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Eighth Annual Pembina-Walsh Youth Manufacturing Day hosted

The eighth annual Pembina-Walsh Youth Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY) took place on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Seven local manufacturers opened their doors to students: American Crystal Sugar (Drayton), Bordertown Retail Systems (Neché), CVR Industries (Neché), Dakota Pallets (Cavalier), Marvin (Grafton), MCI (Pembina), and Woodside Industries (Cavalier). A total of 215 seventh-grade students from nine area schools had the opportunity to tour two facilities and hear directly from industry ambassadors about today's manufacturing careers and the pathways that led them there.

Manufacturing is a cornerstone of the local economy, employing over 1,000 people across Pembina and Walsh counties. Manufacturing Day aims to reshape perceptions of manufacturing, inspire the next generation to consider careers in the field, and strengthen the workforce pipeline in rural communities. By showing students the opportunities available close to home, the event helps support both population retention and long-term business success.

The Pembina County and the Walsh County Job Development Authorities (JDAs) work closely with the area schools, manufacturers, and the North Valley Career and Technology Center to plan the Manufacturing Day events.

The JDAs received a grant from Impact Dakota to help offset the costs of the event. Impact Dakota is North Dakota's Manufacturing Extension Partnership offering training and consulting to manufacturing businesses.

Blood drive comes full circle for Drayton students

By Christine Jensen

Donating blood is a life-saving act. People around the world are in need- from premature babies, to cancer patients, to people recuperating from an accident, there are people in need of blood donations. Students at Drayton Public School recently learned the importance of organizing and donating with a recent blood drive.

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, students at Drayton Public School hosted their first blood drive. With help from Auxiliary Staff Nurse Kallie Christenson, students were not only able to learn the importance of blood drives but,

how to organize one and encourage people to contribute to them.

According to Christenson, approximately 23 appointments were booked for the blood drive, with 21 donors checking in and 20 donors successfully donating. There were six first-time donors and 24 total blood products collected, which exceeded the hospital commitment goal by five products.

Christenson said she credits the FCCLA students, Student Council, and the Community for the great success at the recent blood drive and said some of the people who came to donate have donated numerous times, a few more than 50-plus times. Christenson said they had donors from the community who stepped up, as well as a few from out of town.

She said at the initial blood drive organizational meeting, she asked the students what they knew about blood drives and how they could connect their efforts to help the world at large.

"We talked about how we can never know what can happen in our world and when a blood donation may be needed," Christenson said. "The students really responded to that. It takes an entire team."

Christenson said they had the highest amount of student donors that they have had in recent years,



DPS staff member Angi Aasand was one of many caring donors at last week's blood drive at the school. Photo by Jamie Rarick.

Living Legacy: New Airbnb prepares to open in Drayton

By Christine Jensen

Airbnb has been growing in popularity and market strength. People from various backgrounds and experiences are starting to realize the benefits not only of serving as a host on Airbnb but also for travelers looking for a unique and reasonable platform to spend time in.

Paula Chalmers, along with her husband Tanz and daughter Adelaine "Addie," opened an Airbnb in Drayton approximately four years ago. They have been booked solid since that time. Due to the increasing need for visitors and workers to have a comforting experience while traveling or working in the area, Paula decided to purchase another home in Drayton and flip it into an additional Airbnb in order to accommodate the growing need.

According to Paula, she had a vision she wanted to create. She said she couldn't have created the Airbnb without the help of her husband and daughter, who drove with her from Tacoma, Wash., To prepare the house.

"We all bring our own personal skills and it came together nicely. I was so thankful they were here with me," Paula said. "While I have the skills to know what is needed, my husband's strength and ability to build anything, as well as my daughter's knowledge with technology, to be able to run it from another state really helped us bring it all together in such a short time."

They arrived on a Sunday evening and worked diligently throughout the week before leaving on Friday to return home so Tanz could go to work Monday morning. In between meeting with extended family in the area throughout the week, they got busy painting and revamping the new property.

