



March 2012

www.rockfallsiowa.com

3 S. Nottingham St.

Phone 641-696-3455

City Clerk 641-530-1275

Rock Falls News

Fire Destroys Home



Photo: Jeff Heinz, Globe Gazette

On February 15 a fire consumed the home of Tim and Hella Navratil north of Rock Falls. Firefighters from Plymouth, Nora Springs, and Rudd fought the blaze, but the house was very badly damaged. Fortunately no one was home and no one was injured. Insurance adjusters have since determined the cause for the fire was electrical. Tim and Hella and family will be moving to their property on North Nottingham in Rock Falls following some remodeling.

Thank you to all of our friends, family & fellow townfolk that pulled together to help us since the loss of our house in a fire on Feb. 15th, 2012. Your gifts, kind words & hard work are appreciated more than words can say. We are so lucky to live in such a caring community - Thank you!

Tim & Hella Navratil & family

New Playground Equipment

The Rock Falls City Council has for several months been contemplating the addition of some new playground equipment in the City Park. Council members have received comments that there needs to be more equipment for smaller children.



In the fall, council members met with representatives from playground equipment agents to consider equipment options and space requirements. For the equipment being considered, the play area will need to be expanded to the west about thirty feet. That space will need to be excavated and filled with rubber tire chips. The city will likely look for volunteers in the spring to help with site preparation and assembly of the new equipment.

Council member Jessica Prazak has spent many hours preparing a grant application to the Worth County Development organization for casino funding for the project. Other funding sources may be sought to help defray costs.

Power Strips a Fire Hazard

The winter season might be a good time to remind everyone that extension cords and power strips should be used sparingly and should be inspected regularly for defects. According to the Office of Compliance Safety and Health, an agency of the U.S. Congress, improper use of easily overloaded, unapproved extension cords can present a serious fire safety hazard.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical distribution equipment, such as extension cords, was the second leading cause of fire deaths in the U.S. between 1994 and 1998. The most common cause of fires from extension cords is due to improper use and/or overloading, especially when cords have multiple outlets. Most extension cords are only rated for a maximum of ten amps or 1200 watts. Overloading can occur when multiple devices are plugged into one cord or when cords are "daisy chained" (plugging multiple extension cords together).

The National Fire Protection Association states that conductors and equipment are acceptable for use only if they are approved by recognized laboratories (such as Underwriters Laboratory, Factory Mutual, etc.).

Source: National Fire Protection Association

The War of 1812 Remembrance Day

WHEREAS, the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 sometimes referred to as "The Second War for American Independence" officially begins on June 18, 2012; and

Whereas the sacrifices by those soldiers, citizens and their families that fought in the War of 1812, further defended the liberties previously won in the American Revolution; and

Whereas those sacrifices would include heroic efforts by Dolly Madison to save some of our National treasures from destruction during the burning of the White House by the British in 1814; and Whereas the conflict and bravery shown would inspire Francis Scott Key to write a poem describing the bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor and the said writings would become our country's National Anthem, known as the Star Spangled Banner; and

Whereas General Andrew Jackson helped win a stunning victory over the British in the Battle of New Orleans on 08 January 1815; and

Whereas the War of 1812 further solidified the United States independence from Great Britain; and

Whereas in 1855 Congress provided land grants to veterans of the War of 1812 which furthered expansion west to places like Iowa, where even today the descendants of these patriots call home; and WHEREAS, many thousands of Iowa residents today can trace their lineages back to these patriotic early settlers; and,

WHEREAS, descendants of some of the veterans of the war of 1812 in the state of Iowa have recently obtained a Charter that grants to Iowa members a State Society within the General Society of the War of 1812; whose primary purpose is to promote a more general awareness of the history of said war throughout this state and among the citizens of Iowa and the nation:

Now, Therefore I, Richard Petersen, Mayor of Rock Falls, Iowa do hereby proclaim June 18th as "The War of 1812 Remembrance Day" and urge all citizens to become more knowledgeable of the role the War of 1812 played in the history of our great nation and citizens of the state of Iowa.