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Property owner who lost building in fire urges new department to better educate/train members

## First fire for Chain of Lakes a total loss

By Ellarry Prentice

The first fire call for the new Chain of Lakes Fire and Rescue District ended in a total loss, prompting the building owners to call for better education and training of the department firefighters. On Friday, Jan. 13, the Chain of Lakes Fire and Rescue District, based in Richmond, responded to their very first fire call since beginning operations on Dec. 30.

Firefighters responded to a fire in a machine and storage shed at a rural Richmond residence, located about a mile from the new fire hall. The residence – located at 22113 Forest Hill Road and owned by Ronald and Bernice Terharr – is located in Wakefield Township.

The fire in the 40-foot by 60-foot shed was reported at approximately 3 p.m. Nearly all of the department's 25 members responded. They were assisted by the Cold Spring and Richmond fire departments. Firefighters were on the scene until approximately 8 p.m.

According to fire chief Jerry Vossen, who discussed the fire during his report at the district's regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 18, firefighters "got called a little late." By the time they arrived, he said, the shed was totally engulfed in flames.

The shed was a total loss and estimated to be a loss of at least \$200,000. The cause of the fire was not known at the time of the meeting.

Vossen said the new department met with the Richmond and Cold Spring fire departments after responding to the call and were told that they would like to be called to assist sooner.

Ronald Terharr, owner of the perished shed, addressed the district board after Vossen's report last week, urging them to better educate and train firefighters.

Terharr said the second in command on the scene didn't know or have a plan to fight the fire upon arrival. He disagreed with Vossen that the shed was totally engulfed upon arrival, claiming that just the wall around the chimney was engulfed in flames.

"There was way too much of a time lapse," said Bernice Terharr. At least 15 minutes after the call came in, the department finally showed up, the Terharrs said. Once firefighters did arrive, they parked their truck too close to the building, and, once they had water going, it stopped. "They didn't have any water to fight the fire," Ronald added.

The Terharrs also observed firefighters not wearing the proper gear. One man who attended the meeting said two firefighters weren't wearing respirators.

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## Bugbee receives Governor's Medal

Utah State researcher Bruce Bugbee honored by state governor

Utah State University researchers Bruce Bugbee and Byard Wood were presented the Governor's Medal for Science and Technology on Tuesday, Jan. 10, by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert.

Bugbee, a 1968 PHS graduate and professor of plants, soils, and biometeorology, is internationally known for his work with NASA on food production in space. Wood, a mechanical engineer, is an expert on developing sustainable, renewable energies, including solar and biofuels.

"Bruce Bugbee and Byard Wood exemplify Utah State University's spirit of innovation, which is ingrained into all our colleges and disciplines," said Mark McLellan, vice president for research



Dr. Bruce Bugbee (left) – a 1968 PHS graduate and professor at Utah State University – was recently given a Governor's Medal for Science and Technology by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert.

and dean of the School of Graduate Studies at USU. "Our scientists and scholars are at the forefront of academic research and discovery, but they set themselves further apart by making their research relevant, through new products and businesses, outreach efforts and service programs. The inventive attitude of Bruce and Byard, and

our many former medal recipients, is vital to our students and our state at large."

Over a 30-year career at USU, now in the Plants, Soils and Climate Department in the College of Agriculture, Bugbee has mentored 32 graduate students, taught more than 1,000 undergraduate students, and is internationally known for his work with

NASA on food production in space. He is now collaborating with Wood and other colleagues in the colleges of Science and Engineering on algal biofuels.

Algal biofuels, said Bugbee, can be grown in constructed ponds on land that is unsuitable for crop plants. "Unlike ethanol from corn, the production of algae does not compete with the production of food crops," he said of their promise. "They can be grown using waste water. One significant challenge is to precisely stress the algae for nitrogen so that they produce oils that are used for biodiesel. Without stress, the algae produce mostly cellulose, which is much less valuable."

While he focuses on growing the algae for biofuels, his colleague Wood is developing ways to harvest the algae efficiently and make algal paste, Bugbee added.

In 1996, Bugbee founded Apogee Instruments, a com-

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## Briefs

### One-act play to host subsections

The PAHS one-act play will host the subsection competition at the school auditorium on Saturday, Jan. 28, starting at 10 a.m. (Paynesville is scheduled to perform their play, "The Long Christmas Dinner" by Thornton Wilder at 1:15 p.m.) BBE, Hancock, KMS, NL-S, and Paynesville will compete with the top two schools advancing to the Section 5A competition at West Central Area High School in Barrett on Saturday, Feb. 4. Last year, PAHS won the subsection title for the second time in school history.

PAHS will also hold a dress rehearsal of their play on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.

### Conferences

#### at PAHS/PAMS

Parent-teacher conferences will be held at Paynesville Area Middle School and Paynesville Area High School next week. Students will be dismissed early on Thursday, Feb. 2 – at 1 p.m. at PAES and at 1:10 p.m. at PAMS/PAHS – with conferences running from 2 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, at the middle and high schools.

