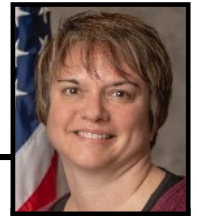




THE COMMUNICATOR

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Grant County Employee Newsletter



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Personnel
Specialist

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December Holiday Cheer

Beautiful and fun holiday decorations and traditions could be seen throughout the county departments in December. Some of the fun included homemade treats, ugly sweaters, Secret Santa, decorating competitions and window decoration wars!

Several pictures were submitted to the newsletter. Below are a few and you will also find some in later pages of the newsletter.

It's heartwarming to see our county team enjoying some holiday cheer. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022.



County Clerk



Admin Bldg



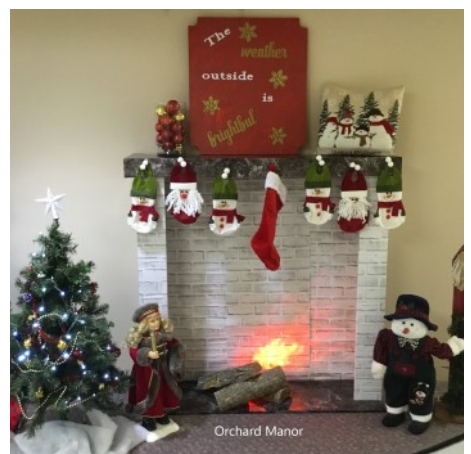
County Clerk



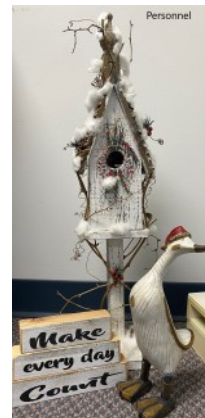
Health



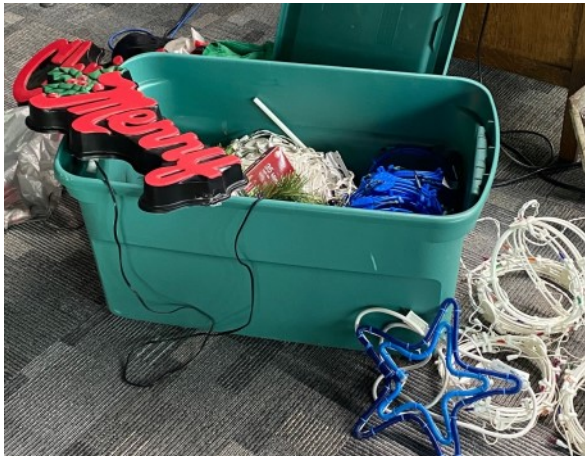
Unified



Orchard Manor



The Personnel Department / County Board Chair Office had a decorating war with the Information Technology Department (I.T.). Evidently I.T. won and it seems they aren't done yet! The below pictures are all from the I.T. Department.



Dana's Desktop

Dana C. Andrews, Grant County IT Technician



This quarter's column has an environmental theme.

SpinLaunch (What goes around, comes around)

In the category of 'really?!?' is a new company called SpinLaunch. Basically, they have a really large dryer drum that they can spin up to 5,000 mph and then throw out a spacecraft that will not need a rocket to reach LEO orbit (LEO = Low Earth Orbit or 200,000 feet above earth). Once at orbit, propulsion will be needed, but just to reach and maintain the speed needed to not fall back. That will result in these crafts having to carry only about 1/5 of the normal fuel load needed. Dryer drum analogy aside, it is a very complicated process that NASA had been developing on and off since the sixties but had discontinued due to funding cuts. However, a new startup company has built a prototype that recently successfully launched a test projectile to the upper atmosphere. Obviously, this will never be passenger service, but it does represent an inexpensive, non-polluting, method to pump all those little satellites into orbit that we are starting to rely on more-and-more. The launch was from Spaceport America, located in New Mexico.



More Green Rocketry

Another initiative to make space flight less polluting is a rocket that is powered by plastic waste. Virgin Galactic (Richard Branson's airline spinoff) looked at doing something like this back in 2014 but was not able to get it to work. Now, a company called Pulsar Fusion, located in the UK, recently completed a full test fire using a hybrid fuel made up of HDPEs (High Density Poly Ethylene, a common type of plastic) and Nitrous Oxide (the stuff funny car drivers use in drag racing). Here's the part I thought was cool; their test generated



supersonic shock diamonds. These are something apparently you find when the big NASA (and other) rockets lift off. This is still in early testing and there is no idea how many pounds it can lift but indications are at least some rockets will be greener in the future.

I See You

If you have been following the news lately, you heard that a large Infrastructure bill was passed by congress. One of the significant provisions in this bill is it legalizes adaptive driving beams (headlights). Something only European cars have had until now. Adaptive headlights are smart devices that are aware of their surroundings. They can change focus and output to not blind drivers but still give increased lighting around the on-coming vehicle. By design you just drive around with high beams on all the time and they will adjust as needed. They recognize signs and dim so you are not dazzled by reflective tape nor will they blind the person you are following. Some models will discover and highlight pedestrians, provide more illumination for corners or when you are turning onto another street, or even provide guidance light for lane changes. They can even project messages. This is not technology 'in the lab' but is in use with many overseas models (check out Audi's YouTube video "Audi Digital Matrix Light" or "Mercedes-Benz Digital Light").



