



Leader

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Citizens: Preserve 'historic integrity' of auditorium

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

About a dozen concerned citizens attended the open meeting about auditorium improvements last Wednesday night, and all came to the conclusion that the goal is to "preserve the historic integrity" of the building.

Harvey Mikolichek, representing the Silver Lake Civic Association, took the lead on researching the improvements needed, providing a breakdown of repairs and upgrades and their projected costs.

The group took a walking

tour of the building, starting outside with the front south entrance.

Mikolichek pointed out the front entrance is crumbling and "needs a lot of work." The concrete is breaking away and Mikolichek suggested eliminating the set of windows above the front door and that a stucco front be installed.

He also discussed tearing down the unused chimneys and salvaging those bricks to replace the damaged brick.

"You can't find any brick to match, but we could salvage as much brick as we could from

the chimneys to keep the same look," Mikolichek said.

Mayor Bruce Bebo said something needs to be done because the crumbling brick "could kill somebody one of these days."

Mikolichek estimated exterior repairs to cost around \$25,000.

Besides exterior repairs, he also discussed installing an elevator in the building to make it handicapped accessible.

"An elevator is going to cost about \$250,000," Mikolichek said.

He added that bonding was

submitted to the Legislature for \$175,000 to use towards those costs.

"(The) Legislature only bonds every two years, and so we applied now," Mikolichek said.

"But even if we get the money, we don't have to take it," Bebo said. He said applying for the bonding was preparation for installing the elevator but that nothing is certain.

Mikolichek said he also talked with representatives at the Minnesota Historical Society about putting the auditorium on a historical registry

list.

"But after talking with them, the most we could ever get in grant money would be \$10,000. And before we make any repairs, we'd have to go through them first," Mikolichek said.

He commented on the difficulty working with the state for every repair needed in the auditorium, especially in efficiency and timeliness. Mikolichek said it would be best to apply for bonding money and use donations from local organizations to upgrade the building.

Mikolichek also discussed costs to repair the lower- and upper-level floors; the lower-level costs were estimated at \$10,000 and upper-level costs were \$40,000.

Brent Posusta of Custom Installations said refinishing the hardwood floor on the upstairs level includes "sanding it down to its natural maple material and adding a poly seal."

Gary Jerabek asked about maintaining the floor, and Posusta said it should be main-

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Silver Lake Leader photos
by Alyssa Schauer

St. Patrick's annual parade

On Saturday, several Irish and "Irish in heart" gathered for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Silver Lake. The parade started at Lakeside Elementary and ended at the former Kaz's station on Main Street. The Silver Lake American Legion color guard walked in the parade, as well as the Silver Lake Pola-Czesky Ambassadors. Above is the Peterson family, who had one of the colorful floats this year. From left to right are Zach, Jamie and Oliver. To the left, Stan Horstmann donned a St. Patrick's hat and handed out candy to parade goers.

First-ever 'Brew and Chew' set March 29 at auditorium

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

On Saturday, March 29, the inaugural "Brew and Chew" homebrew and potluck competition will be held at the Silver Lake Auditorium from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The "Brew and Chew" competition began from a conversation in a garage over a few beers, according to Connie Kratzke, event organizer.

"This idea was inspired by our neighbors actually, Sean and Dara. They are really into homebrewing. My husband Barry and I have made ciders and other things before, and we talked with others who are interested in making their own wine," Kratzke said.

"We thought it'd be fun to have a get-together in Silver Lake with a band, some good food and invite people to come try our homebrews. But the laws in Minnesota don't really allow that," she added.

But Kratzke said there is no law against having a homebrew contest.

Kratzke ordered books on judging beers and started organizing the event.

"But we wanted more people to show up than just the judges, so we are also having a potluck contest," Kratzke said.

A \$5 entry fee will be charged for each homebrew and food entry, and the money will be used for prizes. T-shirts



for the event also will be sold and profits will be donated to the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf and Silver Lake Senior Dining.

All those who wish to sample homebrew must register as judges; only 10 to 12 judges will be chosen, but the public is invited to judge in the potluck competition.

"Although only a select few judges will be chosen, the Silver Lake Muni will be serving tap beers to attendees. And the beers available include all different categories of beer," Kratzke said.

The categories for the homebrew competition include: American lager, pilsener (German and Bohemian), porter (Robust), American stout, American pale ale, northern English brown ale, hard cider, mead and fruit wine.

"Anyone involved in homebrewing is welcome to participate, and if anyone has a different kind of beer than the categories listed, that is more than OK. Just contact me," Kratzke said.

Home brewers must fill out a brew recipe card stating in-

redients.

"The beer-judging book I have lists a description of each beer and how it should taste. There is also a description of 'off flavors,' descriptions of how it *should not* taste," Kratzke said.

The list of "bad tastes" includes cat pee, sweat, leather, skunk, vinyl, metal, burned rubber and paint thinner, among others.

Anyone is welcome to participate in the potluck competition, also. The categories for the potluck include soup/stew/chili and hotdish.

Entrants also must fill out an ingredients card (for allergy purposes). Kratzke said the potluck competition will be voted by "people's choice."

The competition is set for next Saturday, March 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If interested in participating, contact Kratzke at 320-327-6580 or e-mail her at conniek@kahnkefarm.com or visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com and search "Silver Lake Brew & Chew."

The public is welcome to attend.

County Board begins full design process for jail, security project

By Lori Copley
Staff Writer

The McLeod County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday agreed to allow Wold Architects to develop a contract for its scope of services and a "full design process" for the proposed jail expansion and courthouse security project.

Sheriff Scott Rehmann made the request to proceed to the next step in the aftermath of a judge's ruling that monies left to the county from the Annamaria Tudhope estate could be used for the jail expansion portion of the project.

In its preliminary conceptual design, Wold Architects estimated that the jail expansion

and renovation would cost about \$4.2 million of the total estimated cost of \$7 million, which also includes security improvements to the courthouse, particularly in the court administration office area.

Commissioner Sheldon Nies said the matter had come before the county's budget committee following the judge's ruling.

That committee, Nies said, "is very, very, very adamant that it (the jail expansion) doesn't go over that \$4 million."

A representative from Wold said a more in-depth design will take about six to eight

months to develop.

"That will give you lots of time to be thoughtful and make good long-term decisions," he said.

He added that Wold will "come back to the Board" multiple times during the process to get input.

County Attorney Mike Junge cautioned the Board to also take the process slowly, because the judge's ruling is subject appeal. Junge said that any appeals will need to be filed by May 5.

If there is an appeal, Junge said, the county can ask the

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Gas station to reopen June 1

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

Hutchinson Co-op is moving forward with the purchase of the former Marathon Station and is set to open June 1.

City Clerk Kerry Venier told the Silver Lake City Council that results of the limited site investigation showed "no real concerns."

"So they are moving forward with the purchase agreement of the station. They want to move in as fast as they can and hope to be open by June 1," Venier said.

Venier added that

Hutchinson Co-op also plans on replacing the tanks, among other upgrades.

"I am going to get together with them and talk a bit about the limited site investigation and our plans moving forward regarding the Petro Fund, etc.," Venier said.

He said the limited site investigation costs were "not even close" to the initial reports. "They came in at about the \$20,000 range, instead of the proposed \$40,000. Our additional funding is not going to be needed, so that's good news," Venier said.

"What did they find exactly?" Mayor Bruce Bebo asked.

Venier said the limited site investigation showed some areas of heavily contaminated soils, but inspectors were able to "pinpoint" them near the tanks.

"The biggest concern was that contamination would be found across Highway 7, but they didn't find any significant levels of contamination in the ditch," Venier said.

"But it looks like they are going to reopen the station in June, unless there are any kinks in the purchasing process," Venier said.

Upcoming Events

Bean bag tourney Saturday

The Silver Lake Civic Association is hosting a bean bag tournament Saturday, March 22, at the Silver Lake Auditorium. Teams are two-person, co-ed, and the tournament is double elimination. Registration is at 10:30 a.m. and the tournament begins at 11 a.m. Cost is \$25 per team.