Paula said she wanted to create another Airbnb in the area because she has two daughters and wanted a house to represent both of them. Her first Airbnb is called "Adeline's Just in Case House."

"I also wanted one house to represent my grandmother's genealogy and one to represent my grandfather's genealogy on

the other one," Paula said. "I have two daughters and I wanted them to be connected to their cousins and family in Drayton."

She said their first Airbnb in Drayton has been continuously full and she has people who have wanted to stay, but she didn't have the capacity. The new house she purchased is near her first one, making it easier for people she hires to do yard work and cleaning.

"The two houses are close to each other, which makes it easier," Paula said. "It is a place to use which benefits the town. A place people can stay besides the motel, which is usually full as well."

She said she initially thought about opening an Airbnb in Drayton when her family came to visit and there was no place close to stay because everything was booked up, so they ended up having to rent campers to stay in during their time here.

She purchased the house at 406 N. Main Street in Drayton and said there are certain things that need to be put in the house to make it functional. For example, if more people stay, she has tables that can be opened up to accommodate more guests, as well as the capability to make beds larger if needed. She packs the house with supplies for those staying as well as for the person she hires to clean. A red barn star on the outside of the home represents the Airbnb.

"I set it up like a little store," Paula said. "I have it down to a science." She said she would be willing to help anyone who wants to turn a room or a home into an Airbnb. She said she wants to empower people to do it because there is a need as well as benefits to hosting.

"Both the hosts and guests are rated on Airbnb," Paula said. "So everyone is usually on their best behavior."

In Washington, Paula rents out rooms in her mother's home which has seven bedrooms. She said her charge is very reasonable because it keeps the rooms filled. People stay and share a bathroom and a kitchen. She charges \$39 per night at her Washington home and said it is very profitable.



Representing the sophomore class, Violet Hoyles and Peyton Larson volunteered at the check-in table for Wednesday's blood drive at the school. Photo by Jamie Rarick.

and for many, it was their first time donating. Potential donors can go to Vitalant.org to sign up for a slot at upcoming blood drives in the area, which is a program that makes it easier to get more donors lined up. She said the program captures a person's email and phone number so they can be contacted when future blood drives are organized, and said it makes for a strong chain of communication.

According to the Vitalant website, "When you give blood with Vitalant, you have the potential to help hospital patients within your community and nationwide. Our experienced team members can quickly deliver blood where it's needed most. The benefits of our

larger footprint are vast, including leveraging our coast-to-coast network of donation centers so every donation has the potential to impact more lives. Daily personal emergencies and the ongoing medical needs of thousands of patients require a constant and ready blood supply. It's the blood already on hospital shelves that saves lives."

The website notes these eye-opening numbers: every day in the United States, patients in hospitals, surgical centers, and emergency treatment facilities need approximately 30,000 units of red blood cells, 6,000 units of platelets, and 6,000 units of plasma.

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Photo by Christine Jensen

"It is a win/win situation for everyone because you are making money and people are saving money," Paula said. "It brings some power back to the people with the rising costs of motels and gives people a chance to make a little money."

She said Airbnb hosts can choose who they let stay. She usually asks potential clients why they are coming and why they want to rent the room. She said she likes to rent to good people who are grateful to be able to stay with such reasonable rates.

"I am careful about who I put in the rooms. Sometimes I make exceptions and if they have really good reviews I will for sure take them in," Paula said. "If I have to decline someone there is usually another person ready to rent a room because I keep my prices reasonable. I have always been full, I have a sweet spot of where my prices should be. It ends up being a win/win situation and everyone is happy."

Paula, who hires people from the Drayton area to do minor projects, clean, and do lawn care, said she is so grateful for the people she has found who have agreed to help with various things at her Airbnb.

"I appreciate the local people who have all stepped up," she said. "I put the word out and people have stepped up to help clean and fix things when it is needed."

She said hosting Airbnb is a
'LEGACY' CON'T PAGE 9



Airbnb owners Paula Chalmers, her husband Tanz and daughter Adelaine. Photo by Christine Jensen

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