county would not increase its contribution.

Except for Crosby, residents in Crow Wing County are eligible for all KRLS amenities and services. Unless they purchase a library card, Crosby residents are excluded from KRLS use, because they do not contribute to the county's library fund. Crosby's residents instead pay city taxes that support the JFHML, which is available for use by anyone in the state.

READER RIBBETS

Please be a responsible pet owner

I live in Fairfield Township on Darsnek Road. We enjoy seeing the wildlife, particularly in winter when the world is cold and stark.

While chasing deer and turkeys is probably fun for a big dog, I doubt that all the animals involved feel the same way. This dog is big, appears strong and healthy and can probably jump a four foot tall chain link fence.

The deer and turkeys are particularly vulnerable now, coming out of winter, and getting ready to have their families. The adults should not be stressed and the young can easily be caught and destroyed.

Dogs can bring great comfort



Jack Darsnek said, "Is this your dog or one of your friends' dog? This big dog has been in my yard many times over the winter, signing his name as dogs do. Several days ago he chased several deer from my yard and last night about 5:30 p.m. [he] raced through my yard, chasing two wild turkeys that were feeding in front of my house."

and joy to a family, but they must be controlled. It is the owner's responsibility to not allow a dog to roam freely through the neighborhood. Often times, dog owners don't realize that their dog is running loose and

trespassing. We have chosen not to have a dog (or cat) because of this responsibility and really don't want to share your dog's attention.

Over the years, I have had several dogs on my property—some are brought out to exercise by people who turn their dogs loose and follow them down the road in their cars. In every case, it looks like the owners need the exercise more than the dogs. Some are abandoned or stray or runaway. Please keep your dog on your property and under your control, its not fair to either the dog (or cat) or neighbor to have to put up with an unwelcome and uninvited guest.

Jack Darsnek
Fairfield Township
Crow Wing County

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Shamrock sales help fill Garrison food shelves



Super America employees: manager Dave Stiner, Liz Bohler, Sandy Weston and Barb Krueger

The Garrison Lions are celebrating their sixth year of shamrock sales for the Garrison food shelf.

March is Minnesota FoodShare month. All donations to the food shelf will be matched by the Minnesota FoodShare's March campaign. The shamrocks are being sold at the Garrison Super

America station, the Garrison Family Foods, and by Lion teams attending meat raffles at the VFW, local establishments and large gatherings. The grand prize for the top individual sales is two chicken dinners at the Garrison VFW. The VFW donated the dinners.



Family Foods employees: Mindy Espeseth and Diane Pearson

Young Riders and saddle club fund-raise to build new horse barn at Aitkin Fairgrounds | Continued from Page 1



Zoey Van Camp, 9 years old, from Aitkin, competing in her very first horse show with her horse Ranger in the Jumping Figure 8 event. She was all smiles after that jump. Photos courtesy of Kristi VanCamp.

teers and materials and is working with Cedarbrook Lumber and Hometown Lumber on the plans.

Outside, there is an existing horse arena with bleachers to the north at the fairgrounds. The covered cattle-showing area and sheep and goat barns will be relocated to the south side of the cattle barn when the horse barn project starts taking shape.

"Now, you have to truck your horse home every night or tie them up at the fairgrounds – it's not secure and not an ideal situation," said Baumann in an interview.

The horse show and county fair season is busy now and Baumann said plans are to incorporate more shows, expanding into Western Heritage and a 4-H Buckle Series.

"We have 70 members in our Young Riders Club, of which about 50 have their own horses and others use a friend's or relative's horse," noted Baumann. "We have a really strong horse culture in the area. We really want to see this succeed – to support our kids and our community."

The young people range in age from first to 12th grade. Anyone attending the Sports and Commerce Show in Aitkin likely saw the Young Riders going around asking for donations, sporting their jeans, cowboy boots, cowboy hats and shiny belt buckles.

You may send donations for the new horse barn to the: Aitkin County Fair Foundation, PO Box 181, Aitkin MN 56431.

For more information, to volunteer or join the saddle clubs, contact Lance Baumann at 218-340-6893.



Auli Van Camp, 4 years old from Aitkin, and her pony, Lightning, showing off their trophy they earned in the lead line classes at one of the summer horse shows.

donations and set-aside reserve funds held by various agencies, they have \$30,000 in the bank toward their goal. If they reach \$55,000 or more raised this summer they can start by building the shell.

Baumann said the plan is to build the horse barn in

stages, starting with the shell. The metal pole-building barn will have a grass floor, a small indoor arena for shows and 50 portable horse stalls. It will measure 60 by 150-feet with 16-ft sidewalls. Baumann plans to build the whole thing with local contractors, volun-

teers and local contractors, volunteers and local contractors, volun-

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