



SILVER LAKE

Leader

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Winter Fest set Dec. 15; lighting contest kicks it off

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

With the holidays nearing, December is often a time for planning and more planning. The Winter Fest committee is joining tradition as it is busy organizing and preparing for the 11th-annual Silver Lake Winter Fest celebration set for Saturday, Dec. 15, beginning at noon.

The Winter Fest weekend kicks off with the annual Christmas lighting contest on Friday, Dec. 14, beginning at 7 p.m. Civic Association members will be traveling throughout the community to judge Christmas lights for the annual contest.

Any contestants who have won in the past two years are not eligible to win. Winners

will be announced at the Winter Festival on Saturday, Dec. 15. Cash prizes will be awarded. Remember to turn on your lights.

Winter Fest will then begin on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 12:30 p.m., and activities will run until 3 p.m. at the Silver Lake Auditorium.

The Pola-Czesky grand marshals serve as hosts and

hostesses to the event, which includes live entertainment, free sandwiches, cookies, hot cider, hot chocolate and coffee provided by the GFWC Silver Lake Women's Club, and drawings for door prizes, which will be announced at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

A coloring contest sponsored by the Degree of Honor also will be held, and the Pola-

Czesky Royalty will be present to help judge the contest and hand out awards.

There will be horse-drawn wagon rides throughout town and photo opportunities with reindeer and Dale Syvertson's sleigh.

Santa and Mrs. Claus also will be in town for a visit at the Silver Lake American Legion, and all children visiting Santa

will receive a goodie bag compliments of the Legion.

Winter Fest, like many activities in Silver Lake, is organized through volunteers, businesses, organizations and the city of Silver Lake for all to enjoy, so mark your calendars and join in the fun!

Look for a complete schedule of events in next week's Silver Lake Leader.



Silver Lake Leader photos
by Alyssa Schauer



Musical treat

The Mid Minnesota Concert Band put on a concert for residents at Cedar Crest in Silver Lake on Monday. The band, directed by Kendall Kubasch of Howard Lake, consists of about 20 members from all over the region, including Silver Lake, Hutchinson, Litchfield, Watertown, Delano and Glencoe. To the left, Hank Pawlicki and Betty Boll enjoy the music.

Only a handful of residents show up for county tax hearing

By Lori Copley
Staff Writer

McLeod County's 2012 tax hearing — held Thursday evening — was far different than its 2011 hearing.

In 2011, the tax hearing was standing-room only as residents poured in to question hefty increases in property taxes, which county personnel contended were caused by changes in the state tax law, while state legislators argued that local governments didn't adjust their budgets enough.

This year, there were just four citizens in attendance, one of whom left the room when County Board Chair Bev Wangerin suggested that anyone with questions about their valuation meet privately with Assessor Sue Schultz.

County Auditor/Treasurer Cindy Schultz presented budget and levy information, which showed that the county's levy decreased 2.93 percent in 2011, had no increase in 2012, and that no increase is proposed for 2013, with a total levy of \$18.29 million.

However, the county will be using about \$2.1 million of its reserves to offset expenditures, in particular, \$1.5 million in its special revenue fund, which is dedicated for specific projects,

such as the ARMER radio system.

Colleen Robeck of the auditor/treasurer office said that McLeod County currently has about \$42 million in reserves — as of Dec. 31, 2011, but “a lot of that is restricted for certain things.”

About \$11.1 million in reserves is “unrestricted” and can be used at the board's discretion.

Wangerin said the county tries to keep an amount equal to 30 to 35 percent of its budget in reserve for emergencies and cash-flow issues.

Glen Sladek, a rural Hutchinson resident, said that while he appreciates the need to maintain a reserve fund, he took the County Board to task for dedicating \$500,000 from reserves to a proposal to pave the Luce Line recreational trail.

“If we have \$500,000 for that, we're over-collecting from our taxpayers,” said Sladek.

Commissioner-elect Ron Shimanski, a state representative whose term expires Dec. 31, also expressed concern about using county money toward the state-owned trail.

Shimanski said he appreciated remarks from Commissioner Paul Wright at a

previous meeting that likened using a collaborative effort toward funding the trail to a similar collaborative effort that improved buildings on the county fairgrounds.

But, Shimanski contended, there is a difference between the county project and the trail. The trail, he said, is a “state project” and Shimanski said he isn't comfortable with one unit of government donating to another.

However, Wangerin said that state officials — in particular state Sen. Scott Newman of Hutchinson — had made it clear at a meeting of local officials “that if we want to rise to the top (for state funding), we need to make a local contribution.”

In other business at the hearing, County Administrator Pat Melvin presented information regarding savings in staff over the past three years.

A variety of measures taken by the board — including reducing full-time positions to part time, delaying hiring, sharing staff between departments, and utilizing volunteers and employees provided by Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, had saved the county a total of \$1.58 million since February 2009.

GSL Knowledge Bowl teams start out strong

“Last spring, Glencoe-Silver Lake's Knowledge Bowl team sent four students to the state meet. Ever since, we have been wondering whether we could repeat,” said GSL coach Vicky Harris.

“Nobody from the team graduated last year, so we were hoping that we would have a good, strong start to this year's competitions. On Saturday, Dec. 1, we finally had an opportunity to see whether any of this promise would be fulfilled at New London-Spicer,” Harris said.

And they did not disappoint. GSL's varsity team finished first and third. The first-place gold medal team included Joe Fehrenbach, Ethan Bass, Mark Broderius and Chandler Swift. The third-place bronze medal team included Lindsey Becker, Cedric Winter, Patrick Fehrenbach and Jacob Wawrzyniak. Willmar took the silver medal.

“What a fantastic start to the season,” Harris added.

There were 15 teams in the varsity competition, including GSL's two teams.

The top written score was 46, and the GSL teams scored 43 and 38. This meant that GSL 1 started in Room 2, and

GSL 2 began the meet in Room 3, Harris said.

In oral round 1, GSL 1 beat Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City (ACGC) and Yellow Medicine East (YME), 20-10-2, while GSL 2 earned 17 points against Hutchinson (11) and Willmar Community Christian (a new team) with 1.

This meant both teams moved up a room for round 2. Next round, GSL 1 earned 14 against Willmar (11) and CMCS (5) in Room 1. Meanwhile, GSL 2 beat ACGC and New London-Spicer (NLS) 13-12-5 in Room 2.

“For the last two rounds GSL 1 and GSL 2 would be against each other in Room 1. Oh yes, and Willmar was there, too,” Harris said.

Competition in Round 3 was close, with GSL 2 squeaking out a slight lead with 12 points, Willmar 11, GSL 1. Round 4 was not quite as close, and Willmar won with 16 points vs GSL 2 (13) and GSL 1 (10).

When the medals were awarded, GSL 1 earned gold, Willmar took silver, and GSL 2 finished with bronze.

While the GSL varsity was doing well, so were the junior

varsity and junior high teams.

There were 12 JV teams, and GSL brought one. “Because we have 11 students in grades 10-12, there were only three on our JV team, but Oakley Clark, Brent Duenow and Kyle Beck did fine with three,” Harris said.

The highest written score was 53. GSL's score was 49, starting the team in third place. It stayed in Room 1 for the whole meet, always against Hutchinson. Benson and NLS took turns competing against them.

Round 1 scores: GSL 17, Hutchinson 16, Benson 6. Round 2: Hutch 19, GSL 14, NLS 5. In round 3: GSL 16, Hutch 13, Benson 5. Last round: GSL 20, Hutch 17, NLS 4.

In the end, Hutchinson had won by two points, while GSL got second.

“This was totally awesome for a team of three, and demonstrates the strength of GSL's group of 10th-12th graders,” Harris said. “The JV questions were different than varsity at this meet, so you can't compare scores.”

Knowledge Bowl

Turn to page 2



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

Christmas lights are up

'Tis the season! Last week, the Silver Lake public works department put the up the Christmas decorations along Main Street

to welcome the upcoming holiday season. The lights are attached to the electrical poles along Main Street in Silver Lake.

Blue Christmas service at Faith Presbyterian

The holidays can be difficult for many people, with the stresses and strains of trying to have that perfect celebration takes a toll.

Many people find they have trouble feeling in the “spirit” of things, whether because of the death of a

family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or health or any other trying situation.

On Sunday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., Faith Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Blue Christmas service that is open to everyone in the

community.

Come share in a time in which we can acknowledge our feelings of loss, but also remember the hope of Christmas. Coffee fellowship will follow the short service.

Faith Preschool open house set for Dec. 16

Come meet new teacher, Sue Nord, who is from Glencoe and will be teaching preschool classes at Faith Preschool.