Parents or guardians should have received a reminder of their conference time. Anyone with questions should call 243-3761, ext. 3150. For next year's high schoolers – grades 8-11 – these conferences will also serve as registration for next year's classes. With graduation standards and required coursework registration is vitally important. If parents or guardians cannot attend, they should make arrangements to meet with their student's advisor at another time.

Seniors will not have conferences; all 9-12 report cards will be mailed. Middle school report cards will be handed out at conferences.

PAES will hold staff training, not conferences.

## Bungum wins subsection AAA Award

Seniors Andrea Schlangen and Josh Bungum represent PAHS

By Ellarry Prentice

Seniors Josh Bungum and Andrea Schlangen were chosen as Academics, Arts, and Athletics nominees for Paynesville Area High School this year, with Bungum advancing as the subsection winner.

Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, the AAA program recognizes and honors seniors who have excelled in the classroom, in athletics, and in fine arts. AAA nominees must be seniors, must carry a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and must participate in Minnesota State High School League-sponsored athletics and fine arts activities.

Bungum was named the



Photo by Ellarry Prentice

Seniors Andrea Schlangen and Josh Bungum were named nominees for the Arts, Athletics, and Academics (AAA) Award for Paynesville Area High School this year.

District 20 AAA Award winner at the subsection banquet on Wednesday, Jan. 11. According to Press records, only two PHS students have won the subsection AAA title before: Camille Flanders in 1999 and Jen Hess in 2002.

He will advance to the Section 5A competition. That

awards banquet will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. The winners (a male and a female) of Section 5A will be announced that night and will advance to the state level.

AAA award recipients – a male and a female from both a Class A and Class AA school –

will receive a four-year, \$1,000 scholarship.

Bungum, the son of Brett and Cheryl Bungum, said it was an honor to be nominated for the AAA Award and to be part of a group of such accomplished nominees.

Participating in fine arts and athletics has taught Bungum time management skills, many life lessons, and instilled in him the perseverance to make it through hard, challenging times and succeed, he said. Participating in sports, specifically, has taught him the true meaning of hard work and the importance of respecting coaches, understanding their views, and applying them, he added.

"I was honored to be there and even be categorized in the same group as the people who were there," said Schlangen, the daughter of Dale and Julie Schlangen, of the AAA nomination and subsection banquet.

AAA AWARDS – see page 7

## Legislative session kicks off this week

Bonding bill tops priorities for 2012 session

By Michael Jacobson

A budget surplus – \$876 million according to the November forecast – could make the 2012 legislative session less contentious.

After a budget spat last spring, with the Republican-controlled legislature and Gov. Mark Dayton (DFL-Minneapolis) unable to come to an agreement until a three-week state shutdown, the good budget news could help to make this year's session much swifter.

"That was a surprise," said Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville), who will start the second year as president of the Senate, of the surplus, "and a good surprise."

According to the November forecast, the state budget was projected to have a surplus of \$876 for the 2012-13 biennium.

"We had a little surplus, and now the last two months, November and December, revenue collection has been above forecast. So that's good news," agreed Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck).



Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville)

The legislature, added Fischbach, will use the upcoming February forecast for any budget decisions this year. If it is also positive, that could put a divisive issue on the back burner this session.

"Most of that is statutorily dedicated to rainy day accounts," said Fischbach. This surplus is earmarked, according to law, to restore the state's reserves, and \$255 million went to the cash flow account and \$621 million to the budget reserve.

### Bonding Bill

The typical legislative cycle is to do the budget on odd years and a bonding bill in even years. Accordingly, Gov. Dayton proposed a \$775 million bonding bill last week.



Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck)

According to Republican legislators, in light of a small bonding bill last session, that might be a little much.

"I think it's a little high," said Fischbach. "There are a few things that would help the area, particularly St. Cloud." She would prefer a smaller bonding bill focused on maintenance and infrastructure.

Anderson agreed that the bonding bill should be less, probably around \$500 million. "That's going to push us up to the limits of what we should be borrowing," said Anderson, emphasizing that projects should have statewide, or at least regional, impact.

### Vikings Stadium

An issue getting lots of media attention is a new sta-

dium for the Minnesota Vikings, whose lease at the Metrodome expired in 2011.

"I would hope the stadium bill gets brought up right away, gets done, and then we can move onto more important things," said Anderson, who belongs to a task force of legislators trying to find a solution to the stadium issue.

"We really have two issues. Where to put it and how to pay for it? People have basically said: don't raise taxes. So we're looking at some form of gambling," added Anderson.

Gaming – electronic pull-tabs, a Racino, etc. – might be the most palatable option to provide the revenue for a Vikings stadium, according to Anderson. To pay the state's \$300 million share of a new Vikings stadium with 30-year bonds, \$25 million per year would need to be raised by some sort of gambling.

Minneapolis, which could possibly use its tax levy paying for the convention center (until 2020), might be a more realistic local partner, said Anderson, since Ramsey County is having trouble funding the local share for the Arden Hills site, which the Vikings prefer.

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