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OUR VIEW

FOOD HUB IS A WIN-WIN FOR ALL



Thumbs up to the Minnesota Valley Action Council's efforts at promoting the purchase and use of locally grown foods.

MVAC this week received a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its new food hub.

The food hub is designed to pair local growers of produce with area schools. Currently, Gustavus Adolphus College buys 800 to 1,000 pounds of produce and about 120 dozen eggs from the food hub each week. But other schools that would like to take part haven't been able to because they lack the processing equipment to slice, dice or otherwise prepare large amounts of produce.

MVAC plans to use its grant to buy processing equipment and inventory tracking software for the hub to allow more schools to buy the local produce and eggs.

The hub is a perfect program to provide multiple benefits. It reduces transportation and its related environmental costs, it provides a larger market for local small-farm producers and it provides kids with fresher food with better nutritional value.

Minnetonka partiers leave mess



Thumbs down to those Lake Minnetonka Big Island partiers who leave a slough of trash behind in one of Minnesota's most beautiful lakes.

A report on KSTP TV this week showed a volunteer group pulling dozens of beer cans and other trash from the sandy beach of the island that has become a party spot for Minnetonka boaters. This has been an annual occurrence.

Volunteers from the Lake Minnetonka Association in the most recent effort to clean the beach removed 15, 55-gallon drums of cans and bottles and assorted debris.

The report noted there was apparently no government agency responsible for the cleanup. Unfortunately the report did not raise the point that the partiers, not volunteers, not the government, should clean up their mess. Water patrols could also help by monitoring these party situations and issuing hefty fines to the party pigs who indiscriminately pollute our lakes.

Editorial Board

Waseca vets fundraiser success



A huge thank you to all who came out to support and honor two Waseca heroes Sept. 6.

It's sure heartwarming to see a community come together for a common good and it's even more heartwarming to see so many county employees working the event, donating, attending and enjoying the benefit.

It sure makes you proud to be a part of a wonderful community that cares for and helps others in need.

I've been asked a number of times about the success of the Waseca Warrior Benefit.

The chairman of the committee, Adam Leach, recently announced the benefit was a great success and raised over \$100,000 for the trust fund for uncovered medical needs and other short-term and long-term needs that arise for Waseca's wounded warrior and hero, Tom Block.

The success of this benefit was through supporters contributions of time, services, donation, sponsorship talents and/or attendance at the event.

Chief Deputy Trevor Kanewischer

Waseca County Sheriff's Office

Boy in Blue effort tops



A heartfelt thanks to the men and women restoring the Boy in Blue Civil War memorial in Mankato's historic Lincoln Park.

I returned to my hometown Sept. 27, gathering with two cousins at Glenwood Cemetery, Lincoln Park and American Legion Post 11. The Boys in Blue Civil War Cemetery

Walk was informative, humorous and sad. For my cousins and I, it was a chance to visit the grave of our ancestor, John J. Mottweiler, a veteran of Stones River and other battles.

Community engagement of this type — memorializing something that occurred 150 years ago — is a labor of civic love. I salute the people and businesses that have contributed to the Boy in Blue Memorial Project and I encourage others to contribute cash, sponsor paver stones and donate services.

Jeff Wood
St. Cloud

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