

Youth can complete firearms safety, hunter education online

The DNR has modified firearms safety certification requirements on an interim basis as a result of COVID-19.

Students of all ages may take their classroom training online. Students age 14 and older may also complete a virtual field day instead of the traditional in-person field by signing up for and completing the online course.

To hunt with a firearm in Minnesota, those 12 or older

and born after Dec. 31, 1979, must have a hunter education/firearms safety certificate.

Youth ages 11, 12 and 13 can do the online course and will need to contact an instructor to complete the field training with completed online certificate.

Contact Gary Johnson 218-843-1514 or Dale Hanson 218-689-8221.

Information can be found on the MN DNR Website.

Bank of Hamilton merges with KodaBank

DRAYTON, N.D. — Federal and state banking authorities recently approved the merger of KodaBank and the Bank of Hamilton, with KodaBank named the surviving financial institution. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., and the North Dakota State Banking Board affirmed the merger in January 2021.

The two community banks will merge effective Feb. 19.

The Hamilton office will retain its existing staff and will become the tenth location of KodaBank, joining current office locations in Drayton, Minto, Cavalier, Pembina, Neche and Walhalla, N.D., and Stephen, Kennedy and Bemidji, Minn.

For more than 50 years, Wes Argue presided as owner and president of the Bank of Hamilton. Argue is confident that the merger will allow customers to enjoy the same quality service and benefits of hometown banking from the staff they've depended on for decades.

KodaBank President Peter Anderson, who has served as president of KodaBank for 25 years, said that this merger is an exciting time.

"Bank of Hamilton has a rich and longstanding history as the oldest state chartered bank in North Dakota. We are honored to have this legacy now become part of KodaBank's history and culture."

Petersons give back through Alzheimer's awareness

By Laurie Brickley, VP Marketing, Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota

When it comes to finding true "giving hearts," look no farther than Jody and Jerry Peterson of Lancaster.

Not only did the Petersons create a wonderful life for their family of five children and 16 grandchildren during their 48-year marriage, they've also helped shape the lives of children in their community. Hundreds of little ones came through the doors of their home daycare center, and Jerry kept the Lancaster School in tip-top shape for all of the kids in the community over the years.

This year, the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota/North Dakota chapter has chosen to profile the Peterson family for the annual Giving Hearts Day on Thursday, Feb. 11.

Jerry was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's in 2016. Since that time, Jody has cared for him in their home with help from her family — and the community. She and her family represent the 16 million caregivers in the United States supporting those with Alzheimer's. Jody said the Alzheimer's Association programs helped their family through the journey, including online resources at alz.org and Memory Cafe meeting groups.

Jody also credits the Lancaster community for the tremendous support the family has received.

"We are so fortunate that Jerry had such good care



JODY AND JERRY PETERSON, center, pictured with their children, l-r, Sarah Faken, Jordan Peterson, Jesse Peterson, Anne Bertilrud and Joel Peterson. (Submitted photo)

and early detection at the veteran's hospital," Jody said. "And the people in our town are always helping us out."

Son Jesse added, "We are so blessed that old friends continue to visit my dad."

Though their Alzheimer's journey has been difficult, the Peterson family continues to give back. They are proud participants of the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Grand Forks, raising \$5,000 in 2020 for the Association's programs and services. For the past four years, Jerry, Jody and their children have worked with first-year medical students at University of North Dakota to help them learn more about Alzheimer's and dementia.

"You've got to make a difference," Jody said.

That's why she and her family are very vocal about raising awareness and funds for Alzheimer's research, programs and services. Jody's daughter-

in-law, Joni Peterson, who also cares for Jerry, said, "Once Alzheimer's touches your family, you want to be more active about talking about it and supporting an end to the disease."

Although Jody said the days can be hard, Jerry is still the delightful man she fell in love with 50 years ago.

"I choose joy," she added. "Every day, I choose joy."

On this Giving Hearts Day, please consider a gift to the Alzheimer's Association. Your donation will support critical research, the 24/7 Helpline, family care consultations and support groups that help families like the Petersons.

Your gift can be matched, up to a total of \$3,000, thanks to pledges from Dawson/MMA, Dental Care Fargo and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. You may schedule your gift in advance at Givingheartsday.org.

Arts Council calls for entries for bird exhibit

WARREN, Minn. — The Northwest Minnesota Arts Council is accepting entries for a bird-themed exhibit.

Like art, birds reveal a spot of beauty with their plumes and songs, and allow us to escape the stressful and mundane.

The council accepts art from any media: painting, photography, illustration, digital, mixed media, creative writing, sculpture and more. This exhibit will open in March and run through April at the NWMAC Gallery at Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls.

Contact Trey Everett at treyeverettcreates@gmail.com with questions or to sub-

mit your art.

