

SEARCH continued from page 1a

## Guard provides 94 troops for search

of Staples. The Cass County Sheriff's Department, Achermann's family, friends and the area community have conducted an aggressive search effort ever since. Achermann is a white male, approximately 5-foot-9, 175 pounds, with a gray beard. He generally walks with a cane. Anyone with information is asked to call the sheriff's department at 800-450-2677 or 218-547-1424. Gov. Tim Pawlenty ordered the National Guard to join the search on Friday, Aug. 7. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1-194 Armored Battalion, based in Brainerd, had 94 troops at the search site early Saturday morning. Sgt. Major Stephen Cunnien said the unit's members were scheduled for their normal weekend drill but had their orders changed at 6 p.m. Friday to respond to the Cass County

sheriff's call for assistance. The Guard troops were assigned a detailed search of three target areas near where Achermann's car was found. "The troops are virtually holding hands in the search effort. It is a very physically demanding operation in this terrain," Cunnien said. "But every one of them would rather be here than anywhere else right now," he added about mid-afternoon on Saturday, as the Guards took a short lunch break. Many of the troops were wet up to their waists after combing a swampy area. Commanding officer of the HHC 1-194 is Captain Joseph Sanganoo. "We've not located anything so far," he said Saturday afternoon. "We're here to support the Cass County Sheriff's Office. We give them more personnel. We're not necessarily better than the local volunteers, but perhaps

better prepared in some physically demanding situations." "We hope we can help the family find their loved one, that's our goal," Captain Sanganoo said. Cass County Sheriff Randy Fisher said the National Guard unit researched areas and did an excellent job in some hard to search areas. "We gave them the hardest of the hard areas. I don't mean to take anything away from the volunteers, the family and friends, but the Guards were in better physical condition and with better equipment. I know the family really appreciates having them here," Fisher said. Two of Peter's sons, Franz and Jorg, worked Saturday with the Guards, who were divided into two groups, one of 50 and another of 44 troops. A National Guard helicopter was used Sunday for a combined ground search and low level aerial search. The DNR also brought in a Marsh Master bog machine to get into some of the wetter areas.



### Planning search

Using an aerial map, Captain Joseph Sanganoo, center, talked over details of the next search effort for his National Guard unit with two of his men. Sanganoo led 94 members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1-194 Armored Battalion, which is

based in Brainerd, during the search last Saturday and Sunday for Peter Achermann. Despite the work of the Guard members, there was still no trace of the missing man. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)



### Heavy woods

A National Guardsman trudged through heavy woods during part of the search Saturday for Peter Achermann. The National Guard unit had radios, compasses and their own maps to guide them in the search effort, which was coordinated by the Cass County Sheriff's Department. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)

Also on Monday, another dog team was brought in and covered both the original search area and an expanded area. This is at least the 25th dog team used. The Guard presence also caused more media exposure, with television satellite trucks parked Saturday in or around Joe Hasselberg's yard. Along with a Salvation Army lunch wagon, Joe and Barb Hasselberg's Becker Township residence took on the look of a large family reunion with many vehicles parked along the road leading up to their place. Achermann's station wagon was found about a half mile north, on a minimum maintenance road. The sheriff's office has coordinated search efforts

of family, friends and volunteers. Sheriff Fisher said they had adequate searchers for the first two weeks, but that many of the people had to leave, returning to jobs or for other reasons. "We had discussed calling for the Guard before, so when the Governor's office called us on Friday, I made the request for the Guard to assist," Fisher said. "The Guard being here has given the whole effort a new life." The search headquarters remains just north of Cass County 32, with a sign at the curve. Searchers need to wear heavy clothes and shoes and be prepared for difficult walking. Family members said early this week that volunteers are still needed and

can come to the search area beginning at 9 a.m. any day. No one will be turned away. In addition to family members, numerous area residents have been showing up day after day. The family is very appreciative of the support they have received the past many days.

ment will arrive, and a week after that, a third shipment. These early shipments will be dispensed to the five high priority levels. When more shipments arrive, the rest of the population can begin to be vaccinated, should that become necessary. People from birth to age 25 are most at risk for serious illness from the H1N1 virus.