Ketchup on Mars



Fourteen astrobiologists, nine months, the Aldrin Space Institute (Florida Institute of Technology) and an environment that exactly mimics Mars soil. Put them together and the results? The scientists grew Heinz quality tomatoes. Maybe not as sexy as plastic rockets, but this experiment was considered significant because all other experiments to date have been 'proof of concept' (small batches, sometimes things only seen under a microscope) while this was a full crop of sustainable foodstuffs. Any human visits to Mars will require time spent on the planet and a small pot with a pepper plant is not going to get it done. Large beds of vegetables will be needed to supplement all that 'freeze-dried ice

cream'. I am sure this is one small step for Martian farmers but one giant leap for making bespoke pizzas in wood fired stoves.

No, Nope, Uh-Uh

One of the topics discussed at the recent COP26 (world meeting on climate change), was how much animal farming causes pollution and even helps raise the Earth's temperature. In response to this, scientists have been working on alternate means of providing protein. One of these schemes, actually already in use in Singapore, is a method to 'grow meat'. Unlike Soy milk or Impossible Burgers (things that are made to taste like something else), San Francisco based "Eat Just" makes chicken meat in a lab. Makes, not grows. Started by harvesting muscle cells from a chicken, nutrients are steadily added to feed those cells until they grow enough tissue to become something called a cell media stew. From there it is then cultivated into, in this case, chicken nuggets. One improvement that has been made is previously, this cultivating used Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS). However, that and other animal components have been fully chemically replaced with man-made synthetic products. It is still expensive and time-consuming to make food like this but with each advance, it moo-ves closer to reality. Maybe it is because I watched the movie 'Soylent Green', but I'll be eating a salad tonight!



5D Storage (Superman Memory Crystals)

For a few years now, there has been something called five-dimension data storage. Where we normally live in three-dimensions (length, width, and height or forward/backwards, left/right, up/down), these five-dimension crystals have two extra dimensional 'data points'. These additional properties are size and orientation. While not technically a true five-dimensional geometrical space, it does allow an awful lot of information to be stored in a small space. In the latest version running in the labs, something that looks very much like a CD disk is storing 500 TB (terra-bytes) of data. By comparison, the latest Blu-ray disc holds 50 GB (or one crystal can hold 10,000 Blu-ray discs worth of data). The lifespan of these is estimated to be over 1 billion years while also able to withstand 1000° temperature (so you can hang them off your rear-view mirror). Much of this work is being done by Serendipity Photonics Group. One of the goals of this organization is to make crystals of your life (all your



pictures, documents, blogs, podcasts, statistics, DNA chain, and even Aunt Ruth's recipe for meatloaf). Right now, to write 500TB of data takes about 60 days. So, don't put it off to the last minute.

The Orca Plant

And to finish off the environmental theme of this column, a town in Iceland (Hellisheiðarvirkjun to be precise), has built and is running a gigantic carbon capture facility that is scrubbing carbon directly from the air. Orca, as it turns out, is the Icelandic word for energy. It removes approximately 10 metric tons of CO₂ every DAY! Unfortunately, this is only about the output of 800 city cars so we need a lot more of these built. It is estimated that the average person emits about 35 billion tons of carbon a year through the things we use.



Reminder: If you have a technical question about computers in general, submit an email to techhelp@co.grant.wi.gov

Tablets were replaced by scrolls. Scrolls were replaced by books. Now we scroll through books on tablets.



Domestic Violence Awareness



October was first declared as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989. Since then, October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and be a voice for its victims. To recognize and aid victims the courthouse had collected the items (see picture). The items were then provided to Family Advocates, Inc. of Platteville.

Submitted by Darla Adams, Victim/Witness Coordinator

The following is a listing of Grant County's year 2022 observed paid holidays.



- New Year's Day: December 31, 2021
 - Friday Afternoon before Easter: April 15, 2022
 - Memorial Day: May 30, 2022
 - Independence Day: July 4, 2022
 - Labor Day: September 5, 2022
 - Veteran's Day: November 11, 2022
 - Thanksgiving Day: November 24, 2022
 - Christmas Eve: December 23, 2022
 - Christmas Day: December 26, 2022
- The New Year's Day holiday for the year 2023 will be Monday, January 2, 2023.



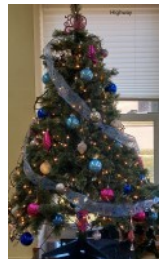
Child Support



County Clerk



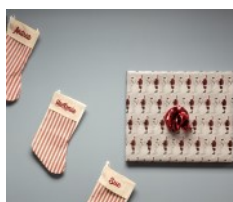
Register of Deeds



Do you have money left in your flex account?

