Strasburg students attend tourism meeting

By Nicole Vander Vorst

Strasburg Public School eighth graders learned about promoting German-Russian heritage at the Tri-County Tourism Alliance March meeting.

Strasburg Public School teacher and Welk Homestead Site Director, Brian Grove said that educating students about their culture and community is important.

"Many of these students take the treasures we have right here in our back yard for granted," Grove said. "Going to meetings like this can help them understand the rich history of our culture, while getting involved in the community."

The students learned about many ways the Tourism Alliance works to promote the Tri-County area. One of the items that was covered in-depth was a grant proposal to the Heritage Fund for an enhancement project for the Dinosaurs on the Prairie east of Napoleon.

UND communication class student, Daniel Pawlak, his advisor Nicole Derenne, property owners, Logan county commissioners, and NDSU Logan County Extension Agent and Tri-County Tourism Alliance President, Carmen Rath-Wald, formed a team to work on the proposal.

Pawlak and Derenne joined the Alliance group via webcam and provided details regarding the project. They said that the project would cost nearly $80,000. The plan would include a building near the "dinosaurs" with information inside, explaining the history of threshing machines and the area. Outside, a picnic area would invite individuals to spend time enjoying the area, and a cobblestone walkway would be built along the hillside.

Rath-Wald said that the tourist destination would bring business to the area, while being a place for people to take pictures and enjoy the outdoors and history. The increase in knowledge and interest in the area would be an economy boost for the entire tri-county area.

Other items on the agenda included dates and places where the "Women on the Plow" Photographic exhibit would be on display, cultural and heritage events taking place across the state, and historical awards to nominate and apply for.

The March meeting took place at The Hague Cafe. The next meeting will take place at the Hazelton Coffee Shop on April 12.