The preschool's open house will be Sunday, Dec. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registrations will begin on Dec. 16. For more information, please call 320-327-6548 or 320-327-2452.

Come see the changes that have been made to accommodate the preschool, which will be offering two-day-per-week classes starting Jan. 3.

The preschool's focus for the rest of the school year will be on preparing for pre-kindergarten classes next year.

For more information, call 320-327-6548 or 320-327-2452.



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

3rd-grade Panther Paws

The third-grade Panther Paw award winners for November were announced at the all-school meeting at Lakeside Elementary last Thursday morning. In the front, from left to right, are Stephanie Garnica, Sofia

Mattson, Linette Munoz, Spencer Lemke and Beau Lepel. In the back are Meadow Askerud, Grace Patnaude, Elijah Yurek, Isabel Villarrel and Porter Mikolichic.



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

4th-grade Panther Paws

At its all-school meeting, Lakeside Elementary announced the following students as Panther Paw award winners for November. In the front, from left to right, are Hailey Conklin, Makayla Ronngren,

Devin Chalupsky and Zackary Wanous. In the back are Katelyn Fiecke, Eli Kuehn, Devin Forcier, Hope Kosek and Majkya Metcalf. Missing is Joseph Schlueter.

Compassionate Friends to host candle ceremony

On Sunday, Dec. 9, the Hutchinson-area chapter of The Compassionate Friends is hosting its 11th-annual Remembrance Candlelighting in conjunction with National Compassionate Friends' worldwide candlelighting.

The local event will be at the Dobratz-Hantge Funeral Chapel, main chapel, on Highway 15 South in Hutchinson.

The event is open to anyone who would like to come and light a candle in remembrance of a child who died too soon; whether your own child or that of a neighbor, co-worker, relative or friend.

"It is a special time to say their name out loud and light a candle, that their light will continue to shine in our hearts," said Jo Reck of the Dobratz-Hantge Chapel. "Especially at this time of the year when their absence is so deeply felt, your support and participation can help ease some of our pain."

"It is a very beautiful way to share with all of those who have walked in our shoes through the painful journey of losing a child," Reck said.

"Bring a photo in a frame that can stand by itself if you are honoring your own deceased child," she added.

Refreshments and a time of sharing will follow. Call Jo Reck at 320-833-2300 with any questions.

Upcoming Events

Lions Club to meet Dec. 6

The Silver Lake Lions Club will have its regular meeting Thursday, Dec. 6, in the Legion Club rooms. The directors meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. with the regular meeting to follow at 7 p.m. Note: there will be no second meeting in December.

Vocal band concert Dec. 6

The Home Free Vocal Band, a five-man band with no instruments, will perform a Christmas concert Thursday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m., in the GSL High School Auditorium in Glencoe. The band, which first appeared in Glencoe last October as part of the Glencoe Concert Association series, makes the audience think it is hearing drums, bass, horns and other instruments, but it is coming from the five male voices. "No effects. Five guys. Five mics. One stage, no instruments," said spokesman Adam Rupp. The show also is filled with lights, fog, snow and family entertainment for Christmas, he said. Tickets are available at the door or can be ordered online at <http://www.homefreevocalband.com/christmas/glencoe.html>.

Tournaments set for Dec. 8

A ninth-grade boys' and girls' basketball tournament will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, sponsored by the GSL Booster Club. Proceeds from the tournaments will go toward investing in GSL students. The games will be held in both the high school gymnasium and the Panther Field House, starting at 8 a.m. The championship game for the girls is scheduled for 2 p.m. and for the boys at 3 p.m. Teams include Howard Lake/Waverly-Winsted, Belle Plaine, Sibley East, Hutchinson, Mayer Lutheran, Lester Prairie and host GSL.

'Singing Friends' concert

The Singing Friends chorus, a 30-voice local community choir, will present be performing Christmas concerts Saturday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m., at St. Mark Lutheran Church in New Germany, and on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m., at First Congregational UCC in Glencoe. There will be a free-will donation and refreshments will be served after the concerts.

Seniors to meet Dec. 10

The Silver Lake Senior Citizens Club will host its Christmas party and regular meeting Monday, Dec. 10, beginning at 1 p.m. Bingo will be played and Christmas carols will be sung. Dinner will be at 3 p.m. Any member who did not sign up at the Nov. 12 meeting should call Tony Victorian at 320-327-2344, or Genny Lhotka at 320-327-2633, by Dec. 1.

After-Prom party 'tip night'

The Glencoe-Silver Lake After-Prom Party committee will hold a "tip night" at the Glencoe Pizza Ranch on Monday, Dec. 10.

Degree of Honor to meet

Degree of Honor No. 182 will have a catered meal on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m., in the Silver Lake auditorium. A short meeting and card-playing will follow the meal.

Dining site birthday party

The Silver Lake senior dining site will hold its December birthday party Thursday, Dec. 13. There will be music and bingo. The menu includes pork loin, whole parsnip potatoes, carrots, dinner roll with margarine and poke cake. Call manager Pearl Branden at 320-327-2621 or 320-327-2536 to order your meal.

WFLA Christmas party set

The Western Fraternal Life Lodge Lumir will hold its Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 16, at noon, with a potluck dinner at the Komensky School at 19981 Major Ave.

Dining site Christmas party

The Silver Lake senior dining site is hosting its Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 20, at the auditorium. The menu includes glazed ham, au gratin potatoes, vegetable blend, dinner roll with margarine and cheesecake. There will be music and bingo. Call Pearl Branden at 320-327-2621 or 320-327-2536 to order a meal.

Knowledge Bowl

Continued from page 1

The junior high competition had 27 teams, filling nine rooms. GSL had three teams. "Since we have eight new junior high students, our main goal was to give every new student a good meet experience and show them what a meet was like, so we mixed everyone up," Harris said.

The GSL teams were pretty evenly matched with each other, she added.

For instance, in three out of four oral rounds, GSL 1 competed against another GSL team, and not always the same one. Also, both GSL 1 and GSL 3 made it to Room 1, where teams from Willmar and Hutchinson were parked for most of the day. Eventually, the meet was won by Willmar, with Hutchinson in second. GSL 1 took third. All three GSL teams were in the top 12.

Team members of GSL 1 were Maddie Kuehn, Jenna Lokensgard, Lindsay Wedin, Jake Fehrenbach and Jake Vasek.

GSL 2 included Mitch Beneke, Connor Heuer, Dini Schweikert, Jack Gephart, and Theresa Siers.

GSL 3 members were Kaitlyn Arthur, Katie Twiss, Robin Swift, Cora Kuras, Marisa Luchsinger and Rachel Reichow.

GSL's Knowledge Bowl teams are coached by Vicky Harris and Clare Nolan. The next meet will be at ACGC on Monday, Dec. 10.



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 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@glencoe-news.com.

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 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.

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 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."



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The Business and Professional Directory is provided each week for quick reference to businesses and professionals in the Silver Lake area — their locations, phone numbers and office hours.

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.

Fishing: One that didn't get away

The thin sheet of ice across Silver Lake is just enough to inspire me to start preparing for my favorite winter activity: ice fishing!

My brother, Nick, and I have been perusing the fishing aisles at various stores for the past couple of months, checking out all of the ice saws and augers, and, of course, trying on all of the coveralls to find the warmest ones.

Nick and I have been fishing together since we were kids, so naturally, we have some entertaining stories when it comes to our favorite hobby, but nothing tops our ice fishing adventure in Wisconsin a few Decembers ago.

It was the Sunday before Christmas, so, of course, there was a lot of work and packing to do at home as we were getting ready to head to Minnesota for a week to spend the holiday with the all of our grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles and cousins.

Mom and Dad were finishing up repairs at Dad's small engine shop in Mondovi, and left a list of chores for us kids to do — do laundry, stack wood, pack suitcases, etc.

Being the oldest of the kids, Nick and I took managerial positions and delegated the work onto our youngest brothers, Mitch and Alex, so we could take advantage of the cold, sunny December Sunday on the ice.

We headed to Lake Altoona, a decent-sized lake, about 840 square acres, and 30 minutes from home, with the ice house and all of our gear.

It was one of those gorgeous cold winter days where the beautiful sight of the snow-covered lake under the glaring sun, bordered by tall evergreen trees, made the cold, biting wind tolerable.

We unloaded the hand auger and big blue fish house from Nick's red blazer, carved four fishing holes and set up two tip ups while we sat on five-

The Travel Section

By Alyssa Schauer



gallon pails and fished the other two.

It was a perfect Sunday afternoon, until Nick stood up to adjust one of the tip ups and his lanyard of keys slipped out of his jacket pocket and into the dark lake.

A few choice words were said before we (I) started to panic.

