

Application deadline nears for Operation Round Up

■ The Federated Rural Electric program has distributed more than \$775,000 to local groups.

Area organizations are reminded not to miss out on the next round of Operation Round Up.

The next deadline is Feb. 12 for Operation Round Up funds from Federated Rural Electric's Trust Board.

Operation Round Up involves about 80% of Federated's members in Jackson and Martin counties.

They allow their monthly electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar amount. The "rounded up" change goes into a trust fund. An independent Trust Board, which consists of Federated members, evaluates local funding requests and distributes the funds.

The application form can be downloaded from Federated's website: www.federatedrea.coop.

You can also call Federated at 507-847-3520 or 1-800-321-3520. Ask for Andrea to request an application, or e-mail: info@federatedrea.coop.

Since 1995 Federated's Trust Board has distributed more than \$775,000 to local organizations including senior dining, hospice, fire/ambulance departments and as high school scholarships.

Federated members with high school seniors can apply for the Federated Operation Round Up scholarships. The Trust Board authorized nine \$700 scholarships with one for each of the six Federated districts and three for district At-Large where applicants have a second chance. The inserts will go out with the Feb. 4 electric bills. The application can be found on Federated's website or with school counselors starting Feb. 6. Scholarship applications must be returned by April 1.

Organizations that serve Federated members in Jackson or Martin counties can request funds for projects involving: community service, community leadership programs, disaster relief, environmental programs, youth education or emergency-energy assistance.

EAGLE/Students work in various departments

FROM PAGE 4

process. Johnson handled most of that, which also included establishing teams that would work in various areas of EPM. Of course, Johnson also explained how the class worked and gave an overview to class members about what each area of work would entail.

He says they were fortunate in that some of the students in the class already had experience working with some equipment in connection with real jobs they did in the community during the summer.

"Conner Redman is the lead on our woods and construction team. He worked for Greg Hanefeld this summer and I know there are other kids who had summer jobs that added to their experience in this class and have been great assets for us," Johnson says.

Once students were hired and teams were established, Johnson gave his students some practice items to create, mostly to become familiar with the equipment with which they would be working.

All but team members in the wood router department just learn how the equipment in their department works. Wood router students, however, are learning how equipment works in other areas, since the wood router hadn't been put into operation yet in mid-December.

The departments

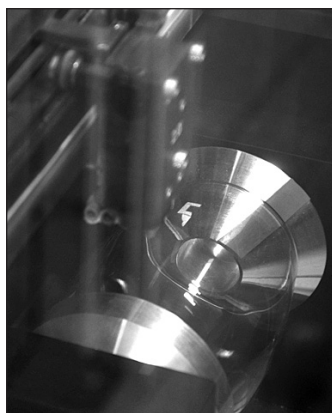
Students applied to be a team lead, or a team member. Those teams include: business, laser engraving, plasma cutting, wood routing, woods, metals and paint. Students hired in each of the various departments received more in-depth training on how the equipment for their department works.

"It took us a couple of weeks to get used to it, but I'm pretty good with it now," said Ethan Brockman, who works in the laser engraver department. He has been putting the laser engraver through its paces since mid-November. "It's a lot of fun.



DAVE FJELD 1/20 EaglePath 2

ETHAN BROCKMAN WATCHES the laser engraver go to work on a glass cup. The laser engraver is programmed through a networked computer.



1/20 EaglePath 5

A CLOSE-UP of the laser engraver at work. The first edge of the Window "W" has been engraved.



1/20 EaglePath 11

A LOOK AT the finished product, which took about four minutes to engrave.

It's better than any other class that I would have had this year."

The laser engraver and plasma cutter have been the most-used new equipment during EPM's first year. However, the paint booth also is getting plenty of use as well.

But everything starts in the business department.

"I take care of invoicing to customers, or communication with customers as to what type of products they want," says Letcher, who plans to pursue a career in business marketing in college next year. "We work hand-in-hand with the business teacher and Val (Halter) in the office to make sure that our numbers

for money are correct."

The EPM business team works with QuickBooks software, which allows them to send out estimates, get quotes and keep track of expenses.

In fact, to get this business up and running, EPM applied for a loan from the school, through the administration. Because, to date, there has only been a soft rollout of their products, they are only starting to begin to pay off their loan with plans to make this business venture self-sustaining.

Letcher reports, "our numbers have been really good. We've done a lot of orders for the staff and the admin has come down and

had us do cups for the sponsors of the school and for staff for Christmas. They're super supportive of the program."

Producing products

The work flow follows closely that of a manufacturing company. For instance, if a team needs a particular material, they look up that material online, send the information to Letcher and she orders the products through Halter in the office.

