



The Montevideo Veterans Home will be located on the corner of Williams Avenue and County Road 15 in Montevideo.

## Montevideo Veterans Home receives \$2.8 million estate donation

By Sam Peterson

The Montevideo Veterans Home has been a dream in Montevideo for over 11 years. The community of Montevideo and the surrounding areas have been hard at work to raise money for this project. They set a goal of raising \$5 million, but they have been blown away by the support of the project and have raised \$7.4 million total, including a \$2.8 million estate donation from Steve Williams.

On Dec. 5, American Legion Post 59 President, Marv Garbe welcomed hundreds of people who gathered at the Montevideo American Legion to hear a press conference on the sizable

through their endless preparation.

Steve Williams was a decorated Vietnam War Veteran. He served as a Sergeant in the Third Ranger Company and was recognized with a number of awards, including; the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze star devices, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Since his honorable discharge, Steve Williams stayed active in Veteran affairs in his home state of Minnesota.

Williams had grown up in the Montevideo area, but he retired in Nevada. Even though he was living in Nevada, Williams kept a very close eye on the Veterans' Home project in the works in Montevideo.

Williams spent his entire professional career working for Hormel Foods. According to Senior Vice President of

Foreign Wars and the Wounded Warrior Project. All of these organizations agreed to pass on a percentage of their donation to the Montevideo Veterans Home project. The total amount given to the Montevideo Veterans Home from the Williams estate was \$2.8 million.

On May, 30, Governor Dayton signed a Bonding Bill. Within this bonding bill, \$32 million were allocated for three separate Veterans' homes. The Bemidji Veterans Home was budgeted \$12.4 million, \$10.2 million was budgeted for a Preston Veterans Home and a Montevideo Veterans Home was budgeted for \$9.4 million. According to State Representative, Tim Miller, there were 40 to 50 applications for a veterans' home in the state of Minnesota, and Montevideo has been the most prepared.

The need for more veterans' homes around greater Minnesota is growing. Currently, if a veteran wanted to go into a veterans' home, the closest would be in the Twin Cities. This would bring the veteran away from their home, community and family. With the addition of a veterans' home in Montevideo, this will allow veterans to stay closer to their homes and communities and allow family members easier access to visit their loved ones.

There were a number of politicians who were present at the press conference, including Congressman Collin Peterson, Minnesota State Senator An-



Congressman, Collin Peterson, addressed the crowd on Dec. 5. Peterson vowed to continue the fight in Washington D.C. and to get this project passed.

donation from the Steve Williams estate. Steve's brother, Jim, was present to say a few words about his late brother.

Jim Williams started his speech off by telling the audience a quote he told his brother once and stuck with him his entire life. Jim Williams recalled a time when he and his brother were playing against each other in racquetball. Jim was able to beat Steve on that day. "Steve wasn't happy and he told me 'You got lucky,' and I told him luck is when opportunity meets preparation," Jim Williams said.

According to Jim Williams, Steve Williams had written the quote in calligraphy and had it framed in his home. Jim Williams told the crowd this Montevideo Veterans home isn't just dumb luck. The Veterans of the area and the community members made this happen

Hormel Foods, Steve Lykken, Williams worked for Hormel Foods for 26 years. "Steve was committed to the company as he was to his community and country," Lykken said.

Unfortunately, Williams passed away in March before the Montevideo Veterans Home plan was accepted. Steve's brother, Jim, worked as the estate trustee to best reflect his brother's wishes.



Steve Williams brother, Jim, gave a heartfelt speech about his brother and his life during the press conference on Dec. 5.

Steve Williams had already designated an amount of his estate to a number of Veteran organizations including the Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of

drawn Lang and State Representative Tim Miller.

Miller and Lang have been hard at work on this project for most of their tenure in office. According to Miller, Montevideo is "leaps and bounds" ahead of Bemidji and Preston in the application phase. "I can't imagine anybody with a more prepared application," Miller said. "You guys have become my family. We could not have done this without you. Be very proud of what you did as a community because you deserve it," Miller added.

The Montevideo Veterans Home is still in the planning stages of the project. They are still deciding what would be the best layout of the facility, but

(Continued on page 4)

## Clara City gets visited by Jack Frost



It was quite the winter scene as Clara City and surrounding areas woke up last Saturday morning to a visit from Jack Frost. Amazingly enough, the frost stayed for most of the day for all to enjoy. (Photos by Billie Jo Rassat)



## Items being collected for future Raymond Museum

By Sam Peterson

Randy Haats and Larry Macht have been collecting items with connections to Raymond history and are starting to stockpile those items for a future Raymond Museum. The community of Raymond has been in existence since 1888 and the more time that passes, the more history could be lost. Haats and Macht are working to collect items to keep the early history of the community of Raymond alive.

"Kids today are less and less worried about history," Haats said.

One reason for a lack of interest in history is there is no community museum to teach and inform young people of their local history. Capturing the interest of young people is important for local history because they will be the ones to tell the history of the current city of Raymond.

Although the Raymond Museum is still just a dream and has no physical location,



War and military memorabilia is also another target area for the Raymond Museum. Randy Haats has his father's World War II shaving kit and compass which will be included in the Raymond Museum.

Haats has been hard at work to preserve pieces of Raymond history. Haats became inspired to start collecting items of Raymond history when he went through all of his mother's things for her auction. He found many items he believed had his-

items people have stored away in their homes," Haats said, and he would like to take those items out of storage and display them as the historical artifacts they are in a future Raymond Museum.

He also saved items that were on their way to the dumpster. One of the items Haats saved from the garbage was a picture of the 1943 Raymond Public School baseball team. They have also saved Raymond class pictures from storage, which are now proudly displayed in the Raymond Community Center. "There are a lot of cool things about Raymond that would otherwise be pitched away," Haats said.

Haats volunteers one day a week at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society. According to Haats, there are a number of Raymond artifacts and historical items the Kandiyohi County Historical Society has that are in

(Continued on page 3)



Montevideo American Legion Post 59 President, Marv Garbe, has been instrumental in the 11-year battle to get a Veterans Home in the Montevideo community.



There is a history which can be told by the artists who are from Raymond. This horse was carved out of a block of wood by a Raymond artist.