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Things are looking better after much needed rains

Thanks to some timely rainfall, a little bit of cautious optimism regarding crop prospects is warranted.

In Faulkton weather observer Tom Bartholomew recorded .72 inches of rain from the past week.

In Wecota Randy Carlson reported variable rainfall.

“In Wecota proper there was about a half inch of rain,” he said. “In the area, some had more and some had less, varying from .25 to a full inch or so. I’m not sure about the corn, but the rain helped out the beans a lot. We can always use more rain, though of course a lot of guys are out combining wheat right now too. I’d say the spring wheat harvest is about eighty percent done.”

In Chelsea, Dave Ortmeier reported a boon rain of 2 inches.

“We got about two inches and north of us they got even more, I heard it was almost 3.5 inches or

so,” he said. “Everything is looking better. I think the corn is going to end up much better than it’s looking. Wheat harvest is almost finished, guys have been pulling about fifty to sixty bushels per acre.”

In Onaka, Shannon Waldman reported smaller rainfall numbers.

“I think it was only about .42 inches in total,” he said. “Still it greened things up again. The corn and soybeans definitely look better. Winter wheat harvest is all done and it was about fifty-five to sixty bushels. The guys are still plugging away at the spring wheat. It was nice to have the rain, and we could use some more.”

In Seneca, Kirk Hoefert reported 1.75 inches of rain.

“South of us didn’t get as much but 212 on north we did pretty well,” he said. “Since that rain

Crop and weather update
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FAMC is Beta-Testing new software

Last week staff from the Faulkton Area Medical Center met with the president, vice-president and chief of product development for Healthland Software of Minneapolis Minn..

“We already use Healthland’s Ambulatory care product in our hospital,” said FAMC’s Erin Stark. “We are organizing the process of beta testing Healthland new software, designed to do the same tasks for our clinic patients. This software will take a patient’s full medical record and make it available anywhere in the building as well as give certain staff members, such as our medical professionals, full access to patient records from home or anywhere they can access the internet and log into the secure program. The software will tie in results from our lab and x-ray as well, making everything we do available for our medical staff to see at any time.

“We are one of two facilities that will be testing this software in the United States, and we will go live with the software on August 20. Healthland will be sending us company technicians who will train our physicians and staff on the use of the program.”

“We’re very excited about this program, as we were really able to get in on the ground floor during its initial design, and review what we like and didn’t like about it. Healthland has done a good job making it user friendly and so we are confident it will be well received by our staff.”

Pictured in front are Tom Herricks and Erin Stark. In back is Administrator Jay Jahng, Susan Miller, Healthland VP Julie Weber-Kramer, Healthland President and CEO Angie Franks, Healthland SVP of Product Development Micheal Karaman, Karla Hall, Richelle Hyatt, and Blythe Andrea.



Lilas and Sean Riley share reminiscences about the late Paul Riley, whose many medals for his service in the Second World War arrived for his family this past spring.

Medals and memories, better late than never

by Garrick Moritz

Before post-traumatic stress disorder was a medically verified psychological condition, returning war vets usually had three methods that they’d often practice to deal with the time they’d spent in war. Silence. Time. Distance.

“Paul never talked about it,” she said. “If I hadn’t known he’d been in the war, and won medals, I would probably never have guessed it of him, because he almost never said anything about them or why he won them. He was always very patriotic, and I know he was proud of his service, but he never wanted to talk much about it.”

Nowadays Lilas spends most of her time in Arizona, but flies back home a few times a year to visit her family and friends. She sat down at the kitchen table with her grandson Sean to look over the medals her husband received a lifetime ago.

“Last time I was back I went to see Red Vetter down at the Veteran’s Service office,” she said. “I told him about Paul’s medals, and how he never did actually get them. He said that it might take a year or more to get it done, but it took less than that. I told him to send them to John’s

house, and they arrived this past spring, and I know John was very happy to get them, as we were all very pleased. Red does a good job up there at the courthouse, and you can tell him I said so.”

In all, Paul Riley, who would later go on to farm here in Faulk County for many decades afterward, was awarded four bronze stars, the purple heart, service medals for Africa and Europe and D-Day, and medals for good conduct and honorable service. They were delivered to his family this spring. Riley was part of the 120th Infantry Regiment of the 30th Infantry Division, a famous division, nicknamed “Old Hickory” after it’s famous historical commander, President Andrew Jackson.

“Grandpa was quite a character,” said Sean Riley. “That good conduct medal made me smile.”

“When folks would ask him how he got a purple heart, well he had a regular response ready,” Lilas said. “He said that he was carrying a radio pack, and that he’d been shot in the back, so you knew which way he was running. And that’s all he said, though I’ve worked out that he was probably in Italy when it happened. I know he carried the

shrapnel in his back to his grave, because it was too close to his spine to get it out. I know he recovered in England, he used to make jokes and tell stories about the English nurses, none of which you should put in print.”

“But he was pretty quiet about all of it,” she said. “I wanted to travel, see some of Europe, but his response was always, been there, done that,” she said. “Finally I convinced him to go on a Highlights of Europe tour that (Senator) Tom Daschle had arranged for vets. As we went on the tour he finally opened up just a little and I found out that he’d been to most of the places we went to on the tour. He’d been in most of the major battles, the liberation of Paris, the Argon Forest, the Battle of the Bulge, D-Day at Omaha Beach. He said that on D-Day his sergeant told him and his squad to crawl on their bellies up the hill where they landed to get to a German machine gun nest. When they got there, he said, there was nobody there, empty because the Germans had run.

“That’s the Riley luck coming into play right there,” said Sean.

“Once in a while a new movie
Paul Riley’s medals
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