8/40 Salon meeting March 24

The regular meeting of 8/40 Salon No. 85, Department of Minnesota No. 24, will be held Monday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m., at Hutchinson Legion Post 96. Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m.

Lions sausage supper slated

The Silver Lake Lions are hosting their annual sausage supper Thursday, March 27, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Silver Lake Auditorium. The menu includes Polish sausage, cheesy hash-brown potatoes, bread, corn, sauerkraut, dessert, milk and coffee. Tickets are available at the door. Proceeds will go to the Silver Lake Fire Department.

Citywide garage sale dates

The Silver Lake citywide garage sale dates are set for May 8-10. More information will be available later.

Antique appraisal fundraiser

The McLeod County Historical Society is hosting an antique appraisal and preservation fundraiser Sunday, March 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There is an admission charge.

Luce Line Railroad program

On March 30, at 1 p.m., in the McLeod County Museum Educational Media Center, a Luce Line Railroad Club program will be held. Come for an afternoon to learn more about the history of railroads in McLeod County. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Degree of Honor to meet

Degree of Honor No. 182 will have a social meeting Tuesday, March 25, at 1 p.m., in the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Lenten soup suppers begin

Each Wednesday night during the Lenten season, Grace Bible Church in Silver Lake will hold a 5:30 p.m. soup and chili supper (free-will offering) served by members of the Living Water Puppets Team. The meal will be followed by a 7 p.m. church service.



File photo

The Silver Lake Auditorium was constructed in 1941 as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the

largest and "most ambitious" agency of the New Deal, implemented by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

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tained "like a gym floor."

He suggested the city look at hiring someone to maintain the floor properly or that it invest in special equipment and train city employees to use it.

"After new flooring is installed, any wrong cleaners, even if they are used once, can affect the bonding of the seal," Posusta said.

Other repairs for the building include: repairing hand rails that have no end caps; touching up wood work; replacing windows; heating improvements; bar area and lighting improvements; upgrading the outside handicap entrance (if an elevator were installed); creating city offices; minor roof repairs and installing a generator.

Mikolichuk and Bebo said installing a generator could make the building servicable as an emergency preparedness and response site in the event of a tornado, major power outage, flooding or any other emergencies.

Total repair costs for the auditorium, including exterior repairs and installing an elevator totaled \$364,500.

Mikolichuk said that is the "worst-case scenario" cost.

"That total is with no donations from any local organizations, no grants, no funding from the state. That would be

if we hired everything out," Mikolichuk said.

But, if auditorium improvements and repairs use local contractors, grants, volunteers, etc., Mikolichuk said costs would total \$284,300.

"But if we chose not to install an elevator, the total for other repairs is \$70,800," Mikolichuk said.

Resident Pat Mahon said she would like to see repairs, but that the "integrity" of the building be kept.

"I like that point, too," resident Duane Yurek said.

Mikolichuk said that is the goal of the improvements, and that installing an elevator was a concern.

"But that would make the building more accessible," Mikolichuk said. He added that Municipal Liquor Store Manager Jon Jerabek said fewer and fewer weddings are booked at the auditorium because of accessibility inconveniences, but that "upgrades could bring in more business."

Bebo pointed out that the building use also goes "beyond

weddings.

"Every room in this building gets used between the fire department, ambulance, scouts, senior dining. Upgrades would benefit all of them, too," Bebo said.

The group decided to form an "auditorium improvement" committee and will tentatively meet the second Tuesdays of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the auditorium, and all interested are invited to attend.

Historic preservation

The Silver Lake Auditorium was built in 1941 as a project of the Work Projects Administration (WPA) of the federal government, which took over the costs for labor on the new building.

The WPA was part of Presi-

dent Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal" agency and employed millions of unemployed people to carry out public works projects, including the construction of roads and public buildings, like the Silver Lake Auditorium.

The building was not only furnished by local people, but enabled Silver Lake "to have one of the finest municipal buildings."

To finance the building, a bond of \$12,000 was voted in April 1940 and the Community Fair Association donated its surplus to assist in the purchase of the grounds.

The building was designed by architect Carl H. Buetow, who had 31 years of architectural experience before planning and designing the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Wild game feed set at Grace Bible March 30

Members and friends of the Grace Bible Church in Silver Lake will host a special wild game fee Sunday, March 30, beginning at 5 p.m.

The evening will include domesticated elk burgers and samplings of a variety of wild game (and not-so-wild game), door prizes, and a "Bird Dog" parade.

Guest speaker Gary Mitchel will talk about his experience

getting lost in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA).

In 1967, he experienced the great tragedy and was lost for six days.

Tickets are \$5 each and limited. They need to be ordered in advance by calling the church at 320-327-2352 or Shawn at 320-234-9425. Grace Bible Church is located in Silver Lake next to the city water tower.

Wednesday Lenten services held at Faith Presbyterian

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Friends and family of Faith Presbyterian Church and the surrounding community are hereby advised to appear for jury duty on the following Wednesdays in Lent — March 26, April 2 and April 9 at 6:15 pm. — to decide the case of The People vs. Judas Iscariot.

The Wednesday Lenten services will take the shape of a court hearing in which Judas is on trial for his part in Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. Is God's love big enough to forgive him

of his part in the story?

The congregation will serve as the jury. Prosecution and defense attorneys will attempt to sway the judge and congregation with evidence based upon the Bible and tradition.

Various witnesses are "subpoenaed" to testify, including Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, and others. Come and hear the testimony and cast your ballot. Each week the trial will begin at 6:15 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, 108 W. Main St., Silver Lake.

Save the date: KC paper drive set for April 11-12

The Silver Lake Knights of Columbus Council No. 1841 will have a paper drive on Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The trailer will be parked on the north side of Holy Family Church in Silver Lake.

Items accepted include newspapers, junk mail, magazines, paper bags and cardboard.

Cardboard should be kept separate from papers. No plastic, please.

Proceeds will go to Silver Lake swimming pool operations and Silver Lake summer youth recreation program.

For information or help hauling papers, please call Ray Bandas at 320-327-3115.

Jail

Continued from page 1

judge to require an "appeal bond" that will protect it if the appeal delays the project long enough that additional costs from inflation or redesign are realized.

Commissioner Ron Shimanski, while noting that the process is still in its early stages, asked if the jail or court administration office will need to be shut down during the construction process.

The Wold representative said that neither the jail nor the court administration office would have to shut down, but there may be a short period of time that Courtroom 3 is not available for use while it is being remodeled to accommodate a secure passage from the jail to the courtroom.

Commissioner Jon Christensen asked if voting to call for the scope of services contract and a full design means the County Board is definitely "building a new jail."

Junge said no decision will be final until the County Board actually accepts a bid and enters into a contract for the construction.

"And there are about six checkpoints between now and then, and you can say 'no' at any time," said Junge.

The County Board voted unanimously to have Rehmann work with Wold on the scope of services contract and the next design phase of the project.

Thank You

Thank you to Lynn "Duffy" Monger-Yurek, Rachael and Trevor "McNally" Posusta, Bryan O'Posusta, Silver Lake Lions Club, Silver Lake Pola-Czesky Royalty and to all who enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day parade, Irish After-Glow and the wonderful music and dancing! It was a great day celebrated by many!

See you next year!
Sandy "McNally" Posusta



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Call the Silver Lake Leader, (320-327-2216), or McLeod County Chronicle, (320-864-5518) offices for details on how you can be included in this directory.

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Letters The Silver Lake Leader welcomes letters from readers expressing their opinions. All letters, however, must be signed. Private thanks, solicitations and potentially libelous letters will not be published. We reserve the right to edit any letter. A guest column is also available to any writer who would like to present an opinion in a more expanded format. If interested, contact the editor, richg@glencoenews.com.

Ethics The editorial staff of the Silver Lake Leader strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. We appreciate errors being brought to our attention. Please bring any grievances against the Silver Lake Leader to the attention of the editor. Should differences continue, readers are encouraged to take their grievances to the Minnesota News Council, an organization dedicated to protecting the public from press inaccuracy and unfairness. The News Council can be contacted at 12 South Sixth St., Suite 940, Minneapolis, MN 55402, or (612) 341-9357.

