



SILVER LAKE

# Leader

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## Council OKs agreement for use of county shed

By Alyssa Schauer  
Staff Writer

The Silver Lake City Council approved a snow removal and street sweeping agreement with McLeod County in return for use of the county shed facility at 305 E. Main St. The action came during the City Council's regular meeting Nov. 18.

The approval also came after a lengthy discussion about the terms of the agreement, including costs and expected services provided by the city.

For the use of five bays at the county shed facility, the city is responsible for street sweeping all county roads within the city of Silver Lake on an "as needed basis," and the city is responsible for snowplowing and snow removal of all county roads within Silver Lake between Oct. 5 of each year through May 15 of the following year "in accordance with the McLeod County policy for snow and ice control or in a manner consistent with current city practice, whichever provides for better control."

The term of the agreement is for five years, beginning after the county approves it.

Equipment to be housed in the shed include a portable generator, a hydro hydraulic pump, the sweeper, tandem plow truck, a tractor mower, a Dodge truck, a Ford truck and the loader.

"Currently, the generator and pump have been stored at

the old hatchery for \$500 a year, but the problem is the guys can't get in there on a regular basis to maintain the equipment," City Clerk Kerry Venier said.

He added that the sweeper has been stored at Tony Postusta's residence for \$250 a year.

"By storing the sweeper at the shed, we'll have the opportunity to service it at the shop during the winter," Public Works Department Head Dale Kosek said.

Kosek also said by storing the equipment at the county shed, the city shop is then open to store the fire department truck, boat and rescue sled.

"So basically we're freeing up the city shop to store fire stuff?" Mayor Bruce Bebo asked.

"It keeps the fire equipment at a close proximity to the fire hall," Kosek said.

Bebo asked about utilities and the yearly projected costs for the county shed.

Venier said \$5,000 has been budgeted each year for five years to cover utilities.

"That total is based off their five-year average of utility bills. And we're not going to be using utilities like they were, so we're hoping to come under budget," Venier said.

Kosek said the first four bays at the shed are heated, and that the thermostat could stay at 40 degrees.

The first bay will be used by the county's solid waste com-

mittee for household hazardous waste (HHW) items.

Venier said the committee is planning to hold weekly or monthly drives for homeowners to drop off recyclable appliances, paint, etc.

Venier emphasized the importance of keeping a good relationship with the county.

"Before we got the truck (snowplow) from them, we didn't even have an agreement with them regarding snow plowing. We just helped them out, and they helped us when we needed them," Venier said.

"I understand what you're saying," Councilor Eric Nelson said, but he added he would like more clarification in the contract.

Bebo agreed and questioned responsibility of the facility's repairs.

Venier said John Brunkhorst, county highway engineer, agreed that the county should be held accountable for capital improvements and repairs.

"The county agreed to spruce up the place, also," Venier added.

He said the county also will have property insurance for the facility.

"We want to make sure we have insurance to cover the equipment inside, too," Bebo said.

"We'll make sure it's covered," Venier said.

Bebo also asked about the

**County shed**  
Turn to page 2



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

Zoe and Adele Edlund packed gallon-sized bags filled with hygiene items, granola bars, and other snacks to give to homeless persons they encounter on their travels to the Twin Cities with their parents,

Ted and Servanne. "I think it's important to teach the girls that when you have enough, it's good to share," Servanne said.

## Mother, daughters do 'care packaging' in spare time

By Alyssa Schauer  
Staff Writer

To teach the importance of "giving back" and caring for the human race in today's fast-paced, consumer-driven world, Servanne Edlund has her girls, Zoe, 11, and Adele, 7, doing a little "care packaging" in their spare time.

"The idea came about in two ways. First, I travel a lot for work and have built up quite the collection of shampoos and soaps from hotels.

"Second, I work as a mystery shopper and often we have to buy little, \$1 items, like granola bars, so I have a stash of them," Servanne said.

She said after realizing she had drawers filled with excess hygiene products and snacky items like granola bars, she had the idea to create "care packages" to hand to the homeless people she encounters in her travels.

"The girls and I head to the cities a lot actually, to visit

family, and I thought it'd be nice to put together these packages. The plan is to keep them in the car, so that whenever we see someone in need along our way, we can hand them a bag to help them out a little," she said.

The packages are one-gallon Ziploc bags and each is filled with a travel-size shampoo and lotion, a toothbrush and toothpaste, a wash rag, tissues, a comb, a pair of socks, a bar of soap, a pack of gum, baby wipes, chapstick, granola bars, fruit leather strips, candy and a package of Pop-Tarts.

"The lotion and chapstick are put in there because, well, we live in Minnesota," Zoe laughed.

"And the girls decided to put in Pop-Tarts because, well, everybody loves Pop-Tarts," Servanne laughed.

"Yes, everybody loves Pop-tarts!" Adele reiterated.

"Like I said, we have excess shampoos, lotions and granola bars, but everything

else we got at the dollar store," Servanne said.

"It's nice to buy stuff for others. I like it. It feels good," Adele said.

Servanne said Zoe and Adele split up some of their Halloween candy in the "care packages" because they wanted to share.

"We had a lot of candy this year, and we wanted to share some of it with others," Zoe said.

"I think it's very important to give back in some way, whether it is donating to the food shelf or local shelters. I've posted some things on Facebook about the care packages, too. It's a way to get others to start doing it, too," Servanne said.

She said when she was younger, she remembers setting an extra place at the Thanksgiving table for a homeless person to join, "but you don't really hear of that

**Edlunds**  
Turn to page 2

## City Council discusses auditorium repair options

By Alyssa Schauer  
Staff Writer

The Silver Lake Auditorium and its deteriorating structure has been a hot topic of discussion for the Silver Lake City Council at several of its meetings this year, and last Monday, City Clerk Kerry Venier presented information about options for repairing and maintaining the building.

Venier said he met with a representative from the United States Department of Agricul-

ture (USDA) about its community facilities program to address the needs of the auditorium.

Currently, the auditorium has a crumbling exterior and isn't completely handicapped accessible. Over the last couple of years, the city has been looking at ways to finance the needed improvements.

The USDA program offers long-term loans with low interest rates for cities to improve their community

buildings.

"We do have to consult with the Minnesota Historical Society about the building. It is a qualifying building to be put on their registry, and we would have to follow their guidelines for improvements," Venier said.

He said the USDA program would be an option to fund repairs in a manner the city can

**Auditorium**  
Turn to page 2



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

## Thanksgiving fun at Faith Presbyterian

All month, the preschool students at Faith Presbyterian have been creating Thanksgiving projects, including paper-plate turkey centerpieces with "feathers of thanks." Sue Nord, teacher at the school, said each day, the students created feathers that listed things they were thankful for which

they were thankful. From left to right are Ashlynn Imdieke, Miranda Nowak, Garrett Mills, Ella Graczyk and Hadley Wagner. Some of the thankful items include, jackets, hands, "Grandma," the police, fire trucks, black bears, toys, corn, church, music and baby brothers.

## City Council debates need for contingency in budget

By Alyssa Schauer  
Staff Writer

Discussion over whether or not to include a contingency in the 2014 budget ensued at the Silver Lake City Council meeting last Monday night.

The preliminary budget shows a 2.37 percent decrease in the tax levy. City Clerk Kerry Venier said a major part of the decrease in taxes can be credited to an additional \$40,000 in local government aid.

"That really allowed us to not have to look at cutting a lot out of the budget," Venier said.

Councilor Eric Nelson questioned the budget surpluses for 2012 and 2013.

"A \$70,000 surplus was recorded from the year before, and this year we will probably see a surplus of \$7,100. We are much more in line with what we budgeted. We even had some unexpected purchases so

it's a good thing we're going to see a surplus," Venier said.

"We are looking at building a 1.5 percent to 2 percent cost-of-living increase for wages into the budget, but we will still achieve a lower tax levy because there is a .3 percent decrease in wages in this budget compared to the previous year," Venier added.

Venier suggested councilors meet with department heads to "iron out" the budget details and explain items.

Nelson asked why a contingency was built into the budget if surpluses were recorded.

"The \$280,000 we have in reserves is not going to go far in addressing our needs as a city. If we want to attract businesses, etc., the city needs to be financially secure, and that contingency helps build the re-

**Contingency**  
Turn to page 3



Submitted photo

## UMD Rugby team moves onto 'Final 4'

The Fighting Penguins rugby football club at the University of Minnesota-Duluth earned the Northern Lights Collegiate Division II championship in October, and last weekend, after defeating Louisiana Lafayette 78-5 and St.

Louis, Mo., 58-7, the team moves on to the "Final 4" competition in South Carolina in December. Cody Christensen, son of Brenda (Kaczmarek) Tschimperle of Brownton, is in his second year with the team.

