

# the REVIEW

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Serving Schools, Communities, and Other Agencies in Southwest and West Central Minnesota



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## Knowledge Bowl State Champs

By Lee Ostrom; reprinted with permission of The McLeod County Chronicle

Vicky Harris recalls it was shortly after the Glencoe and Silver Lake school districts paired that Kathy Olson, District 2859 activities director, announced her desire to start a Knowledge Bowl program. With Harris in charge, it was done. But it took seven years before a GSL team won a competition - at a junior varsity level.

Now, another seven years later, Glencoe-Silver Lake High School can boast of being home to the 2007 Class A Knowledge Bowl state champions.

On April 17-18 at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake, near Brainerd, five GSL students - who describe their practices as loud, disorderly and laced with "constructive abuse" - led 23 other Class A qualifiers from start to finish while posting a 16.5-point victory over state runner-up Morris Area.

"The kids were just awesome," said Harris, who remains the only Knowledge Bowl head coach the school has known.

Those kids, the first ever from GSL to even qualify for a state meet, seem to complement each other quite nicely. Meet the state champions:

- **Josh Braband.** A senior co-captain, he has been a Knowledge Bowler since the seventh grade and a member of the top varsity team for each of the last three years. Planning to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at Minnesota State-Mankato, Braband probably is GSL's fastest hand to the buzzer, according to Harris - particularly when the topic matter is math or science.
- **Mark Mathews.** GSL's other senior co-captain also is a six-year participant and three-year varsity fixture. Headed to the University of Minnesota where he plans to study electrical engineering, Mathews excels at taking input from his teammates and delivering the right answers, according to Harris. "He's our spokesman," she said. His teammates say Mathews also covers them well on "geography-related" questions.
- **Blake Shamla.** A junior who joined Knowledge Bowl as an eighth-grader, he now has been a varsity regular for about 1-1/2 years. "He's really good at writtens," Harris said. Teammates also laud Shamla's "incredible math abilities."
- **Angus Dalbec.** A sophomore, he started Knowledge Bowl in the seventh grade and has been a varsity regular for 1-1/2 years, too. "He has an enormous amount of knowledge about history and (especially) wars," Harris said. According to Shamla, Dalbec's specialty area is World War II.
- **Alethea Roe.** Another sophomore, and the lone girl on the state quint, she did not begin Knowledge Bowl until her freshman year. She has caught on quickly, though. Another 1-1/2-year varsity regular, Roe's strong



Glencoe-Silver Lake State Champion Knowledge Bowl Team.

suits are areas like literature, English, mythology and even Latin. "Alethea has read a staggering number of books," Harris said. (She also beat the boys to a baseball question at the state meet.)

In all, Harris (and her volunteer assistants) worked with 37 Knowledge Bowl students this year. While first-year members (14) outnumbered seniors and juniors (eight), 33 of the 37 won at least one medal (for a top-three place) at some meet during the winter season.

"You (have) to get to the point where the high school kids get good enough to make the junior high kids better," Harris said, explaining that, over the years, GSL has learned how to play Knowledge Bowl.

To "toughen up" this year's varsity, Harris scheduled two regular-season meets at Class AA powers St. Anthony (three state titles in the last four years) and Little Falls. It seems to have worked. Indeed, the only two meets the Panthers finished worse than first all season were at St. Anthony (third) and Little Falls (fourth). At the Region 6 competition, which included larger schools such as Hutchinson and Willmar, GSL finished first - thus earning one of 48 state spots (out of 769 teams from all regions).

Twenty-four were sorted (mostly by enrollment size) into Class AA; the other 24, including GSL, went to Class A.

At Cragun's, GSL correctly answered 52 of the 60 questions posed in Tuesday evening's written round. Minnesota Valley Lutheran and Region 6 runner-up Lac qui Parle Valley were the only other teams to score 50, but neither got to 51. The strong start sent GSL to room 1 from Wednesday's first of five oral rounds.

Showing their mastery, the Panthers never left room 1 all day.

Yet, things stayed tight right up through Knowledge Bowl continued on page 17



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Kathi Thymian  
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Daniel Zimansky  
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## What Can The Development & Communications Office Do For Our Members?

### Goal:

*To keep school district administration apprised of any funding opportunities that may be available, and to provide technical assistance during the grantwriting process.*

### Grant Opportunities

The Manager of Development & Communications will keep school district administration informed of prospective grant opportunities—either by email or by posting grant information on the “Grant Opportunities” page of the SW/WC Service Cooperatives website. Information will be updated monthly on the webpage, so be sure to check it often!! [www.swsc.org](http://www.swsc.org)

### Technical Assistance

The Manager of Development & Communications will provide technical assistance to any member districts that are planning to submit grant proposals. Technical assistance may include reviewing rough drafts, assistance developing measurable goals, reviewing to ensure all required forms/information is included, etc. The Manager of Resource Development will not be responsible for writing proposals for the districts.