Press Freedom Freedom of the press is guaranteed under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press..." Ben Franklin wrote in the Pennsylvania Gazette in 1731: "If printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody there would be very little printed."



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



Silver Lake Leader photos by Alyssa Schauer



Hunting expo

The annual Big Little Hunting and Fishing Expo, sponsored by the Christian Deer Hunters Association, was held at the McLeod County Fairgrounds, and offered a number of seminars on hunting and fishing, as well as entertainment for children. Above are cousins Bekah Cross and Elizabeth Rakow racing minnows. To the left is Jayden Alberts and Amber Alberts. Jayden tried to pop balloons with the marshmallow bow.



Tracing Roots

By Ron Pulkrabek

Thankful our relatives chose America

From about 1860 to 1914, approximately 120,000 Czechs and Germans moved into the Ukraine area of Russia. Czar Alexander of Russia invited Czechs and Germans to come and settle on free land and pass on their farming skills to the inefficient Russian peasants.

The Austrian/Hungarian government was placing many hardships on the Czechs at this time. Their other option was costly travel to the port of Hamburg, then a long dangerous ship ride to America and travel halfway across America to get to Minnesota.

In addition, they heard bad things about America, including Indian Wars, the Civil War, dying at sea, grubbing stumps, grasshoppers, many other hardships, and not being able to speak English.

By loading their processions onto wooden-wheeled wagons and sleds, floating down the Danube River, traveling east to the Ukraine, taking only 30 days, sounded like a good choice.

The Czar promised free land, and they could establish their own towns, carry on their own traditions, have religious freedom, and men would not have to serve in the Russian Army.

Czechs formed the villages of Bohemka, Alexandrovka, Poltava, Czechohrad and Melitopol.

Unfortunately most of the Czechs were craftsmen rather than farmers. Along the way, crooks stole or swindled money from them. After arriving, it was a terrible ordeal to survive, to find jobs, to start farming, to obtain money, to build a house and find a place to live. It revealed how far from reality their dreams of getting rich quick really were.

There were droughts, locusts, the soil was thin, yields were low, springs were late, falls were early, winds blew, water was scarce, many settlers lived in dugouts with a stretched animal skin for a window pane.

Many returned to Bohemia. For the people who stayed, it

got even worse! By 1921, it is estimated that 20 million Russian people died of starvation or were killed.

During the 1930s, millions were shot outright due to trumped-up charges or sent to prison camps in Siberia during Stalin's "Great Purge" to cleanse the country. Millions of people died of starvation right in the so-called "Bread Basket" of the Ukraine.

After 20 to 60 years in the Ukraine, the Czar made all the Czechs and Germans move onto the 10,000-square-mile peninsula of Crimea. Whole towns were forced to move. This irregularly shaped piece of thinly-soiled land, the size of Rhode Island, juts out into the Black Sea. They were landlocked! The Russians could easily seal them off whenever they wanted.

The Czechs and German immigrants had very few good years of prosperity and soon the Russian government passed a law revoking all rights and privileges given to them. Their sons were drafted to fight in the Russo-Turkish wars.

By 1880, most colonists had lost all faith in Russia. Families were torn apart by relations who wanted to stay in Russia or return to Bohemia or immigrate to America. Some stayed; few survived.

About 1940, Stalin changed things drastically! During one winter night, all Czech and German colonists were rounded up, packed what they could carry and locked into cattle train cars to be transported to Siberia for an "indefinite time." They were not prepared for such a long winter trip.

Men were separated from women. They were not given food or water. They had to scratch for frozen food scraps at train stops. They did not know where they were going. The Russians had no plans for them! Thousands starved en route!

At the final destination in Siberia, they were crowded in with the locals to keep warm and forced to work in the

mines and lumber camps during sub-freezing weather. They were never told the length of their sentences. How can you survive if you don't have a goal?

Finally, in 1964, after 25 years of forced labor, Russian dictator Khrushchev signed a bill releasing the surviving 2,000 Czech and German slaves. They were 1,000 miles from their homes in Crimea. Some were old; they had no money and had to find their own way home.

The few that made it home found other people living in their houses and could not claim their homes or land; their churches were used for granaries. They had no money. They had no rights and did not qualify for government pensions.

When one group opened a church the communists blew it up. Religion and believing in God was one thing the survivors never gave up on, despite all the hardships.

From 1886 through 1917, a few lucky Czechs and Germans did make it out of Russia and immigrated to America.

In about 1912, the Kraemer, Karg, Schmidt and Hepner families came to Glencoe from Stahl, Russia, (now Luybyshv) 400 miles east of the Black Sea.

(Rumor: One guy did return, disillusioned and broke after a few years. The Glencoe families took up a \$70 collection to bring him back.)

Others moved to Bismarck and Dickenson, N.D. They can trace their ancestors back to villages in Crimea and Russia, although the village names have been Russianized and people cannot easily find them.

In 1898, the Northwest Improvement Company in America deeded land to the Czech people in North Dakota to build a new town called "New Hradec." In 1917, under the Communist Russian government, all emigration came to a grinding halt. Whoever was in Russia would stay in Russia! We should all be so thankful our relatives chose America!

'Orth kids' are inspirational group

Each year I interview Tim Orth recipients, I am overcome with emotion at the hardships and trials the kids have endured.

This year there are 12 children in need, ranging from 1-year-olds to 17-year-olds, and so far, I had the opportunity to talk with five of them for feature stories.

When I first started working for the newspaper in 2011, I had never even heard about the Tim Orth Jamboree until I interviewed Cameron Marvan's family, who was a recipient that year.

At the time, Cameron was 20 months old, and was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome. He suffered numerous seizures daily and was in and out of hospitals for much of his young life.

In 2012 and 2013, I interviewed two more families from the area with similar situations of being in and out of doctors' offices and hospitals.

And this year's recipients are no different.

Little Molly Koschinska of Waconia was born with a large hole in her heart and has had three heart surgeries already, with more surgeries scheduled.

Taylor Tenhoff, a sophomore at Dassel-Cokato High School, was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia and has had two bone marrow transplants — one of the most invasive and painful surgeries ever.

Angelita "Lita" Gonzalez, 2, of Glencoe, was born prematurely and is diagnosed as "failure to thrive" and Landon Weigel, 8, a second-grader at Park Elementary in Hutchinson, suffers from episodes of his airway swelling.

Zella Jo Thode, 1, is diagnosed with hypoplastic left

The Travel Section

By Alyssa Schauer



heart syndrome, meaning she was born with half of a heart.

Yet, despite the challenges, multiple operations and painful procedures these children have had to endure, they seem to always be smiling and happy.

When I first met Taylor, he crafted this intricate drawing of flying dragons with just a blue pen and sheet of scrap paper, and he has a dry sense of humor I can relate to.

When I showed up at Lita's house, she greeted me with a huge smile and a big laugh, much like baby Zella did during our interview in Hutchinson.

Landon showed me his football card collection and his talent at making rubberband bracelets with the "rainbow loom."

He even gave me a couple of colorful bracelets and a little yellow banana keychain he fashioned out of the rubberbands.

Landon took our interview seriously; he sent both his parents out of the room so that we could have privacy to talk. I had to laugh at his mother's shocked face when she was "shoed" away.

As I sat with the parents who recounted the medical journeys with their children, I watched the kids interact with their siblings, play around with their toys, or laugh at the

silliness that was playing on their TV sets, and I had to hold back a few tears thinking of all the pain they've experienced. And at such young ages.

On top of the disheartening medical conditions, the families have to consider the financial costs.

The Tim Orth Memorial Foundation was organized to help families like these with the financial difficulties of hospital visits, and last year, I decided to join the organization so I can help, too.

You may have seen the news brief about the "jamboree" with entertainment, raffles, a silent auction, concessions, basketball games and a ceremony to raise money for the recipients.

I still have never even been to the event due to scheduling conflicts, but I've heard what an emotional experience it is. This year, I'm excited to be able to join in to rally for the kids.

The event is set Saturday, March 29, at the Glencoe-Silver Lake High School gymnasium, and includes a visit from the Therapy Dogs International Group, face painting, a paper airplane contest, gymnasts, Zumba dances, great food and much more.