Remember with healthcare and daycare flex you USE IT OR LOSE IT. You must request reimbursement before March 31st, 2022 for your 2021 healthcare and daycare flex election balances. Contact EBC or the County's Personnel Office if you have questions.

EBC: (800)346-2126 or www.ebcflex.com
Grant County Personnel: (608)723-2540 or dmergen@co.grant.wi.gov



Health

Retirement Recognition

September 26, 2021 through December 18, 2021

- Deb Noel (OM), 48 years** (retired September 30)
- Don Parkins (Facilities), 32 years** (retired November 30)
- Tom Schindler (Sheriff), 16 years** (retired December 3)
- Jim Robison (OM), 16 years** (retired December 4)
- Penny Hill (OM), 5 years** (retired December 17)

Grant County wishes you a happy and healthy retirement!

Reminder: Please contact the County Personnel Office at least two months before your retirement date so we can assist you with the process.



Service Anniversaries

January, 2022 through March, 2022 (5 year increments)

Deanna Biefer (ADRC), 30 years on March 2

Lorna Wolf (Finance), 25 years on February 3
Tina McDonald (Clerk of Court), 25 years on February 13

Rochelle Dilley (Orchard Manor), 20 years on January 22

Rodney Reuter (Highway), 15 years on March 26

Deanna Steines (IT), 10 years on January 3
Debra Lange (Orchard Manor), 10 years on January 4
Kristi Brunton (Clerk of Court), 10 years on January 29
Amy Olson (Fair), 10 years on March 19
Amy Belscamper (Treasurer), 10 years on March 20

Nicole Baumeister (ADRC), 5 years on January 3
Justin Johnson (Conservation, Sanitation and Zoning), 5 years on January 11
Andrew Nelson (Sheriff), 5 years on January 16
Megan Whittaker (Clerk of Court), 5 years on January 23
Dominic Pagliaro (Sheriff), 5 years on February 6
Darcy Ellis-Moore (Orchard Manor), 5 years on March 7
Ashley Scharpf (Social Services), 5 years on March 13
MacKenzie Johll (Register of Deeds), 5 years on March 20

Team Grant County

Welcome to our Team!

New Employees - September 26, 2021 through December 18, 2021

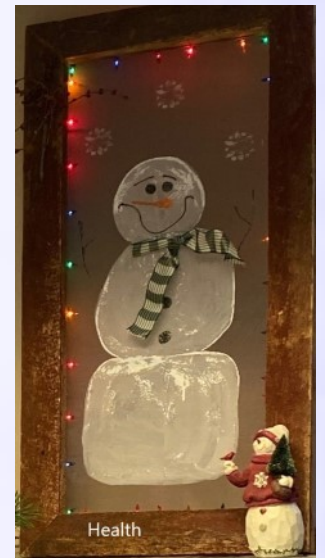
- Jennifer Elsner** ~ September 29 ~ Health
- Kelsey NeCollins** ~ September 29 ~ Orchard Manor
- Jackson Towne** ~ September 30 ~ Health
- Kimberly Lolwing** ~ October 1 ~ Orchard Manor
- Travis Cliff** ~ October 4 ~ Sheriff
- Amber Atkinson** ~ October 5 ~ Orchard Manor
- Bill Kletecka** ~ October 12 ~ Conservation, Sanitation and Zoning
- Makenna Gabel** ~ October 22 ~ Orchard Manor
- Amanda Abing** ~ October 25 ~ Social Services
- Trisha Larsen** ~ November 3 ~ Orchard Manor
- David Gushulak** ~ November 8 ~ Sheriff
- Briana Kraak** ~ November 8 ~ Social Services
- Sophie Dmitruck** ~ November 12 ~ Orchard Manor
- Miranda Kieler** ~ November 12 ~ Orchard Manor
- Steven Kliebenstein** ~ November 17 ~ Sheriff
- Terence Bell** ~ November 22 ~ Sheriff
- Jennieraven Myers** ~ December 10 ~ Orchard Manor
- Matthew Rauch** ~ December 10 ~ Orchard Manor



Anyone wishing to have a specific subject discussed in a future newsletter may contact Joyce Roling at 723-2045 or jroling@co.grant.wi.gov.

Grant County Observed Holidays

L T C H R I S T M A S N G
 A O H R O B A L A L I I N
 O A R A S L A I R O M E M
 O B I F N E I M A Y W O S
 E E S T Y K G D A Y S T Y
 N B T E R E S R A N M H A
 O E M R R E A G A Y L O D
 C F A N D V T R I N S U A
 Y O S O V W E S S V T S Y
 A R U O E T Y D A D I A P
 D E C N E D N E P E D N I
 A E T V T W O D A Y D D G
 S Y E D A Y A D I R F V C



Grant County Year Two Thousand Twenty Two	Observed Paid Holidays New Years Day Friday	Afternoon Before Easter Memorial Day Independence Day	Labor Day Veterans Day Thanksgiving Day Christmas	Eve Christmas Day
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