

News from home

December 2015

Tri-County Tourism Alliance Prairie Legacy

THE GIFT FOR
THE PERSON
WHO HAS
EVERYTHING....



**EWIGER SAATZ -
still available**

The book "Ewiger Saatz – Everlasting Yeast" can still be purchased for the person on your Christmas list that has everything. Its 120 pages are packed with heartwarming personal stories of gardening, butchering, baking, harvesting and surviving in three North Dakota counties settled mainly by Germans from Russia. The book contains some background

Keeping it real in German-Russian Country with food and traditions and music



**Real things.
Real people.
Real places.**

Performing for Sauerkraut Day 2011 are (l-r) Blake Bosch, Kayla Rohr, Elisabeth Dalke, Michael Jacobson, Julianna Wolff, Karly Wald, Olivia Weber and Alissa Lordy.

SUE BALCOM PHOTO

Wishek celebrated its 90th Sauerkraut Day this year bringing around 1,400 residents and visitors together for German-Russian food and fun. A special part of the day included entertainment by area students, a pie social, local vendors and of course, the premiere of "Women Behind the Plow." The Tri-County Tourism Alliance unveiled its new preservation project during Sauerkraut Day. (More about the exhibit can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.)

Our mission is to organize people interested in preserving and promoting the Germans from Russia heritage and culture in order to

enhance tourism opportunities in the three counties of Emmons, Logan and McIntosh.

To learn more about German-Russian Country and its friendly people...Visit germanrussiancountry.org or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GermanRussianCountry/>

Wishek High School is **keeping it real** with instructor Janet Wolff's traditional German music program. In its 10th year, Wishek students are learning German language songs and playing accordin promoting the traditions of this area's heritage.



JOIN US The Tri-County Tourism Alliance meets monthly in a community within the three county area of Emmons County, Logan County and McIntosh County.

Please see the membership brochure at the end of this newsletter for more information about how you can be a part of this exciting group.

Contact President Carmen Rath-Wald at (701)754-2504 or email carmen.rath.wald@ndsu.edu.

Tri-County Tourism Alliance supports USDA Strong Economies Together program

By Marion Werner
USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Development and North Dakota State University Extension Service, with the Tri-County Tourism Alliance as the umbrella organization, comprise the Stronger Economies Together (SET) region in North Dakota. Consisting of McIntosh, Logan and Emmons Counties, the Tri-County SET region will benefit from a focused initiative to explore regional economic advantages. A blueprint will be developed for this region that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of the area.

A regional approach can help address challenges and opportunities that may be too big to take on alone. Bringing these counties together we will assess their resources and formulate a plan to grow their economy and spur development. This approach is already in place with the successes of the Tri County Tourism Alliance and

now will provide more focus on next steps for economic development of the region.

The Tri County SET has completed a Civic Community Forum held in Wishek and Session One, held in Napoleon, of the SET guide. We will be meeting in Linton at Webos on November 20 at 11:00 am to begin work on Session Two, Evidence Based Planning.

The meetings are open to all residence of the Tri County region. PLEASE plan to attend and bring a friend and/or fellow business person, a city or county commissioner, school and/or hospital board members.

SET is intended to help strengthen the capacity of communities and counties in rural America. Tri-County SET region is one of 21 other regions across thirteen states participating in SET during 2015.

Let's work to make it the best of the 21.

The State Historical Society of North Dakota assumes responsibility for Welk homestead site

It's wunnerful... The Ludwig and Christina Welk Homestead located near Strasburg has been home to the Lawrence Welk museum for many years. Many visitors have made the trek to see the farm buildings and artifacts collected by private individuals and relatives of the Welk family.

In July, the State Historical Society of North Dakota assumed the role of caretakers for the site with plans to create the first German-Russian interpretive site operated by the state in North Dakota. The original Welk site "friends" have disbanded to allow the state to create an all-inclusive center for German-Russian history.

The Tri-County Tourism Alliance members were integral in collecting comments from local residents as to the fate of the homestead site located near Strasburg. Those comments will be useful for planning next year's programming at the site. Programming will focus on agriculture, and German from Russia culture and heritage.

Eight hundred and eighty two visitors were recorded at the site from July 1 through the end of October that included eight bus tours and other special tours.



(l-r) Michael Miller, Bridget Burke, Larry Schwab, Evelyn (Welk) Schwab, Kendra Heck, Margaret Height and (front, l-r) Diane Rogness and Dr. Ann Braaten at the Welk farmstead.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Women Behind the Plow Exhibit scheduled openings:

Until December 18 in Ashley, ND.

March 14 through April 22 - Germans from Russia Heritage Center.

May 7 through May 22 - Ellendale Opera House in Ellendale, 55 Main Street, Ellendale, ND.

June 13 through June 20 - Lehr Tabernacle in Lehr, ND.

June 18 in Hazelton, ND, for Community Days.