### Quarterly E-Newsletter

The quarterly Development & Communications E-Newsletter will be distributed to all member districts. This E-Newsletter includes information and updates from the Development & Communications Office.

*For more information, please contact Manager of Development & Communications, at [shelly.maes@swsc.org](mailto:shelly.maes@swsc.org) or 507-537-2282.*



*Not using the services of the RMIC?*  
Check out what you are missing... [www.rmic.org](http://www.rmic.org)



# New Wide Area Network Takes Education in SW Minnesota to New Heights!

By: Josh Sumption, Manager of Information Technology

For the better part of a year the Technology Staff at SW/WC have been busy preparing for and fully implementing a brand new Wide Area Network System. The network has been built from the ground up, literally, and has opened the doors to an endless realm of possibilities for the school districts involved in the project. As we move into the summer projects season and prepare for the next school year we will begin to expand and take advantage of the full potential of the new system.

Running a large-scale Wide Area Network is no small task, nor is it a new experience for the IT



*Construction of a tower.*

Staff at the Service Cooperatives. For over a decade we have been running a land-line based network system that first consisted of 56k and later T1 access lines and also utilized microwave television delivery for ITV courses. As the network evolved into an Internet and Data access system the strain on the system became more and more. On top of the Internet and data functions the Wide Area Network also began carrying IP-Based Video for the ITV system and later Voice Over IP was being pushed.

In 2005 then Director of Technology, Rod Wrege, presented a plan to replace the outdated and over-burdened data network. After careful consideration and investigation it was

decided that the best solution for moving forward would be to outsource the operations of the Wide Area Network to a third-party provider. A process then began in conjunction with the E-Rate Program to find a partner who could provide the bandwidth our schools needed at a price we could afford. The RFP process brought forward a partnership with Trillion Partners, Inc. of Austin, TX.

The solution proposed and implemented is a high-speed carrier-class wireless network that directly connects 40 school buildings within 32 school districts throughout Southwest Minnesota. The Wide Area Network consists of 49 towers ranging from 80 feet to 170 feet high scattered by schools and in the middle of pasture land throughout the region.

The infrastructure that has been built will also prove to be an investment in the future as bandwidth upgrades will be inexpensive radio replacements or even simple software upgrades.

The resources of the network also include 2 Internet Points of Presence (POPs) that offer 23 Mbps of Internet Access. Combined the overall capacity of the new network is over 75 times that of the old Wide Area Network. The improvements will really begin to be noticed once an equipment replacement of Service Cooperative equipment at each school building is complete.

For the next few months the finishing touches and equipment replacements will be wrapping up on the new Wide Area Network. As we move forward we are very excited about the new opportunities we will be able to take part in such as Internet2, high-quality media streaming services, on-demand video conferencing and further expansions in our distance education system. Other new offerings including off-site disaster recovery services for school districts will now be possible and a greater movement towards ASP hosted applications provided at lower costs to our members will also be a possibility.

One of the key reasons for moving forward with a wireless Wide Area Network was the significant cost savings over other mediums used to deliver such services. Another key reason is the ease of expanding the services, which will prove significant as additional member districts choose to join the Wide Area Network.

*"...key reasons for moving forward with a wireless Wide Area Network was the significant cost savings over other mediums ... and the ease of expanding the services ..."*

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*"Walk tall as the  
trees, live strong as  
the mountains,  
be gentle as the  
spring winds,  
keep the warmth of  
the summer sun  
in your heart,  
and the great spirit  
will always be  
with you."*

Tell a Friend-American Indian Proverb,  
unknown tribe

## AYP and the SW/WC Service Cooperatives

There has been a lot of talk about AYP lately. AYP stands for Adequate Yearly Progress, which came out of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. AYP represents a certain level of student achievement on statewide tests. Every year the achievement level for making AYP is raised. Over the past few years, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has provided various forms of assistance to those schools not making AYP. This past December, they announced a new initiative to work with Minnesota's Regional Service Cooperatives to provide local support for Minnesota schools and school districts in their efforts to meet AYP.

