Hazen residents survey a wide variety of crafts and other creative items at the holiday bazaar held in Hazen City Hall on November 7.

Hazen holds holiday bazaar

BY DANIEL ARENS

Hazen’s City Hall was filled with countless handmade artworks, artifacts, crafts, food, and other creative designs on November 7.

The holiday bazaar included over 35 booths, each with different focuses in craftsmanship, and with vendors coming from throughout the state. The bazaar proved very successful for the vendors, with several hundred people showing up throughout the day. The wide variety of different items included some for-profit businesses and some charity work.

“It was a great turnout,” Stacie Kruckenberg, who managed the event, said. She noted that the knoephla soup that was one of the food options provided for the day ran out before noon, even though a large amount of soup was prepared for the day.

People attending the event had the opportunity to participate in a quilt raffle, which was won by Stanton resident Lois Ballen.

Peace Lutheran Church held a fundraiser at one of the booths, raising money for a church dining hall remodeling. The church had four jars of jelly in total left over from their fundraiser, and easily sold these after its Sunday service.

“We just really appreciate everyone coming out and supporting us,” Sara Mittelstaedt said. Mittelstaedt worked with the fundraiser for the church.

Kruckenberg said that she received “love gifts” from some of the vendors, describing these gifts as gratitude for the success the vendors had.

Kruckenberg described a number of different booths that caught her attention, including: woodworking that was done from the wood of a barn torn down north of Hazen; Larry and Judy Lindquist who did their own Christmas-style woodwork and also published books from Judy describing her creative process; beeswax ornaments; and clothes for American Dolls.

She also praised the booths, which were set up the previous day. Many of these booths were elaborate and decorative in their own construction, and some took hours to set up.

“Thank you to all the volunteers who came out and helped us,” Kruckenberg said, encouraging community members to get involved with volunteer opportunities. She highlighted Veterans Day as an example of a place where volunteer work is valuable, saying that we should be able to give back to those who have given everything, and thanking our veterans for their service.

The Hazen Senior Center hosts a membership drive and pot luck. From left to right: LaVerna Scheid, Norreen Steckler, Dave Steckler, Gary Scheid, and Karen Helm.