

One in a VerMillion

Meet Cindy Aden

By David Lias
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It won't be long before Cynthia Aden (she prefers to be called Cindy) celebrates one year on the job as Clay County's planning and zoning, welfare, and veteran's officer.

Cindy, he grew up in the Vermillion area, and she and her husband, John Aden, live on her family's farm located near the old Greenfield village in Clay County.

"That's where I grew up – on that farm," she said.

Cindy took over this multi-faceted job when her predecessor, Ray Hofman, was elected Clay County's register of deeds last November. Ray began his current job in January of this year; Cindy began learning the various roles of the county planning and zoning, welfare, and veteran's officer by working with Ray last Nov. 22.

She is glad her office is just across the hallway from Ray's.

"I take full advantage of that," she said, referring to the help he has provided this last year. "I was fortunate, when I started, that in November and December, especially in the planning and zoning area, there's not much activity. I had an opportunity to work my way into it instead of having to hit the ground and work my way into it."

One must be a military veteran to serve as the county's veterans service officer. "I was in the Army for three years. A lot of what I do is help local veterans navigate the system. The Veterans Administration is very complex, and so I'll help them fill out paperwork, or at least find the correct paperwork," Cindy said. "I can talk to the veteran and at least get some idea about what benefits might be available to that person, and then help them go about and get those benefits."

Her role as the county's zoning officer has also kept

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CINDY ADEN

her busy this past year.

"We have some exciting things going on in that part of the job. We are getting toward the end of working out a joint jurisdiction change with the city of Vermillion," Cindy said. "We're almost there, and we're re-doing our ordinances for that. It's getting exciting."

Having the ability to help local veterans, she said, is a source of great satisfaction.

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"But I'm really, truly enjoying the planning and zoning part (of the job) as well," she added. "That was something I really didn't know anything about until I took the job, and it's been really, really interesting to learn how that can impact the community if you have proper planning for the growth of the community. You can really do

good things for the citizens, and keep the communities and the county itself moving in the right direction."

Cindy works in a very unique atmosphere. The walls of her office are lined with rows and rows of photos of Clay County veterans. Dave Wherry, a former veterans officer, began the unique décor nearly a decade ago. He requested that local veterans, or the family members of Clay County vets, bring in photos.

Currently, Cindy's office is home to nearly 780 photos – too many to all fit on the walls. An office divider is now in place to provide extra space to display all of the framed pictures.

"I'm about out of room, but that's a good problem to have," she said.



CINDY ADEN

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NAME: CINDY ADEN

OCCUPATION: CLAY COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING, WELFARE
AND VETERAN'S OFFICER

SPOUSE: JOHN ADEN

HOMETOWN: VERMILLION
(SHE CURRENTLY LIVES ON HER
FAMILY FARM NEAR THE OLD
GREENFIELD VILLAGE IN CLAY
COUNTY.)



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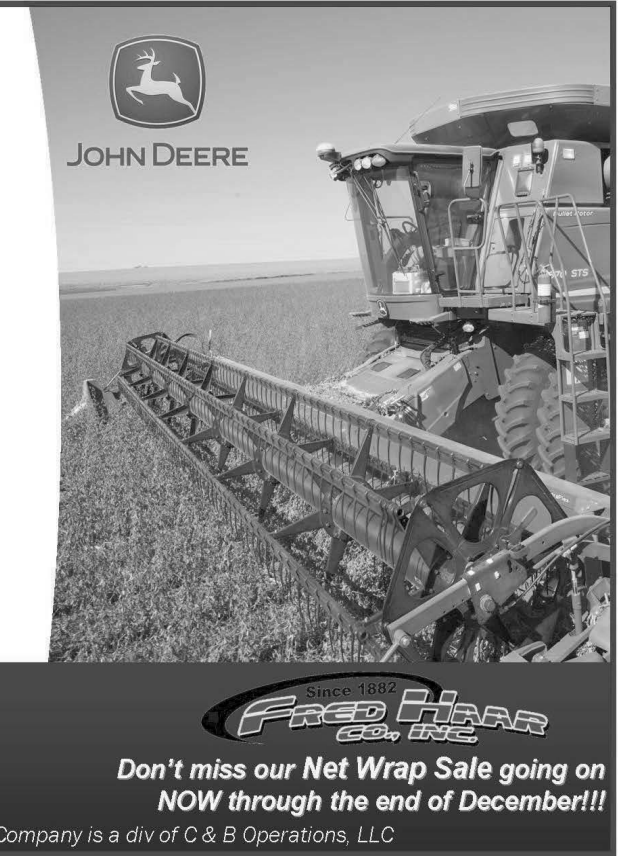
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