"What are we going to do? How are we going to get home? How are we going to get off the lake?" I shouted all at once. And suddenly, I was freezing — I felt the numbness in my hands, my cold feet were tingling and I wanted to get out of that ice house and into a warm home.

It's funny what panicking does to you.

We started walking around to the other ice houses to see if anybody had a depth finder on the off chance we could fish them out of the lake. Nobody could help us out, but all sent their well wishes.

So then, of course, we call the first people children think of when something goes wrong: Mom and Dad.

I can tell you right now they were not happy to hear we were fishing on Lake Altoona, about 45 minutes from them in Mondovi, and the recent development that we were now stranded there.

And to top it off, Nick's spare key was with our cousin, in Minnesota, so in a mother's less-than-pleased tone, Mom gave us the number to a lock smith and said, "good luck" before hanging up.

I think she was mad.

We wondered if a lock smith would even come onto

the big lake to help us, and we wondered how much more it would cost being it was a Sunday.

Yep, we were in trouble. Nick thought maybe we could find a magnet, tie rope on it and drag it across the bottom of the lake to find his keys, so he called one of his buddies, and asked him to pick up some rope and a magnet and bring it to us.

His friend wasn't off work for an hour, so in the meantime, Nick and I sat in the fish house, and I pouted while he kept fishing the hole, trying to catch his keys.

I watched as he kept dropping the line into the water and reeling up over and over and over, hoping for a miracle, when lo and behold, the hook actually caught a key ring!

He reeled up the line carefully and before I knew it, Nick had his car keys in hand.

I leapt off my ice pail and started jumping up and down, yelling, "WOO HOO! Yes! Thank you, Jesus!"

We both danced around the ice house in excitement on the lake, shouting all sorts of things, and I wondered if people thought we caught a prize walleye by the way we were screaming.

I never thought I'd be so excited to see a set of car keys, and wouldn't you know it, my hands and feet warmed up enough to fish again for another couple of hours.

We didn't catch anything except those keys, and, of course, heck from Mom and Dad for being on the lake, but it was one of my favorite fishing adventures ever.

Kindergarten concert set Dec. 12

The Glencoe-Silver Lake High School Auditorium will be filled with anticipation and excitement Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 1:30 p.m., as Helen Baker School kindergartners take their places on stage for their annual concert.

The Helen Baker Kinder-

garten Winter Concert will feature selections that highlight the learning that takes place in music class, including singing, instrument playing, dancing, and much more.

"We'll even sing a few holiday favorites," said Carrie Knott, elementary school

music teacher, who will direct the concert.

In addition, the children's artworks will be displayed on the choral shells that students created with art teacher, Andrea Wigern.

The public is encouraged to attend. There is no admission charge.

Down Memory Lane

Compiled by Margaret Benz



75 YEARS AGO - DEC. 11, 1937 — Two hundred and fifty-six Silver Lake voters cast their ballots at the village election held on Tuesday, electing Frank M. Vlcek as the mayor of the village. Vlcek defeated the incumbent, F.H. Chalupsky, by 15 votes. Re-elected alderman was F.G. Zrust, who was unopposed until friends of Frank Barton made him a write-in candidate in the last few days before the election. George Kasper, unopposed, was re-elected to the two-year term of justice of the peace.

Silver Lake's business streets are aglow with holiday decorations, evergreen streamers and row upon row of gay colored electric lights. The lights were turned on for the first time on Saturday. Silver Lake businessmen generously contributed to the fund for the holiday decorations, and the village council is standing the cost of the current.

The first of a series of weekly plays, to be given by the Show Boat players under the sponsorship of Silver Lake merchants, will be presented at the Village Hall on Tuesday evening, Dec. 14.

Silver Lake Public School will close for Christmas vacation on Friday, Dec. 17, and classes will resume on Monday, Jan. 3.

The Bohemian National Cemetery Association recently purchased an acre of land adjoining the cemetery on the south side to provide additional parking space in the cemetery limits. The land will be divided into lots when needed.

Pupils of St. Joseph School will present "The Christmas Miracle" on Friday, Dec. 17. Primary grade students will also present the playlet "Disobedient Nellie." There will be musical numbers, recitations, and a tableau. Tickets are 25¢.

A large delegation of Knights of Columbus members from Silver Lake and surrounding communities are expected to attend the annual banquet sponsored by Council No. 1841 on Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Church of St. Joseph. Tickets are 75¢.

50 YEARS AGO - DEC. 6, 1962 — Two hundred and one voters turned out for the annual village election on Tuesday, Dec. 4, and all incumbents were returned to office.

The Silver Lake Fire Department held its annual meeting on Monday evening, Dec. 3, re-electing Edward Wawrzyniak as fire chief. Leo Kaczmarek was elected assistant chief; Ernie Jurek was elected secretary; and Harold Nowak was re-elected treasurer.

The annual meeting of patrons and stockholders of the Silver Lake Creamery Association will be held on Thursday evening, Dec. 13, at the community building.

Clarence Ruzicka has purchased the Moody

building on East Main Street and is remodeling the front part of the store for business apartments.

Clarence Grobe has sold his house in Silver Lake to Gene Paul.

SSgt. John K. Picha was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for his outstanding service as statistician for the reports and analysis branch of the 4123rd Maintenance Control Division.

Leo and Louis Witucki have their 92-acre farm, 3½ miles east of Silver Lake, for sale at \$300 an acre.

Some of the specials at Ruzicka's Super Market include: fresh ground beef, 39¢ a pound; smoked spare ribs, 49¢ per pound; head of lettuce 19¢; cucumbers, 10¢ each; Bubble Up or Coca Cola, king-size bottles, six-pack 39¢ plus bottle deposit; Diamond baby walnuts, 39¢ per pound; Wilderness strawberry pie filling, No. 2 can 37¢; Festal pie pumpkin, 300 can 10¢; salted mixed nuts, 14 ounce tin 49¢; 3 lb. bag Winesap apples 49¢; Buttercup cheese, two pound box 59¢.

25 YEARS AGO - DEC. 10, 1987 — Monday night, the Silver Lake Fire Department held its annual meeting to elect officers for the new year. Elected to the position of fire chief was Gene Wawrzyniak. Gene replaces his dad, Ed Wawrzyniak, who stepped down after serving as chief for 31 years. Elected assistant chief was George Lhotka; secretary Jim Wendolek was re-elected, as was Lee Monahan for treasurer.

Mike Kuriatnyk, 11-year-old son of Gerald and Linda Brooks, died Friday morning from head injuries sustained from being hit by a car Thursday afternoon. The accident occurred along County Road 5 as Mike was trying to cross the road near the Brooks home and slipped on the ice and could not regain his footing. The family agreed to allow his organs to be taken for transplant. Funeral services for Michael were held on Monday, Dec. 7, at the Czech Brethren Presbyterian Church.

The Silver Lake Public School Elementary musical Christmas program will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

The Czech Brethren Presbyterian Church awarded the "Outstanding Elderly Presbyterian Award for 1987" to Ben Hakel, Joseph Telecky and Dorothy Taylor.

O'Brien Ag Services, Inc., invites patrons to a yuletide open house on Thursday, Dec. 17. Milk, cheese, coffee and cookies will be served.

The public is invited to attend the wedding dance honoring Michele Paul and Hank Habisch on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Silver Lake Auditorium.

Heartland's Reach Out For Warmth under way

Heartland Community Action Agency's Reach Out for Warmth program is under way.

• Each year, nearly 100,000 Minnesota households struggle to pay their heating bills.

• And thousands more will face a heating crisis this winter.

• Many more will be forced to choose between food, medicine and heat.

Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc., appreciates companies like Willmar Municipal Utilities for its donation of \$4,000 for the Reach Out for Warmth project.

If others would like more information about the Reach Out for Warmth project, call Pat Elizondo at 320-235-0850, extension 1137.

Reach Out for Warmth provides assistance for income-eligible families who are

experiencing primary fuel or electricity shut-off, or have a heating system that is faulty or not working.

Heartland administers Reach Out for Warmth funds in Meeker, McLeod and Kandiyohi counties.

If any individuals or organizations would like to make a donation to the Reach Out for Warmth project, make a check payable to Heartland — ROFW (Reach Out for Warmth) and send your tax deductible contribution to:

Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc., 200 S.W. Fourth St., PO Box 1359, Willmar, MN 56201.

Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc.'s mission is to eliminate poverty and advocate for low-income people.



Submitted photo

Staff honored

Heide Nelson was recognized at Helen Baker Elementary School for consistently showing respect to students and staff. She was honored by the GSL Panther at an all-school gathering recently.