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## Upcoming Events

### SLFD New Year's dance set

The Silver Lake Fire Department is hosting a New Year's Eve dance at the Silver Lake Auditorium on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Advance tickets will be available.

### Free-will Thanksgiving meal

Mark calendars for this year's Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 28. Everyone is encouraged to attend and share all of the things they have to be thankful with others. "This year, we would really like to honor and show appreciation to all of our veterans and those who are serving in our military," Mayor Bruce Bebo said. Sign up is at the Silver Lake city offices or call Bebo at 320-327-3157.

### Junior high concert set Dec. 5

On Thursday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m., the Glencoe-Silver Lake Lincoln Junior High will present the annual December band and choir concert for grades seven and eight. The concert will feature the seventh-grade band, the eighth-grade band, the seventh-grade choir, the eighth-grade choir and some selections combining the seventh and eighth grades together. Admission is free, and the concert will be held in the Glencoe-Silver Lake High School Auditorium.

### Senior meeting set Dec. 9

The Silver Lake Senior Citizens Club will hold its Christmas party and regular meeting Monday, Dec. 9, beginning at 1 p.m., at the Silver Lake Auditorium. Dinner will be served at 4 p.m.

### Degree of Honor to meet

Degree of Honor No. 182 will meet Tuesday, Dec. 10 beginning at 5 p.m. with a catered meal, at the Silver Lake Auditorium. The meeting will follow the meal.

### 'Singing Friends' concerts

The Singing Friends Chorus, a 30-voice community choir with members from Carver, McLeod, Wright and Sibley counties, will present two Christmas concerts this year: Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., at St. Mark Lutheran Church, New Germany, and Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m., at Church of Peace in Norwood Young America. There will be a free-will donation and refreshments will be served after the concerts. The chorus will also be singing for the Glencoe Holly Days Parade on Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.

### 3rd-annual Nikolausabend

St. Peter Lutheran Church in Watertown is hosting its third-annual Nikolausabend event on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The evening includes a complimentary buffet meal of mini bratwurst, baked chicken, mashed potatoes, spatzle, gravy, corn, red cabbage, sauerkraut and homemade Christmas cookies. There will be kids' Christmas crafts and a visit from Nikolaus. Attendees are asked to each bring either a toy or a monetary donation for Toys for Tots and local families in need. Reservations are recommended at 952-955-1679 or e-mail [stpeterlc@frontier.net](mailto:stpeterlc@frontier.net).

## VFW Auxiliary offers one-time scholarships

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary of Minnesota is offering a one-time scholarship to eligible veterans or active military to provide incentive and aid to Minnesota soldiers wanting to further their education and who need assistance.

The applicant must be a Minnesota resident; and it is open to any veteran or soldier who honorably served with active duty service, was awarded a campaign or service medal, and is verified with proper

documentation. The application deadline is April 1, 2014. To receive an entry form, contact a local veterans service officer.

Applications must be sent to: Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Department of Minnesota, Veterans Service Building, 20 W. 12th St., Floor 3, St. Paul, MN 55155-2002.

Scholarships will be announced at the VFW State Convention in June, and winners will be notified by mail.

## Edlunds Continued from page 1

anyone in today's world. Making these packages was a way to reach out to those in need," Servanne said.

She continued, "I want to teach the girls that this is a way to give back to the community and a way to help and care for our fellow human beings."

After telling them her idea, Servanne said the girls decided what went in each bag.

"So we went shopping for what we needed and one night, we laid everything out on the bed and started packing," Servanne said.

"At first, Zoe started picking out four-packs of toothbrushes," Servanne said.

"They were cost effective!" Zoe added.

"But I reminded her that people don't usually like re-

ceiving unwrapped items, so we bought individual toothbrushes," Servanne said.

Servanne said by sharing their project on Facebook, she received tips and other ideas of what to include.

"Someone wrote to keep the care packages in a cooler, so that with the colder temperatures moving in, our bottles of shampoo and lotion do not freeze. It's very helpful," Servanne said.

"I really think it is important to teach the girls that when you have enough, it's good to share," she added.

"I love helping people. It's fun!" Adele said.

"And, hopefully, this inspires others to keep giving. Sort of a way to 'pay it forward,'" Servanne said.

## County shed Continued from page 1

length of the contract. "Why five years?"

"We were looking at five to eight years for the simple fact that the county would like us to do some turnback work with them. We aren't going to be financially able to do any major capital improvements within five years, and after one of our bonds comes off in 2018, we

will be able to discuss projects with the county again," Venier said.

"I'm OK with all of this (in the contract), but there are a lot of gray areas," Bebo said.

On a 4-0 vote, the Council approved the contract. Councilor Carol Roquette was absent.

## Auditorium continued from page 1

afford.

"But before we get into this program, we have to figure out exactly what we want to do. I suggest we talk to the planning commission about the project. Perhaps we host a series of public forums for input about what to do with the building," Venier said.

Mayor Bruce Bebo said the City Council and the planning commission should come to a consensus about what to do with the building before hosting a public forum.

He suggested the planning commission develop a plan and then present it to the public for input.

"The question is whether to tear it down and build new or rehabilitate it or add on," Bebo said.

Venier agreed and said, "As a city, we should try and set a goal to have a plan and design by 2015."

"By 2015? We gotta address some of the safety issues before that," Bebo said.

Councilor Eric Nelson presented a bid from a local stucco contractor about repairing the crumbling front of the building.

He said the estimate came in at \$65,000, which is double what he and the City Council

were expecting.

"So what's our next step?" Bebo asked.

"I hope to get back into checking outfits in Lester Prairie. You can't just look at one company," Nelson said.

The Council agreed to table the matter until more options are researched.

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## Silver Lake Leader

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Deadline for news and advertising in the Silver Lake Leader is noon, Tuesday. Deadline for advertising in The Galaxy is noon Wednesday.

## Tracing Roots

By Ron Pulkrabek



# Silver Lake: A thriving town

**Editor's Note: Ron Pulkrabek wrote his first series of columns looking through the eyes of someone coming to Silver Lake in the 1930s and what it would have looked like then. He continues this week walking down the streets in Silver Lake.**

Also this summer, Gould's Million Dollar Gems from Glencoe performed at the Silver Lake Community Fair. It included a road show, vaudeville and revue acts featuring 17 people performing dancing, singing, impersonations, comedy acts, musical novelties, a circus band and acrobatic acts.

A one-man band played many instruments at one time. It was a mechanical contraption with the player having to squeeze himself in between a dozen instruments.

Rau's Troubadours and Dietzel's seven-piece orchestra played for the dances in the evenings. Over 2,500 people attended the three-day event.

Some gleanings from the old City Council books are: 1893-1933 — two intoxicating liquor licenses were issued at \$500 each. Brothers Jim and Oscar Pulkrabek applied for a beer license.

Joe Ruza was hired to tighten the screws on the city windmill and oil it once per week. J.J. Totusek was hired to light and clean the streetlamps each night for \$2 a month.

Ordered a new roof ladder for \$1.50. Moved the jail for \$5. Put a new steeple roof on the city hall for \$5.75.

Dogs are taxed at \$1 per year. A new well pump cost \$12. A 9 p.m. curfew was imposed on children. A dance license will be \$3.

Ten dollars was approved to start a new library at the school.

An ordinance forbidding riding bicycles on the sidewalks was approved.

It was decided to gravel some of Main Street with gravel from Pulkrabek's pit at Koniska. A new windmill was ordered at \$91.

Saloon operators were ordered to stay closed on Sundays.

In 1917, Silver Lake started to receive electricity from Northwest Light and Power.

Two pool table licenses were issued. Bids were taken for cement sidewalks in 1929.

One mile south of Silver Lake on the Great Northern Railroad Line is a former village called South Silver Lake or Little Chicago. At the turn of the century, it boasted three grain elevators, a saloon, two general stores, a railroad depot, a lumber yard and a livestock shipping area. Trains would stop at 7:30 a.m. and return from Minneapolis at 7:30 p.m. Supplies would come to South Silver Lake and were hauled to Silver Lake.

Little by little, Silver Lake grew larger and today, in 1933, South Silver Lake is practically faded away. Just this year on July 22, the Great Northern no longer carries passengers.

Four miles south of South Silver Lake is the former community of Koniska. Many Bohemians settled here along the banks of the Crow River.

In 1856, a town was planned with mapped streets. An earthen dam with a grist mill and saw mill was built in 1858. It was planned to be a thriving town. The railroads bypassed the town and now only the creamery and cemetery remain.