Through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education, the SW/WC Service Cooperatives has hired new staff to work with school and district teams identified as not meeting AYP. The new School Improvement Specialists at the SW/WC Service Cooperatives come with a vast array of experiences and expertise, including curriculum coordination, staff development coordination, superintendent experience, principal experience, Title I Director experience, special education experience, and English Language Learner experience. It is our overall responsibility to deliver assistance directly to schools and districts to facilitate local efforts to increase capacity and improve student achievement, which includes developing and implementing required improvement plans, and providing technical assistance to schools identified as needing improvement. Specifically, the School Improvement Specialists will 1) assist district and school teams in the development, implementation and on-going review and refinement of school improvement plans, 2) identify and analyze data and facilitate team dialogue, 3) assist in the identification of specific and joint professional development needs, and 4) plan to meet those needs and support schools as they develop and implement high quality professional development. We provide support at several levels throughout the school district, including school teams, district teams, and regional support teams which are comprised of representatives from school districts in the region, a SW/WC School Improvement Specialist, and MDE Professional Development and Evaluation Specialists.

Currently, the SW/WC Service Cooperatives School Improvement Specialists are working with four school districts in their improvement planning process this academic year. However, with the achievement level for making AYP going higher each year, it is possible that the number of schools identified as not meeting AYP will increase dramatically next year. This does not mean our school districts are doing a bad job rather, the growth needed to achieve proficiency is not keeping up with the moving target set by the state to have all students proficient by the year 2014.

Our School Improvement Specialists are just one of the many programs and services offered. For more information, contact Michael Koranda, Manager of Teaching and Learning Services, at 507-537-2245.

## New Secondary Principal at District #777 Benson Schools

Benson Public Schools introduces its newest administrator; James Menton was recently hired as the new secondary principal for District #777. Mr. Menton will take the place of Lee Westrum, who will be moving into the ISD# 777 Superintendents position. Both administrators will take over their new duties on July 1, 2007.

Most recently, Menton was a Spanish teacher and technology coordinator at Albert Lea Schools. He has also been spending time doing on-the-job training as a principal at Albert Lea Schools in preparation for the change to administration. Menton earned his BS in Spanish Education at MN State University, Mankato with a minor in Middle School Education; his Masters in Educational Leadership from Southwest Minnesota State University, and his 6th-year Certificate in K-12 Administration from Saint Mary's University.

"He has a fantastic background and good experience in a lot of areas...and that was what really helped us make the decision," stated Interim Supt. Shelly Johnson. "He's also very personable and we're excited to have him coming here to work."

Shelly Johnson was hired on a one-year temporary basis to replace Carl Remmers until a permanent superintendent was hired. Johnson will continue working as the Superintendent through June 30.

The new administrative team at Benson Public Schools next year will be:

Lee Westrum, Superintendent; James Menton, Secondary (9-12) Principal

Brad Johnson, Middle School (5-8) Principal; Dennis Laumeyer, Elementary (K-4) Principal



## Girls Night Out at Sleepy Eye Public School

by Nicole Schottle, School Social Worker

The "Girls-Night-Out" program was aimed at girls in 7th and 8th grade. We had a great turnout for our first year as a pilot program, over 50% of students participated. Our school was lucky enough to get such great presenters for our many great activities. The facilitators included the Honorable Judge Terri Stoneburner (Court of Appeals), Denise Johansen (Brown County 4-H Coordinator), and our own Michelle Schwartz (FAC Teacher at Sleepy Eye Public). We had great hands-on activities that dealt with personal care, cooking, nutrition, confidence, and leadership. A pizza party was held after the program with desert pizza being a hit. The desert pizza was a dish that was made in one of the cooking breakout sessions that was facilitated by Michelle. We had a great response from the girls though an evaluation that was given at the end of the program.



*Denise Johansen, Brown County 4-H Coordinator*



*Michelle Schwartz, Sleepy Eye FAX teacher talked about nutrition and personal care.*



*Judge Terri Stoneburner, keynote speaker, talked on leadership and confidence building.*

*Sixteen BOLD advanced Spanish students traveled to Costa Rica from March 21-28 on a study/immersion home stay tour. The students stayed with host families being immersed in the Spanish language while daily touring the country. Highlights included a canopy tour of the Tirimbina Rain Forest, Whitewater Rafting down the Saripiqui River, the Brit Coffee Plantation Tour and theatre and visiting local markets, churches and schools.*



## Cedar Mountain Elementary Students Get Fit in Physical Education

Cedar Mountain students and their new physical education teacher, Jeremy Sather, are motivated to stay fit! In the photo, the sixth grade jugglers show off their newly refined skills. Kindergarten through sixth grade spent a couple of weeks developing their hand-eye coordination through several different juggling activities. The students all started using two juggling scarves, then three scarves and moving on all the way up to three balls.

The other new change that the students have been working on is the once a week fitness day. This day involves some type of continuous movement varying from basic activities to very difficult. One of the more popular activities is a kid's version of Tae Bo. The students come in and spread throughout the gym for 25 minutes of continuous activity.