Come see the kids — their smiles are contagious and will leave you inspired and your heart full.

KC fish fry winners are announced

The following are the winners and prizes from the Silver Lake Knights of Columbus (KCs) March 7 fish fry raffle:

Laurel Anderson, \$100 cash from Silver Lake KCs; Randy Zajicek, \$75 cash from Silver Lake KCs; Joe Chloupek, George Washington coin and stamp set (\$50 value) from First Community Bank;

Brian Koktan, Steph Kutter, Isabell Mallak and Denise Suggs, \$25 cash from Gerald and Luann Kucera of Pioneer;

Al Brandon, \$25 cash from Swartzer Sewer Service; Don Miskovsky, \$25 cash from K&K Storage; Elmer Howe, \$25 gift card from Molly's Cafe;

Dale Cacka and Barney Nowak, gift certificate good for 1 peck of apples from Shmanski Orchard;

Charlotte Gatz, Dorothy Merrill and Kathy Snegosky, \$5 gift certificate from Silver Lake Muni;

Pat Fogarty and Lori Dahl, six-month subscriptions from McLeod Publishing, Inc.

The door prize of a \$25 gift card to Molly's Cafe went to Dennis Rehmman.

Menus

- March 24-28**
Silver Lake Senior Nutrition Site
 Monday — Barbecued pork, peas, tropical fruit, bun, margarine, cookie, low-fat milk.
 Tuesday — Chili, pears, lettuce with dressing, crackers, margarine, pudding, low-fat milk.
 Wednesday — Baked chicken, baked potato, squash, bread, margarine, gelatin with fruit and topping, low-fat milk.
 Thursday — Meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, beets, bread, margarine, lemon angel food cake, low-fat milk.
 Friday — Pub House fish, whole potatoes, Prince William vegetables, bread, margarine, pie, low-fat milk.

People News

Mohr on UM fall dean's list

Taylor Mohr of Glencoe was named to the University of Minnesota fall semester dean's list. A freshman, Mohr is in the Carlson School of Management at the university.

Daughter for Posusta, Ostlie

Ashley Posusta and Alex Ostlie of Lester Prairie announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Rose Ostlie, on March 5, 2014, at Glencoe Regional Health Services. Ava weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 20 inches long. She joins an older sister, Jade Marie Ostlie. Grandparents are Paulette Zanoth of Silver Lake, LeRoy Posusta of Silver Lake, and Tim and Mary Ostlie of Norwood Young America.

Fairbankses announce birth

Brandon and Kara Fairbanks of Rochester announce the birth of their daughter, Kaitlynn Mae, on Feb. 19, 2014, at Mayo Clinic, Rochester Methodist campus. Kaitlynn weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 21-1/4 inches in length. Her older sister is Abigail, 2. Grandparents are Randy and Michele Vasko of Lester Prairie and John and Sharon Fairbanks of Duluth. Great-grandparents are Wilfred and Elaine Bebo of Silver Lake and Charlotte Vasko of Hutchinson.

2014-15 Faith Preschool
Open House & Registration
 Sat., March 29th, 1-3 p.m.



Faith Presbyterian Church
 108 W. Main St. • Silver Lake

Registration is open to the public for children who are ages 3 or 4 on or by September 1st, and are potty trained. We offer afternoon classes.

Questions? please call 320-327-2452

American Legion
Silver Lake American Legion
Breakfast on Sunday
March 23, 9am
at the Legion
 MENU: Potato pancakes and regular pancakes, scrambled eggs plain and with sausage & onion, sausages, milk, juice and coffee.
 All you can eat for \$8.00
Bloody Mary Bar
Live Country Music at Noon



Down Memory Lane

Compiled by Margaret Benz



75 YEARS AGO - MARCH 25, 1939 — That humble and inconspicuous little shanty that once adorned every backyard in the village becomes an outlaw this week and is destined to soon become a thing of the past in villages having a sewer system. Action by the village council in adopting a new ordinance terminates its long and varied existence. Every property owner in the village whose property abuts any street or alley along which a municipal sewer has been constructed must make connections and install indoor toilets.

Silver Lake welcomes another businessman, Perry Freiday, formerly of Dassel, who has leased the Kasper Livery Barn for his ice business. He will serve both the village and rural customers.

A two-act play dealing with the life and song writing career of Stephen Foster will be presented at the Silver Lake Public School Parent-Teacher meeting on Monday, March 27. Students and faculty members will portray the characters.

The Pioneer Cafe, John Navratil, proprietor, is having a special offer on Sunday, March 26. With every quart of ice cream purchased, you will receive a free pint of sherbet.

The Silver Lake Hatchery is introducing its new Eagle Chick Mash and Gold Coin Mash with a Special Introductory Offer. With each 100-pound bag of either of these mashes, it is giving a free chicken catcher.

Stanley Charney, 25, son of Frank and Fanny Charney, died on Monday, March 20, at the family home in Rich Valley Township. Funeral services were conducted from the home on Wednesday, March 22.

Mrs. Anna (Anton) Chapek, 87, died on Wednesday, March 22, at her home in Silver Lake. Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 24, at the St. Joseph Church.

50 YEARS AGO - MARCH 19, 1964 — An open house and appreciation day will be held by the Silver Lake Produce Company, managed by Joe Benz, on Friday, March 20. Free coffee and donuts and the awarding of five door prizes will be given on that day. The affair is held as a gesture of appreciation for the business accorded the firm and to also show everyone the major new equipment installed by the company.

Mallak Elevator of Silver Lake will host an appreciation day in observance of 35 years of business on Friday, March 20, with the serving of free coffee, donuts, cake, buttered popcorn, cookies, and a host of free door prizes.

A benefit auction for band uniforms for Silver Lake High School Band members will be held on Monday night, March 23, at the Silver Lake Auditorium.

On Tuesday, March 24, a basketball triple-header benefit will be held at the Silver Lake High School Gym. Proceeds from the event will be turned over to the band uniform committee.

The Silver Lake Fire Department responded to a brooder house fire at the Bernard Koktan

farm south of Silver Lake last Thursday evening.

The Zrust Construction Company of Silver Lake and Birkholz Construction of Lester Prairie have merged as of March 1 and will now be known as Zrust-Birkholz Construction Co.

On Wednesday, March 24, Art Konerza will hold an auction at his place located three miles southwest of Silver Lake.

Having decided to discontinue the wood-working business, K.D. Haekenkamp will hold an auction at his business located on the corner of the northwest edge of Winsted on Hwy. 261 and the Watertown road on Monday, March 23.

Little Nancy Jean Hemerick, 15-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hemerick, passed away at Northwestern Hospital on Monday evening, March 16. Funeral services will be held on Thursday morning, March 19, from the St. Adalbert's Church.

A son was born on March 15 to Mr. and Mrs. Justin Buska. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kosek are the parents of a daughter born on March 11.

25 YEARS AGO - MARCH 23, 1989 — A snowstorm on Tuesday, March 14, forced the closing of the polls at the Hale Township election at 5:30 p.m. Polls were reopened at 9:30 a.m. to noon on Friday. Twenty-one voters turned out to re-elect Gerald Harris as supervisor and incumbent treasurer Colleen Kaczmarek.

Twenty-two Rich Valley Township voters turned out in the snow on Tuesday, March 14, to cast their ballots. Incumbent Supervisor George Nemecek was re-elected to the position and Doug Portele was elected treasurer by write-in vote.

Six candidates filed for the two positions on the Silver Lake School Board. Incumbent Harvey Mikolichuk is seeking re-election. Also filing were Clemens Artmann, Joe Chmielewski, Robert Paulson, Donald Koepp and Victoria Harris. Daniel Dostal chose not to run for re-election.

The Silver Lake Civic Association is sponsoring its Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 25, at the Silver Lake City Park for children ages 10 and under.

The Silver Lake High School Band earned an excellent rating for the second year at the District 16A Band Contest held last Tuesday at Glencoe.

Dennis and Joyce Cacka are holding an auction at their farm located six miles northeast of Silver Lake on Saturday, March 25.

The Silver Lake Fire Department responded to an overheated furnace motor fire at the Joe Micka residence in Silver Lake on Saturday evening, March 18.

