

COATS FOR KOSOVO



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Bellevue

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BRIEFLY

Marquette to host blood drive

Marquette Catholic Schools will host a community blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22, inside the Marquette Education Center (MEC) lobby.

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.blood-center.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo I.D. or donor card is required to donate. Blood donation is a safe, simple procedure that takes about 45 minutes to one hour. Individuals with diabetes or controlled high blood pressure may be accepted as eligible donors.

To donate, please contact Karen Timmerman at (563) 872-3356.

Free youth bowling sign-up

Horizon Lanes in Bellevue is hosting a free Youth Bowler sign-up from now through Saturday, Oct. 18. Both boys and girls start bowling Oct. 18 at 10 a.m. or any day after school.

For more information, call Horizon Lanes at 562-872-4441.



HERALD-LEADER PHOTO BY DAVID NAMANNY

A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS from Adventure: Mississippi River, an annual education expedition which is part of the OAR Northwest Education series, are rowing the length of the Mississippi River collecting data and educating youth along the way. The group stopped by Bellevue High School Thursday for a special presentation before packing up and heading downriver. They are pictured here just south of the DNR Fisheries Station.

ROWBOAT CLASSROOM

OAR Adventurers stop by Bellevue to teach students science of the river

By DAVID NAMANNY
Bellevue Herald-Leader

Students at Bellevue Middle School and High School enjoyed a surprise assembly last Thursday morning when they were treated to a unique presentation by scientists collecting data during an expedition on the Mississippi River.

Greg Spooner and Patrick Fleming, adventurers and part-time scientists with the "OAR Northwest Educational series,"



docked their boats and equipment at the Department of Natural Resources station south of town around 10 a.m. and gave the presentation just minutes after leaving the water.

The adventurers captured the students' attention immediately by blowing loudly through a seashell. After showing photos and videos of a recent excursion in the Atlantic Ocean, Spooner and Fleming explained

what they were doing in the Mississippi River.

Spooner explained that their latest project, "Adventure: Mississippi River" (AMR) is an annual education expedition, part of the OAR Northwest Education series.

"AMR is our flagship expedition, blending technology with real-life adventure to reach students both locally and beyond the Mississippi River watershed," Spooner said. "We want to inspire students to experience an adventure in

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Melvolds sell newspapers to Sycamore Media

Maquoketa, Bellevue, DeWitt papers now under new ownership

The Melvold family of Maquoketa announced last week that it has sold its three eastern Iowa community newspapers to Sycamore Media Corp.

The family sold the Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, the Bellevue Herald-Leader and the DeWitt Observer to a company headed by Trevis Mayfield, president and majority owner of Sycamore Media Corp., and his wife, Nancy. The sale took effect Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Like the Sentinel-Press, the Observer also is a semiweekly newspaper, publishing on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Herald-Leader is a weekly, publishing on Thursdays.

The Maquoketa and Bellevue newspa-

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MEMBERS OF THE MELVOLD FAMILY pose with Trevis and Nancy Mayfield, new owners of the Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, Bellevue Herald-Leader and the DeWitt Observer. From left are R. B. Melvold, Beth Melvold, Mary McAllister, John Melvold, Doug Melvold, Nancy Mayfield and Trevis Mayfield. The sale of the three newspapers took effect Wednesday, Oct. 8.

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Due to the varying number of inserts purchased by our advertising customers, subscribers in some areas may not receive all the inserts listed.

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Jackson County Supervisors 9/30; Bellevue Municipal Utilities; Sabula Work Session; Notice of PH - Sabula

ROWBOAT CLASSROOM

OAR Adventurers stop by Bellevue to teach students science of the river

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their local environment, understand the potential environmental impacts of their actions, and engage the rich history and diversity of species along the Mississippi River and its immense watershed.”

“Here in Bellevue, there are so many cultural and community connections to this important river, and many of you who live here may not even think about,” he added.

The OAR expedition team, including Fleming and Spooner are paddling and rowing the Mississippi River from its Lake Itasca (MN) headwaters to the terminus at the Gulf of Mexico.

AMR is a fall-semester academic program, created in conjunction with the OAR Northwest Education

“We are a Seattle-non-profit adventure education organization, exploring the world’s water under human power, delivering innovative STEM (Science Technology and Math) curriculum to classrooms online and through school visits, and performing research from our vessel of opportunity,” said Spooner. “We picked a couple schools along the way for our live presentation, and Bellevue seemed to be the perfect location.”

Pam Van Vleck, a Bellevue Middle School math and science teacher, is actually the one who was responsible for bringing the program to Bellevue

“It all started with an email last spring, when I saw a link to their site and that they were looking to visit two schools per state. So I said to myself, why not Bellevue,” recalled Van Vleck. “So I sent a message to the team with information about our school and myself. Next thing I know, they selected us.”