The other favorite fitness day activity is the PACER (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run) test. The PACER has been a very exciting part of the elementary students' year. It is a competitive running event that the students have been doing once a month for the entire year. The PACER (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run) is a multistage fitness test where the students start running slowly and increase their speed each minute.

It is a wonderful way for the students to compete against themselves and the rest of the school. Each class is competing against the other classes to see which class will improve the most each month with quarterly rewards for the winning class. The hard work that the students have been putting in each day in physical education has been paying off as the average laps per run (for students in grades 3-6), has gone from 28.5 to 38.5. That is an amazing improvement and it is all because of the great effort all of our Cedar Mountain Elementary students have put in.



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## Winners selected for Reading Rainbow's contest

by Arlene Markell

Congratulations to all Young Writers and Illustrators in the area! The Reading Rainbow Young Writer and Illustrators Contest concluded on March 17, with all 175 stories! The stories were checked for contest eligibility by SMSU students enrolled in an Elementary Literature class and judging was done by an impartial committee during Easter break. The winners are as listed below. All of the local prizes have been awarded and 1st place winners have had their stories sent on to national competition. Prizes for the national competition include: laptop computers, flat panel TV and DVD players, MP3 players and Reading Rainbow sets of DVDs and books. The contest was open to all kindergarteners through third graders in the Pioneer viewing area. There will be three national winners at each grade level. Those winners will be announced at the end of June.

We are looking forward to having the contest again next year with even more entries! The local contest winners' list can be viewed on [www.pioneer.org](http://www.pioneer.org) and the stories can be viewed on air by watching Pioneer Public Television.

The Reading Rainbow Young Writer and Illustrator Contest was sponsored by Pioneer Public Television and Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives.

### Kindergarten:

#### 1st place:

Davis Henry Moore  
Worthington, MN  
"The Under City"

#### 2nd place:

David Rabaey  
Marshall, MN  
"Two Boys That Rode a Dog"

#### First Grade:

##### 1st place:

Garret Hoff  
Marshall, MN  
"Penguin City"

##### 2nd place:

Madison Schumacher  
Marshall, MN  
"Shaggy the Dog"

##### 3rd place:

Zoe Hess  
Marshall, MN  
"Do you Have a Nice Mommy?"

### Second Grade:

#### 1st place:

Allison Smith  
Kandiyohi, MN  
"Princess Elizabeth from Kandi Land"

#### 2nd place:

Madeline Aafedt  
Dawson, MN  
"My Dad-My Hero"

#### 3rd place:

Alisa Fenske  
Boyd, MN  
"The Case of the Missing Dogs"

### Third Grade

#### 1st place:

McKenzie Deprez  
Westbrook, MN  
"The Princess Who Turned Into a Mouse"

#### 2nd place:

Megan Hartzler  
Brewster, MN  
"The Girl Who Wanted Peace"

#### 3rd place:

Courtney Gregory  
Carlton, MN  
"Learning the Animal Alphabet with Flutter"



*"What do I want to take home from my summer vacation? Time. The wonderful luxury of being at rest. The days when you shut down the mental machinery that keeps life on track and let life simply wander. The days when you stop planning, analyzing, thinking and just are. Summer is my period of grace."*

Tell a Friend-Ellen Goodman

## Donuts for Dads!

Here at Sleepy Eye Elementary we had Donuts for Dads on April 19 from 8:30-10:00.

We watched a Kindergarten movie that included pictures throughout the year, they made an art project with their dad, played DADDY BINGO, and they went on a scavenger hunt to find the donuts. It was a lot of fun. Mrs. Kloeckl's class and Mrs. Rossbach's class participated in this event.



## Authors and illustrators visiting area schools

by Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator



**Children's Author  
&  
Illustrator Program**

Presenters for the Children's Author & Illustrator Program visited elementary schools between April 16-20 and April 30-May 4. This year's presenters were Rick Chrastowski (author/illustrator) from River Falls, Wisconsin; Joni Oeltjenbruns (author/illustrator) from Owatonna, Minnesota; and Mike Wohnoutka (illustrator) from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Listed below are comments from evaluations that were returned by elementary schools:

*"The best – most energetic – presenter we've had. This is the way the program should look!"*

*"The presenter did a fantastic job of working with students of all ages."*

*"I think he was the best so far. The kids and adults thought he did a great job."*

*"Extremely positive! Great with the kids! Interaction was wonderful! Super job with kids!"*

*"The presenter had a good rapport with the students and was friendly and well prepared."*

*"Students love an illustrator and a chance to watch them work."*

*"Staff had many positive comments. Very organized – kept the presentation interesting."*

This residency program is available to elementary students in southwest and west central Minnesota. Last year, approximately 6,200 students from twenty-eight schools participated in the program. Check our website for additional information: [www.swscedservices.org](http://www.swscedservices.org). If you have questions, contact Sue Gorecki [sue.gorecki@swsc.org](mailto:sue.gorecki@swsc.org) or 507-537-2258 or Andrea Anderson [andrea.anderson@swsc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swsc.org) or 507-537-2257 at SW/WC Service Cooperatives.