- November 26 Community Thanksgiving Dinner Gackle Senior Center beginning at Noon.
- November 27 Light up the Night – Linton.
- November 28 Holiday Show at the Ashley school. Santa Day in Ashley with Lion's Soup & Sandwich 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Shed Café, Silent night auction (Christmas gifts minimum value of \$25) display from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m.
- December 4-6 Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase, Bismarck Convention Hall.
- December 5 Holiday Happenings at the Hazelton school at the school 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- December 12 Hague craft/vendor show along with Santa Day
- December 12 Santa Claus Day in Napoleon at the school, along with craft show
- December 13 Napoleon Lion's Turkey Bingo
- January 14 Grocer's meeting sponsored by REC at Farm Credit Services, Mandan
- January 15 Tri-County Tourism Alliance Annual meeting at Reuben's in Napoleon
- February 19 Tri-County Tourism Alliance meeting in Hauge at the Hauge Café.
- July 11-16 The 47th American Historical Society of Germans from Russia International Convention, Holiday Inn, Concord, California. For further information, visit www.ahsgr.org.
- September 7-11 The 46th Germans from Russia Heritage Society International Convention Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD. For more information, visit www.grhs.org. The Women Behind the Plow exhibit will be hanging at this convention.
- October 2 Oktoberfest, Napoleon

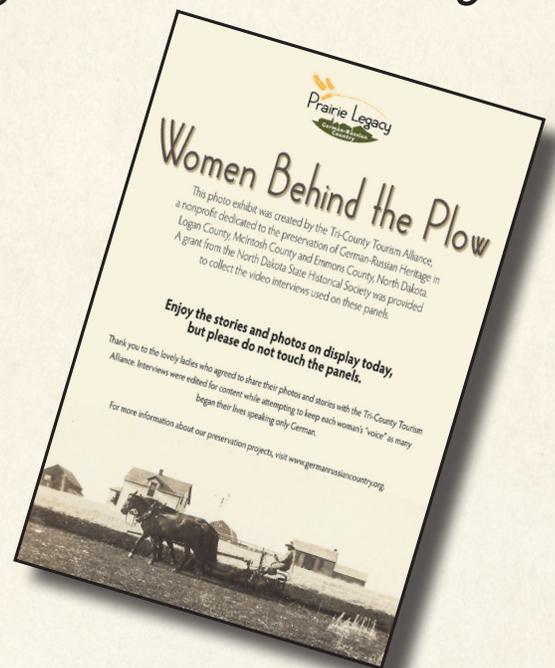
Photo exhibit available to your community

The Tri-County Tourism Alliance's latest preservation project is a photo exhibit called Women Behind the Plow.

This exhibit will be traveling the state celebrating the contribution of German-Russian women on farms and rural communities in the counties of Emmons, Logan and McIntosh, ND, with photos and stories about life in days gone by.

The exhibit provides a delightful and charming window into the lives of the "Women Behind the Plow." Consisting of 18 acrylic panels, the exhibit panels range in size from 12-inches by 18-inches to the most common panel size of 30-inches by 20-inches.

This traveling exhibition is available for display in art museums, galleries, conference rooms, historical societies, etc. For more information or to schedule the exhibit in your venue, contact Carmen Rath-Wald at 701.754.2504 or carmen.rath.wald@ndsu.edu.



Plans in the works to register the Zeeland Hall

A public forum to discuss the history and significance of the Zeeland Hall was held Nov. 15. Residents shared memories, scrapbooks, programs, clippings, mementoes and photos of activities at the hall. Scholars researched its history and architecture.

Dr. Tom Isern, Professor of History and University Distinguished Professor, North Dakota State University, assisted in nominating the Zeeland Hall to the National Register of Historic Places. Isern is director of NDSU's Center for Heritage Renewal, a research center that works in the fields of historic preservation and heritage tourism.

Heather Fischer, NDSU Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, will provide the architectural expertise needed to describe the building professionally for the National Register. The North Dakota Humanities Council has provided a small grant to fund Fischer's participation.

"The Zeeland Hall is an excellent prospect for listing in the National Register," Isern said, "because it was built by the Works Projects Administration in 1936, it is an outstanding example of New Deal architecture in North Dakota. Besides that, the hall is of historic and continuing significance to the community. It deserves greater recognition."

Isern said a National Register listing is good for the community, it gives Zeeland bragging rights, and it can offer financial benefits toward maintenance of the hall.

If you have any information not only about the building of the Zeeland Hall but also its use by, and importance to, the community, please contact either forum coordinator Joyce Scherr of rural Zeeland Joyce.Scherr@k12.nd.us or 701-423-5422; or Dr. Tom Isern at 701-799-2942 or email isern@plansfolk.com. Especially welcome are personal memories and stories about past events at the hall.



A meeting was held in November to discuss placing the Zeeland Hall on the historic register.

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Visit dasguteessen.com for our project blog and www.germanrussiancountry.org for more information about our organization and its work.