For more information about our exhibits look to our website at www.NWArtsCouncil.org, or if you are an artist interested in exhibiting a body of work with NWMAC, please contact Everett at (218) 280-4917 or email NWArtsCouncil@gmail.com.

This exhibit is made possible with funding from The McKnight Foundation. Please sign up for our e-newsletter on our website home page to see the latest news and grant announcements. Email director@NWArtsCouncil.org or call 218-745-8886 to reach our office during regular business hours.

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County hires ... cont. from front page

Weiers agreed deviating from any salary range "has internal consequences." While he was not suggesting Kittson County take a similar action as Roseau County by significantly increasing the engineer salary, he wanted them to understand the reality of the situation - it's going to take more to get someone on the job.

The board was also going to begin advertising again for the engineer position after last week's meeting, but chose to hold off until Roseau County began its interview process on March 2.

"Given your proximity to them, maybe it's worth waiting to advertise until they've completed their process," Weiers told the board. "The possibility is there could be a second, third or other candidate that isn't picked there that might look really good to you."

Commissioner Loren Younggren said he'd been thinking the same thing, but also for financial reasons. He said he was concerned the county would pay DDA for this job but possibly come out

empty-handed. For the whole process, DDA is charging the county \$15,000.

"Let me put you at ease a little bit. There is no way I'm charging you to not produce a positive outcome," Weiers said. "(If) we had to do something different, we might talk about expenses and advertising, but there's no way you're going to get charged a full fee for something that doesn't yield any fruit."

The commission also briefly discussed benefits such as moving expenses, remote work and use of a vehicle. The commissioners agreed providing a capped amount for moving expenses would be an attractive incentive, but did not set that amount and will decide on it in February.

They also agreed remote work is becoming more commonplace and could be acceptable for the engineer as a good portion of the position is spent in meetings. However, they said those terms would need to be specific as the engineer is needed in the office and on job sites during construction season, spring through fall.

The county has always provided a vehicle specifically for the engineer to use.

The commission will discuss all these details and make a final decision at a special meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. Once all the details are confirmed, the county will begin again to advertise the position.

ASK A TROOPER

Question: Is it true that if you drop a lost driver's license in a mailbox, the United States Postal Service will mail it to the owner? I've heard that you can just put it in the drop box and they will get it to them.

Answer: This is a good question. I visited the USPS website and was unable to find an answer. So I contacted one of the local post offices and was advised by the postmaster they would indeed forward it on. You could also send it to Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) in St. Paul, or bring it to a deputy registrar, driver's license agent office or a DVS exam station, and staff will securely destroy the license. DVS does not return licenses to the address on the card, because licenses contain private information and the address on the license may not be the cardholder's current address.

Having served as a State Trooper for over 20 years and dealing with people and their driver's licenses, I often find the address on this document is not up-to-date. I see this every day, if not several times every day. The issue becomes it may not make it to the correct residence.

Contact law enforcement and give the driver's license to them. They will use their options to contact the license owner. If the owner is not located, it will still be safe, secured and properly destroyed after all options are exhausted. DVS generally does not forward mail. Minnesota law requires a person apply for a new driver's license within 30 days of changing their address. Important information regarding your driving privileges and registration are sent to the address listed on your record. If you fail to update your address, you will most likely not get what you need.

Question: I thought I lost my driver's license. I searched high and low and for the life of me I couldn't find it. Seriously, I looked near and far and didn't leave a stone unturned. So I went and applied for a new driver's license and received it. But just the other day, lo and behold and by the Grace of God it appeared. Call it a miracle or maybe my mind is going. So now I have two Minnesota driver's licenses

that appear to be valid as they don't expire for a few years yet. Which one should I be using and what should I do with the other?

Answer: I am very happy that you found your driver's license and you did the right thing by applying for a new license when you truly thought it was lost. Anytime your driver's license is lost, damaged or destroyed, you will need to apply for a duplicate license.

Minnesota law requires that every licensee shall have the license (driver's license, instruction permit or provisional license) in immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle.

To answer your question about which license to use, the most current license is the one that is valid in the system. Once issued a driver's license or identification card, the more recent the issue date, will be the valid card. Yes, there is an issue date that many people don't notice. It is listed on there as: 4a ISS (followed by the date.)

For the older of the two, I would recommend shredding the card that was found after applying for the duplicate. If that license ended up in the wrong hands it could be used in criminal activity. Keep the card with most recent issue date.

I'd like to add that Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) generally does not forward mail. Minnesota law requires a person apply for a new driver's license within 30 days of changing their address. Important information regarding your driving privileges and registration are sent to the address listed. If you fail to update your address, you will most likely not get what you need.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow - Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us.

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