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A new chapter in history

After 17 years of planning, county historical society will open Heritage Center

Matt DeBow
Stillwater Gazette

The Washington County Historical Society is putting the finishing touches on its Heritage Center, located at 1862 S. Greeley St. in Stillwater and will open to the public with a free grand opening celebration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 16.

During the festivities there will be axe throwing and log cutting outside. Inside there will be music by Accent, a string duet consisting of Stillwater natives Travis Peterson (violin) and Jess Peterson (viola). An indigenous group will perform drums and dances from noon until 2 p.m.

In addition, playing that day will be husband and wife duo Curtis & Loretta performing

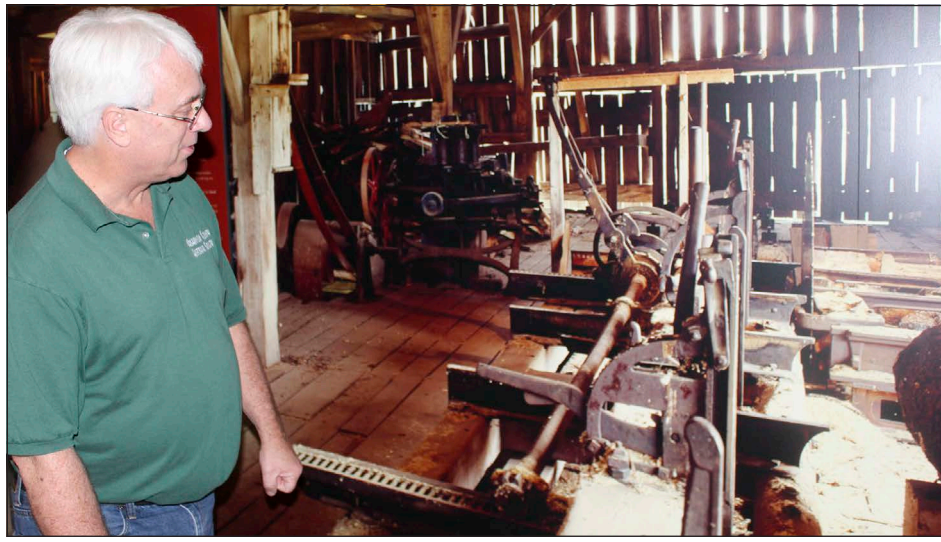


Photo by Matt DeBow

WCCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson looks at a photo of a mill wallpapered on the wall in the "From the Woods to the World" exhibit. The display shows how the lumber industry in the St. Croix Valley affected the rest of the world.

traditional songs from America and the British Isles, as well as their own originals while dressed in 1800s period costumes.

The exhibits in the new center were designed, built and installed by three groups in the region: Split Rock Studios, Bluestem Heritage Group, and Museology have designed the exhibits that tell stories of the rich history of Minnesota's first county. In the exhibits, there will

be hands-on sections, as well as interactive and video/audio components that enhance the visitor's experiences.

The center's keynote exhibit "From the Woods to the World" will feature how logging impacted Stillwater, but also show how timber harvesting in the St. Croix Valley influenced the world, WCCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson said.

"Literally, there was a lumber mill from Stillwa-

ter advertising in Germany for workers," Peterson said.

The society plans on having the lumber exhibit in the space for at least 20 years. The lumber exhibit has videos showing how logging is still celebrated in the St. Croix Valley with clips from events such as Lumberjack Days.

The Heritage Center will include three large galleries, a storage area,

WCCHS see page 3

New walking trail proposed for East Viking Boulevard

Project scheduled for next year

Hannah Davis
News Editor

A new walking trail is likely to be included in the East Viking Boulevard road improvements scheduled for next year. At issue is the need for greater pedestrian facilities through town and into the natural area east of town, said City Engineer Mark Erichson.

Erichson proposed three options for the road from Fenwick Avenue to Glen Oak Drive to the Wyoming council during its Oct. 5 meeting, ultimately recommending a plan to eliminate street parking on one side and utilizing that space to implement a trail system that could eventually extend up to Polaris.