WADENA COUNTY continued from page 1a

## Vaccine shipments expected in October

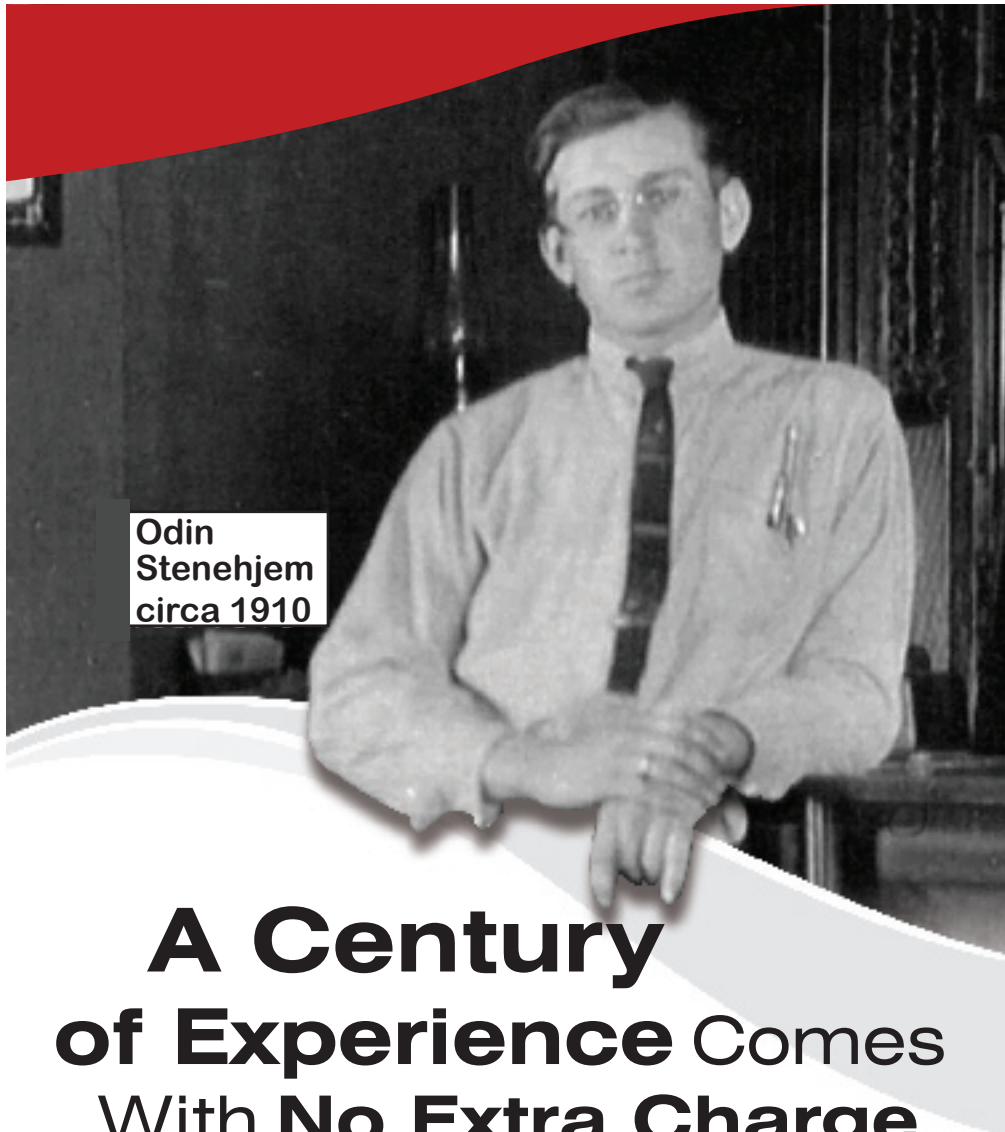
Wadena County must have enough trained people "to staff three deep" during an epidemic, such as an outbreak of the H1N1 flu, Nelson said. If the first two assigned to a job get sick, the third one can step in and perform the job. Currently, Nelson has enough to staff "two deep." She could use more volunteer nurses to help with any emergency, she told the board. Credentialing for professional health workers must take place before any emergency happens. Workers such as R.N. and LPN nurses, pharmacists, doctors, veterinarians, and physicians' assistants are needed. Anyone who would like to be part of the Minnesota Response to any disaster, but especially the H1N1 flu expected this fall, is asked to contact Deb Belch, office manager at

the Wadena County Public Health. If there is no mass outbreak, the orderly dispensing of the vaccine will take place beginning in October. Five levels of the population have been identified to receive the H1N1 flu vaccine first. These are the people most at risk of getting the disease. They are: healthcare workers, pregnant women, children zero to 5 years old, children in grades K-12, and adults with complicating health problems like asthma and compromised immune systems. Staff is identifying these people so that they can be contacted and told where to go for their vaccination. The first shipment of vaccine is scheduled to arrive by October 15. These doses will be given to healthcare workers and pregnant women. A week later, another ship-

ment will arrive, and a week after that, a third shipment. These early shipments will be dispensed to the five high priority levels. When more shipments arrive, the rest of the population can begin to be vaccinated, should that become necessary. People from birth to age 25 are most at risk for serious illness from the H1N1 virus. In other business, the board:

- APPROVED an application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Gerald Olson for the temporary operation of an asphalt plant in Section 5, Red Eye Township. Knife River Corporation will use the asphalt plant for road work.
- APPROVED an application for a CUP for Dan and Debbie Card for a new building to house a locker plant business in Section 17 of Wing River Township. The Cards hope to employ 12 to 20 people.
- APPROVED payment of the 2008 and 2009 allocations to the Wadena County Humane Society, a total of \$1,350.
- APPROVED an increase in the court-ordered Rule 25 chemical dependency assessment fee to \$200, retroactive to July 1, 2009.
- APPROVED the splitting of a budget line item in the General Fund into two accounts: (1) Labor Negotiations, \$70,000, and (2) Human Resources Services, \$5,000.
- DESIGNATED management consultant Mike Gibson to conduct a review of the new Deputy Emergency Management Systems Director position, to determine the appropriate job classification according to the Hay Scale, and create a job description.
- APPROVED an increase in the estimate for burying the electrical service wiring in the parking lot of the Highway Department building, from \$1,500 to \$3,200.

The next regular meeting of the Wadena County Board of Commissioners is 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20.



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- **When ...**  
Race begins at 9:00 a.m.  
Race Day registration closes at 8:30 a.m.
- **Where ...**  
Start and finish at the Staples Alliance Church, 1512 8th St. NE, Staples
- **Why ...**  
All proceeds benefit the area's non-profit charity youth mentoring program, Kinship of Todd-Wadena Counties
- **Cost ...** To pre-register is only \$15 (includes free race day participant t-shirt, participant goodie bag & Dilly Bar for finishers). Same Day registration costs more, plus participant t-shirts, goodie bags, and special treats are limited!

Contact: Race Director Nick Schultz at 218-894-1201 or schultzn5@yahoo.com (please visit [www.railroaddaysdash.com](http://www.railroaddaysdash.com))

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