



Volleyball champs
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CANBY NEWS

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CANBY, MINNESOTA 56220

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ON THE CALENDAR

Thursday, Sept. 3

The Canby Farmers' Market will be open from 4-6 p.m. in Central Park.

Saturday, Sept. 5

Popcorn will be available curbside in front of the Canby Theatre 5:30-6:30 and 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 7

A closed AA meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Contact Roger at 507-530-2208 for location.

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Canby Fire Relief will sponsor bingo at 7 p.m. at Hero's Bar and Grill

The Porter American Legion and Auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. at the Porter Cafe.

Coming Up

The Bloodmobile will be at the Schott's building Thursday, Sept. 10, 1-7 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 11, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m..

The flags in Central Park will be taken down Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9:30 a.m. Any community member is invited to assist.

Darrell Regnier Auction Company will be having a live and online large machinery auction on Sept. 12 at 9 a.m.

Lancer Lanes adult bowling leagues will start the week of Sept. 13.

Independent Oil Company will be offering free refreshments in honor of their 85th Anniversary on Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Have a community event coming up? To get it placed on our calendar drop off information at our office or email to copycnews@gmail.com

Todd Mitchell gives a glimpse into the oft-overlooked hobby, "ham" radio

by Joshua Theis

While the use of a radio may seem outdated in our increasingly digital, smart-phone dominated world, amateur radio, or "ham" radio for short, is an oft-overlooked hobby that still retains a following of loyal "ham's" across the U.S. and the world. Canby local Todd Mitchell began his amateur radio career as a ham back in 1978 when he was ten years old.

Mitchell grew up when radio communication was often done through nonverbal forms of communication, such as Morse code; this interested Mitchell from an early age, and he remains quite fond of this method of communication. To this day, Mitchell communicates over the radio almost exclusively using Morse code, and it is something he has always enjoyed.

Despite it being a somewhat novel form of communication today, the usage of morse code fits into a still very popular ham niche, one Mitchell is very much a part of. In some ways, according to Mitchell, Morse code can still be one of the most effective forms of communication, an example being ham's fielding radiograms for individuals during emergency situations, such as during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Mitchell attributes his initial interest in the hobby as a whole to the time he found a Morse

code straight key, a tool for generating Morse code via radio, which was in the possession of his father Harold at the time. Mitchell picked up Morse code quickly, and first learned many of the other necessary skills he needed to obtain his ham license from his father, who he described as being light-years ahead of him at nearly everything. The two entered the ham community at around the same time; Mitchell considers his father his "Elmer," or his mentor, helping him become an amateur radio operator. Because mathematics like algebra, trigonometry and calculus were important to being a radio operator, learning these skills early also brought Mitchell ahead of the curve by the time he hit seventh grade.

When Mitchell first went out to obtain his ham operating license, Morse code was still a required skill for communication via radio, and so he had to travel to the FCC office in the Twin Cities to take a practical exam to prove his proficiency in Morse code. Despite dropping the exam requirement, the use of Morse code in the ham community remains alive and well, according to Mitchell, attributing its popularity in part to a fascination held by many of today's youth with older, outdated or otherwise "retro" items or trends of the last century, such as a renewed interest in record players.

Regulation of ham radio



IT'S GOOD TO BE A HAM

Amateur "HAM" radio operator Todd Mitchell pictured in his "shack" alongside his radio equipment. Mitchell entered the world of amateur radio more than 40 years ago and has been a practitioner of Morse code for a majority of his time as a radio operator.

dates back to the twentieth century when wireless telegraphy technology began to take shape. With so many radio signals floating around, the Federal Communications Commission (or the FCC) began to institute regulations as a way to police and otherwise clear out the excess interference radio operators would have been experiencing. An example of when radio interference would have been an issue during this time was the night of the sinking of the Titanic, when radio operators experienced interference when signalling for help. The FCC has since regulated the amateur

radio service and determines what frequencies hams are allowed to operate on, what modes are allowed, and how much power hams are allowed to use. Two-way communication is a requirement also set by the FCC, with some exceptions. Amateur radio operators are also barred from using any forms of encryption when operating, and ham frequencies cannot be used for business purposes.