The Bohemian Hall is located four miles west of Silver Lake. It is the home of the ZCJB Lodge. Its main objective is selling life insurance, and it mainly started out to help widows and children in case something happens to the husband. It is keeping the Czech heritage alive by teaching and reading Czech to the young people and keeping people informed about the old country of Czechoslovakia.

Many functions like the Czech Choir and Dramatic Club, plays, picnics and dances are held there. It celebrated its 50th anniversary a few years ago.

This is a busy place. Just

last year, the ZCJB Lumir Lodge 34 sponsored a five-act Bohemian drama entitled "Trestanci na Spilbecka."

Jerry's Bohemian Dance Band played for the Easter dance. The Bohemian Reading and Educational Society sponsored the Thanksgiving dance with music by O'Henry's Concertina Dance Band. The Bohemian hall contains a reading room, a library of Czech books, a kitchen and a bar.

The Komensky Store, owned by Frank Totusek, is located one mile north of the Bohemian Hall on the Luce Line Railroad. It is a general store selling groceries, kerosene, gas, dry goods, coffee beans, and tobacco products. The train picks up carloads of sugar beets during the fall.

Located one mile north of the Komensky store was the former John Hus Affiliate Church. It was called "Spolek Cesko Nedelni Skola," or Czech Sunday School Society. After 30 years of use, it was closed down in 1930 and parishioners joined the Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake.

Henry's Corner, or "Devils Island," is located about four miles northwest of Silver Lake. It sells grocery goods and meats, but mostly is a 3.2 tavern where hot, thirsty farmers come to cool off. Sometimes they stay too long and forget to come home for chores. Their wives have termed it "Devils Island."

Silver Lake is a friendly, thriving, lively community with everyone busy, new buildings and additions going up. The streets and sidewalks are full with people shopping and attending the various activities. What a great town!

I can see many good things happening in Silver Lake in the near future.

I wonder how large it will grow in the next 80 years in 2013? Observations, interviews, and overheard conversations from residents in late December 1933.

## Beer bread will be all the sweeter...

My apartment was home to a visitor early this week, and no, it wasn't another mouse, praise the Lord.

Mom worked out of Hutchinson on Monday and Tuesday and I had the treat of "hosting" her during her stay.

It's kind of a mini-vacation for me when she visits — scrambled eggs with asparagus each morning, delicious chicken fajitas with roasted vegetables for supper at night, an empty kitchen sink and a cupboard full of clean dishes, and a warm apartment.

I usually keep my apartment at a cozy 60 degrees in the winter (the frugal college student in me) and just for Mom, I cranked the thermostat to a toasty 66.

Though that may have been too cold for her yet — she has the luxury of a blazing wood stove at home in Wisconsin and Dad says the thermostat never reads below 72 degrees.

I better pack shorts and sandals for my Thanksgiving vacation this week.

Besides cooking tasty meals and enjoying a girls' night of avocado-oatmeal face masks, we spent some of our time together planning and preparing for our Thanksgiving meal at home.

Last year, our meal was a bit different due to my Mom and Dad's "bean diet" and I imposed on Mom's menu this year to help prepare the meal because I really didn't want to substitute mashed potatoes with mashed chick peas again.

On Sunday night, we headed to Coborn's to pick up the turkey and buns and stuffing and we were both re-

## The Travel Section

By Alyssa Schauer



mindful of our inconvenient short height.

We had stopped in the baking aisle to pick up a mix for beer bread and pumpkin bars, and sure enough, the last beer bread mix was on the very top shelf, at the way back.

I could hardly see the mix, let alone reach it from the aisle, and my confidence found me kicking over the gummie candies on the bottom shelf as I used it for a stepping stool to reach the mix.

As I climbed onto the shelf, hanging onto the ledge with my left hand, I extended my right arm as far as I could to tip the box over with my fingertips, but I was out of reach.

I tried swinging my arm back and forth as I worked to keep my balance on the shelf but still came up empty.

I grabbed a box of cinnamon raisin bread mix next to me to use to tip over the beer bread mix and climbed the shelf once again, but after a few "swing-and-a-miss" moments, I still came up short.

Knowing Mom is an inch taller than me, I motioned her over to help. She grabbed onto the ledge for balance, stepped onto the bottom shelf, and stretched her arms to reach, but she was too short, too.

After a few attempts, she finally climbed onto the second shelf from the bottom, knocking cookies mixes and sugar onto the floor and grabbed the mix.

You think we could have asked the taller gentlemen a few feet from us for help, but our pride told us, "You can get it yourself, shorty."

We looked like a couple of monkeys, climbing grocery shelves, swinging our arms, knocking over bags of gummies and muffin mixes, but the bread is worth the jungle scene.

Fortunately, we didn't have to encounter a similar fate for our other purchases or we might have been leaving Coborn's with sprained ankles.

So we've definitely earned this year's Thanksgiving meal and I'm thinking that beer bread will taste even sweeter than usual.

My great-grandpa Simon built a wooden step stool for me to reach the dishes in my high cupboards, and I'm thinking I'll have to pack that along for future grocery trips so I'm never the reason for "Clean up on aisle seven!"

Happy Thanksgiving, Friends!

## Contingency Continued from page 1

serves," Venier said.

"I agree, but we should show due diligence to our taxpayers. Should they be paying in to build a fund or to run the city? We are in good shape," Nelson said.

Venier said there is a difference in spending year to year. "This year, we spent a lot of money that we haven't in the past. And we actually lowered our levy from this year to last year. But we want to continue to run that \$6,000 contingency.

"You don't want to eliminate that. Yes, we can kind of count on not having big street improvement costs since we just completed Grove Avenue, the site of a lot of our problems in the past," Venier said.

Mayor Bruce Bebo agreed and said, "We are in a position to stay status quo and do some 'face lift' things for the city. For example, our city office should be handicapped acces-

sible. Things like that always cost money.

"I feel like we're going backwards," Bebo added.

"I don't feel like it's taking a step backwards," Nelson said.

"What do you want to do? Remove the contingency?" he asked.

"Yes," Nelson replied.

"What if the payload engine goes? That's money gone," Bebo said.

He gave other examples about emergency costs and said the contingency is important to keep funds up and the city running.

"I think you're reading me wrong. I know the city needs to be in good shape to operate, but the last couple years we didn't have a contingency," Nelson said.

He added the city received a "thumbs up" from the auditors and suggested continuing the

same trend to stay in line with the auditor's expectations.

Bebo disagreed and said only last year was a year without a contingency. "And the auditor hasn't worked on this year's budget, yet," Bebo said.

He added: "All I can say is that we need to be more on an even keel with people. If you take out the contingency, and we fall short that year, are you going to look that taxpayer in the eye and say 'we're raising taxes this year?'"

Bebo said keeping a contingency is a step in avoiding tax levy increases and helps maintain a steady budget.

In closing discussion, he added, "The departments are doing a pretty good job with the budgets. I'm pleased with their efforts."

The final tax levy will be set at the regular Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 16.

## Weather Corner

By Jake Yurek



We stay on the cool side of things this week as Canada keeps its door open for business. We took another direct hit of Canadian cold air early this week, and temperatures won't rebound a whole lot as we head towards the weekend.

Highs to end the week and weekend will stay in the upper 20s to middle and possibly upper 30s (if things work out perfect) by the weekend. We're stuck in a rather dry pattern with our air coming from the northwest, keeping most of the deep moisture to our south.

Diving into the all-important Thanksgiving travel forecast, most of the country will be in the clear minus the east coast. Wednesday travel might be rough out east as a storm moves through that portion of the country. Once that storm exits, though, almost the entire country will be experiencing quiet weather, so return trips shouldn't be a problem anywhere.

A weak storm will enter our picture Saturday, but right now all I'm going for is a passing snow shower as this one looks to be pointed to our north.

Beyond that, another storm is building for mid to late next week and this one could be a little more potent, but it's too early for me to guess where it might go, so it'll be something to watch. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ma dobry weekendem Mit dobry vikend

Wednesday night — Lows 11-17; partly cloudy.

Thanksgiving Day — Highs 25-32; lows 12-18; mostly clear.

Friday — Highs 27-35; lows 18-24; mostly clear.

Saturday — Highs 28-36; lows 18-24; partly cloudy/snow shower?

Sunday — Highs 28-36; partly cloudy.

Weather Quiz: What are some of December's weather extremes?

Answer to last week's question: **What does our weather normally look like on Thanksgiving Day?** The average Thanksgiving high temperature should be right around freezing with a low in the upper teens, so we'll be very "normal" this year. The warmest it has ever been is 62 degrees, and the coldest -18 degrees. Measureable snow occurs every five years or so on average with five inches being the most we have seen on turkey day.

