

Students clean up Memorial Park

A group of 25 Prior Lake High School students from the EcoTeam volunteered to improve water quality in a local neighborhood on Nov. 1.

The students gathered at Memorial Park in Prior Lake to clean up leaves and other organic debris from the park. They gathered 3,440 pounds of leaves, and the city of Prior Lake disposed of the organic debris by using one of its specialized vacuum trucks.

Without the cleanup, the leaves would have washed down the storm drains and emptied directly into Prior Lake, said Meghan Litsey, outreach specialist with the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District. Leaves, grass clippings and other organic debris contain phosphorus, which is a pollutant to lakes and rivers.

When leaves and organic debris decay, they provide excess nutrients that feed algae growth. Excessive algae blooms reduce the amount of oxygen available wildlife and block vital sunlight for plants in the water.

Even though the city regularly sweeps the streets in the fall, it is important for residents to do their part and help prevent leaves and other organic debris from going



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Prior Lake High School students from the EcoTeam volunteered to improve water quality by raking leaves and cleaning up debris at Memorial Park on Nov. 1.

into nearby water resources, Litsey said. To organize your own neighborhood leaf raking event, email Litsey at mlitsey@plslwd.org.

CELEBRATE!

WEDDING

Zimmer-Westlund

Andrea Zimmer and Cody Westlund were married June 29th, 2013 in an outdoor ceremony at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville. A reception and dance immediately followed.

Parents of the couple are Ron and Dawn Zimmer of Prior Lake, and Doug and Diane Westlund of New Prague.

The bride attended the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, MN., where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Elementary Education. Andrea is a 5th grade teacher at the School of International Studies in ISD #196.

The groom is a graduate of Iowa State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Software Engineering. Cody is employed as a Software Engineer at Dell Compellent in Eden Prairie. The couple resides in Prior Lake.



Andrea and Cody

BIRTH

Shaughnessy



Liam Wesley

Ryan and Carrie Schenck Shaughnessy announce the birth of their son Liam Wesley.

Liam was born at 9:37 p.m. on August 21, 2013 at St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Shakopee. He weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20 1/4 inches in length. Liam has hazel eyes and brown hair.

Paternal grandparents are Brian and JoAnn Shaughnessy of Lonsdale.

Maternal grandparents are Peter and Melinda Schenck of Burnsville.

Minnesota DNR says illegal deer baiting on the rise

As the number of citations issued for deer baiting has reached an all-time high, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds Minnesota deer hunters to review regulations before heading to the field this fall.

Changes in the regulations last year affect penalties for deer baiting, which continues to plague the sport.

"We're seeing increased numbers of convictions for deer baiting while at the same time the penalties have increased," said Col. Ken Soring, DNR enforcement director.

Deer baiting is placing food near deer stands or clearings with the intent of luring a deer into close shooting range. It has been illegal to bait deer in Minnesota since 1991.

DNR conservation officers issued 166 citations and 49 warnings while confiscating 135 firearms and bows during the 2012 bow, firearms and muzzleloader big game seasons. It's the highest number of baiting citations and confiscations issued during the deer hunting seasons since the DNR began tracking these violations in 1991.

"It was apparent that a fine and forfeiture of a firearm or bow was not enough to curtail the activity," Soring said. "In order to show the seriousness of the offense, hunters are also subject to license revocation when convicted of baiting deer."

The penalties for baiting include:

- A person may not obtain any deer license or take deer under a lifetime license one

year after the person is convicted of hunting deer with the aid or use of bait. The DNR's Electronic Licensing System will also block a person's ability to buy a license. A second conviction within three years would result in a three-year revocation.

- The revocation period doubles if the conviction is for a deer that is a trophy deer scoring higher than 170 inches.

- Soring reminds hunters it is illegal to take deer with the aid or use of bait and encourages hunters to direct their efforts toward traditional and ethical hunting techniques like scouting for the best hunting locations.

- Bait includes grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, or other food capable of attracting

or enticing deer and has been placed by an individual.

- Liquid scents (example: doe in heat), sprays, salts, and mineral scents are not bait if they do not contain liquid or solid food products.

"Read the ingredient label on all products prior to use since many products contain food or attractants such as grains, fruits and sugar derivatives," Soring said.

He added if a salt or mineral product has anything other than salt or minerals in it, it is illegal to use for hunting.

"There are still people who think that just because they can buy an attractant off the shelf, then it must be legal in the state. It is not. Read the label carefully before making your purchase," Soring said.

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