AVON Holiday Open House
Sat., Dec. 8
9 a.m.-Noon
Jeannie Oestrich
809 Frank Street
Silver Lake

Wonderful Christmas Gifts for you and your family will be available for purchase. Refreshments & Door Prizes!

Can't join me that day, give me a call.
(320) 327-2671
 I will help you find the perfect gift!

Silver Lake Winterfest
Saturday, Dec. 15
12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.
Silver Lake Auditorium

Free Sandwiches
 Register for Door Prizes!

Santa & Reindeer Visit!
 Horse Drawn Rides!

Silver Lake Liquors presents...

GRAY DOG KARAOKE
Sat., Dec. 8 • 8:30 pm-Close

END OF THE WORLD PARTY
 with Gray Dog Karaoke
Fri., Dec. 21
8:30 pm-Close or End of the World
 (whichever comes first)

Survival items will be handed out, to help you through the apocalypse!

Silver Lake Liquors
 On and Off Sale
200 W. Main St. • 320-327-2777

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Delicious
Molly's Cafe
327-2524

Fresh, Certified
Hereford Steak Specials

Wish ALL your customers a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Wish all your customers the best greetings of the season with a CHRISTMAS GREETING in the December 20 Silver Lake Leader.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS
 will run in the December 27 Silver Lake Leader.

You will receive a discount on your New Year's greeting when placing both a Christmas and New Year's greeting.

Contact your sales rep by Noon, Dec. 12 to be included in the Holiday Greetings.

Glencoe - 320-864-5518 **Silver Lake - 320-327-2216**

Silver Lake Leader
104B Lake Ave., P.O. Box 343, Silver Lake, MN 55381
 brendaf@glencoenews.com, suek@glencoenews.com, karinr@glencoenews.com

Even more coverage available in any of our other publications:
 McLeod County Chronicle • The Galaxy • Arlington Enterprise • Sibley Shopper



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

5th-grade Panther Paws

The Panther Paw award winners for the month of November were announced at the all-school meeting at Lakeside Elementary last Thursday. The fifth-grade award winners, from left to right, in the

front, are Michael Waibel, Isabelle Elias, Brandon Medina, Dylan Heuer and Kaitlyn Popp. In the back are Bennett Lepel, Taylor Hatlestad, William Higgins, Lydia Schmieg and Noah Falcon.



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

6th-grade Panther Paws

At the all-school meeting last Thursday morning, the November Panther Paws awards were announced. In the front, from left to right, are sixth-grade students Katherina Cohrs, Angela Binder, Jared Lo-

kensgard, Nathan Litzau and Madilynn Anderson. In the back are Maddie Brown, Kristen Major, Erin Jaskowiak, Megan Fehrenbach and Troy Lueck.

Kitchen Delights & Other Things



Submit A Recipe* And WIN!

Submit a recipe to be used for print in this section. All submissions will be entered into a drawing to win a pair of Chanhassen Dinner Theatres tickets. Drawing(s) will be held throughout the year.

*Recipes will be printed at the discretion of the editor.

All recipes submitted by Eileen Pulkrabek

Chicken Wild Rice Salad

Ingredients:

3 cups cooked wild rice
3 cups cubed cooked chicken
1/3 cup chopped green onion
1/3 cup chopped celery
1 can (8 ounces) sliced water chestnuts, drained and halved
2/3 cup mayonnaise
2/3 cup sour cream
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon white pepper
1/2 teaspoon dill weed
1 cup cashews, whole and halves
1 cup red grapes, halved

Directions:

Combine cooked rice, chicken, onions, celery and chestnuts. In a separate bowl, combine mayonnaise, sour cream, salt, white pepper and dill weed. Pour mayonnaise mixture over rice mixture and stir gently to coat. Cover and refrigerate for two hours. Before serving, add the grapes and 3/4 cup cashews. Put 1/4 cup of cashews on top for garnish. Serve on lettuce leaves.

Boston Baked Beans

Ingredients:

2 pounds dry white beans
3/4 pound bacon
1/3 cup to 1/2 cup bacon grease
5 cups boiling water
3/4 cup ketchup or chili sauce
2 teaspoons salt
1-1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
3/4 teaspoon garlic salt (optional)
3/4 cup molasses (mild or strong)
9 tablespoons brown sugar
6 tablespoons finely diced onions

Directions:

Soak beans in cold water overnight or at least 8 hours. Or put water on beans to cover them and bring to a boil. Turn off heat and let soak one hour. Drain. Fry bacon, cut up, save grease for flavoring. Combine beans, bacon, 5 cups water and all the remaining ingredients. Taste when all put together to see if you need additional bacon grease. Cover and bake 2 to 3 hours in 325 degree oven or longer if beans are not yet soft. Remove the cover toward the end to help evaporate some juice. Make the day before serving as they get better when they rest and cool overnight.

Crazy Cake

Ingredients:

3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups sugar
1/3 cup cocoa
3/4 cup oil
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons vinegar
2 cups water
Frosting:
1-1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup butter
3 tablespoons milk
1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Directions:

Sift together flour, baking soda, salt and sugar into an ungreased 9x13-inch pan. Then blend in cocoa. Make 3 wells in dry ingredients and pour mixture of oil, vinegar and vanilla. Pour water over this and blend all together with a fork. Do not beat. Bake at 350 for 35 to 40 minutes. For the frosting, bring brown sugar, butter and milk to a good rolling boil. Remove from heat immediately and stir in baking powder. Beat until cool and right for spreading.

Nominations sought for 'provider of year'

The McLeod Social Service Center is seeking nominations for the "Professional Family Child Care Provider of the Year." Parents and community members are encouraged to nominate licensed family child care professionals who have had a positive impact on children and the community.

Nominated individuals must

have been licensed for a minimum of three years, promote in-home licensed child care in the community, exhibit special competency and professionalism in the child care field, and have plans to continue to enhance their skills in child care.

If you know a family day care provider who deserves special recognition for the pos-

itive impact he or she has made in the lives of young children, please contact the McLeod Social Service Center at 320-864-3144, 320-484-4330 (Hutchinson), or 1-800-247-1756 (toll free) to request a nomination form.

The deadline for nomination is Jan. 18.

Church News

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

300 Cleveland Ave., Silver Lake
Dr. Tom Rakow, Pastor
320-327-2265
<http://silverlakechurch.org>
Sat., Dec. 8 — Men's Bible study, 7 a.m.

Sun., Dec. 9 — "First Light" radio broadcast on KARP 106.9 FM, 7:30 a.m.; pre-service prayer time, 9:15 a.m.; worship service, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday school and Christmas program practice, 10:35 a.m.; potluck, noon; Christmas caroling.

Mon., Dec. 10 — Church board meeting, 7 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 12 — Confirmation 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
Mark Ford, Pastor
Carol Chmielewski, CLP
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 9 — Worship, 10 a.m.; coffee and fellowship to follow service.

Mon., Dec. 10 — Session meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 12 — Light supper, 5:30 p.m.; children's program practice and adult Advent study, 6 p.m.; choir practice, 7 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 13 — Child care meeting, 6:15 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

700 W. Main St., Silver Lake
Anthony Stubeda, Pastor

Fri., Dec. 7 — Mass, 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.; First Friday calls, 3:30 p.m.; Parish office closed at 3 p.m. for an all-staff meeting at Holy Trinity.

Sat. Dec. 8 — Immaculate Conception; Mass with Rosary Society installation, 9 a.m.; baptism class at St. Pius, 10:30 a.m.; reconciliation, 5:30 p.m.; Mass, 6:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 9 — Mass, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Catholicism series, 4 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 11 — Mass, 8 a.m.; adoration, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; communal reconciliation and luncheon, 10:30 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 12 — Staff meeting, 1 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.; first-through sixth-grade religious education classes, 5:30 p.m.; seventh-through 11th-grade religious education classes, 7:15 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 13 — Rosary at Cedar Crest, 10:10 a.m.; Mass at Cedar Crest, 10:30 a.m.; adult choir practice, 6:30 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 14 — Mass, 8 a.m.; AFC staff Christmas party, 6:30 p.m.

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH

950 School Rd. S.W., Hutchinson
320-587-9443
E-mail: infor@loversoftruth.com
Jim Hall, Pastor
Sun., Dec. 9 — 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. 9 — 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., Dec. 9 — Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 12 — 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

Sun., Dec. 2 — Sunday school, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:15 a.m.

BETHEL LUTHERAN

77 Lincoln Ave., Lester Prairie
Bethany Nelson, pastor
320-395-2125
Sun., Dec. 9 — Worship with Holy Communion, 9 a.m.; coffee and fellowship, 10 a.m.; Christmas program practice, 10:15 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 12 — Office open, 3 p.m.; Advent service, 6 p.m.; choir practice, 7 p.m.