## Say YES to the Youth Energy Summit and Co-opetition!

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC) and the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), along with other supporting organizations, have partnered to offer a Youth Energy Summit (YES) and Co-opetition challenge to educate youth about renewable energy and energy conservation.

The two-day Youth Energy Summit will be held on September 20-21, 2007, at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer, MN. Student teams of 8 to 12 youth from grades 8 through 12, assembled by schools, home school groups, churches, or other youth organizations will learn about the issues and opportunities of renewable energy, energy conservation, and the environment. Summit teams, along with their adult coaches, will get acquainted with energy allies and resources available to their communities, begin to identify an action project for their community, and benefit from team-building exercises. The general public will be invited to an opening session on September 20th to hear a keynote speaker and learn more about the Summit and Co-opetition.

As part of the event, teams will participate in a Co-opetition (a competition in cooperation) following the Summit that will challenge teams to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in their home communities that achieve positive social, economic, and environmental gains. Summit teams will receive support from adult coaches from their community, Prairie Woods staff, and other resource people throughout the Co-opetition. The Co-opetition will culminate around Earth Day with judging of the team results and awards for outstanding efforts.

*For more information, contact Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center at (320) 354-5894 or log onto [www.prairiewoodselc.org](http://www.prairiewoodselc.org).*

# *Celebration held for student activities*

by Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

A Celebration of Student Activities was held on April 25 in Marshall. Members of the Student Activities Advisory

Committee, business sponsors, superintendents, SC board members and special guests were invited to attend this event. Displays, scrapbooks, and other items were available for participants to look at and discuss with staff members. A slide presentation with many photographs from the various activities during the year was shown during the luncheon.

Bob Braun, Director, Regional Educational Services, welcomed everyone to share in the celebration of another successful year of student activities. Braun thanked the sponsors for their support of student activities through the Southwest Minnesota Student Enrichment Initiative, a component fund of the Southwest Initiative Foundation. Their generosity enables us to keep registration fees at an affordable level and to add additional programs. Special thanks were extended to Southwest Minnesota State University for hosting many of the student activities during the year. With many events ranging from 250–850 participants in attendance, it would be virtually impossible to find other sites that would accommodate the large groups. Braun also commented that Regional Educational Services again sponsored scholarships for students with special needs to attend the student conferences. Since this program was implemented in January 2006, 37 students have participated in the conference. This does not include students with special needs that are registered independently by parents or schools.

The Celebration of Student Activities features a few different activities each year. This year (the 5th year of the event) the following activities were showcased.

## **Reading Rainbow's Young Writers & Illustrators Contest**

This year marked the first year of collaboration with Reading Rainbow's Young Writers & Illustrators Contest for students in grades K-3. We helped with providing publicity for the contest. Arlene Markell, coordinator of the contest for Pioneer Public TV, talked about the successful event. Garret Hoff, first place winner for grade 1 was present and read his

story, *Penquin City*. His entry was then passed around for the audience to view his illustrations.



## **Science & Nature Conference**

Lynn Lundebrek, a teacher that works with students with special needs from Benson, was present and talked about one of her student's participation in the Science & Nature Conference for the last two years. The student was not able to attend but Lundebrek talked about how he looked forward to the conference, how he felt good about himself, how he went back and taught the other students the things he had learned, etc. It was great to hear how the student activities can impact students' lives and allow them to have a successful experience.

## **Spelling Bee & Creative Writing Contest**

Gabi Holinka, the winner of the Regional Spelling Bee, was unable to attend the luncheon. Mark Schleisman, teacher from Murray County Central, was present and talked about Spelling Bee as he has been associated with it for many years. He also talked about the positive impact on students who have participated in the Creative Writing Contest.

We would like to collect anecdotal information on "Success Stories" about students that were impacted by their attendance at a conference or participation in a competition. It may be that a class sparked a new interest for them or the presenter complimented them on their work/project so they want to pursue it further. Or maybe it's more positive behavior in the classroom. Or their participation in a competition increased their self-confidence and left them feeling successful. This story may show an immediate impact or show up sometime later. We want your stories – no matter when they occur! We want to share in the success and continue to offer worthwhile experiences for students! Send an email with your stories to [sue.gorecki@swsc.org](mailto:sue.gorecki@swsc.org) or [andrea.anderson@swsc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swsc.org). Please include the student's first name, grade, school, and the conference or competition that they attended (Young Artists, Science & Nature, Knowledge Bowl, Culinary Skills Challenge, etc.). If you have questions, call Sue Gorecki at 507-537-2258 or Andrea Anderson at 507-537-2257.