Remember: I make the forecast, not the weather!



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## Paul Pokornowski

320-286-6570 Cokato, MN

Thank You Thank You Thank You  
The Hlavka Family would like to say a "BIG THANK YOU" to everyone who came to our benefit or helped in any way to support us through this journey. We appreciate all you have done for us!

A special thank you to the organizational committee, Sue Anderson, Deb Isaacson, Deb Hesser, Char Pell, Kathy Nowak and Genny Lhotka, you did an excellent job. Thanks to the Jackson Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, Thrivent for Lutherans, Bill & Berta Roder and the many volunteers and those that donated for the silent auction, and craft and bake sale, you all made this day so special for us. We are so blessed and humbled by your generosity. It was great to see so many from our home town of Silver Lake. The communities in the Jackson area we call home, truly do care and we are so happy to be a part of your family. Thank You and God bless you all!

Frank & Therese  
Tracy, Jed, Andrew, Erik & Isaac  
Justin, Danielle & Olivia

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## Thanksgiving is a great time to say "THANKS!"

We had a wonderful season of swimming at the Bruce Maresh Aquatic Center! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made our season a successful one! We would like to especially thank the following people for their donations to our program:

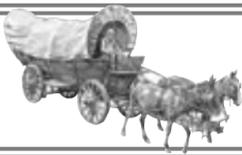
- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lacy and family for helping us to "keep clean" with the new hand shower for the girls' locker room;
- Mr. & Mrs. Kadlec for helping us to "be on time" with new clocks;
- Mr. & Mrs. Jason Clouse and family for helping us to "stay safe" with the weather radio alert system;
- Jim Jurek who donated money in memory of his wife, Lovey, to support our swimming lesson program. This donation enabled us to purchase new equipment that will continue to help students of all ages to become successful swimmers.
- also to the Parks and Pools Committee for their ongoing support. We appreciate all that you do!

We look forward to our new season next year! Watch for sign-up for our 2014 swimming program in March and April.

Thanks again,  
Bruce Maresh Aquatic Center Staff

## Down Memory Lane

Compiled by Margaret Benz



**75 YEARS AGO - DEC. 3, 1938** — There will be plenty of interest in Silver Lake's village election on Tuesday, Dec. 6, as contests for the office of mayor, recorder, councilman and assessor should get out a record village vote. Mayor Frank Vlicek has filed for re-election and is opposed by Frank A. Chalupsky. Councilman Frank A. Bandas, up for re-election, will be opposed by Frank Shamla, a write-in candidate. Recorder J.E. Ziska declined to file for re-election and three candidates are out for the office; namely, Emil Trutna, Amos Chalupsky and Jos. S. Pawlak. Treasurer F.J. Burich has no opposition for that office. The office of assessor has Anthony C. Urban filing for re-election and being opposed by Jos. L. Krejci.

Frank D. Zrust and his committee in charge of the Christmas street decorations completed the work this week, and the lights were turned on for the first time on Wednesday evening.

Vojta Benesh, brother of the former Czechoslovakia president, will speak on Saturday evening, Dec. 3, in the Silver Lake High School Auditorium. The Czech singers from St. Paul will take part in the program, appearing in authentic Czech costumes and will present Czechoslovakian folk songs. Admission is free.

Theo. Brecht purchased the 80-acre farm owned by William Mraz.

Joseph Mikolichek purchased the Mrs. Zrust house, near the school house, at the auction Saturday for a consideration of \$182.

Gustav Lueck, 74, passed away on Wednesday at a hospital in Minneapolis. Funeral services will be held on Saturday afternoon at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Bergen.

Clarence C. Vorlicek, 36, died at the Hutchinson Hospital late Wednesday evening. Funeral services will be held on Saturday morning, Dec. 3, from St. Joseph's Church.

**50 YEARS AGO - NOV. 28, 1963** — The annual village election will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 3, in the Silver Lake Auditorium with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The annual Thanksgiving Dance, sponsored by Silver Lake American Legion Post 141, will be held on Thursday night, Nov. 28, at the Silver Lake Auditorium. Two prizes will be awarded, a quarter of beef and \$50 worth of groceries. Admission is 75¢.

Maynard Navratil has sold his grocery store to Leonard Ardolf. The transaction is effective on Monday, Dec. 2.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated

on Friday afternoon, Nov. 22. Mayor Joe Gehlen issued a proclamation requesting Silver Lake join in on Monday, Nov. 25, in observance of national mourning at the death of President Kennedy. All schools were closed for the day, and business establishments were closed until noon.

After careful study of marketing organizations by the board of directors of the Silver Lake Creamery, a decision was made to market the creamery's dairy products through Tri-County Dairy in Winthrop effective Nov. 1. Gerald Piehl represents Silver Lake Creamery as a director on the Tri-County Dairy Board.

The Silver Lake Fire Department made a run to the Ronald Penas home in Rich Valley Township on Sunday evening to extinguish a chimney fire.

Anna Kostecka will hold a dairy auction on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at her place three miles north of Glencoe on County Road 2, then west on 24.

**25 YEARS AGO - DEC. 1, 1988** — Rain, sleet and snow came this weekend with most of it in the form of rain.

At the joint meeting of the Silver Lake and Glencoe school boards held last Wednesday evening, the matter of pairing, sharing or cooperation was far from decided. Input would be needed from the Glencoe citizens before the Glencoe board would go any further in the discussion of any type of agreement. No future meeting dates were scheduled.

The Silver Lake High School Drama Club will present the musical, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3-4, in the high school gym.

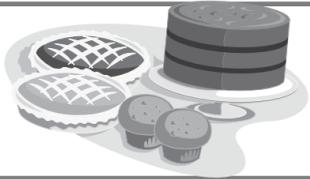
The Silver Lake Lions Club 16th annual Smorgasbord will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Tony Kadlec, son of Jerome and Judy Kadlec and a defensive end on the St. Thomas football team, received the co-defensive MVP Award at the College of St. Thomas post-season football banquet held on Nov. 20.

Paul Janousek, 76, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 23, at Burns Manor Nursing Home, Hutchinson. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Nov. 26, from the Dobratz-Hantge Chapel, Hutchinson.

Lillian (Mrs. Charles) Navratil, 85, passed away on Monday, Nov. 28, at the Eagle Nursing Home, Bloomington. Funeral services will be held on Friday, Dec. 2, from the Czech Brethren Presbyterian Church, Silver Lake.

## Kitchen Delights & Other Things



### Sweet Potato Meringue Pie

#### Ingredients:

3 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut in chunks  
Pastry for 9-inch pie crust  
1/2 cup butter, softened  
3/4 cup white sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup milk  
4 eggs, separated  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

#### Directions:

Place the sweet potatoes into a large pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain and allow to steam dry for a minute or two. Transfer the sweet potatoes into a mixing bowl and allow to cool for 10 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9-inch pie dish with unbaked pie crust. Mash the sweet potatoes smoothly, and mix in butter, 3/4 cup sugar, salt, milk, egg yolks, cinnamon and vanilla extract. Pour the filling into pie crust. Bake until filling is set and the pie crust is beginning to brown, about 25 to 30 minutes. Place the egg whites into a clean mixing bowl and beat until stiff with an electric mixer set on medium, 3 to 5 minutes. Beat in 1/4 cup sugar and 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract, until the mixture holds firm peaks and is glossy. Remove the pie from the oven and spoon meringue over sweet potato filling, swirling into attractive peaks. Return to oven and bake until meringue turns golden brown, about 10 minutes, watching carefully to avoid burning. Cool before serving.

### Cranberry Pear Stuffing

#### Ingredients:

1 cup chopped celery  
1/2 cup butter  
1 package (16 ounces) seasoned stuffing cubes  
1-1/2 cups dried cranberries  
1-1/2 cups chopped ripe pears  
1 cup chopped pecans  
1/4 cup minced fresh parsley  
2 to 3 teaspoons poultry seasoning  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
2 cups chicken broth  
3/4 cup egg substitute

#### Directions:

In a small saucepan, saute celery in butter until tender; set aside. In a large bowl, combine the stuffing cubes, cranberries, pears, pecans, parsley, poultry seasoning and pepper. Add the broth, egg substitute and celery mixture; toss until combined. Spoon into a greased 2-1/2-quart baking dish. Cover and bake at 325 de-

grees for 50 to 60 minutes or until heated through.

### Swedish Apple Pie

#### Ingredients:

1-1/2 pounds Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and sliced  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup flour  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
3/4 cup melted butter  
1 egg

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Toss apples with 1 tablespoon of sugar and pour them into a pie plate. Thoroughly mix together 1 cup of sugar with the flour, cinnamon, butter, and egg. Spread this evenly over the top of the pie. Bake in preheated oven until the apples have cooked and the topping is golden brown, about 40 to 45 minutes.