Mitchell feels the title "amateur" radio operator can sometimes be misleading, as it connotes that hams are not skilled or accomplished as radio operators, when in reality, it denotes a distinction be-

tween paid and unpaid radio operators. A number of amateur radio services, such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Services, or ARES, can provide important back-up services during a crisis. During weather disasters, ARES is useful for fielding health and welfare calls when cell lines are down and police and fire departments are overwhelmed. The service is also commonly used during events like parades and marathons.

Ham radio continued on page 7

Emily Gehrking's homemade jams, jellies enjoyed locally

by Joshua Theis

In her spare time, Emily Gehrking's hobby is making and selling a variety of homemade jams, jellies, and produce, a pastime she has pursued for around ten years.

Gehrking tries to keep all of her ingredients fresh and local, growing most of them in her large garden at home. Gehrking also prefers to sell locally; she has showcased her goods

in craft shows at the Connection and the Schotts building and attends the Canby farmer's market every Thursday. Gehrking also donated jars to the Connection and other various fundraisers.

Derived from an original recipe from her grandmother, Mary Ann, Gehrking currently has 11 different jam and jelly flavors on offer, with the most popular flavor being berry, fol-

lowed by peach and strawberry. Gehrking can produce eight jars per batch and sells them at three different sizes, 4, 8, and 16 ounces.

Gehrking has received good feedback on her products this year and plans to continue as a vendor at the Canby farmer's market. Check out her products there or contact her at 507-828-6963 or gehrking.jams@gmail.com.



FARMERS' MARKET VENDOR EMILY GEHRKING

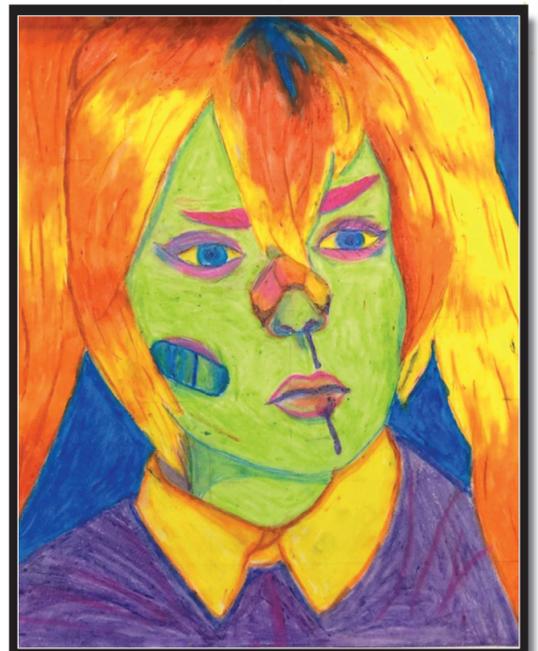
Emily Gehrking has had a vendor stand at the Canby farmers' markets this summer. Gehrking offers a variety of homemade jam and jelly flavors, as well as other homegrown produce.

Early deadline for news, ads is noon Thursday

With Labor Day this weekend, the Canby News will go to print Friday for the Sept. 7 edition.

News and ads will need to be submitted by noon Thursday, Sept. 4, in order to be published in the Sept. 7 edition. The Canby News office will be closed Monday, Sept. 7.

Artist of the Week



"Art plays a big role in my day-to-day life. Not a day goes by where I don't doodle or draw my own characters. I enjoy making cartoons and character designs most of the time, but I also appreciate taking time and effort into making pretty paintings and other intricate pieces. It's like a coping method and it expresses more than anything."

ZOE ELSING

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: DUKE ENERGY

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Thursday, Sept. 3

Lorraine Lipinski

Sunday, Sept. 6

Kent and Jane Goplen

Monday, Sept. 7

Lois Hunt

Lowell Hunt

List a name on our birthday and anniversary calendar for just \$2.

