



# The Akron Hometowneer

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Akron Hometowneer serving the communities of Akron, IA and Westfield, IA with Local News, Sports and What's Happening in the community.

**November 19, 2008**

## What's Happening?

### Blood Drive

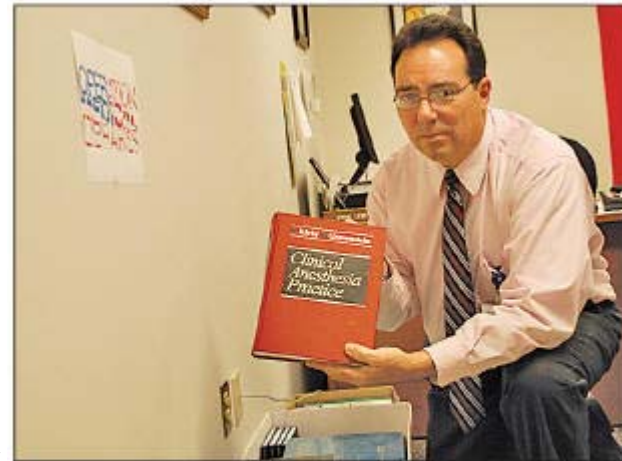
The Siouxland Community Blood Bank will host a blood drive in Akron Friday, Dec. 5, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First National Bank. To be eligible to donate individuals must be at least 16 years of age; however, there is no upper age limit as long as the donor is in good health. Donors under the age of 17 require parental consent. In addition, donors need to weigh at least 110 pounds and have not donated whole blood in the past 56 days. A photo I.D. is

## Operation: Medical Books

*Steve Liebetrau helps with effort known as Operation Medical Libraries which sends medical books to Iraq and Afghanistan*

**by Steve Peterson**

Since Steve Liebetrau of Akron sent out the call for medical books to Iraq and Afghanistan, he has been thrilled with the response from colleagues. Liebetrau works as St. Luke's Regional Medical Center physician recruiter in Sioux City. Recently he sent off five cases of books in the effort known as Operation Medical Libraries. "I asked people in the medical profession to send books from the year 1990 and up. It will really help them, especially with procedures on emergency room techniques and psychology. I got a very good response. It takes three weeks to get the books there, as they go to New Jersey first, then to Iraq and Afghanistan," Liebetrau said. Also, Solomon Islands Medical Community received one box of books sent Nov. 12. "Operation Medical Libraries is a medical



Steve Liebetrau of West Akron, South Dakota, sorts through texts headed for Afghanistan or Iraq as part of Operation Medical Libraries.

required at the time of registration.

### **Country music**

Enjoy an evening of Country Stars at the Akron Golf Course Nov. 22 from 5-10 p.m. A spaghetti supper will also be served.

### **Cookie trays**

Order your Christmas cookie trays from the Next Generation Club.

### **Open House**

Betty's Home Interior Open House is Nov. 22, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at First National Bank Community room.

### **Poultry Party**

Brunsville Legion Poultry Party is Nov. 22 beginning at 7 p.m.

### **Craft Fair**

Beresford's annual Christmas Craft Fair will be held at the Beresford High School gym Nov. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with 102 booths.

### **Tree trimming**

Akron city crews will be trimming trees in the upcoming weeks. Trees will be trimmed along city streets and alleys. If there are trees

libraries project that has American universities and hospitals collaborating with the United States military to provide medical and nursing textbooks for medical students, nurses and physicians in countries of need," according to the OML Web site. Waves of Mercy International (WOM) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to provide technical assistance and capacity to developing island nations. At the request of the Ministry of Health for the Solomon Islands, Waves of Mercy Solomon Islands has been given a project to provide medical staff, nurses, and health worker training and all types of medical equipment and medical supplies to help strengthen the capacity of the local health services for the islands. In order to better accomplish this mission we are seeking a partner to assist with the medical text and related training materials," Liebetrau's letter to area physicians said. According to the United Nations, the Solomon Islands is the world's most under-developed country and it receives the least amount of outside aid and assistance. They have the lowest real per capita income of any nation. More than 80 percent of the population of 590,000 lives on a non-monetary economy, meaning what they get they have to barter for. More than 70 percent of the population does not have access to proper medical facilities, health, or dental care. "The mission of Operation Medical Libraries is to collect and distribute current medical textbooks and journals to war-torn countries through a partnership with American medical schools, hospitals, and physicians and the United States military," according to its Web site. Originally founded as Books Without Borders, OML started in April, 2007 by Valerie Walker, director of UCLA Medical Alumni Association (MAA). She responded to an email request from a graduate of the medical school at UCLA for donated medical textbooks for medical facilities in Tikrit, Iraq. Original donations came from UCLA medical alumni, faculty and students. "While Iraqi and Afghan doctors would welcome the opportunity to take greater advantage of all that is available on the Internet, the lack of electricity, slow access, and limited availability make it difficult for doctors and medical students to access Internet resources. As a result, they have to rely heavily on medical textbooks for clinical information to give to patients." The US Air Force, Army, and Navy Medical Corps (MC) and the Army Nurse Corps (NC) have tried to get textbooks back in the hands of Afghan and Iraqi medical professionals OML is helping to meet this need. The impact on the medical



along the city right-of-way you would like to trim yourself, please do so. Thanks!

*For more of 'What's Happening' subscribe to The Akron Hometownner!*

communities of these two countries has been immediate and apparent. Liebetrau said that texts, journals as well as anatomy and pharmacology texts published since 2000 are needed. For more information, reach Liebetrau, physician recruiter at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Sioux City, at 712-279-3331. Liebetrau is active in the community as well, as he is a member of the Greater Hoyt School Board.

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### **Subscription Prices**

**\$27** for Plymouth, Sioux, and Woodbury counties in Iowa and Union county in South Dakota  
**\$35** - elsewhere  
**\$20** - college (9 months)

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