SHALOM BAPTIST CHURCH

1215 Roberts Rd. S.W., Hutchinson
Rick Stapleton, Senior pastor
Adam Krumrie, worship pastor
Tait Hoglund, Student ministries

Thurs., Dec. 6 — Senior high lunch, 11 a.m.; worship team, 6 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 7 — Women's candlelight dinner, 6:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 8 — Women's candlelight dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 9 — Worship, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school for adults, teens and children, 9 a.m.; Griefshare, 2 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 12 — Release time for second through fifth grades, 9 a.m.; AWANA, 6:30 p.m.; middle school youth, 6:30 p.m.; senior high youth, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 13 — Senior high lunch, 11 a.m.; worship team, 6 p.m.

ST. PIUS X CHURCH

1014 Knight Ave., Glencoe
Anthony Stubeda, Pastor
Thurs., Dec. 6 — Fund-raising

"Pets are Braggin' and Tails are Waggin' at..."
WAGGIN' TAILS
Professional Dog Grooming
Over 15 Years Experience
Handled with TLC
By Appointment
217 Summit Ave., Silver Lake
327-3157
Owner: Deb Bebo

night at Pizza Ranch; no evening prayer; Mass, 6 p.m.; CCW Advent celebration follows Mass.

Fri., Dec. 7 — Morning prayer, 8 a.m.; school Mass, 8:20 a.m.; adoration of the blessed sacrament follows Mass until noon; first Friday communion calls, 10 a.m.; AFC staff meeting, Holy Family, 3:30 p.m.; Mass, 6 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 8 — Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary holy day of obligation; Mass, 9 a.m.; mothers group meeting, 10 a.m.; pre-baptism session at St. Pius X, 10:30 a.m.; reconciliation, 3:30 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 9 — Second Sunday of Advent; Mass, 9:30 a.m.; Our Lady of Guadalupe procession, Mass and celebration, 11:30 a.m.; no Spanish religious education classes; Catholicism series at St. Pius X, 4 p.m.; Mass at Holy Family, Silver Lake, 8 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 10 — No Mass; scheduling of liturgical ministers begins; Schoenstatt girls' group meeting, 3 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 11 — Morning prayer, 7 a.m.; Mass, 7:20 a.m.; junior choir, 2:50 p.m.; adult choir, 7 p.m.; Mananitas for Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 12 — Our Lady of Guadalupe; morning prayer, 7 a.m.; Mass, 7:20 a.m.; school Mass, 9 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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605 MAIN ST., SILVER LAKE

Faith Preschool
Open House
Sun., Dec. 16, 11:30am-2pm
at Faith Presbyterian Church of Silver Lake
Come meet our new teacher — Sue Nord!
We will be opening on Jan. 3, 2013.
We are offering a two-day program for 3 and 4 year olds to prepare them for the pre-kindergarten class next year.

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Call Laurie at 320-327-3173



Dance team has new coach

By Alyssa Schauer
Staff Writer

The 2012-13 Glencoe-Silver Lake winter dance team is under new leadership, as Britany Johnson takes over coaching the 24 athletes this season.

Johnson, a fifth-grade teacher at Lakeside Elementary, is not only new to the dance team, but to the GSL district as well.

"I grew up in Brooklyn Park and went to school at Winona State University, and then I taught in Minneapolis for two years," Johnson said.

After her time in Minneapolis, Johnson said she wanted to move closer to her husband. "Which is how I ended up teaching fifth grade at GSL," she said.

"I love the GSL staff, students and families. They have welcomed me in very kindly and I have had the opportunity to create strong bonds with many of them in the short time I have been here," she added.

Johnson is hired as the head coach for the competitive dance team and said her goals



Britany Johnson

for the team include building relationships and improving scores.

"This year, our focus really is all about being a team. Our goals are to do better this year in competitions than we did in previous seasons score wise, but to also come together and build strong relationships with each other as a team," Johnson said.

The 2012-13 team consists of 24 girls. There are four sen-

iors: Heidi Hanson, Mai Nguyen, Tara Tankersley and Lexi Wendlandt; a lone junior, Alicia Fenner; eight sophomores: Ashley Alsleben, Liz Boyum, Sam Cornell, Yocelin Lopez, Ariel Simmons, Vanessa Villareal, Kailey Yurek and Courtney Zajicek; three freshmen: Shelby Clouse, Brooke Noeldner and Emily Oberlin; eighth-graders Karina Arce, Deanna Bondhus, Arianna Galvan, Caitie Holtz, Alexis Perez, Hanna Stuedemann and Teanna Vorlicek, and seventh-grader Maddie Kjenstad.

Captains are Heidi Hanson, Tara Tankersley and Lexi Wendlandt.

"We have been working hard this season, and we are excited for the GSL community to come out and support us at our competitions, or at basketball games!" Johnson said.

The dance team will compete in seven meets this winter, including conference meets in Litchfield on Dec. 6, in Delano



Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

Captains of GSL's 2012-13 dance team (from left) are seniors Tara Tankersley, Heidi Hanson and Lexi Wendlandt.

on Jan. 10 and at Mound-Westonka on Jan. 19, and invitational meets in Hutchinson on Dec. 8, Belle Plaine on Jan. 5, and in Waconia on Jan. 12.

Sectionals for the dance team are set for Saturday, Feb

2, at 8 a.m.

The team will also perform at the varsity boys' basketball games on Dec. 13, Dec., 21, Jan. 15 and Jan. 25 and at the girls' basketball game on Jan. 22.

GSL Panther Winter Sports

BOYS' BASKETBALL

December

07....at Watertown-Mayer.....	7:30
11....at Bloom. Jefferson.....	7:00
13....Hutchinson.....	7:30
15....New Ulm.....	1:30
18....at Waconia.....	7:30
21....Rocori.....	7:30
28....GSL tourney.....	TBA
29....GSL tourney.....	TBA

January

05....Jordan.....	TBA
08....at Dassel-Cokato.....	7:30
11....at Mound-Witka.....	6:30
12....NYA Central.....	7:30
15....N.London-Spicer.....	7:30
18....Orono.....	7:30
19....at Faribault.....	7:30
22....at Litchfield.....	7:30
25....at Hutchinson.....	7:30
29....at Annandale.....	7:30

February

01....HF Catholic.....	7:30
08....Dassel-Cokato.....	7:30
09....Mound-Witka.....	7:30
11....at Sibley East.....	7:30
14....at N.London-Sp.....	7:30
19....Litchfield.....	7:30
22....Delano.....	7:30
26....Annandale.....	7:30

March

Section 5(AA) Tourney
07....1st Round

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

November

27....at St. Peter.....	L,69-48
29....at Jordan.....	L,69-35

December

04....at Belle Plaine.....	L,58-54
06....Marshall.....	7:30
11....New Prague.....	7:30
14....at Annandale.....	7:30
20....Mayer Lutheran.....	7:30
28....vs. Luverne.....	7:30

January

05....at New Ulm.....	3:00
08....Dassel-Cokato.....	7:30
11....at Mound-Witka.....	7:45
12....at NYA Central.....	6:00
15....at N.London-Spicer.....	7:30
18....at Orono.....	7:30
22....Litchfield.....	7:30
25....Hutchinson.....	7:30
29....Annandale.....	7:30

February

01....at HF Catholic.....	7:30
05....Spectrum.....	7:30
07....at Dassel-Cokato.....	7:30
09....Mound-Witka.....	6:00
12....N.London-Sp.....	7:30
15....Waconia.....	7:30
19....at Litchfield.....	7:30
22....at Delano.....	7:30

Section 2(AAA) Tourney

26....1st Round

March

Section 2(AAA) Tourney
02....2nd Round

GYMNASTICS

November

30....Annandale.....	114.7
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December

01....at Becker Inv.....	noon
08....at Northfield Inv.....	10:30
13....at WM triangular.....	6:00
15....at St. Peter.....	1:00
21....Orono.....	6:00

January

08....at Litchfield.....	6:00
11....Dassel-Cokato.....	6:00
18....Waconia.....	6:00
19....GSL Invite.....	noon
24....Delano.....	6:00
26....at Northfield Inv.....	10:30

February

01....Mound-Witka.....	6:00
06....at NL-Spicer.....	6:00

Section 2(A) Meet

15....at Watertown.....TBA

WRESTLING

December

01....GSL-Don Hall Inv.....	4th
08....at Andover Inv.....	10:00
13....at Litchfield 2D.....	6:00
15....at Richfield Inv.....	9:00
20....at Hutch 2D.....	6:00

January

03....GSL 2D (with Waconia, Hutchinson).....	6:00
05....at Ogilvie Inv.....	10:00
08....at WM 2D.....	6:30
10....GSL 2D (with Delano, Orono).....	6:00
12....at Zimmerman Inv.....	9:00
19....at LCWM Invie.....	10:00
22....St. Peter (at LP).....	6:00
24....GSL 2D (with Mound-Witka, Hutch).....	6:00
25....at N. Prague 2D.....	5:00
31....at HLW.....	6:30

February

01....WCC. at Delano.....	3:30
08....at MW Invite.....	5:00
09....at DC Invite.....	10:00

Section 2(AA) Tourney

14....Teams, 1st rounds ...TBA
22-23....Indys, at Waconia...TBA

GSL/LP 4th at Don Hall meet

Donnay, Hartwig nab titles

By Lee Ostrom
Sports Editor

Michael Donnay made his 50th career win doubly sweet by notching a Don Hall Invitational title at the same time, and GSL/Lester Prairie teammate Mitchell Hartwig also won a championship match, as the Panther wrestlers opened their 2012-13 schedule by playing host to a nine-team tournament Dec. 1 in Glencoe.

