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Construction won't delay first day of school at Lincoln

By JoDee Brooke

Despite a pile of rubble heaped alongside the new addition to Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District's Lincoln High School, students will enter brand new hallways and make their way to new classrooms Sept. 4. Phase I

of the district's addition/remodel project, which began last summer is complete, allowing for Phase II to begin. Phase II involves construction of the junior/high school's new commons/lunchroom area, kitchen and district offices.

"The classrooms are

finished, except for the art room and that will be temporarily set up in the ag/shop classroom." District Interim Superintendent Robert Fasbender shared last week. "They are finishing the tiling and those floors will have to be waxed.

Fasbender said they are hopeful the kitchen and commons area, along with the district offices and art room will be done by November.

"My office is currently in the library," Fasbender

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JoDee Brooke/Banner Journal

The end is in sight for the Alma-Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District's addition/remodeling project. With classes scheduled to begin Sept. 4, students will be welcomed back to an almost all-new facility. The new classroom areas are complete, except for the art room. Its completion is anticipated by November along with the kitchen and commons areas. The main entrance to the school will be off School Avenue. The view above is the school as it appears from West Madison Street. Landscaping around the school is part of the fall work plan.

CTH P project comes to a halt

By JoDee Brooke

Following months of filing grant applications, engineering and finally bidding the construction project, Highway Committee (JCHC) Chairman Jeff Amo explained to members of the County Board Aug. 20 the CTH P construction project had to be suspended until next year after wetland areas

were discovered.

"The consultant didn't recognize them," Amo said. "We now have to go through the permit process with the DNR (Department of Natural Resources.) It's too bad. We had contractors signed with equipment onsite ready to go."

Amo said those people who routinely travel CTH P would have to go through another winter without the repairs, and he noted, "The road isn't getting any better. We'll just have to keep adding gravel."

Amo said the grants already awarded Jackson County for the construction would still fund the project once construction begins.

In the past several months, the JCHC has been working with Badger Mining Corporation (BMC) to secure the necessary funding through grants and financial support from BMC for proposed construction to repair a section of CTH P running from STH 95 to BMC, a road section on which heavy trucks haul numerous loads of frac sand daily.

The process to secure the necessary funding through the TEA (Transportation Economic Assistance) grant (\$600,000) and the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) grant (\$400,000) required the county enter into a "Jobs

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'You're my idol, buddy'

By JoDee Brooke

This past weekend was a very special one for a young man from Chippewa Falls. Ten-year-old Ty Wiberg received his certification in scuba diving under the instruction of local dive instructor Keith Cormican. That means he can dive anywhere in the world. Last Saturday and Sunday, Ty was excited to be at Lake Wazee completing the skills portion of his certification.

There's a bit more to Ty's story, though. Born with spina bifida, Ty has no sensation in his legs from his knees down. He can only walk with the help of leg braces. He has a stent in his neck that removes cerebral fluid from around his brain. And, he has the ability to inspire anyone who has the privilege to meet him.

Before Ty Wiberg was even born, his dad and mom, Al and Michelle, learned their child would be born with spina bifida. Spina bifida is a birth defect that involves the incomplete development of the spinal cord or its coverings, occurring at the end of the first month of pregnancy. The two sides of the embryo's spine fail to join together, leaving an open area. In some cases, the spinal cord or other membranes may push through this opening in the back.

In Ty's case, his spinal cord was exposed outside of the vertebrae. Surgery has corrected the exposed cord. It didn't bring back feeling

in his legs.

"We were told he would never walk," shared Al. "He has no sensation from the knees down. His quad and hip movement allow him to kick from the hips. He has to be careful he doesn't hurt the bottom of his feet."

"I love the water and I love to go snorkeling," shared Ty. "I really wanted to scuba dive and we can't scuba dive until we're certified."

"Ty loves to read," said Al, "and he comprehends so much. So, I gave him my old dive book. He read the whole book."

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Trust looks at county land for multipurpose building

By JoDee Brooke

Representatives of the Lunda Charitable Trust (Trust) came before the Jackson County Board Aug. 20 sharing the concept of a multipurpose community building proposed by the Trust.

While the Trust continues to research the feasibility of a multipurpose community building, it is also looking for land on which to construct the building.

Board members approved a resolution that evening which allows five acres of county-owned land be considered as a potential location for the building after the necessary research and due diligence is completed on the feasibility of such a facility. The land being considered is located at the intersection of Pine View Road and STH 54, the land across from the Jackson County Fair Park.

Speaking on behalf of

the Trust, Trust Board members Larry Lunda and Carl Holmquist provided an overview of the project. "At this stage, we've heard from the community and know there is a need for some type of building that would serve the boys and girls club and the elderly," explained Lunda. "We have toured similar facilities in Waunakee and Whitewater. We also visited a facility in Fond du Lac that had a pool and exercise area. All the sites we visited were in use; they were busy."

Lunda explained to the board they were just beginning the process and hope to establish a committee and work with a consulting engineer. "We're not there yet," Lunda said, "but to start the process off, we need a piece of property. Of all the properties we've looked at, this one seems most acceptable."

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Contributed photo

Ty Wiberg and Keith Cormican meet up down under with a brief "high five." Their meeting left each diver with a unique and deep respect for each other.



JoDee Brooke/Banner Journal

Ten-year-old Ty Wiberg (front, center) of Chippewa Falls was born with a spinal injury. His parents, Al (second from right) and Michelle, were told their son would never be able to walk. This young gentleman proved them wrong, though. He not only walks with the help of braces and an unbelievably strong will, he completed his scuba diving certification this past weekend under the instruction of Keith Cormican (left) and assistance from Dave Whitehouse (far right), rescue diver with the Eau Claire Fire Department.