*If you want to know more about the wide variety of student activities that are offered through the SW/WC Service Cooperatives, check out our website: [www.swscedservices.org](http://www.swscedservices.org).*





# S-p-e-l-l-i-n-g Bees held

by Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

## Regional Spelling Bee – February 20, 2007

Thirty-nine top spellers from area schools competed in the Regional Spelling Bee held in Marshall. The SW/WC Service Cooperatives coordinated the Bee that consisted of three components: written test, preliminary oral rounds, and spell down. Scores from the written test and the preliminary oral rounds were added together with the top fifteen students participating in the afternoon spell down. After twenty rounds, the following students were declared winners. They advanced to the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee.



*1st – Gabi Holinka, Murray County Central Jr. High (grade 8); 2nd – Shane Maas, Ortonville Public School (grade 8); 3rd – Zach Bailey, Holy Redeemer Catholic School (grade 7); 4th – Lacey Tebben, Central Minnesota Christian School (grade 8); 5th – Alex Munsterman, Redwood Valley Middle School (grade 7).*



*Catherine Cojocar of Holy Spirit School – Rochester, grade 7, was the 1st place winner and Alex Munsterman, Redwood Falls Public Schools, grade 7, was the 2nd place winner.*

will compete in the National Spelling Bee. Alex Munsterman, Redwood Falls Public Schools, grade 7, was the 2nd place winner.

For further information about Spelling Bee, contact Sue Gorecki (sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258) or Andrea Anderson (andrea.anderson@swsc.org or 507-537-2258).

## Multi-Region State Spelling Bee – March 22, 2007

Forum Communications sponsored the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee in St. Cloud and will send the top speller of this Bee to the 80th Annual National Spelling Bee on May 30-31, 2007 in Washington, D.C. Additional sponsors of the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee included the Minnesota Timberwolves and the following six Service Cooperatives that also hosted Regional Spelling Bees: Northeast Service Cooperative – Mt. Iron, Northwest Service Cooperative – Their River Falls, Lakes Country Service Cooperative – Fergus Falls, Resource Training & Solutions – St. Cloud, Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives – Marshall, and Southeast Service Cooperative – Rochester.

Twenty-six students in grades five through eight who were winners at their Regional Bees competed in the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee that lasted for 15 rounds and used 147 words. Catherine Cojocar of Holy Spirit School – Rochester, grade 7, was the 1st place winner. She

## Students are Taking Charge of Their Education

Two students in Pipestone Area Schools are taking charge of their education by learning self-determination skills.

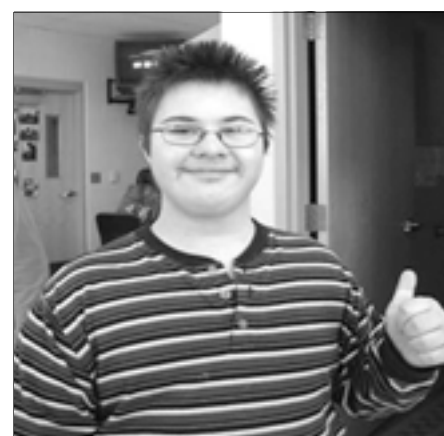


*Dalton Dahms, 8th grade student and Lana Eeten, Special Education Teacher.*

Special education teacher, Lana Eeten has empowered her students by involving them in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

Dalton Dahms, 8th grade and Nate Schloendorf, 7th grade, recently prepared and led for the first time their IEP meetings using Powerpoint and other assistive technology.

Parents reported that having their child take an active role in the process led to a more positive atmosphere.