### Pumpkin Pasta with Italian Sausage

#### Ingredients:

1 pound bulk Italian sausage  
1/2 onion, diced  
4 cloves garlic, diced  
1 package (16 ounces) campanelle pasta  
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin puree  
1 can (14.5 ounces) chicken broth  
1/2 cup half-and-half  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
Salt and ground black pepper to taste  
1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese  
1/4 teaspoon Italian seasoning, or to taste

#### Directions:

Cook and stir Italian sausage in a large skillet over medium-high heat until the meat is browned, breaking it into crumbles as it cooks, about 10 minutes. Drain excess grease. Stir onion and garlic into sausage and cook until onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Fill a large pot with lightly salted water and bring to a boil. Stir in campanelle and return to a boil. Cook pasta uncovered, stirring occasionally, until cooked through but still firm to the bite, about 10 minutes; drain. Stir pumpkin puree, chicken broth, half-and-half, sour cream, nutmeg, cinnamon, salt, and black pepper into the sausage mixture and cook, stirring often, until sauce is creamy and thick, about 5 minutes. Transfer cooked campanelle pasta to a large pot and pour sausage and pumpkin mixture over pasta. Place over medium-high heat and gently stir until pasta mixture is heated through, 4 to 5 minutes. Serve topped with Parmesan cheese and Italian seasoning.

## Church News

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH**  
300 Cleveland Ave.,  
Silver Lake

**Dr. Tom Rakow, Pastor**  
320-327-2265

<http://silverlakechurch.org>

Wed., Nov. 27 — Confirmation, discipleship class, 6 p.m.; Thanksgiving Eve service, 7 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 30 — Men's Bible study, 7 a.m.; women's Bible study, 9 a.m.; decorating for Christmas.

Sun., Dec. 1 — "First Light" radio broadcast on KARP 106.9 FM, 7:30 a.m.; fellowship and refreshment time, 9 a.m.; pre-service prayer time, 9:15 a.m.; worship service with guest speaker Efi and Mindi Tembon and the Knapper Brothers Quartet, 9:30 a.m.; adult Sunday school and Christmas program practice, 10:35 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 4 — Confirmation and discipleship class, 6 p.m.; prayer time and puppet practice, 7 p.m.  
Dial-A-Bible Story, 320-327-2843.

**FAITH PRESBYTERIAN**

108 W. Main St.,  
Silver Lake

320-327-2452

Fax 320-327-6562

E-mail: [faithfriends@embarqmail.com](mailto:faithfriends@embarqmail.com)

**Carol Chmielewski, pastor**

Office hours: Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays, Thursdays from  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 29 — Hanging of the greens, 6 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 1 — Handbells practice, 8:45 a.m.; communion service, 10 a.m.; fellowship to follow service; music and worship meeting, 11:15 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 3 — Session meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 4 — Presbyterian Women Christmas party, 12:30 p.m.; light supper, 5:30 p.m.; WOW classes, 6 p.m.; Advent worship service, 6:15 p.m.; choir practice, 6:45 p.m.

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

700 W. Main St.,  
Silver Lake

**Anthony Stubeda, Pastor**

Wed., Nov. 27 — Mass at Cokato Manor, 10 a.m.; Mass, 7 p.m.; no religious education classes due to Thanksgiving break.

Thurs., Nov. 28 — Mass at Holy Trinity and St. Pius X, 9 a.m.

Fri., Nov. 29 — No Mass.

Sat., Nov. 30 — Reconciliation, 5 p.m.; Mass, 6:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 1 — First Sunday in Advent; Mass, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 2 — No Mass.

Tues., Dec. 3 — Mass, 8 a.m.; eucharistic adoration, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; meet and greet at St. Mary's in Winsted, 12:30 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 4 — Mass, 6 p.m.; first- through sixth-grade religious education classes, 5:30 p.m.; adult choir practice, 6:30 p.m.; seventh- through 11th-grade religious education classes, 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 5 — Reconciliation at Cedar Crest, 10 a.m.; Mass at Cedar Crest, 10:30 a.m.; CCW/Rosary Society potluck, meeting and Christmas party, 6 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 6 — First Friday calls; Mass, 8 a.m.

**WORD OF LIFE CHURCH**

950 School Rd. S.W.

Hutchinson

320-587-9443

E-mail: [infor@loversoftruth.com](mailto:infor@loversoftruth.com)

**Jim Hall, Pastor**

Sun., Dec. 1 — Worship, 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**

770 School Rd.,  
Hutchinson

**Kenneth Rand,  
Branch President**

320-587-5665

Sun., Dec. 1 — Sunday school, 10:50 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; priesthood, relief society and primary,

11:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**RIVERSIDE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

20924 State Hwy. 7 W.,  
Hutchinson

320-587-2074

E-mail: [assembly@hutchtel.net](mailto:assembly@hutchtel.net)

**Dr. Lee Allison, pastor**

Sun., Dec. 1 — Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 4 — Family night activities, 6:30 p.m.

**FIRST CONGREGATION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

31 Fourth Ave. S.W.,  
Hutchinson

320-587-2125

E-mail: [jmm@hutchtel.net](mailto:jmm@hutchtel.net)

Sun., Dec. 1 — Sunday school, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:15 a.m.

**ST. PIUS X CHURCH**

1014 Knight Ave., Glencoe

**Anthony Stubeda, Pastor**

Thurs., Nov. 28 — Thanksgiving Mass, 9 a.m.; parish offices, school closed.

Fri., Nov. 29 — No Mass; no Spanish Mass; offices, school closed.

Sat., Nov. 30 — Reconciliation, 3:30 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.; youth group selling tie blanket raffle tickets.

Sun., Dec. 1 — First Sunday of Advent; Mass, 9:30 a.m.; youth group selling tie blanket raffle tickets; Spanish Mass, 11:30 a.m.; no Hispanic ministry religious ed-

ucation for youths and adults; Mass at Holy Family, Silver Lake, 8 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 2 — No Mass; no school; AFC pictorial directory training session at Holy Trinity, 7 p.m.; adult choir practice, 7 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 3 — Morning prayer, 8 a.m.; school Mass, 8:20 a.m.; Mass, 6 p.m.; CCW Advent gathering follows Mass.

Wed., Dec. 4 — Morning prayer, 7 a.m.; school Mass, 7:20 a.m.; kindergarten through sixth-grade religious education classes, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.; seventh- through 11th-grade religious education classes, 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

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## GSL Winter Sports

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

**November**  
 26....at Maple River .....7:30  
**December**  
 06....at Bloomington Jefferson .....7:00  
 07....at NYA.....7:30  
 10....at Hutchinson.....7:30  
 17....at Annandale.....7:15  
 27....GSL Holiday tourney.3:00  
 28....GSL Holiday tourney.3:00  
**January**  
 03....Sibley East.....7:30  
 04....at Jordan.....3:00  
 07....Dassel-Cokato.....7:15  
 10....Mound-Witka.....7:15  
 14....at NLS.....7:15  
 17....at Orono.....7:15  
 21....Litchfield.....7:15  
 23....at BOLD.....7:30  
 24....Hutchinson.....7:15  
 28....Annandale.....7:15  
 31....at Holy Family Cath..7:15  
**February**  
 03....at Belle Plaine.....7:30  
 06....at Dassel-Cokato.....7:15  
 10....at Rocori.....7:30  
 11....NLS.....7:15  
 14....Waconia.....7:15  
 18....at Litchfield.....7:15  
 20....at Watertown-Mayer..7:30  
 21....at Delano.....7:15

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

**December**  
 03....St. Peter.....7:30  
 07....at NYA.....6:00  
 10....Belle Paine.....7:30  
 13....New Ulm.....7:30  
 17....at New Prague.....7:30  
 20....Lester Prairie.....7:30  
 28....MACCRAY tourney.12:45  
**January**  
 03....at Sibley East.....7:30  
 07....at Dassel-Cokato.....7:15  
 10....at Mound-Witka.....7:15  
 11....at Mayer Lutheran.....3:00  
 14....NLS.....7:15  
 17....Orono.....7:15  
 21....at Litchfield.....7:15  
 23....Willmar.....7:30  
 24....at Hutchinson.....7:15  
 28....at Annandale.....7:15  
 31....Holy Family Cath.....7:15  
**February**  
 03....Rocori.....7:30  
 07....Dassel-Cokato.....7:15  
 10....at NLS.....7:15  
 18....Litchfield.....7:15  
 20....at Waconia.....7:15  
 21....Delano.....7:15  
 25....Annandale.....7:15