The first option was to reconstruct the street at its existing width, main-

taining parking on both sides of the roadway and the existing sidewalks. An earlier option included eliminating street parking altogether for trails on both sides, but during a public informational meeting held in July, Erichson said residents were initially concerned with that proposal.

Thus Erichson landed on the proposal to eliminate street parking on the north side, given most street parking would be needed on the south side of the road. That would leave the north side to create a new trail with a "boulevard," a grassy area between the road and trail, for safety. At this point, a 5-foot boulevard width would be the most likely.

"We don't want to remove every tree in this corridor to put the trail as far away as we can," Erich-

East Viking see page 3

Anoka County to continue flat property tax levy

Emilee Wentland
ABC Newspapers

For the second year in a row, Anoka County's levy is expected to stay the same.

The County Board approved a \$141.9 million preliminary property tax levy Sept. 28. The board also approved a \$1.75 million public safety property tax levy — also the same as last year.

"It's not every year, necessarily, we get to present a flat levy," Commissioner Matt Look said. "Sometimes there are state shifts or spending that needs to occur that might not allow us to do that."

Commissioner Scott Schulte said even though the levy has remained the same for two consecutive years, it can't stay that way forever because the cost of utilities and labor continues to rise and demand for services has gone up.

"This may be a year we can do a 0.0 [% increase], but we can't count on it ev-

Anoka County see page 3

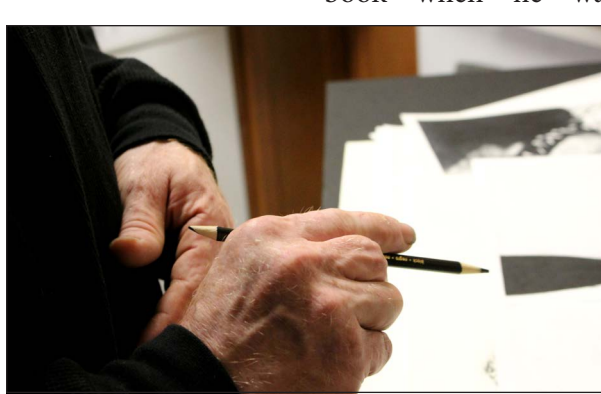
Local artist heads display at Legion

Phillip Hinton is self-taught

Natalie Ryder
Community Editor

"I went to a party one time, and I saw a guy with a notebook full of art. I said 'I've got to be able to do that: I've got to be able to do that someday,'" Phillip Hinton, a Forest Lake artist said. "And I believe I have. I believe I have gotten there."

"There," to him, is reaching the caliber of artistic skill which he will showcase at his upcoming show at the Forest Lake American Legion.



Since Hinton can only use pencils when they fit into his hand, he'll sometimes tape the ends together to get more use out of them.



Photos by Natalie Ryder

Phillip Hinton, a Forest Lake artist, is hosting an art exhibition at the Forest Lake American Legion in late October.

Legion.

Hinton saw the drawings in the notebook when he was

about 13 years old. However, he said he'd been creating art since his parents put crayons in his hands when he was a child. Hinton's father and grandpa were big influences on his artistic career, since they were both artists.

"My dad and my grandpa, they've both passed away now. I love them, and they helped me really get my mind focused on art," said Hinton, whose art training didn't go be-

yond art classes he took in high school, which he excelled in.

Hinton pulls out his metal pencil case that contains several half-used Prismacolor black colored pencils, Office Depot No. 2 pencils, along with erasers and the cloth he uses to prevent smudging. The only thing missing is his pencil sharpener.

His current style is crisp pencil portraits, which has been his style for about five years, al-

lowing him to streamline his process. Depending on the size of the drawing, it'll take Hinton four days and a few black colored pencils — or more, depending on the amount of black space in the photo — to complete a piece.

"I realized that I could pull off all the shading with one pencil, ... and it just became, I became more particular with not smearing and smudging and just keeping it as white as possible," Hinton said.

"Some of my earlier stuff, ... I would drag my hand a little bit; you could see I erased more," Hinton said.

Hinton's erasing process is more strenuous than the normal "eraser-to-paper" method because he aims for a pristine, clean background.

"When I do [erase], I really have to sink into it. I mean, I sometimes will even bring in a

Hinton see page 2



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