At the annual meeting of the Silver Lake Sportsmen's Club on Saturday, March 11, Gary Jerabek, Phil Nowak, Larry Nowak and Roger Pokornowski were elected to the four director positions for three-year terms.

Obituaries

Ronald A. Artmann, 74, of Winsted

Ronald Andrew Artmann, 74, of Winsted, died Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at the Marie Steiner Kelting Hospice House in Chaska.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, March 17, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Silver Lake.

Honorary pallbearers were his six grandchildren. Gift bearers were Sharon Anderson, Arrissa Nowak and McKenzie Nowak. Interment was in Holy Trinity Cemetery in Winsted.

Mr. Artmann was born Aug. 31, 1939, in Winsted Township, McLeod County, to Andrew C. and Mary (Neumann) Artmann.

On Aug. 29, 1986, Ronald Artmann and Carol Ann Fiecke were joined in holy marriage in Plato.

Mr. Artmann engaged in farming in Winsted Township for many years.

He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, telling stories about his younger years, driving horses, playing cards and morning coffee at Molly's Café. Mr. Artmann had a tractor collection and each tractor that he collected resembled tractors that he and his dad once owned. He also loved to collect quarters.

Mr. Artmann was a former member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Winsted and belonged to Holy Family Catholic Church in Silver Lake.

Survivors include his wife, Carol Ann Artmann; four sons, Bobby Artmann and fiancé Melody, Donny (Kari) Artmann, Kenny Artmann and

Jim Fiecke; six grandchildren, Josh Artmann, Jessica Artmann, Tristan Artmann, and Tyler, Cody and Jack Fiecke; special people, Sharon Anderson and family, and Arrissa Nowak and McKenzie Nowak; sisters, Lucille Hausladen and Evelyn Fenske; sisters-in-law, Millie Artmann and Mary Ann Artmann; brother-in-law, Roger (Carol) Thalman; nieces, nephews, many other relatives and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Andrew and Mary Artmann; brothers, Jerome, Clarence and Clem; two infant sisters, Dorothy and Mary Ellen; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Edwin and Laverna Thalman.

The Maresh Funeral Home in Silver Lake served the family. Online condolences may be made at www.mareshfuneralhome.com.



Ronald Artmann

Church News

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
300 Cleveland Ave., Silver Lake
Dr. Tom Rakow, Pastor
320-327-2265

<http://silverlakechurch.org>
Sat., March 22 — Men's Bible study, 7 a.m.; women's Bible study, 9 a.m.

Sun., March 23 — "First Light" radio broadcast on KARP 106.9 FM, 7:30 a.m.; pre-service prayer time, 9:15 a.m.; worship with communion, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday school for all ages, 10:35 a.m.

Wed., March 26 — Soup supper, 5:30 p.m.; confirmation class, 6 p.m.; Lenten service with guest speaker Daryel Willet, 7 p.m.

Sat., March 29 — Men's Bible study, 7 a.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

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

Sun., March 23 — Handbell practice, 8:45 a.m.; worship service with fellowship to follow, 10 a.m.

Wed., March 26 — Light supper, 5:30 p.m.; WOW classes, 6 p.m.; Lent service, 6:15 p.m.; choir practice, 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
700 W. Main St., Silver Lake
Anthony Stubeda, Pastor
Thurs., March 20 — Mass at

Cedar Crest, 10:30 a.m.; meet and greet at The Pines, Hutchinson, 11:30 a.m.; bereavement session at church, 1 p.m.

Fri., March 21 — Mass, 8 a.m.; stations of the cross, 6 p.m.

Sat., March 22 — Reconciliation, 5 p.m.; Mass, 6:30 p.m.; St. Pius X, Holy Family youth Mass, 6:30 p.m., followed by movie night and potluck at Holy Family.

Sun., March 23 — Mass, 8 a.m.; AFC mission group meeting church lower level, 6 p.m.; Mass, 8 p.m.

Mon., March 24 — No Mass.
Tues., March 25 — Mass, 8 a.m.; eucharistic adoration, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; quilting, 9 a.m.; parish administrative council, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., March 26 — Mass at Cokato Manor, 10 a.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.; first- through sixth-grade religious education, 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m.; seventh- through 10th-grade religious education, 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

Thurs., March 27 — Mass at Cedar Crest, 10:30 a.m.; area pastoral council, 7 p.m.

Fri., March 28 — Mass, 8 a.m.; stations of the cross, 6 p.m.

BETHEL LUTHERAN
77 Lincoln Ave., Lester Prairie
Bethany Nelson, pastor
320-395-2125

Thur., March 20 — Book club, 6 p.m.

Sun., March 23 — Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; choir, 10:30 a.m.

Mon., March 24 — Paper drive through April 10.

Wed., March 26 — Soup supper at Prairie Community Church, 6 p.m.; Lenten worship at Prairie Community, 7 p.m.

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH
950 School Rd. S.W. Hutchinson
320-587-9443
E-mail: infor@loversoftruth.com
Jim Hall, Pastor

Sun., March 23 — 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., March 23 — 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
Dr. Lee Allison, pastor
Sun., March 23 — Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Weather Corner

By Jake Yurek



An early week storm followed by cooler weather will be the weather headline this week. By the time you read this, our early week storm should be out of the area. Even as I write this, there's still a lot of disagreement about who got what. I'm guessing we got a decent snow, but if things warmed up, I'm hoping we saw less snow and more liquid precipitation.

Regardless, it is behind us so let us look forward. Average highs for this time of year should typically be in the lower 40s. We'll remain below that this week with highs on the weekend having a tough time hitting the freezing mark. There's a cold pool of air (surprise, surprise) lumbering around in Canada, and we'll get a glancing blow from it. It won't be horrible, but the coldest air won't be too far away, so I'm worried more will filter in and keep things even colder.

There is yet another cold pool of air further in Canada that may try to work its way towards us as well, but that is a bit too far off to tell for sure. The one thing that is certain is this rough winter is having a tough time letting go. At least we were able to melt a good chunk of our snow last week.

There will be another storm close to us late Thursday into Friday. This one may be a little further to the north so I'm hoping we stay on the warm side. Having said that, we'll be looking at a mix of precipitation most likely, so stay tuned to more up-to-date forecasts. Don't get too worried, though, as this one looks quite a bit weaker than our early week storm. The weekend is looking cooler with only a chance of flurries Sunday.

Have a great week, all!
Ma dobry weekend
Thursday — Highs 33-40; lows 22-28; clear/night time mix.

Friday — Highs 31-38; lows 15-21; clouds/mixed bag of precipitation.

Saturday — Highs 24-31; lows 10-16; partly cloudy.

Sunday — Highs 27-34; partly cloudy/snow shower?

Weather Quiz: When will we see that first 70-degree temperature?

Answer to last week's question: **The 1978-79 winter was similar to the one we just went through; what was the summer after that like?** The summer of 1979 was mostly normal with slightly lower-than-normal temperatures. There were only a handful of days in the 90s, so if this summer follows suit we may have a nice one on tap! But the weather always has a mind of its own, so who knows?

Remember: I make the forecast, not the weather!

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lundeenauction.com
Fred W. Radde III (612) 710-2101 or (952) 353-2291
fwr-auctioneers.com

In Memory of
Sylvester Pokornowski
who passed away March 24, 2004 (10 years ago)

God looked around His garden and found an empty place. He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face. He put His arms around you and lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful. He always takes the best. He knew that you were suffering. He knew you were in pain. He knew that you would never get well on earth again. He saw the road was getting rough, the hills were hard to climb. So He closed your weary eyelids and whispered, "Peace be thine." It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone... For part of us went with you the day God called you home. You are always in our hearts.

Deeply missed by Marcella, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren *11L8

In Loving Memory of
Michael Knudson
6/29/82 - 3/13/11

Bless us Lord, as we pray; You took our beautiful son home 3 years ago today. Please let him know, how much we love him each and every day. We loved his laugh, We loved his smile, We loved his everything, We loved our child.