### WRESTLING

**December**  
 05....Wabasso/Red Rock Central.....6:00  
 07....GSL Inv.....9:30  
 12....at Hutchinson 2D.....6:00  
 14....at Andover Inv.....10:00  
 19....at NLS 2D.....6:00  
 20....at St. Peter Tri.....5:00  
 21....at Richfield Inv.....9:00  
**January**  
 02....Watertown-Mayer.....6:00  
 04....at Ogilvie Inv.....TBD  
 09....GSL 2D (with Delano, Hutchinson and Orono).....6:00  
 11....at Zimmerman Inv.....9:00  
 16....at Mound-Witka 2D.....6:00  
 18....at LCWM Inv.....10:00  
 23....at Hutchinson.....6:00  
 30....at ACGC Quad.....5:00  
 31....at NLS Conf. Tourney.....3:30  
**February**  
 01....GSL Youth Tourney.....8:00  
 06....New Prague.....6:00  
 07....at STMA.....6:00  
 08....at DC Inv.....8:00

### GYMNASTICS

**December**  
 06....at Annandale.....6:00  
 07....at Northfield Inv.....3:00  
 13....NLS.....6:00  
 14....at St. Peter Tri.....1:00  
 17....Watertown-Mayer.....6:00  
**January**  
 09....Orono.....6:00  
 14....Litchfield.....6:00  
 17....at Dassel-Cokato.....6:00  
 18....GSL Inv.....8:00  
 21....St. Peter.....6:00  
 23....Waconia.....6:00  
 30....at Delano.....6:00  
**February**  
 07....Mound-Witka.....6:00  
 14....at Mankato (Sections).....TBD

### DANCELIN

**December**  
 12....at NLS Conf. Tourney.....6:30  
 14....at Hutchinson Inv.....noon  
 21....at Academy of Holy Angels Inv.....TBD  
**January**  
 04....at Belle Plaine Inv.....noon  
 09....at Holy Family Cath Conf. Tourney.....6:30  
 11....at Waconia Inv.....TBD  
 18....at Delano Conf. Tourney.....1:00  
 25....at NLS Inv.....noon  
**February**  
 08....at Orono (Sections) ..TBD

# New coach, new season, new team

Zach Otto-Fisher heads girls' basketball program; implements fast-pace style of play

By Josh Randt  
Sports Editor

When Cullen Ober retired after four years as head coach of the Glencoe-Silver Lake girls' basketball team last winter, athletic director Kay Wilson said she wanted someone who would continue to grow the program.



Now, taking the reigns is Zach Otto-Fisher. Cullen Ober's faithful assistant, JV and eighth-grade coach over the past three years, who plans to build upon the foundation his predecessor laid.

"He's an excellent mentor," Otto-Fisher said of Cullen Ober. "It kind of helped me out that I got to sit on the bench. Last year, he (Ober) let me put players in and he guided me to get to this spot. I owe him a lot."

Otto-Fisher's time spent under Cullen Ober makes him familiar with the girls who are coming up in the program now. He also mentioned that he'll be rather familiar with opposing teams' lineups as well.

"I think it does help that I was JV (coach)" Otto-Fisher said. "Because (opposing teams') JV players are now varsity."

While he plans to base his program off of his predecessor's foundation, the coach is implementing a "fast-paced" style of play to compliment his smaller, quicker team, which doesn't have a player at, or over, 6'0".

"I want fast-paced style of play," Otto-Fisher said. "The girls want to play intense, in-your-face, press style of play." Adding that, "Last year, we had Clarissa Ober. We had a big post, D1 (division one) player you could get the ball to down low. This year, we don't have that player ... so we have to play the run-and-gun style of play."

He's obviously been spending a lot of his time with the varsity players, but Otto-Fisher said he's here to "make this a seventh-12th grade" program.

"It is not just varsity that matters," he said. "It is how we teach the seventh graders to shoot, dribble, rebound and play the game that really matters." Adding later, "I spent Monday and Tuesday having



Silver Lake Leader photo by Josh Randt

The Glencoe-Silver Lake girls' basketball team returns three starters from last year's team that went 9-17. Look for these three young ladies to make an im-

act right away. They are, from left: freshman point guard Maddie Monahan, senior post player Steph Klockmann, and senior shooting guard Sam Lange.

all seventh-12th grade girls practicing together to show unity and 'family' ... It starts from the bottom and I want all the kids in the program to know all of us coaches are here for them. They are the future for this team."

It's that type of leader who Kay Wilson was looking for when Cullen Ober hung up his whistle.

\*\*\*

Rebuilding after losing seven seniors from last year's team to graduation, coach Otto-Fisher looks to field a young, but tested squad.

Steph Klockmann and Samantha Lange boast the most experience in the senior class, while freshman Maddie Monahan will look to improve upon a stellar eighth-grade season at point guard. Klockmann and Monahan played AAU ball this summer, while Lange took part in a local league. Look for those three to make an impact right away.

Klockmann returns to improve on a junior season in which she scored 271 points, grabbed 216 rebounds, had 46 steals and 82 assists. She's also ninth on the school's all-time leading rebounds list with 538.

"I want to play basketball in college, so I'm going to have to prove myself and shoot actually," Klockmann said with a laugh. "And become more comfortable shooting threes."

"Steph will be our big post down low," the head coach said. "She'll be the big girl getting all the boards for us."

Sam Lange had 163 points, 51 rebounds, 25 steals and 38 assists in her junior campaign, and scored the most three-pointers on the team with 34, something she hopes to continue.

"I want to have more three-pointers this year," Lange said of her personal goals. "And, after a game if we lose by a certain amount of points, we want to win the next game by that amount of points. We really want to improve in the next game."

"She's a three-point machine," said Otto-Fisher. "She wants to shoot, and we need to get her more minutes this year and (she needs to) be able to run the court back-and-forth on offense and defense."

One of the biggest advantages Otto-Fisher will have is his inheritance of Monahan at point guard.

As an eighth-grader, Monahan racked up some pretty dazzling numbers: 194 points, 68 rebounds, 43 steals, but most importantly, 105 assists. She also collected the least amount of fouls of any of last year's starters with 40.

"She's so smart at the game," coach Otto-Fisher said. "She's already thinking ahead, and she works hard. But her biggest

thing is she pulls the team together ... She's going to be huge to get back. She wants to be the coach on the court."

"She's awesome," Klockmann said. "I watched her all summer long. She's good."

"She's a good ball-handler," Lange added.

Some role players Otto-Fisher said he likes are Erin Nowak and Maddie Kalenberg.

"I'm looking for Erin Nowak to step up as a senior," he said. "Her and Maddie Kalenberg played about five or six games on varsity last year toward the latter part of the season. They filled in nicely and got some minutes and were feeling comfortable."

With a scrimmage at Mankato-Loyola this past weekend under their belts, Otto-Fisher said his starting lineup is looking like Klockmann, Lange, Monahan, Kalenberg and Nowak, but the coach said, "I have a week to see if they all earned the five spots."

Now that the Panthers are in Class AA instead of AAA, both the coach and his team are anxious to match up with teams that are similar in size.

The girls' season kicks off Tuesday, Dec. 3 as the Panthers host St. Peter at 7:30.

\*\*\*

— One game to mark on your calendars is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Soci-

ety and Tim Orth Memorial Foundation on Dec. 20 here at GSL against Lester Prairie.

Varsity starts at 7:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium, JV is 6 p.m. at the same location. The C team also starts at 6 p.m. but in the Panther Field House.

Games and prizes will take place with all of the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society and Tim Orth Memorial Foundation.

— With Otto-Fisher as head coach, Jeff Monahan takes over JV. Dave Prehn is now in charge of the C team, while Sarah Schoon coaches eighth grade and Becky Schwarze heads the seventh graders.

— Last year's team finished with a 9-17 record and lost to Mankato East 50-40 in the opening round of the section 2 (Class AAA) tournament.

— GSL moves down to a class to Class AA in Section 2. The rest of the section consists of Belle Plaine, Jordan, Maple River, Mayer Lutheran, Medford, New Richland H-E-G, Norwood-Young America, Sibley East, St. Peter, Tri-City United, Trinity at River Edge, Waterville-Elysian-Morris-town, Le Sueur-Henderson and The International School of Minnesota/ERA.

Last year, New Richland-H-E-G defeated St. Peter 96-61 in the Section 2 championship game, and also went on to win the Class AA championship 60-59 over Braham.

— Seven seniors graduated from last year's team, including: Kelly Beneke, Brooke Kaczmarek, Kaitlyn Cohrs, Alex Stensvad, Taylor Breidenbach, Courtney Wolff and Clarissa Ober, the school's all-time leading rebounder (1012), and second all-time leading scorer (1441). Clarissa Ober is also the school's all-time leader in blocked shots with 344, and fourth in steals with 229.