*Nate Schloendorf, 7th grade student at Pipestone Area Schools.*

## Creative Writing Winners:

### POETRY:

1st Place 3-4	Sierra Van Iperen Lake Wilson
2nd Place 3-4	Emily Williamson Boyd
3rd Place 3-4	Brittney Kurkosky Benson
1st Place 5-6	Sam Erickson Slayton
2nd Place 5-6	Alenni Nemitz Canby
3rd Place 5-6	Kyle Saner Slayton
1st Place 7-8	Jake Moravetz Marshall
2nd Place 7-8	Emily Hess Marshall
3rd Place 7-8	Lauren Booke Marshall
1st Place 9-10	Jessica Kruse Canby
2nd Place 9-10	Emily Weber Bellingham

### FICTION:

1st Place 3-4	Galen Jones Marshall
2nd Place 3-4	Ashley Moline Slayton
3rd Place 3-4	Kasey Bose Lake Wilson
1st Place 5-6	Shawna Rogotzke Wabasso
2nd Place 5-6	Sajya Singh Marshall
3rd Place 5-6	Sam Schmitz Willmar
1st Place 7-8	Max Hyberger Litchfield
1st Place 9-10	Jessica Kruse Canby
2nd Place 9-10	Kaitlyn Rabaey Marshall
3rd Place 9-10	Tara Zienstra Marshall

### NON-FICTION:

1st Place 7-8	Hannah Houle Redwood Falls
2nd Place 7-8	Lexy Gleis Lake Wilson
1st Place 9-10	Whitney Henderson Willmar
2nd Place 9-10	Kaitlyn Rabaey Marshall
3rd Place 9-10	Emily Weber Bellingham
1st Place 11-12	Patrick Van Nevel Garvin
2nd Place 11-12	Amber Kalas Slayton

# Awards ceremony for Creative Writing students

by Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

An awards ceremony was held for participants of the Third Annual Creative Writing Contest on April 22 at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. Approximately 100 participants and family members attended the ceremony. Bill Holm, an author of several books, both poetry and essays, was the keynote speaker. Holm talked about the great imagination of children at a certain age. He said that 4th graders are the smartest kids in the world because they still dream and still imagine. As we get older, we have to work hard to get back to that place in our mind that allows us to imagine with the intensity and the sincerity of a 4th grader. He went on to discuss the great satisfaction in a life of writing.



The Creative Writing Contest was established as a partnership between the SMSU English Department and the SW/WC Service Cooperatives to encourage a love of language and writing for all students and as a way to recognize the talented young writers in southwest and west central Minnesota. This year's theme was "Creating Spaces: Rural Relationships." Students could enter the contest as part of a classroom project or on their own. The contest was open to students in

grades 3-12 and consisted of the following categories: poetry, fiction, and non-fiction.

Preliminary judging was handled by students from SMSU's Creative Writing Program. The final judges, all published authors, were: Poetry – Marianne Zarzana, Fiction – Anthony Neil Smith, and Non-Fiction – Judy Wilson. Wilson indicated that they have been very pleased with the quality of the submissions to the contest each year. This year's pool of talent was truly remarkable. We were delighted to award a \$2,000 SMSU scholarship to Patrick Van Nevel of Garvin. His submission demonstrated to us that he is truly a gifted writer. We look forward to his presence on campus in the fall. He'll be a delightful addition to our university environment.

All participants received certificates. An anthology of the winning entries was published and copies were given to the top three place winners at each grade level for each writing category. \$2,000 SMSU scholarships were available to the top junior/senior place finisher in each writing category. Only one scholarship was given: Non-fiction – Patrick Van Nevel – Garvin as other categories did not have qualifying entries. Gift certificates to the Bound to Read Bookstore were given to the winners of the other grade levels in each writing category. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to the top three place finishers. The reception after the Awards Ceremony was sponsored by the Creative Writing Program at SMSU. The chart on the left lists winners by category and grade level.



Author Bill Holm congratulates Patrick Van Nevel.



Pictured above are the Creative Writing First Place Winners for 2007.

Information on next year's contest will be posted on our website ([www.swscdservices.org](http://www.swscdservices.org)) this summer! The list of winners and photos from this year's event are posted on the website also. If you have questions about the contest, contact Andrea Anderson ([andrea.anderson@swsc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swsc.org) or 507-537-2257) or Sue Gorecki ([sue.gorecki@swsc.org](mailto:sue.gorecki@swsc.org) or 507-537-2258).







## On Your Mark, Get Set, Protect Your Ears!

### Part 3. (Three part series)

It's all fun and games until someone loses his hearing.

Motor Sports often rev up noise levels and a risk of hearing loss for spectators as well as participants. Stock car racing, drag racing, snowmobiles, motorcycles and more can generate hazardous levels of noise.

The New York League for the Hard of Hearing reports noise levels from stock car racing up to 130 dB, while a study published in the August 2005 Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene reported sound levels in the pits greater than 100 dB. In a 1998 study of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), spectator noise levels greater than 95 dB and levels at some points exceeding 125 dB were the average at a monster truck rally. Drag races, snowmobile operation and motorcycling all contain risk of similar noise levels. Hearing protection is an important part of the safety equipment that should be standard when participating in these kinds of activities.