Loved & missed by his family:
Bill, Cheri, Tara & Travis *11L8

Silver Lake Lions Club

ANNUAL SAUSAGE SUPPER

Thursday, March 27, 2014
Silver Lake Auditorium
Serving from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Tickets: Adults: \$7.50
Ages 4-12: \$3.50
3 & under: Free

Menu: Polish sausage, cheesy hashbrown potatoes, corn, bread, sauerkraut, milk, coffee, dessert.

Proceeds will go to Silver Lake Fire Department.

Thank You!

GSL Winter Sports

BOYS' BASKETBALL

December

06....at Bloomington JeffersonL,68-36
04....at JordanL,63-43
07....at NYAW,73-48
10....at HutchinsonW,66-59
12....at Dassel-CokatoW,47-37
17....at AnnandaleL,62-54
28....Belle PlaineW,79-72

January

03....Sibley EastW,57-55
04....at JordanL,63-43
09....at BOLDW,66-52
10....at Mound-WtkaW,77-60
14....at NLSW,66-63
17....at OronoL,73-55
21....LitchfieldW,55-51
24....HutchinsonL,62-57
28....Annandalepostponed
31....at Holy FamilyL,69-43

February

03....at Belle PlaineL,67-65
06....at Dassel-CokatoW,73-50
10....at RocoriL,64-53
11....at NLSW,66-63
13....AnnandaleL,64-47
14....WaconiaL,59-50
18....at LitchfieldW,56-51
21....at DelanoW,62-54
25....NYAW,49-29
28....JordanW,53-33

March

04....LeSueur-HendersonL,76-65

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

December

03....St. PeterW,60-42
07....at NYAW,39-33
10....Belle PlaineW,68-35
13....New UlmW,60-48
17....at New PragueL,62-30
20....Lester PrairieW,71-58
28....at MACCRAYW,58-23

January

03....at Sibley EastW,49-40
10....at Mound-WtkaL,53-41
11....at Mayer LutheranL,81-62
14....NLSL,62-52
17....OronoL,73-52
21....at LitchfieldW,63-53
23....WillmarL,56-46
24....at HutchinsonL,72-52
31....Holy FamilyL,76-54

February

03....RocoriW,61-51
07....Dassel-CokatoL,73-58
10....at AnnandaleL,71-66
11....at NLSL,70-41
18....LitchfieldW,67-48
21....DelanoL,55-54
20....at WaconiaL,122-115
25....AnnandaleL,62-47
28....at Watertown-MayerL,62-54

March

03....at Sibley EastW,64-50
06....NYA at Northfield H.S.L,51-48

WRESTLING

December

05....Wabasso-Red Rock CentralL,36-31
07....GSL Inv.2nd
12....Dassel-CokatoW,48-25
12....LitchfieldW,47-21
14....at Andover Inv.1st
19....at NLSW,37-21
19....at Ann/MLW,31-30
20....at St. PeterW,45-31
20....at WEM/JWPW,45-30
21....at Richfield Inv.3rd

January

02....Watertown-MayerW,36-30
09....OronoW,65-14
09....DelanoW,58-6
11....at Zimmerman Inv.3rd
18....at LCWM Inv.2nd
20....at Mound-WtkaL,41-29
21....at WaconiaL,36-31
23....at HutchinsonL,61-8
30....LCWML,33-24
30....ACGCL,48-24
30....Sibley EastW,36-29
31....Conf. Tourney4th

February

06....New PragueL,50-17
07....at STMAL,65-6
13....ChaskaW,72-9
13....at WaconiaL,37-24

GYMNASTICS

January

14....LitchfieldL,123.375-103.125
17....at Dassel-CokatoL,120.775-101.6
18....GSL Inv.5th
21....St. Peter and Orono3rd
23....WaconiaL,128.875-98.45
30....at DelanoL,131.7-105.25

February

07....Mound-WtkaL,132.55-104.225
14....at Mankato (Sections)10th

DANCELINE

January

11....at Waconia Inv.18....at Delano Conf. Tourney ..25....at NLS Inv.February

08....at Orono (Sections) ..10th

Orth Foundation recipients of 2014

By Josh Randt
Sports Editor

The 16th-annual Tim Orth Foundation basketball benefit in Glencoe is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, March 29, at the Glencoe-Silver Lake High School gymnasium.

Two basketball games featuring area athletes will highlight an entertainment-packed night geared toward establishing a sense of love and care in the community.

Proceeds raised through admissions, concessions, donations, raffles and a silent auction will go toward

12 youths in the area.

The Leader will feature stories and biographies on the recipients over the next two weeks. This week will feature four stories, with the others to follow next week.

Angelita Gonzalez, age 2 of Glencoe, was born prematurely and is fighting to stay alive; Brayden Havelka, 3, Hutchinson, battles Dandy Walker Syndrome and Molly Koschinska, 1, Waconia, has an atrioventricular canal defect.

Ricardo Martinez Jr., 16, Glencoe, lives with spina

bifida; Jada Neid, 9 months, Glencoe, suffers from pulmonary hypertension and Luke Nelson, 16, Cokato, had half of his skull removed after a football accident.

Cody Olson, 7, Hutchinson, has leukemia; Ty and Braden Olson, 7 and 9, have injuries from a head-on car crash; Ty has a traumatic head injury.

Taylor Tenhoff, 16, Cokato, needs two bone marrow transplants; Zella Jo Thode, 1, Hutchinson, was born with half a heart and Landon Weigel, 8, Hutchinson, suffers from episodes of airway swelling.

Martinez family: Ricardo Jr. is a miracle



Silver Lake Leader photo by Josh Randt

Ricardo Martinez Jr., center, along with his mother Maria, left, father Ricardo Sr. and sister Joanna are happy to be among this year's 12 Orth Foundation recipients. Ricardo Jr. suffers from spina bifida and severe scoliosis. The Orth Jamboree is set for March 29.

By Josh Randt
Sports Editor

When he was born in April of 1997 in Glencoe, Ricardo Martinez Jr. was immediately resuscitated and air-lifted to Children's Hospital in Minneapolis where doctors performed surgery to close an opening on his back, better known as spina bifida.

With spina bifida, vertebrae that normally enclose the spinal cord remain open, and sometimes allow a portion of the spinal cord to stick through the opening. A sac filled with spinal fluid may also surround the cord.

After completing the surgery, doctors told Maria and Ricardo Martinez Sr. that their son probably wouldn't make it past 12 months, and if he did there wouldn't be much life in the infant.

"They said he would only be able to move his eyes, and that he wouldn't walk or talk, or anything," Maria recalled. "They actually told us to pull him off life support."

Now, at 16 years old, Ricardo Jr. not only made it past 12 months, but speaks both Spanish and English, and always seems to have a smile on his face when he passes by on his electric-wheel chair.

A student at Glencoe-Silver Lake High School, Ricardo Jr. has the hobbies and preferences of plenty of 16-year-olds.

"I like to watch TV and play video games," Ricardo Jr. said of his free time activities. His favorite class is woodshop, where he made a nightstand for Maria, and is currently working on a cutting board for her.

Maria and Ricardo Sr. had no idea there was anything wrong with their second child until he was born dead with a lump on his back and lifted to Children's.

"It was scary," said Maria. "Right when he came out he was already dead."

"The umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck and everything," Ricardo Sr. said. "Then I saw that bump on his back, and said 'What's that!'"

It wasn't until the couple reached Children's that they were informed of Ricardo Jr.'s condition.

"It was really frustrating having the doctors telling me to disconnect him," said Maria. "But with my faith in the Lord, here he is."

It hasn't been an easy journey for the Martinez family, who also have a 20-year-old daughter named Joanna.

Since his birth, Ricardo Jr. has

had in the range of 22-26 surgeries, including a feeding tube and a tracheostomy just one month after he was born that he still uses today. He's also been bound to a wheelchair his whole life, and relies on his family members for bathing, eating and other cares.

He was also kept on a ventilator day and night at first. The family had to be trained on how to use the ventilator and how to administer CPR, "or else we couldn't bring him home," Ricardo Sr. said.

In 2008, Ricardo Jr. developed severe scoliosis and had a spinal fusion to join his vertebrae. At that time a shunt was also placed to help drain the cerebrospinal fluid.