GSL/LP, which finished fourth with 143 points, also collected third-place performances from Brandon Richter, Nick Brelje and Dalton Clouse. In addition, the Panthers picked up three fourths, two fifths and two sixths.

The team champion was Zumbrotta-Mazeppa, which had 10 more tallies than Watertown-Mayer/Mayer Lutheran (205-195). Windom/Mountain Lake (148) was five ahead of GSL/LP, which was 40 better than fifth-place BOLD/Bufalo Lake-Hector.

Donnay, a junior, pinned his way to the title match at 126 pounds. After stopping Caden Steffen (Zumbrotta-Mazeppa) in 34 seconds, he got a second fall by taking out Watertown-Mayer senior Adam Traen at 3:52.

Tangling with top-seeded BOLD junior Brett Grund in the finals, Donnay surrendered the initial takedown; then



Silver Lake Leader photo by Lee Ostrom

Panthers sophomore Dan Tesch applies some squeeze to St. Clair 145-pounder Gage Thom during last Saturday's Don Hall tournament. Tesch scored an 8-1 major decision.

scored the next eight points — from a reversal, three-point nearfall, escape and takedown. Of the two, he was the more physical and the stronger rider.

Hartwig, a senior, lived up to his top seeding at 152 by displaying a good balance of offense and defense.

After defeating Zumbrotta-Mazeppa junior Hunter

Prodinski 2-0 and Windom's Ben Matter 5-3, he, too, gave up the initial takedown in his finals match; his with St. Clair junior Chance Oftedahl. Then, like Donnay earlier, Hartwig began a run of points.

An escape and a takedown had him ahead 3-2 at the end of the first period. Leading 4-2, Hartwig started the third period

in the top position. Riding Oftedahl hard, he turned him twice for six nearfall points.

Richter, a sophomore, posted a 3-1 record wrestling at 132. So did 11th-grader Clouse at 195, with the three wins all coming by fall. Brelje, only a ninth-grader, went 2-1 at 160.

Placing fourth were Jacob Jewett (2-2 at 113), Nate Tesch

(2-2 at 145) and John Williams (1-2 at 182),

Finishing fifth were Kyle Polzin (1-2 at 138) and Ray Eberhard (1-2 at 225).

This Saturday, the Panther wrestlers take part in an invitational at Andover.

GSL girls' basketball team off to tough start

By Lee Ostrom
Sports Editor

GSL coach Cullen Ober expected to see plenty of game from his basketball team's first two opponents, and neither St. Peter nor Jordan disappointed.

Ober's Panthers opened their 2012-13 schedule last Tuesday (Nov. 27) at St. Peter, where the mighty Saints — coming off three straight 20-win seasons — posted a 69-48 victory.

Two nights later in Jordan, junior Jaguars guard Madison Dean tallied 33 points in a 69-35 win over GSL. A year ago, Jordan notched 22 wins in 26 outings.

GSL's home opener is Thursday evening against Marshall,

which went 21-7 last winter and narrowly missed making a second straight trip to state.

Marshall is off to a fast start this year, too, having topped Fairmont, 64-43, and Mankato East, 66-52.

Last week, coach Ober opened the season with a starting lineup of guards Maddie Monahan and Samantha Lange, along with forwards Taylor Breidenbach, Clarissa Ober and Steph Klockmann. First off the bench was guard/forward Courtney Wolff, followed by guards Brooke Kaczmarek and Kelly Beneke.

Clarissa Ober, a 6-1 All-Wright County Conference returnee, played the St. Peter

game in foul trouble, as did Klockmann, who received all-league honorable mention a year ago.

Ober tallied 12 points, while Klockmann scored seven, to go with a Panther-high nine rebounds.

Monahan, an eighth-grader, made her first start on the GSL point. She finished with eight points, four steals and three assists (with three turnovers).

Clarissa Ober finished with 11 points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots.

Monahan had eight points, five rebounds and six assists (to five turnovers).

Klockmann added six points and Lange four.



Silver Lake Leader photo by Lee Ostrom

GSL gymnasts start at 114.7

The Glencoe-Silver Lake gymnasts opened their 2012-13 schedule with a 114.7-point performance last Friday at Panther Field House. Pictured on the balance beam is ninth-grader Paige Anderson.





Silver Lake Leader photo by Alyssa Schauer

Panther Paw staff awards

At the all-school meeting at Lakeside Elementary last Thursday, Panther Paw awards were also given to staff for their continuous work and dedication to the students and school. Above are Scott Picha and Ken Hults.



Silver Lake Leader photo by Brenda Fogarty

7th-grade students of November

Lincoln Jr. High named its November students of the month last week. They include, front row, from left, Eduardo Blanco, science; Jack Gepson, geography; Rebecca Lieser, English; Abigail Schmieg, choir; and Blake Ortloff, agricultural technology. In the back are Ellen Follestad, English; Mackenzie Davis, art; Grace Draeger, band; Austin Pinske, pre-algebra; and Kylie Ness, physical education.



Silver Lake Leader photo by Brenda Fogarty

8th-grade students of the month

Nine eighth-grade Lincoln Jr. High students were selected for the November students of the month awards last week. They included, front row, from left, Cora Kuras, history; Amanda Husted, English; Rachel Reichow, band; and Marissa Kirchoff, music. In the back are Dylan Breidenbach, agricultural technology; Jacob Fehrenbach, science; Eric Villnow, art; Jordan Kaczmarek, algebra; and Luis Duenas, physical education.

Birchwood House sets open house for Dec. 12

The community is invited to an open house hosted by Prairie River Home Care, Inc., to celebrate the re-opening of Birchwood House in January 2013.

The open house is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 12, between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and will include light appetizers and tours of the newly remodeled residential care home located at 710 Park Island Drive in Hutchinson.

Birchwood House was built in 2005, funded by donations from many community members and local groups. Prairie River Home Care purchased it in September 2012 from Glencoe Regional Health Services (GRHS) and Hutchinson Area Health Care (HAHC), which had jointly owned the home and used it as a center for hospice care until 2010.

Prairie River Home Care will reopen Birchwood House as a residential care boarding and lodging home for patients with Parkinson's disease and other neurological movement disorders, such as Huntington's disease, muscular dystrophy (MD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and multiple sclerosis (MS). Parkinson's disease is the most prevalent movement disorder, affecting

1.5 million people nationwide. Patients with movement disorders have special needs for physical, occupational and speech therapy, diet, mobility, medication management and safety issues, such as prevention of injuries due to falls.

In addition, these patients often have unique needs with respect to socialization and physical and cognitive stimulation.

In preparation to serve patients with these conditions, Prairie River Home Care has remodeled Birchwood House to include a chair lift elevator, theater, exercise room and a cyber café outfitted with computers for the use of residents and their family members.

Birchwood House will accept patients who require 24-hour supervision and will be staffed for up to eight residents. According to Mark Austin, director of area development for Prairie River Home Care, Birchwood House eventually will be staffed with up to 10 employees with special training in caring for patients with movement disorders. He expects most of these employees will be new hires from the local community.

"We are excited to reopen

Birchwood House to patients with Parkinson's and other movement disorders. We will partner with the Struthers Parkinson's Center in Golden Valley, the National Parkinson Foundation Minnesota (NPFM), the local Hutchinson medical and long-term care community and other neurological treatment organizations to make Birchwood House a success," said Judy Figge, registered nurse and chief executive officer of Prairie River Home Care.

Prairie River Home Care is a Medicare-certified home-care agency offering a broad range of services to individuals of all ages.

