

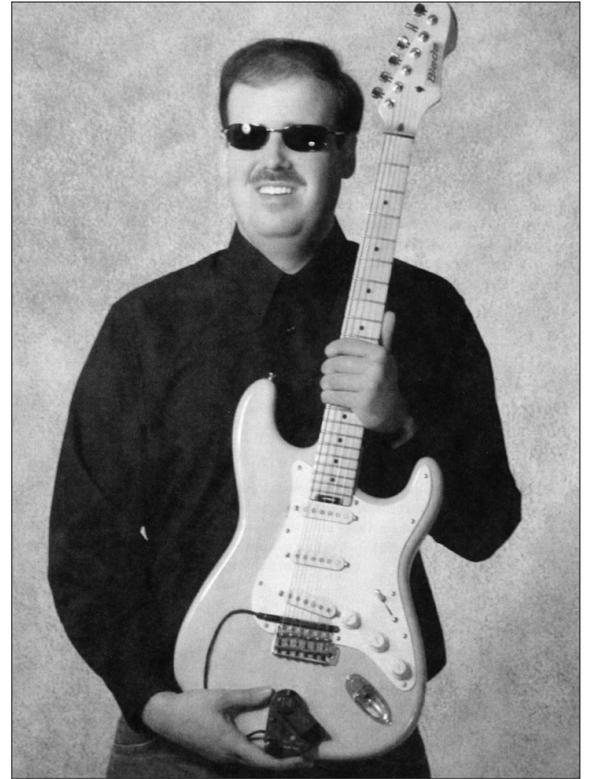


Photo: Ang Pechous
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PHOTO: LINDA WUEBBEN

The residents of Bloomfield will hold a benefit on Sunday, April 14, to raise funds to complete the renovation of the Bloomfield Pavilion. The structure, originally built in 1923, has been a fixture of entertainment life in the Knox County community for decades. It has undergone periodic renovations since 1981, but the current push to finish the job began in 2009. The featured entertainer during the fundraiser is Rory Hoffman (right), a South Dakota native who is a successful instrumentalist in Nashville, despite being blind.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bloomfield Vows To Finish The Job

April 14 Fundraiser Aims To Raise Money To Complete Renovation Of Pavilion

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — The Bloomfield community has been gearing up for some serious fundraising.

The American Legion Pavilion on the east end of Bloomfield has been greeting visitors to the Knox County community since 1923. It has been the hometown dance hall for many generations.

But times have changed and updates need to be made.

The Ray Lamb American Legion Post 249 is spearheading an all-day fundraiser on Sunday, April 14, to complete renovations on the pavilion that began as far back as 1981 when an addition was added on the east end. Organizers need approximately \$34,000 to add a heating/cooling system to the landmark dance hall and they are looking forward to singing and dancing to get all the money they need.

Back in 2009 a group of dedicated Bloomfield residents decided to start the ball rolling. They painted a two-foot by four-foot piece of plywood

white, added a thermometer and then looked at each other. They wondered how much all the small renovation projects would cost and what to mark next to the empty tube.

"I looked at Laurie Larsen and said, 'What do you think?'" said Mark Fehringer, adjunct commander for Post 249. "We had placed red lines up the thermometer and just started adding numbers for each small project. We just guessed at the final number — \$165,000." They wondered how they would get there.

The supporters of the renovation found out: one project at a time, never losing sight of the final upgrade — a modern heating and cooling unit. It started at the top, working on the roof. From there, the north side was sided, foundation work completed, new windows replaced the wooden doors which could be opened to the outside the way any dance hall was built back in the heyday of dances and doors were installed. Foundation work included raising the floor and replacing wooden beams under the structure. The next year the south side was sided and windows and doors installed. Most of the work was completed by volunteers.

Remodeling the entrance and renovating the bathrooms were the projects for 2012. The storage areas on the north end of the pavilion were redone and a dressing room was added. The siding project on the east end was completed. The American Legion sign, which was falling down on the east side of the dance hall, was replaced with a new all metal sign. To date about \$90,000 has been spent.

The Legion Post, under the direction of commander Joe Skrivan and a roster of 100 members, is not working alone, though. The Bloomfield Community Club and the VFW have also been instrumental in assisting with the fundraising and keeping the pavilion as a gathering spot for gun shows, wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations and even funerals on occasion. The community leaders de-

cidated a long time ago the pavilion was a structure they wanted to keep around for many years to come. It will seat 300 people and may even come in handy at Knox County Fair time, if the air conditioning becomes a reality.

"I remember playing every New Year's Eve at the pavilion from 1968-1985," said Kenny Carlow, Bloomfield resident and leader of the Kenny Carlow Band. Carlow will be playing along with several other entertainers on April 14. Music will be provided all day including polka music from Kenny Carlow, the OutBack Band, Weightless Band and area impersonators of such favorites as Elvis, Blues

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The first step to being prepared for severe weather is knowing when it's about to hit.

If you have a weather radio in your home you'll have advance warning when severe weather is heading toward you.

The Press & Dakotan and both locations of Kopetsky's Ace Hardware will be giving away a weather radio (\$34.99 value) to two lucky readers.

Just fill out the entry form and drop it at either of the two Kopetsky's Ace Hardware locations: 2404 Broadway or 103 W. 3rd St. by Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

A winner will be drawn from each location and announced on the Severe Weather Awareness page running in the April 22 Press & Dakotan in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Dakota.



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