The most serious surgery was in 2010, when one of Ricardo Jr.'s intestines kinked, leading to a major infection over the holiday season that nearly claimed his life.

"We took him in the night before Thanksgiving, and he never returned home until Jan. 15," Maria said. "Everything was infected. It wasn't good."

"We thought we were going to lose him," Ricardo Sr. said.

Since the 2010-11 infection,

Martinez family
Turn to page 6

Jada has come long ways since 'breathing episode'

By Rich Glennie
Editor

June 22, 2013, was a nightmare for the Cory and Jessica Neid family of Glencoe.

Their 2-month old daughter, Jada, was choking and coughing and having one of her "breathing episodes," as the Neids called it.

That morning, after a feeding, Jada began screaming harder and turning bluish gray. Jessica thought she was choking, turned her over and banged on her back a few times. She then used a suction ball on her throat.

Things settled down, but at a doctor's visit later in the morning, Jada went into another of her "breathing spells."

When checked, Jada's oxygen level was about 80 percent. Ninety to 100 percent is normal.

"That was a one-way ticket in the back of an ambulance, down to Children's (Hospital in Minneapolis)," Jessica said. "And let me tell you, that was quite a ride!"

Cory, meanwhile, was at Oak Leaf Park during Glencoe Days with the couple's two sons, Caden and Connor. He was told to get to Children's Hospital as soon as he could.

"They didn't know what was

wrong," Jessica said of the Children's Hospital doctors. They thought her lung had collapsed, that she was having heart problems.

Jada was born April 22 at 3 pounds, 11 ounces and had major respiratory issues, including an underdeveloped right lung and issues that would not allow her to keep food down.

Nearly a year later, with a feeding tube in her stomach, Jada is a mere 13 pounds and has spent 125 days of her life in hospitals.

But on June 22, doctors did not know what was causing her "breathing episodes."

"She (Jada) was in shock by this time," Cory said when he got to Children's Hospital.

"They told us we couldn't leave," Jessica added, and that the doctors were not sure she was going to make it.

But Jessica added the doctors "told us not to call family to come in ... yet."

They remained at the hospital while Jada was intubated and doctors continued to do tests.

And then things got worse. Back home, during the night of June 22-23, the skies opened

Jada Neid
Turn to page 6



Silver Lake Leader photo by Rich Glennie

The Neid family, from left, are Connor, Jessica with Jada, Caden, and Cory. The Neid family is one of 11 area families, and Jada is one of 12 children, selected by the Tim Orth Foundation to be beneficiaries of the annual Orth Benefit March 29 at the high school gymnasium.

The Neids said they were hesitant at first, but a neighbor convinced them they should fill out an application. "We said 'no,' at first," Jessica said. But they finally filled out the application and were included among the 2014 recipients.



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

Taylor Tenhoff was diagnosed with Severe Aplastic Anemia when he was 10 years old. He has had two bone marrow transplants since and is one of 12 recipients for this year's Tim Orth Jamboree, set March 29.

A tough 6 years for Taylor

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

At 16 years old, Taylor Tenhoff has already undergone two bone marrow transplants, one of the most evasive and painful operations executed for terminally ill patients.

In the fourth grade, Taylor was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia, a disease in which the bone marrow is damaged, causing deficiency in red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.

Taylor's parents, Russ and Monica, said they noticed something was wrong when Taylor wasn't "being himself."

"He was so tired all the time. We'd go for a walk and he'd have to sit down to rest. In school, he was laying down in the hallway from being so tired.

We'd get calls from the school...They just thought he was being naughty," Monica said.

"And we noticed he was bruising easily. He had bruises all over," Russ said.

"At first we thought his brother was fighting with him, and we yelled at him to cut it out," Monica said.

A friend of the Tenhoffs, who is a nurse, checked over Taylor and told the Tenhoffs to take him in and to get blood tests.

"When we took him in, the doctor didn't believe us. She thought he just had a virus and was going to send us home. When I kept pushing to get the blood work done, she told me insurance wasn't going to cover it. She said, 'He doesn't need these tests.' I told her, 'Then I'll pay for

it!' Finally, we got the tests done and within an hour, the doctor came back...She was crying and said Taylor needed to go to Children's Hospital immediately. She said do you want to go by ambulance or helicopter?" Monica said.

"At that point, I was trying not to cry. I didn't know how bad it was or how bad it was going to be. And I was trying to keep strong for Taylor," Monica said.

The Tenhoffs then rushed Taylor to Children's, where he had a bone marrow biopsy and was found to have severe aplastic anemia.

Taylor was then sent to the University of Minnesota for

Taylor Tenhoff
Turn to page 6

1-year-old Koschinska has had 3 heart surgeries

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

When Molly Koschinska, 1, was born May 17, 2012, her parents, Tim and Shannon, never expected they'd be spending 10 days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Children's Hospital.

"She was a healthy, beautiful little girl. Everything checked out fine with her that first day, but when the doctors and nurses reexamined her the second day, they found a slight heart murmur, but said it was common in newborns," Shannon said.

"But on Saturday morning, we were excited to leave and go home. During her discharge reexamination, doctors said the murmur had gotten worse and needed to check into it further. Next thing I know, they were calling an ambulance to transport her to Children's," Shannon added.

She said they found Molly had a complete atrioventricular (AV) canal defect, which meant she had a large hole in the center of her heart.

"And two valves, the tricuspid and mitral valves that normally separate the heart's upper and lower chambers were not formed as individual valves, so she had surgery that September to repair the hole in her heart," Shannon said.

In April 2013, Molly had another surgery to try to repair the mitral valve.

"Which was unsuccessful. The mitral valve does 80 percent of the work of the heart, pumping blood. Because of this, it can't be replaced with a cow or pig heart valve. It had to be an artificial valve," Shannon said.

She said Molly had three surgeries since birth, and will be needing more to continue to replace the artificial mitral valve.

"As she grows, it will need to be replaced. We are hoping this current valve will last until she is five or six years old, and then that valve will hopefully last until middle school. It will



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

Molly Koschinska, daughter of Tim and Shannon Koschinska of Waconia, was born with a large hole in her heart. She has had three heart surgeries since birth, and is one of 12 recipients for this year's Tim Orth Memorial Foundation Jamboree, set March 29.

have to be replaced again when she's in high school, but hopefully by that time, science and technology will have advanced enough so that she doesn't need continuous valve replacements," Shannon said.

The biggest obstacle with the artificial valve is that Molly needs to take Coumadin, or Warfarin.

"It's a blood thinner, and the tricky part is monitoring her INR (international normalized ratio) levels. These are measures of coagulation. "The hard part is that she's a little toddler, who can bump her head or fall over. The biggest fear is that she will bump her head, which can cause bleeding in the brain. But we want to be able to keep her active, and on track with developmental growth of a typical kid," Shannon said.

Molly's diet is also important in maintaining her heart

health. "Diet plays a part on those INR levels, so we have to make sure she eats broccoli and lots of leafy green vegetables with Vitamin K," Shannon said.

"We've been really lucky. Her health has been steady and she's cooperative when we have to prick her finger for the blood tests," she added.

The Koschinskis also have two more children, Luke, 6, and Kate, 4.

"They are troopers. It's been hard the last couple of years. Especially that first year. Molly consumed everything from me. We were in and out of doctors offices regularly, but Tim and I both have family and friends around, who have helped us out with everything.

"They have been really instrumental in getting us through last year," Shannon said.

Jada Neid Continued from page 5

up over Glencoe, dumping over four inches of rain in a 90-minute period, turning the Neids' property and homes in their 14th Street-Judd Avenue neighborhood into lake-front property.

The extensive flood waters poured into their basement, neighbors' basements and the basement-floor classrooms at First Lutheran School across the street.

"We called family and asked them to help," Jessica said. When asked to be able to run home to help with the clean up, doctors told the Neids that only one could leave, "someone had to stay because it was so touch-and-go. They were not sure she (Jada) would make it."

While battling on two fronts, the Neids finally learned on the third day in the hospital that Jada had "pulmonary hypertension," because of two holes in her heart that caused her heart chamber on the right side to be enlarged.