Since that initial communication, Van Vleck has been in regular contact with members of the OAR team as they made their way down the Mississippi River.

“It’s such an incredible story these gentlemen have shared - with the science and education to back it up. To have the opportunity to have them share their story and the long lasting outreach of their research and education could not have been more exciting for our school and community to make a permanent connection,” she noted. “What an impact they have left and will continue to leave.”

The goal of the OAR Northwest Mississippi River Adventure is to visit 30 schools bordering the Mississippi River (three schools in each of the 10 bordering states, while conducting relevant scientific experiments on behalf of partnered research and conservation organizations.

In Bellevue, for example, the adventurers and scientists shared data and experiences with local DNR officials at the fisheries station on the south edge of town.

“These folks share the same passion for the Mississippi River and natural resources that we do here at the DNR Fisheries Station and requested to visit with local river Biologists,” said Royce Bowman, a Natural Resources Technician, who hosted the group and helped them pack up for the rest of their long journey after the program at Bellevue High School.

“The amount of water quality data they are collecting on their voyage to the Gulf is incredible,” said Bowman. “They docked their boats at the Fisheries Station and we had a chance to visit with them for a few hours. We reviewed our current research projects, went through photos of native



The OAR Northwest team poses for a photo with Bellevue DNR Fisheries Station Technician Royce Bowman,

Mississippi River fishes and discussed local angling techniques.”

On Wednesday morning they accompanied one of our crews while we electrofished for Walleyes in Pool 13. I understand that they delivered an excellent presentation at the Bellevue High School and they intend to have a crew stop in Bellevue annually. We have gained another excellent Mississippi River conservation partner and some new friends. We are connecting them with our partners in the Missouri Department of Conservation so they can arrange a water sample drop on their way downstream.”

According to Spooner, his crew not only



Middle and high school students from Bellevue were shown slides and videos of the team’s journey, not only from the Mississippi River, but from a recent excursion in the Atlantic Ocean.

loves science, but the real-life adventure of rowing down the Mississippi.

Throughout our river expedition, we’re running science experiments, collecting samples, logging data and findings, and sharing it with scientists to help better understand how humans and the rivers interact with the greater ecosystem,” said Spooner, who shared some of the basics about life on the Mississippi.

Microorganisms, or microbes, are any organism that is too small to see without the aid of a microscope. Typically, these organisms are single-celled, although they can occur in groups or filaments. They generally have smaller amounts of genetic material than plants and animals (like humans). However, in spite of their diminutive sizes, these organisms occur in vast numbers throughout the various ecosystems on Earth.

Microorganisms have significant effects on the way the major elements of our planet are cycled. For example, microorganisms in the ocean account for roughly half of the total photosynthesis occurring on Earth, with land plants completing the other half. Similarly, microorganisms are involved in a myriad of additional metabolisms that are important to the global carbon cycle and other cycles of important nutrients like nitrogen.

“Because of the importance of microorganisms, we are trying to understand their role in particular cycles of concern in the Mississippi River, such as the degradation of pollutants and interactions with carbon and nitrogen compounds,” said Spooner. “The samples being taken by our team will be shipped to Dr. Thrash’s laboratory at Louisiana State University for processing. These samples will tell us about the microorganisms present in the water of the Mississippi River, and how these organisms change as the river goes by major cities and tributaries.”

Some of the team’s hypotheses include that microbial communities will be different upstream and downstream of major cities;

microbial communities will be altered by the influx of water from major tributaries; microbial taxa capable of various nitrogen metabolisms will correlate with nitrogen loading along the river; and total microbial richness (a measure of diversity) will increase with the volume of flow in the river.

“Along with microbial samples, the team will also be taking measurements of water chemistry to help us correlate the organisms that we find in the river with the types of compounds with which they may be interacting,” said Spooner. “We measure water pH and temperature, dissolved oxygen and phosphate and nitrate levels.

As they travel the length of the Mississippi River via canoe and rowboat, Spooner and Fleming noted that the stop in Bellevue and other schools include curricula that are aligned with the expedition timeline. These can be continued for learning on OAR websites and through webinars.

For example, during any given week there is a module made up of lessons and activities that you can do with your students,” said Spooner. “The modules will be enhanced by the expedition narrative via blogging, photos, and video. Additionally, there are multiple opportunities for students to collaborate and interact with the expedition team.

The AMR curriculum is a combination of three documents from national organizations that emphasize water issues, specifically with the Mississippi River and its associated tributaries. Depending on the grade level, teachers can use the age-appropriate curriculum that is aligned with the expedition. “By doing all this, we will create a greater community of learners based on the Mississippi River context,” concluded Spooner. “We’ve really enjoyed our stay in Bellevue. It is a beautiful community.”