Prairie River Home Care provides services within 60 Minnesota counties, through a network of eight offices located in Fairmont, Hutchinson, Blaine, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester, Buffalo and St. Cloud. The corporate office is located in Buffalo.

Prairie River Home Care has been owned and operated for 14 years by Ken and Judy Figge, who together have more than 60 years of experience offering home-care services.

For more information, visit www.prhc.com.

Being in minority not new for Gruenhagen

By Rich Glennie
Editor

"I was the minority when I was on the (Glencoe-Silver Lake) School Board," state Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen, R-Glencoe, said, so now that his Republican party is now back in the minority at the state legislature, it is a familiar feeling.

Gruenhagen, in House District 18B, and District 18 state Sen. Scott Newman, R-Hutchinson, were re-elected by comfortable margins in the Nov. 6 general elections, but the Republican party lost its majority status when the DFL recaptured both houses in the Legislature. Gov. Mark Dayton, who was not up for re-election, also is a DFLer.

"The people have spoken," Gruenhagen said, and he plans to work with the Democrats "in a way to improve the economy for all Minnesotans."

Can they work together? "We passed 150 bills unanimously or nearly unanimously," Gruenhagen said of the last legislative session.

But he said there are still major disagreements, and if the new DFL majority plans to increase spending by 20 percent, the Republican minority will fight that effort.

Gruenhagen said Republicans would like to see single-digit spending increases that are tied to growth of personal income. If that growth is 3 percent, then state spending should not increase more than 3 percent.

If DFLers insist on double-digit spending increases, "you can't expect the private sector to compete," Gruenhagen said, and the private sector is where the revenues come from to fund state projects and programs.

"I will not support double-digit spending increases," Gruenhagen added. "We cannot sustain double-digit spending increases."



Glenn Gruenhagen

He said the economy is changing with the retirement of "baby boomers," the increased global competitiveness, and nagging unemployment numbers. He stressed Minnesota cannot spend its way out of this slow economy.

He said the Republican majorities in the Legislature the past two years made headway in reining in the growth of spending in the state.

"We ran on reforming government," Gruenhagen said. "We increased state spending by \$2 billion, but it was projected to be up \$6 billion (under DFL control)."

Gruenhagen said he hopes to work with fiscally conservative DFLers from outstate Minnesota to keep spending down.

As to the amendments proposed to the Minnesota Constitution, Gruenhagen was disappointed both failed.

He was especially upset about the marriage amendment defeat, and predicted proponents of same-sex marriage will move to redefine marriage in Minnesota.

He said by not protecting the sanctity of marriage as one man and one woman through

a constitutional amendment, judges will rule on what is a marriage.

He called marriage and the family unit the very foundation of society.

Gruenhagen said he, and Republicans, continue to support road and bridge work in future bonding bills, while the DFLers seem to favor more funding for light rail and public transportation.

"Roads and bridges are the life blood of our economy (in rural Minnesota)," Gruenhagen said.

He also will continue to fight against the implementation of "Obamacare" in Minnesota. He expects the DFL majority to push hard for its implementation.

He said if successful, the state will have "unelected bureaucrats" making healthcare decisions for Minnesotans.

Gruenhagen predicted another issue next session will be how to deal with many shortfalls being faced by the state in matters like public pensions funds and Medicaid spending.

"The governor has expressed his agenda clearly," Gruenhagen said. "He wants to increase taxes." But that will stymie growth in the private sector. "We need to keep reasonable tax rates, especially for our farmers," Gruenhagen said.

Gruenhagen said he is looking forward to serving the citizens of District 18B, and "work for a better economic future."

He said his election in the new district (18B) was easier than in his old District 25A in his first run for a House seat. Few knew him then.

But with McLeod and Sibley counties now making up District 18B, "Voters knew where I stood on the issues," and pointed to his first term in the House and his years on the GSL School Board.

Menus

Dec. 10-14

Silver Lake

Senior Nutrition Site

Monday — Hamburger, oven-brown potatoes, corn, bun, margarine, escalloped apples, low-fat milk.

Tuesday — Chicken ala king, peas and carrots, fruit salad, rice, cookie, low-fat milk.

Wednesday — Italian meat sauce, spaghetti noodles, lettuce with dressing, garlic bread, winter mixed vegetables, ice cream, low-fat milk.

Thursday — Pork loin, whole parsleyed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll, margarine, poke cake, low-fat milk.

Friday — Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, bread, margarine, peaches, low-fat milk.

Helen Baker/Lakeside Lunch

Monday — Hot dog on whole-grain bun, deli combo sub, seasoned peas, celery sticks with dressing, cinnamon orange smiles, pineapple tidbits.

Tuesday — Beefy nachos, yogurt-American cheese-crackers fun lunch, refried beans, baby carrots, petite banana, chilled applesauce.

Wednesday — Italian meat sauce over whole-grain rotini pasta, bread stick, tuna salad on whole-grain bread, seasoned carrots, caesar romaine salad with dressing, kiwi wedges, mandarin oranges.

Thursday — Grilled chicken patty on whole-grain bun, ham and cheese on whole-grain bun, oven-baked potato wedges, marinated cucumbers and tomatoes, sliced strawberries, chilled pears.

Friday — Chicken quesadilla, turkey and cheese on whole-grain bread, seasoned corn, jicama sticks with dressing, apple wedges, chilled mixed fruit.

High School Lunch

Monday — Chicago-style hot dog with relish, diced onions, sauerkraut, oven-baked tator tots, oven-baked beans, celery sticks with dressing, orange wedges, pineapple tidbits.

Tuesday — Beefy nachos with tortilla chips, cheese sauce, brown fiesta rice, refried beans, broccoli salad with raisins, jicama sticks with dressing, petite banana, cin-

namon apple slices.

Wednesday — Italian meat sauce over whole-grain pasta, bread stick, seasoned carrots, caesar romaine salad, cucumbers with dressing, sliced strawberries, chilled peaches.

Thursday — Oven-baked chicken, whole-grain dinner roll,

mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, apple crisp, jicama-cucumber fruit salad, red pepper strips with dressing, cranberry sauce, chilled pears.

Friday — Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, seasoned corn, confetti coleslaw, baby carrots with dressing, apple, chilled mixed fruit.

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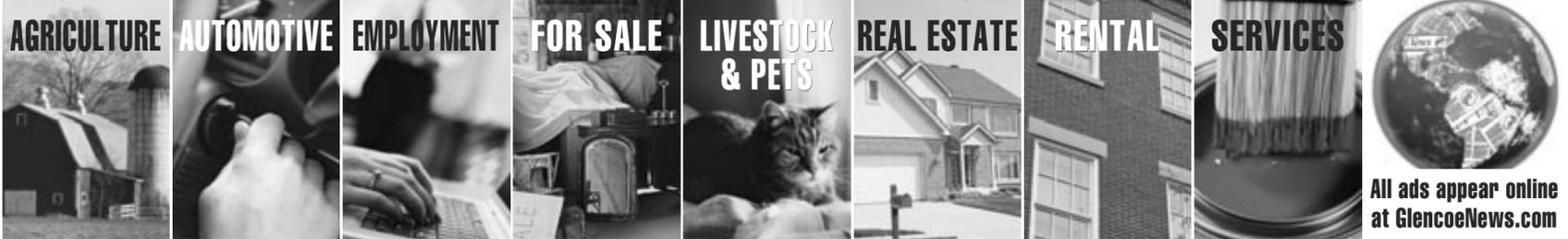
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Being in minority new to Newman

By Rich Glennie
Editor

Even though he won reelection, state Sen. Scott Newman, R-Hutchinson, is on the move — out of his current office at the state Capitol and into another office. That is the ritual when your party goes from being the majority to the minority.

That is what happened Nov. 6, when the DFL captured both houses of the Minnesota Legislature with a DFL governor in Mark Dayton.

Newman, who represents the newly revised Senate District 18, was an easy victor for a second term. Elected in 2010, Newman and all the state senators were on this year's ballot because of redistricting.

Newman said the balancing act at the moment is getting the offices moved, since he has to move out of one at the same time some DFLer moves out of another.

Another experience for Newman will be as a minority member of the Legislature for the first time. "I've always been in the majority. It will be a new experience."

His first stint in the Minnesota House was by special election after state Rep. Tony Kielucki resigned. The Republicans controlled the House at the time.

When he ran for the state Senate in 2010, Republicans captured the Senate for the first time in 40 years.

"We all like being in the majority," Newman said. "But we'll do the best we can."

Newman said he gets along with members across the aisle, and pointed out that 150 bills were passed in the last session either unanimously, or nearly unanimously.

"The partisan bickering (portrayed by the metro media) is nowhere as bad as folks are told. But we do have philosophical differences. But 98 of the legislation is bipartisan legislation."