The end result, of course, is product for sale — and EPM has produced enough that they opened for business to the public recently.

EPM had a soft opening in December, marketing the products they've made to school staff, prior to making them available to the public.

"It hasn't been that long that we've been producing products, but there's been a lot of lead-up," Letcher said in December.

The rollout to staff included giving tours, allowing them to see the products they've already produced and then giving them the opportunity to order products, which includes custom orders.

"Something that's really cool about the plasma cutter and the laser engraver is that you can make it so personalized," Letcher says, pointing to a photo that was laser engraved into wood. You can take a picture, logo or anything like that and put it on to the product. It turns out so cool and personalized."

The products students make for sale vary, but most include some variation of the Window Eagle logo.

The list of metal items includes fire pits (several different styles), a metal Eagle basketball logo, a tattered flag with the Pledge of Allegiance written on the stripes, house number signs, snowflake and evergreen tree yard decorations, a sculpture made from horseshoes, hitch covers and a Cottonwood tree resembling the Window Country Club logo.

Metals team members are frugal when making items using the plasma cutter. They use no more than what's needed for a metal item, being conscious to get the most bang for their

buck from the metal they purchase.

Letcher says one of the most popular items students are making are fire pits with detachable sides with a sports logo on each panel.

Wood items, most of which have been laser engraved with the Window Eagle logo, include ornaments, key chain tags, wooden spoons and cutting boards, coaster sets made from the original Gold Gym bleachers, tables, lids for glass jars and pictures. All of the post-season awards for Window sports teams will be completed by EPM.

The list doesn't stop there.

The laser engraver can etch logos into glass items. Students have etched the Eagle logo on tumblers, drinking glasses, vases and bowls.

Custom orders

Students also have done custom work for select customers on a limited basis as they ramp up to offering their services to the public.

For instance, before Christmas, a customer brought in a hand-drawn sign for which he wanted a metal sign.

Although EPM had no idea what material the sign was to be made from, they put it into the software program for the plasma cutter and designed the drawing. The team spent over 10 hours designing and cutting the sign.

"It turned out very cool," Letcher says.

Real-world application

"This class provides a lot of real-life scenarios that you can't get in many other classes," Letcher continues. "We're learning how to overcome adversity and see what it's really like working in these kinds of conditions."

"That's the fun part about this class," Johnson adds. "They get to troubleshoot and problem-solve different situations that happen. If something goes wrong, I'm going to make them search on the internet for the part to fix it, or call into the company to troubleshoot it with them."

"I want this class to be as real-world as possible where these kids are facing challenges that they may face someday in the real world."

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Building & Zoning Office
City Hall, 444 9th Street
P.O. Box 38
Windom, MN 56101
Phone: 507-831-6125
CITY OF WINDOM
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE
CONDITIONAL USE
PERMIT**

Pursuant to City of Windom, City Code Sections 152.525-152.530 and 152.545-152.551, notice is hereby given that the Applicant, KWIK

TRIP, INC., of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and Applicant/Owner, COUNTRY PRIDE SERVICES COOPERATIVE, of Bingham Lake, Minnesota, have submitted a zoning application requesting a conditional use permit to allow construction of a new gas/service station and car wash on property located in a B-2 ("Highway Business") District (City Code Sections 152.110-152.115). The application, map of the area, and information concerning the proposed project are on

file in the Building & Zoning Office in City Hall and may be reviewed prior to the Public Hearing.

A public hearing to consider this application will be held before the Planning Commission in the **City Council Chambers at City Hall, 444 9th Street, Windom, MN 56101 on the 9th day of February, 2021, at 7:05 p.m.**

Prior to the public hearing, members of the public may contact the Building & Zoning Office in person or by phone

at 507-832-8660 or 507-832-8659 or by e-mail at andrew.spielman@windommn.com to obtain information concerning the application.

Due to the health pandemic and orders limiting the number of attendees at public meetings, the meeting and public hearing will also be conducted by electronic means. If you wish to monitor or participate in the public hearing by telephone or Zoom, please contact the Building & Zoning Office for

instructions. Members of the public accessing the meeting will be asked to mute their phones' microphones until the allotted time for public comments.

Legally described as follows: Tracts in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE ¼ NW ¼) and Northeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter (NE ¼ SW ¼) of Section 36, Township 105 North, Range 36 West in the City of Windom, Cottonwood County, Minnesota. [Property

consists of approx. 6.52 acres (Beacon) situated northeast of intersection of South Highway 71/Highway 60 and west of railroad r-o-w.) (*Brief Description*)

Parcel ID #: 25-036-0400
Address of the Property:
251 First Avenue,
Windom, MN 56101
By Order of the
City of Windom
Andrew W. Spielman,
Zoning Administrator
(550—Jan. 27, 2021)

official proceedings of

COTTONWOOD COUNTY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
January 5, 2021
Cottonwood County
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center in Windom, MN. Present in person or via teleconference for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Kevin Stevens, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Drew Hage, Gale Bondhus, Kay Gross, Nick Klisch, Jed Rhubee, Alex Schultz, Jerry Bauer, and Joel Alvstad.

