

# COMMUNITY

## A sweet sendoff

Local legionnaires, vets honor soldier before his tour resumes

By Cynthia Walker  
CORRESPONDENT

Last week local veterans and legionnaires honored one of their own, during a special Support Our Troops rally held at the Walworth County Government Center.

First Class Pvt. Mitchell Heath, of the U.S. Army, was awarded the American Legion Certificate of Honor at a noon-time presentation at Veteran's Park Memorial Plaza Sept. 12.

Taps were played in the background as Robert Webster, Sr., Support Our Troops Committee advocate and American Legion member, presented the award.

### Support our soldiers:

Support Our Troops rallies, hosted by the American Legion, are held every Monday from 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., at the Walworth County Government Center, 100 W. Walworth St.

For more information, or to get involved, contact Robert L. Webster, Sr., advocate for Troops & Veterans of the Support Our Troops Committee, by mailing to P.O. Box 821, Elkhorn, WI 53121; calling (262) 275-6587, emailing webstersr@frontier.com; or visiting www.supportwalcotroops.com.

"We want to show our military servicemen how much we appreciate them," he said.

Heath has been on leave in Elkhorn since Sept. 1, since serving in Afghanistan as a 19-D Cavalry Scout.

He was scheduled to return for another tour of duty beginning Sept. 17.

The Elkhorn native completed his basic training in Fort Knox, Ky. on Oct. 14, 2010, stayed on another three weeks for specialized training and graduated on Nov. 5, 2010, when he was transferred to Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks, Ala.

Heath is stationed there until 2013, when he can decide whether or not to stay there for another three years or be reassigned to another station until 2016, the official end of his tour of duty.

A lot will depend upon how he and his bride like Alaska, he said. He and fiancée Alexandria Nelson were engaged late last month and are planning a wedding early next summer.

He is the son of Dawn and Michael Heath of Elkhorn.

The Support Our Troops Committee honors all servicemen, active-duty, POW/MIA and deceased, each week during a rally held at 11 a.m. in room 214 of the Walworth County Government Center at 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn.

Webster encourages the public to come out and show their support.

"As older veterans, we want



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**Army Private First Class Mitchell Heath, pictured with fiancée, Alexandria Nelson, both of Elkhorn, was honored last week with the American Legion Certificate of Honor for his service overseas.**

to show more support to our servicemen and avoid repeating the mistakes made with our Vietnam vets," he said. "There are currently 380 Wisconsin residents serving either in Iraq or Afghanistan."

During the past seven years, the committee has shipped more than 1,200 care boxes weighing more than seven cu-

mulative tons to local active-duty servicemen overseas.

Anyone interested in sending care packages, or other support can contact Webster at (262) 275-6587.

"Everyone is encouraged to memorialize our veterans and sustain the active-duty personnel serving our country," he said.

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taxing districts.

A final audit filed with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue in the past month completed the closure process.

Though the surplus was eyed for distribution for the 2012 budget, Alderwoman Julie Taylor explained at the Sept. 19 meeting that officials saw it as more advantageous to disperse the funds in the present year in order to reduce the levy.

Within the next two weeks, each of the TID's jurisdictions - Walworth County, Elkhorn Area School District and Gateway Technical College will receive their portions of surplus.

The county will receive \$253,312, Gateway - \$85,506 and the schools \$592,629, according to Mary Hinske, the city's finance director.

For the city's share, \$401,025, the Council designated depositing \$100,000 for capital projects, \$100,000 for risk management, \$50,000 for the city's vehicle and equipment replacement program and \$150,000 toward its general obligation service.

The city's lone active TID 3, which is located on the north end of town, running from the Walgreens' location up to Mann Bros.' property, is scheduled to close in 2020.

Hinske said the city has set aside an additional \$222,000 from the TID surplus to pay toward projects under way.

Those include the environmental remediation of the 201 Centralia St. property, which the city is litigating; and three downtown façade grants, in which the city is matching funds with downtown property owners to restore their build-

The bid specs that were circulated called for a three-inch asphalt overlay when it actually needs a four-inch overlay, according to Tapson.

However, he noted that since the bids are based on total quantities, rather than being street specific, the project could proceed until the bid quantities are exhausted - allowing for the completion of Koopman and O'Connor, as well as preparatory repairs on Deere Road.

The remaining portion of the Deere Road overlay would be bid out as a 2012 project, he said.

The Council went forward with Tapson's recommendation and awarded the contract to B.R. Amon for \$450,025. Payne & Dolan's bid came in at \$508,635.

### Veolia stands by its service

Last week, Veolia Environmental Services completed 216 cart exchanges for residents who asked for smaller-sized garbage and recycling bins.

Sept. 16 was the cut-off date for residents' requests to be fulfilled, according to Tapson.

Now the city is considering amending its current contract for waste disposal services, indicating how it will proceed with such requests.

According to Veolia's proposal, anyone wishing to swap out their bins must have a medical reason to do so. Those who simply want to change sizes out of convenience, will be charged \$60.

A representative with Veolia, who was present at Monday's meeting, said his company would take requests "at face value."