— GSL remains in the West Division of the Wright County Conference with Dassel-Cokato, Annandale, Litchfield and New London-Spicer, which the Panthers face twice.

In the East Division resides Hutchinson, Holy Family Catholic, Mound-Westonka, Orono, Waconia and Delano. GSL plays each of these teams once.

Like the boys, this marks the final season that cross-division teams must play each other at least once. Next year, teams in either division can still choose to play teams in the opposite division, or look elsewhere for tougher opponents to help improve their QRF.

# All in step; dancers building off last year

By Josh Randt  
Sports Editor

Now that she's in her second year commanding the troops on the Glencoe-Silver Lake danceline, Brittany Johnson said that this year's team will focus more on "the competitive aspect" of dancing.

During her first season leading the squad, Johnson said she learned "that it takes a lot of dedication and patience, and a lot of drilling and cleaning for our team. But we can get there with hard work."

This year's team is "right in the middle of the pack," when it comes to conference and sections, according to Johnson, who said the team's goal is to "improve our scores throughout the season, and keep our same place that we start in throughout the season, if not build (on) it."

GSL will have plenty of competition within its conference in both the high kick and jazz competitions.

Last year, Delano placed eighth, and Hutchinson placed 11th in the Class AA state high kick. In jazz, Mound-Westonka claimed seventh place while Holy Family Catholic earned 10th at the state competition.

In order to maintain its position in the conference as Johnson would like, the coach said the team will have to "work on our stamina, and on keeping memory mistakes down to a minimum."

One thing Johnson is excited about,



Silver Lake Leader photo by Josh Randt

The two captains of the Glencoe-Silver Lake danceline are Kailey Yurek (left) and Ashely Alseben. The girls, both juniors, lead a group of dancers that have been practicing together for years now in head coach Brittany Johnson's second season.

is the fact that techniques learned last year will transfer over into this year.

"I think the girls that we have, they worked so hard last year on all of that technique," Johnson said. "This year, it gets carried over, and we don't have to spend as much time on the skills. We can focus more on perfecting the cho-

reography that we have versus perfecting the skills that we have."

Helping Johnson lead this year's team will be a pair of junior captains in Ashley Alseben and Kailey Yurek.

On the varsity roster, Johnson has 17 girls, while JV coach Mona Ewald has 10.

The group looks to be a "young team, but a strong one," Johnson said. "This team is very cohesive. They've been together, a lot of them, since middle school. The team building aspect is already strong, so we can just continue building from there."

GSL's first competition is Thursday, Dec. 12 at New London-Spicer, with a preview performance during halftime at the boys' home basketball game on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Other than halftime performances, the closest competition the girls will have is on Saturday, Dec. 14 in Hutchinson at noon, which Johnson encouraged fans to watch.

"We'd love for fans to come to our competitions, not just the basketball games, but fans at games are great too," Johnson said. "We like them to be loud, so it gives the dancers energy!"

\*\*\*

— The Panthers compete in the Wright County Conference with Delano, Holy Family Catholic, Litchfield, Hutchinson, New London-Spicer, Waconia, Orono and Mound-Westonka.

— GSL is in Section 3 (Class AA) with Belle Plaine, Delano, Holy Family Catholic, Hutchinson, Jordan, Litchfield, Marshall, Mound-Westonka, New Ulm, Orono, Waconia and Willmar.

— The Class AA state tournament is scheduled Feb. 14 and 15 at the Target Center.

# McLeod County to call for RFPs on new classification, comp study

By Lori Copley  
Staff Writer

The McLeod County Board of Commissioners will seek proposals for a new classification and compensation study of its employees.

The County Board has discussed the need for a new study at previous meetings, and on Nov. 19 heard from Human Resources Director Mary Jo Wieseler a formal request to seek proposals for doing a study.

Wieseler brought a two-page statement to the County Board outlining reasons that a study is needed, not the least of which is that it's been 13 years since the last study.

"Job duties and responsibilities have changed in the last 13 years, and the job market also has changed," Wieseler said.

Wieseler said the County Board routinely invests in capital improvements, such as a new baler for the solid waste department and vehicles for the sheriff's office and highway department, and now it's time to look at human resources.

"Consider this an investment in our human capital," Wieseler said.

While the county has managed to buy and maintain expensive equipment during a sluggish economy, while keep-

ing tax levies down, "I also think our constituents expect and deserve highly trained and knowledgeable staff," said Wieseler.

Wieseler said the county has difficulty finding competent employees.

"Year to date, we have had about a dozen positions we have had to replace due to resignations," Wieseler said.

And replacing employees costs money — for advertising (about \$14,000 so far in 2013) and training.

And Wieseler said many employees are leaving for more lucrative positions elsewhere, giving the example of a 10-year employee in the information technology department who left for a job at a school that paid about \$5 per hour more than the employee was getting at the county.

Another example Wieseler gave was that the county was poised to hire an eligibility worker with eight years of experience, who turned down the job because of the salary.

"I believe all of our departments could give other examples of frustrations in recruiting, hiring and retention over the years," said Wieseler.

Commissioner Paul Wright said that sending out request for proposals (RFPs) for a new study "is a necessary step we have to take. I'm in favor of

getting started now because it takes a long time to get to the end result ... probably a year to a year and a half."

County Administrator Pat Melvin said that other counties, including Renville and Sibley, also are considering new studies.

"I think we're heading down the right path," Melvin said.

The County Board voted unanimously to send out the request for proposals.

In other business, the County Board reviewed several hiring requests, including some new hires for the Public Health department to accommodate new mandates from the Affordable Care Act.

And while the Board approved those hires — including a full-time nurse, a full-time social worker, a full-time technical clerk and a part-time nurse — it expressed a need to examine changes in the Social Services department as some of the responsibilities shift from Social Services to Public Health.

Wright pointed out that the shift will relieve Social Services "the equivalent of 3.5 full-time staff."

At a workshop, the County Board had heard that the county could save about \$100,000 annually while still maintaining its current Social Services staff.

Commissioner Sheldon Nies indicated that he has had time seeing how that could happen.

"I think we want to take a very, very good look at that, and that will probably take a workshop," said Nies.

The County Board also:

- Approved buying a roller/packer for the highway department in the amount of \$26,800 from RDO Equipment of Burnsville.
- Approved an agreement with Winsted Township for the replacement of a township bridge. Highway Engineer John Brunkhorst said the bridge will be paid for through a combination of state and township bridge bonds and local township funding.
- Heard that the new highway department facility between Silver Lake and Lester Prairie should be ready for occupancy in early December.
- Set the annual public hearing for the proposed fee schedule for Dec. 17 at 10 a.m.
- Approved meeting with elected department heads on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 3:30 p.m.
- Set its annual evaluation of Melvin's job performance for Dec. 31, following the regular board meeting. The evaluation portion of the meeting will be closed to the public.

## Menus

**Dec. 2-6  
Silver Lake  
Senior Nutrition Site**  
Monday — Tator tot casserole, green beans, peaches, bread, margarine, pudding, low-fat milk.  
Tuesday — Roast pork, whole potatoes, butter-cooked cabbage, bread, margarine, rosy applesauce, low-fat milk.  
Wednesday — Lasagna, California blend vegetables, lettuce salad with dressing, garlic bread, margarine, bar, low-fat milk.  
Thursday — Oven crispy chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, bread, margarine, poke cake.  
Friday — Meaty beef stew with carrots and potatoes, cole slaw, bread stick, margarine, banana, low-fat milk.

**GSL Elementary  
Breakfast**  
Monday — No school. Teacher workshop.  
Tuesday — Pancake on a stick with syrup or apple cinnamon muffin and yogurt, mandarin oranges, low-fat milk.  
Wednesday — French toast sticks with syrup or Golden Grahams and string cheese, diced peaches, low-fat milk.  
Thursday — Tony's breakfast pizza or oatmeal with cinnamon and raisins, mixed fruit, low-fat milk.  
Friday — Egg and cheese muffin or whole-grain blueberry muffin, yogurt, orange juice, low-fat milk.

**Helen Baker/Lakeside lunch**  
Monday — No school.  
Tuesday — Mini turkey corn dogs, oven-baked beans, broccoli florets with dressing, banana, chilled applesauce.  
Wednesday — Barbecue riblet on whole-grain bun, seasoned corn, celery sticks with dressing, kiwi wedges, chilled peaches.  
Thursday — Pancakes with

syrup, scrambled eggs, oven-baked tator tots, baby carrots with dressing, orange wedges, chilled applesauce.