"We knew at birth there was one hole in her heart," Cory said.

He said the side of the heart that pushes or pumps the blood out was pumping twice as hard because the other side that accepts blood back into the heart was not working properly.

"Having the hole in her heart actually saved her life," Cory said.

"Being there five days (at Children's), we finally knew what was wrong," Jessica added. "The next plan was treatment."

Jessica added that during the whole ordeal (42 days at Children's Hospital), they were not allowed to hold Jada.

Jada was placed on 16 medications before doctors gradually weaned her off most of them over a 12-day period. She

is now on six medications, the Neids said. She also is on oxygen at all times with the feeding tube in her stomach.

"She was in the hospital 56 days, total," Jessica said.

Since then, Jada has been back to Children's Hospital several other times, including a recent 25-minute surgery "for a feeding tube button."

Jada also had the respiratory syncytical virus (RSV), a very serious virus for infants, and on Jan. 30 had another "breathing episode" that landed her at Children's Hospital for another five days.

Besides all her other medical issues, Jada also is in physical therapy for her stiff neck from all those days in the hospital.

"She has come a long ways," Jessica said, and now has more movement in her neck.

Jada and the Neids also have home nursing care six days a week, "except for Sundays, which is family time," Jessica said.

Being on oxygen 100 percent of the time, the Neids take Jada's tanks with them wherever they go.

Jada does not drink from bottles or get liquids, but she is starting to eat baby foods, Cory said.

The Neids called Children's Hospital "absolutely amazing" for the care, not only of Jada, but the whole family.

"Jada has them wrapped around her finger," Jessica smiled about the Children's Hospital nurses and doctors.

As to her prognosis, the Neids said the right lung lobe is missing. The left lung is normal.

She still has one hole at the top of her heart, but that is checked every three months. "The hole will either stay the same or get smaller as she

grows," Cory said. "Each visit, the hole gets smaller."

He added the second hole was closed.

Jada will have pulmonary hypertension the rest of her life. However, doctors indicate she can still lead a normal life, but may not be an athlete or a marathon runner.

"But Jada will determine what she wants to be," Cory added.

Jessica said doctors told them that with Jada in the hospital 125 days, "that's how far she is behind on her development."

But Jessica smiled and said Jada gained a pound in the last 2-1/2 weeks, and she can now say a few words.

"Her favorite thing is putting the oxygen tube in her mouth and blowing bubbles," Cory laughed.

Jessica works at the Glencoe-Silver Lake School District as a health assistant, and Cory is an over-the-road truck driver.

Jessica said if she had worked anywhere else, she may not have a job now.

"They (school administrators) have been very understanding," she said of all the time she has been off work and at Children's Hospital with Jada. "They have worked with me so much. Mr. (Supt. Chris) Sonju and Mr. (Principal Paul) Sparby have been amazing."

Jessica and Cory both agreed that Jan. 1 was perhaps the first time they could actually "feel normal" as a family.

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Silver Lake Leader

Martinez family Continued from page 5

Ricardo Jr. has not had any major complications. Though, he does have regular checkups on his spine and shunt.

"From January to March he's had six doctor's appointments," Maria said.

"He's pretty used to the routine," Joanna added. "So he doesn't get too stressed out."

But another frustration came, this time to Ricardo Sr. as his son's doctor's bills were piling up.

"I was working at Young America Corp., and they told me to look for another job or find my own insurance, because it was totaling almost \$1 million," Ricardo Sr. said. He made light of the situation by adding, "You're our \$1 million man, but where's the money!?"

Ricardo Sr. took another job at AMPI in Glencoe, where he worked for approximately six years before it closed.

"Money wise, it was expensive," said Ricardo Sr. "Knowing the way he was at the time, with

all the medical bills, and we had to take him to the cities all the time. It was tough."

Maria said she had never heard of the Orth Foundation until a dietician mentioned it to her in November.

Joanna knew of the foundation from attending GSL as well, but said she didn't know it was something you could apply for.

"I had heard of it, but didn't know exactly what it was or how it worked," Joanna said. "I thought that they picked (the recipients). I didn't know you could apply."

The family said proceeds from the Orth Event will go toward a new handicap accessible van. They currently own one, but are due for an upgrade.

"We have a van, but it's old and (the lift) gets stuck. It even left us stranded once," Joanna said. "We were going to an appointment in Chaska when it just started shaking."

While the Martinez family has

certainly endured a lot, they stressed that Ricardo Jr. is worth it.

"I don't see a life without him in it," said Maria. "The beginning was very difficult, because nobody in our family has anything like it. But with God's help, we've been able to get through this. It's normal now, and it's made us a tighter family."

"He's our little miracle baby!" Joanna added.

Joanna also said she was very protective of him when they were in school together.

"He used to like wearing cowboy hats and boots to school when he was younger. I used to beg mom, 'Don't let him wear that!' I just didn't like anybody staring at him because he was different. He didn't care, though. But I love having him here (at home)," Joanna said. Adding with a laugh, "Who would I argue with if you weren't here?"

Taylor Tenhoff Continued from page 5

treatment, which includes a stem cell transplant from a well-matched donor, who happened to be one of Taylor's older sisters, Katie.

"Taylor has six siblings: Stephanie, Heidi, Becky, Roxie, Katie and Tucker. So the doctors were happy to hear that because it gave him better chances for a match. Katie was the only full-match sibling," Monica said.

Russ said Taylor's first transplant was extremely painful for him, and took about three hours.

"It usually takes 20 minutes, but Katie's bone marrow was so thick, so the nurses had to slowly squeeze the bag into his arm. But you couldn't squeeze too much, or the needle would pop out of his arm. But I remember it was so painful for him. He had really high blood pressure and he was just screaming," Russ said.

But after the transplant, Taylor set a record and left the hospital on the 17th day after the operation.

"Doctors said to expect up to 100 days in the hospital," Monica added.

But the Tenhoffs had to remain near the University Hospital for 100 days, in the event "anything could happen," Russ said.

Then in the seventh grade, Taylor started experiencing familiar symptoms again: weakness, lethargy, bruising.

"He was getting nosebleeds and petechiae, which are small red or purple spots on the body. Basically, he was bleeding through his skin," Monica said.

She said petechiae was caused by low platelets in the blood, which help with clotting.

In October 2010, doctors found that Taylor's platelets were dan-

gerously low at 11,000, and should be between 150,000 and 450,000.

After more testing, they found the bone marrow was failing. "They tried to revive his bone marrow with the frozen stem cells from his sister, but it didn't work," Monica said.

Monica said Taylor underwent 58 platelet transfusions and 30 regular blood transfusions before undergoing a second bone marrow transplant.

Now 16, Taylor is "doing well," but is dealing with adult diabetic issues and thyroid issues as a result of the transplants.

"For transplants, patients undergo a year's worth of chemotherapy in one week, to kill all the bad bone marrow. Chemo itself is really aggressive, and it really takes a toll on your other organs," Monica said.



Silver Lake Leader photos by Alyssa Schauer

Community in the schools

Last Thursday, community members were invited to the Glencoe-Silver Lake High School media center for the "Community Schools Luncheon." Community members meet with students to talk about their time at GSL. Above, from left to right are Susie Christianson, Jake Christianson and Eli Ehrke. To the right is second-grader Rachel Anderson.



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The Irish tradition continues on in Silver Lake



Pat Mahon (above) and her husband Jim are annual parade participants in the Silver Lake St. Patrick's Day parade.



Ella and Miranda Nowak donned green for the parade.



Kari Eischens advertises for the meat raffle at the Silver Lake Muni.



Ken Merrill dressed "Irish" for the annual parade.



Pola-Czesky Ambassadors, from left to right, Mya Dahlheimer, Jamie Kosek, Claire Wraspir, Connor Sullivan and Becca Green carry the St. Patrick's banner and Irish flag.



Alice Nowak and Lynn "Duffy" Yurek were all smiles before the big parade on Saturday.



Miley Flemmig gives a quick wave before collecting candy at the St. Patrick's Parade.



Brittin Posusta and dog, Reagan, on their float.

Silver Lake Leader photos by Alyssa Schauer

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