He said the conflicts often are more on an "urban versus rural" divide.

The main areas of disagreement come when omnibus bills on the budget, taxes or bonding are brought forth. "That's the ones we fight over."

As to political critics, Newman said, "We will be criticized no matter what we do." He said he is criticized for not compromising, and he gets criticized for not standing up for his principles.

"Then if we compromise, like the 2011 budget bill, where we spent \$1.5 billion

more and I voted for it I hated myself for that," Newman said.

That bill shifted funds from education to balance the budget and ended a shutdown of state government.

"Democracy is messy, and the stakes are high," Newman said. "The vast majority of us run for office to make communities and the state a better place. We just have different visions on how to accomplish that."

In the majority, Newman said committee members have an opportunity to "vet, flush out ideas. It is more difficult for a minority bill to get a hearing. That's up to the chairman."

He said the goal of a minority committee member is to amend the majority bill. When the majority totally ignores the minority, "it will get ugly and noisy."

Newman expects his committee assignments to be made soon. He added he "preferred to follow the money" on the finance, tax and commerce committees, "but I will probably end up on the judiciary and public safety committees" because of his legal background.

The goal of the Republican minority in the next two sessions will be more of a "watchdog," Newman said. "If they (DFLers) go too far, we'll get noisy."

With control of the Legislature, "DFLers can literally do what they want," Newman said. But he warned if Gov. Dayton tries to push a \$40 billion budget and repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), "I think the people (voters) will set them straight in two years."

When it comes to bonding bills, the DFL majority needs at least three Republicans to vote with them for passage. But Newman said getting the additional votes on bonding bills is easier if the funds go towards projects in a legislator's district, like the Mankato, Rochester or Duluth civic center plans.

As to Newman's agenda, "It's still the reduction in the size and growth of government. That did not happen with Gov. Dayton (and his vetoes)."

Some of the big issues next session may be what to do with the state's sex offender program that locks offenders up for life. He said it is a non-partisan issue, and the program "is expensive."

Also, how to address the costs of public defenders, especially who pays for appeals,



Scott Newman

may be debated next session. And of course, the budget is always a main topic, Newman said. "I fear there will be an increase in taxes."

Newman pointed to 2011 in which the state had revenues of \$30 billion and received another \$4 billion in federal stimulus money. "That \$34 billion was put on the table, and we (Republicans) said 'take it or leave it.'"

Gov. Dayton came back with a \$39.5 billion budget proposal, and in the end the two sides compromised at \$35.5 billion, or \$1.5 billion more than it had in revenues, Newman said. That is when the difference was made up with a shift in public school education funding and using tobacco funds.

"I regret that approach," Newman said of leaving all \$34 billion on the table to start with.

Newman said the governor wanted \$39 billion the last time, and he predicts it will be over \$40 billion for the next biennium.

While he admits the state revenues have improved over the last year or two, "there is not enough to cover what is being proposed. We don't have it."

Newman is optimistic that Republicans can work with rural, more conservative DFLers on the budget, including new DFL Majority Leader Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, who is known as a fiscal conservative.

What Gov. Dayton will get, may depend on what Sen. Bakk gives him, Newman predicted. As to new House Majority Leader Paul Thissen, DFL-Minneapolis, "he's an urban guy," Newman said, implying spending is not an issue.

Even if state revenues come in at \$34 billion to \$36 billion, Newman said "I don't see a reduction in spending," and

Dayton may ask as much as \$43 billion for the next biennium.

He reminded all that the state still owes \$2 billion to school districts in Minnesota.

While Newman, District 18B state Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen, R-Glencoe, and District 18A state Rep. Dean Urdahl, R-Grove City, all won re-election, "We live in a little pocket of conservative folks," Newman said.

Statewide, Republicans took a drubbing. "It was a bad Republican year," Newman conceded. "We have to retool."

As to the amendments, including the voter ID amendment he championed in the Senate, Newman said he was "disappointed" and "surprised."

The biggest surprise, he said was "the precipitous fall" in popularity of the voter ID from one year earlier. Polls a year earlier had 70 percent to 80 percent of those polled in favor of voter ID.

"That was the reason it was on the ballot. I don't have an explanation," Newman said, but he did say opponents of the amendment "out spent us 2-to-1. Money talks."

Newman said the amendment really lost popularity when high-profile people like Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Gov. Dayton and former Republican Gov. Arne Carlson "were dead against it."

"I never intended to disenfranchise anybody," Newman stressed. He also said there were exaggerations about the costs of the new voter ID requirements at the local level. He said the state was to pick up those costs.

Asked if it could come back as a tweak to current statutes, Newman said that already had been tried and the governor vetoed it.

"It was a very partisan bill because it would have eliminated the voucher system (on same-day registration). That is made-to-order voter fraud," Newman added. "And the DFL is very happy with the voucher system."

As to the defeat of the marriage amendment, Newman said it is almost certain that DFLers will "take a run at DOMA."

But he said voters rejection of the amendment, "was not a statement in favor of gay marriage."

The pro-amendment side "was outspent, again. I was surprised (it was defeated). I expect to see movement on the gay marriage issue in the coming session," Newman added.

Weather Corner

By Jake Yurek



We'll get back to normal early-December weather this week as the warmth of the weekend and early week fade away.

We were as much as 20 degrees above normal early in the week (normal high for this time of year is right around 30), but a couple weak systems will cool us down and inject a little bit of moisture.

The West Coast as of late has been getting slammed by storm after storm, but each one dries up before it has a chance to move toward us. We'll have a weak chance of rain-snow mix Thursday into early Friday, but it's nothing major to get too worried about.

Highs to end the week should stay right around average, ranging from the upper 20s to lower 30s. The weekend forecast is very hazy at this point with computer models being all over the place. Recent runs indicate a storm setting up to our west and possibly moving toward us late Saturday into Sunday. The location of the storm leads me to think it would be a mainly snow event, but a lot can change, and we'll be pretty close to the freezing line.

I have two favorite forecast models, one is keeping us out of the precipitation field and the other has a decent chance of accumulating snow, so my advice for this one would be to stay tuned to more up-to-date forecasts as a lot can change.

Taking a peek at the extended would be silly at this point since I can't even make it past the weekend, so I will punt. Have a great week, all!

Ma dobry weekendem Mit dobry vikend

Wednesday night — Lows 30-36; rain/snow shower mix.
Thursday — Highs 39-45; lows 21-27; mix early/partly cloudy.

Friday — Highs 28-34; lows 16-22; partly cloudy.

Saturday — Highs 26-32; lows 18-24; partly cloudy.

Sunday — Highs 28-35; snow/mix?

Weather Quiz: What are our chances for a white Christmas?

Answer to last week's question: Highest temperature, 68 degrees (Dec. 1, 1998); lowest temperature, -39 degrees (Dec. 25, 1879); most precipitation, 1.35 inches (Dec. 25, 1982); most snowfall, 12 inches (Dec. 28, 1982).

Remember: I make the forecast, not the weather!

People News

Bemidji names graduates

Lisa Broderius, Glencoe, and Brian Renkes, Hutchinson, are local students named to the summer undergraduate list from Bemidji State University. Broderius earned a bachelor of science degree in environmental studies and Renkes earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

Exsted wins \$100,000

Nicholas Exsted of Glencoe won \$100,000 on the Nov. 25 on the "15X the Money" lottery tickets. He purchased the ticket from Schmidt's in New Germany. "15X the Money" is a \$5 scratch game that offers a top prize of \$100,000. There are currently three of five \$100,000 top prizes remaining to be claimed.

HARK!
The McLeod County Chronicle & Silver Lake Leader have early deadlines

Due to the holidays, ads for the **Dec. 27** Silver Lake Leader are needed by **Noon on THURSDAY, DEC. 20**. Ads for the **Dec. 26** McLeod County Chronicle are needed by **Noon on FRIDAY, DEC. 21**.

Ads for the **Jan. 3** Silver Lake Leader are needed by **Noon on THURSDAY, DEC. 27**. Ads for the **Jan. 2** McLeod County Chronicle are needed by **Noon on FRIDAY, DEC. 28**.

Our Silver Lake Office will be **CLOSED Dec. 24 & 31**.

Our Glencoe office will be closing at 2 p.m. on Dec. 24 and will be closed Dec. 25th and Jan. 1.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Holiday Open House

December 7, 9-4pm
Music by Jerome Kadlec
Serving holiday treats, punch, and coffee.
Register for gifts.

Holiday hours
Christmas Eve-Closing at 1pm
Christmas Day Closed
New Years Eve Day (December 31) -business day is ending at 12noon(due to merger) but bank will remain open normal business hours.
New Years Day -Closed

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