Friday — Macaroni and cheese, bread stick, seasoned green beans, caesar romaine salad with dressing, apple wedges, mandarin oranges.

**Junior/Senior High breakfast**  
Monday — No school.  
Tuesday — Pancake on a stick with syrup or oatmeal with cinnamon and raisins, mandarin oranges, low-fat milk.  
Wednesday — French toast sticks with syrup or ultimate breakfast round, yogurt, diced peaches, low-fat milk.  
Thursday — Breakfast pizza or Cinnamon Toast Crunch, apple cinnamon muffin, mixed fruit, low-fat milk.  
Friday — Sausage, egg and cheese biscuit or whole-grain ultimate breakfast round, yogurt, orange juice, low-fat milk.

**Junior/Senior High lunch**  
Monday — No school.  
Tuesday — Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, seasoned corn, whole-grain dinner roll, carrot, raisin and pineapple salad, broccoli florets with dressing, banana, pineapple tidbits.  
Wednesday — Meatball sub, macaroni and cheese, oven-baked beans, confetti coleslaw, cherry tomatoes with dressing, kiwi wedges, chilled peaches.  
Thursday — Pizza casserole, bread stick, seasoned green beans, caesar romaine salad, jicama sticks with dressing, orange wedges, chilled applesauce.  
Friday — Mexican bar with chicken fajitas or beefy nachos, brown rice, refried beans, corn, black bean and salsa salad, baby carrots with dressing, apple, chilled mixed fruit.



Submitted photo

Lions clubs from Brownton, Glencoe, New Auburn, Plato and Silver Lake presented "A Student's Dictionary" to all third-grade students within the GSL School District, in-

cluding these Lakeside students at Silver Lake. This is the ninth year the local Lions clubs have given the free dictionaries.

## Lions present 3rd graders with dictionaries

On Nov. 19, a total of 180 copies of "A Student's Dictionary" were distributed by members of the Lions Clubs of Brownton, Glencoe, New Auburn, Plato and Silver Lake, to the third-grade students and their teachers at Glencoe-Silver Lake Lakeside, St. Pius X and First Lutheran school, and home-schooled third graders in the GSL district.

This year marks the ninth that third-grade students in the GSL School district have received these dictionaries free of charge, with more than 1,550 distributed thus far, said Ron Dahlke of the Glencoe Lions.

Each third-grade student received the dictionary as their own personal property which can be kept and used throughout the years.

This dictionary was approved by the schools' administrators and is planned to be

used in the third-grade classrooms throughout this school year.

The Lions clubs of Brownton, Glencoe, New Auburn, Plato, Silver Lake and the Dictionary Project, the dictionary's publisher, "provide this dictionary to aid third-grade teachers in their goal to see all their students end the school year as good writers, active readers, and creative thinkers," Dahlke said.

"The objective of this program is to provide school children with their very own dictionaries for use in school and at home, starting at the age when their education switches from learning to read to reading to learn, which typically occurs in the third grade of elementary school," Dahlke added.

Dahlke said a dictionary is perhaps the first and most powerful reference tool a child

can own. This particular edition's usefulness goes beyond the usual spellings, pronunciations, and definitions as it also contains maps and facts of the countries of the world, facts of the 50 United States, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, biographies of the U.S. presidents, weights and measures for both English and metric, the periodic table of the elements, sign language, Braille, facts of the planets in our solar system and more.

"It is a companion for solving problems that arise as a child develops his or her reading, writing, and creative thinking abilities," Dahlke said.

"Students benefit from an increased self-reliance and resourcefulness inspired by the maxim, 'look it up.' Teachers benefit by knowing that their students have consistent access

to a tool for homework and in class explorations," Dahlke said.

"This project is an opportunity for children to expand their vocabulary and for many, the first opportunity to actually own their own dictionary," Dahlke added.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with nearly 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs in 207 countries and geographical areas around the world.

Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired and made a strong commitment to community service and serving youth throughout the world.

For more information, visit its web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

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**McLeod County**

**Public Hearing**  
The McLeod County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing regarding 2014 fee schedules at a regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 17, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room in the McLeod County Courthouse in the City of Glencoe, Minnesota. The public is invited to attend.  
(Published in The Silver Lake Leader November 28, 2013)

**McLeod Publishing**

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# Sikkila named jail nurse of year by state's Sheriffs Association

By Lori Copley  
Staff Writer

Over 15 years ago, McLeod County Public Health nurse Robin Sikkila was called to the county jail to check over a couple of new prisoners who potentially had head lice.

That substitute visit for the regular jail nurse turned into a 15-year alliance with the jail that culminated with Sikkila being named the jail nurse of the year by the Minnesota Sheriffs Association. Sikkila became one of two public health nurses appointed to the jail in 1999, following the retirement of the public health nurse who previously had the position.

The other nurse is Joanne Bolland, whom Sikkila praises.

"It really is a team effort," Sikkila said.

Sikkila was nominated for the award by jail administrator Kate Jones, who presented Sikkila with a plaque before the McLeod County Board of Commissioners on Oct. 22.

Sheriff Scott Rehmann read a statement regarding Sikkila's service to the jail at the sheriffs association annual conference, citing her ability to communicate both with the jail staff and the inmates.

"I'm not a threat to them," Sikkila said of her rapport with the inmates. "Basically, they are just like everyone else; they have issues just like you and me."

Sikkila gives a lot of credit for the success of the prison health program to the jail staff.

"They're wonderful," she said. "Very well-trained."

Her meetings with patients are monitored by the staff, who are trained in "de-escalating" confrontations.

Sikkila said both Jones and former jail administrator Dennis Johnson, "really care about the prisoners."

Sikkila said she recently met with a former prisoner



Robin Sikkila

who told her that he had turned his life around, thanks to people in the jail taking an interest in his well-being.

"He said he had a full-time job, that he and his girlfriend were thinking of getting married," said Sikkila. "And all because someone at the jail took an interest and gave him some guidance."

Sikkila and Bolland are at the jail eight to 12 hours a week, where they assess patients who will be in the jail for two weeks or longer.

The focus is on emergent care, which is dealing with existing or arising medical conditions.

"It's different than most of our public health work, which focuses on prevention and education," said Sikkila, although the nurses will offer advice on potential lifestyle changes to help inmates better manage their medical conditions.

"We try to give them information that they can hopefully carry on with after they leave the jail," said Sikkila.

The jail contracts with an outside vendor to manage medical care for its inmates, and with the county's public health department for nursing services.

The management company provides a doctor who visits once every two weeks, and

who is available 24/7 for consultation by jail staff and the nurses.

Jones said that Sikkila has not been afraid to push for changes to protocols to better manage patient care, including revamping the procedure for dealing with diabetic patients, and a change in the management of prescribed narcotics.

Sikkila said the protocol once called for having no narcotics in the jail, which forced prisoners who used sleep aids or pain medication to "quit cold turkey."

That resulted in patients becoming ill and in avoidable visits to the emergency room.

"We needed to find a way to wean them off the medication," said Sikkila, "otherwise, they just got sicker. You can't treat people like that."

Rehmann's letter said the sheriff's office recently signed a contract with a new medical management vendor, and Sikkila "was instrumental in helping to make the transition as seamless as possible."

Along with working directly with patients, Sikkila also provides training for staff, who are responsible for the actual day-to-day administration of medications. Any medications that arrive with inmates are verified to make sure they are correct.

"And, of course, they are always free to contact us with any questions," said Sikkila.

Sikkila said she was surprised to learn she had been nominated for the award, and that she received it.

But she was very grateful to receive it, she said, because it made her feel appreciated.

And Sikkila was particularly pleased that she had been nominated by jail staff, because she holds them in high regard as well.

"I really, really like the people I work with at the jail," Sikkila said. "They do a wonderful job."



Silver Lake Leader photo by Rich Glennie

## 7th-grade students of October

GSL's Lincoln Junior High School honored its October students of the month in the seventh grade last week. Honored were, front row, left to right, Haley Lukes, band; Jacob Reichow, science; Jesse Mackenthun, math; and Dane Schwirtz,

ag/industrial technology. In the back are, Jordan Wildey, pre-algebra; Bethany Cross, physical education; Kasidy Cacka, English; Madilynn Anderson, art; and Kenady Rosckes, geography.



Silver Lake Leader photo by Rich Glennie

## 8th-grade students of October

Eighth-grade students honored by GSL Lincoln Junior High School as October students of the month last week were, front row, left to right, Rebecca Lieser, science; Emmi Jerabek, choir; and Sierra

Trebesch, English. In the back are Kyle Christensen, algebra; Mickalyn Frahm, physical education; and Zackary Herout, history.

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