Routine Items—approved by unanimous roll call or regular vote: to elect Commissioner Appel as Board Chair for 2021; to elect Commissioner Gravley as Vice-Chair for 2021; to approve the agenda; to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 regular meeting; to approve January warrants in the amount of \$46,910.60 and broken down as follows: County Revenue Fund — \$41,832.32, County

Building Fund — \$5,078.28, adjournment.

Personnel Items — approved by unanimous roll call or regular vote: to approve the Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer job description as presented and to begin posting internally and advertising simultaneously; to set 2021 seasonal wages; to accept the commissioner assignments for 2021 as amended; to set meal rates for 2021.

Additional Action Items — approved by unanimous roll call or regular vote: to adopt resolution 21-01-05 "Resolution to Adopt and Implement the Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan;" to approve the Addendum to the Legal Services Contract for guardianship work between Cottonwood County and Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services; to discontinue the Max Galaxy parks reservation system; to approve final payment to Knife River Corporation in the amount of \$3,188.40 for Projects 017-613-046, 017-626-003, 017-652-001, and 017-653-001; to approve final payment to Riley Brothers Construction in

the amount of \$298,831.70 for Project 017-599-102; to adopt resolution 21-01-05B "Exhibit E for Grant Agreement to State Transportation Fund Local Road Improvement Program Grant Terms and Conditions SP 017-602-027;" to adopt resolution 21-01-05C "Resolution of Sponsorship from Supporting Agency for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Grant Application" pending an agreement with Great Bend Township; to approve the Conditional Use Permit from Schwartz Farms to expand the hog site in Section 2 of Carson Township with conditions; to approve the Conditional Use Permit from Schwartz Farms to expand the hog site in Section 22 of Delton Township with conditions; that the updated Environmental Assessment Worksheet has sufficient documentation and will not require an Environmental Impact Statement; to declare that the County offices were officially closed at noon on December 23, 2020, due to the inclement weather conditions and in accordance with County Policy No. 420; to adopt resolution 21-01-05A

"Resolution to Use Alternative Method to Disseminate Bids and Requests; to approve the 2021 Fees Charged by County Offices as presented; to allow a one-time, half-price tipping fee of \$26.67/ton plus \$6.67/ton surcharge plus \$4.53 waste tax billed to the cities in Cottonwood County for the use of a city wide clean up in 2021 and allow the Solid Waste Department to pick up mattresses at the city wide events at a charge of \$2 per piece; to set the 2021 meeting dates for the 1st&3rd Tuesday of each month as presented with the exception of December 8; that all meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the exception of June 15—Board of Equalization and December 8—Budget Discussion Meeting (TNT) which will be afternoon meetings; and that 12 additional work sessions can be scheduled with no per diems; to pay Auditor warrants with regular and customary payments for 2021; to authorize the County Auditor/Treasurer and deputies to make electronic transfers; to re-designate official Cottonwood County Depositories; to re-designate official Cot-

tonwood County Brokers; to approve *Cottonwood County Citizen* as the official county newspaper for 2021; to set the 2021 Contingency Fund for the County Attorney's Office at \$3,000; to set the per diem for committee members other than commissioners at \$75 per meeting for 2021.

S/Donna Torkelson,
Auditor/Treasurer
S/Thomas D. Appel,
Board Chair
S/Kelly Thongvivong,
County Coordinator

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
January 12, 2021
Cottonwood County
Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center in Windom, MN. Present in person or via teleconference for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Kevin Stevens, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Jason Purrington, and Joel Alvstad.

The purpose of this special meeting was to approve the hire of an Assistant County Attorney, approve the hire of a part-time Jailer/Dispatcher, and Minnesota Cares Business Relief

Motion by Gravley, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve the hire of Casey Schofield-Mork as Assistant County Attorney on Range 19, Step C (\$35.11) pending successful completion of all hiring requirements.

Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the hire of Dolf Svoboda II as a part-time Jailer/Dispatcher on Range 11, Step A (\$20.01) pending successful completion of all hiring requirements.

Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the Minnesota CARES Business Relief business and non-profit applications as amended.

S/Donna Torkelson,
Auditor/Treasurer
S/Thomas D. Appel,
Board Chair
S/Kelly Thongvivong,
County Coordinator