#### Putting Protection into Play

Here are a couple of simple ways short of a hearing test to determine if the recreational noise to which you are exposed is risky:

After noise exposure, do you notice tinnitus or ringing in your ears? That may be nature's way of telling you that the noise was too loud.

Do things sound muffled or indistinct after noise exposure? Do you have to turn up the radio in your car for it to be clear after leaving a noisy environment or activity? In most situations, noise exposure causes a temporary hearing loss before the damage becomes permanent.

Regardless of past exposure, starting to use hearing protection measures and devices against noise will prevent further unnecessary damage. The simplest form of protection if you're in control of the volume is to turn it down. The most convenient and economical form of protection for when you can't control the volume, like in a stadium or the stands of a stock car race, is foam earplugs. For the sportsperson who is at the source of the noise, earmuffs are recommended. If they are positioned properly, you should hear a big difference between having them on and off the ear, trying one ear at a time.

With a little thought, preparation and the appropriate protective equipment, hearing loss does not need to be a part of your game.

*Submitted by: Bob Braun, Director of Regional Educational Services  
Hager, Lee D. "On Your Mark, Get Set, Protect Your Ears!" Hearing Health Summer 2006: 22-24.*

# Summer



## School Superintendent Receives National Recognition

Klint W. Willert recently was inducted as a Scholarship Senator at the American Association



of School Administrators (AASA) National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. First awarded in 1949, AASA annually awards scholarships to honor outstanding graduate students who intend to make the public school superin-

tendency a life career. As a recipient, Willert became a life member of the American Association of School Administrators Scholarship Senate, a group of only 230 inducted since its inception. He was one of six individuals to be recognized as an award recipient for 2007.

As the recipient of the Worth McClure Award, he received this award for the work that he is doing for his dissertation research. Willert's doctoral research is examining leadership practices in the few school districts that have won Malcolm Baldrige Awards for Quality Improvement.

In his third year as superintendent of Marshall Public Schools, he earlier was superintendent in Iowa and South Dakota. Willert holds a bachelor's degree from Dakota State University and a master's degree from the University of Montana. He resides in rural Marshall with his wife, April and two children.





## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Day of Excellence

March 12-13, 2007

*We'd like to express our appreciation  
to all who attended the  
23rd Annual Special Education Day of  
Excellence Conference & DCD Conference.*

### — Monday, March 12, 2007

#### Keynote Presenter:

Michael Paul Gallo,  
University Instructor at University of North Dakota

#### Mending the Dream:

Insights and strategies for living with ADD/ADHD  
from an insider's perspective.

*Monday ended with a combination of 37 presenters, 16 vendors and service  
agencies; more than 50 breakout sessions; and over 430 participants.*

### — Tuesday, March 13, 2007

#### Presenter:

Carol Gray, Director of The Gray Center for Social Learning  
and Understanding in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

#### Every Minute of Every School Day:

Learning to Harness and Teach the Social Curriculum

## Art from the Heart Exhibit

*We were excited to share original artwork from students with Special Needs  
that demonstrated their individual creativity. Students were between  
Kindergarten age and 21 years old from all over Minnesota.*

*It was an excellent two-day conference,  
with a fantastic attendance and lots of excitement.*

*We look forward to seeing each of you next year,  
March 10, 2007.*

## Amanda Pays art

To pick up a pencil or colors and be able to draw in her drawings.

Amanda is 16 years old and attends Ortonville. She had four art pieces on display at Southwest Michigan "Heart" Exhibit on March 12 and 13, 2007.

Amanda was very excited when she was asked to participate, especially from the American Girl series of books.

Amanda started reading the books, was fascinated. Amanda and her family moved to Ortonville, Brook, brother, Wylie and step-father, Rick.

Amanda is half Native American and half

In her drawings.

Besides drawing, Amanda likes to use a computer and find

What makes her art work just fall

With the help of her story that only Amanda



wide variety of classes on topics related to writing, mystery writing, create poems, learn how to create characters and cartoons, create humor

Check out the photo gallery on our website, updated periodically so check back often.

If you have questions related to any of the above, contact Andrea Anderson at [andrea.anderson@swsc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swsc.org) or 507-537-5377.

# Art on display at “Art From the Heart” showing

It doesn't come very easy for many. But for Amanda, it comes natural to her and it shows.

Amanda is a student at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall during the conference “Art From the Heart”.

Amanda displays her work. “It was exciting to see how I feel. I really love drawing,” says Amanda.

Amanda was inspired by the pictures, and started drawing.

Amanda came to the fall of 2004 from North Dakota. She lives with her mother, Donna Jeanotte, and her sister, they now call Ortonville home.

She has enjoyed the American Girl book series, Kaya, a Native American Girl. Amanda also loves her love of animals. Dogs, horses and farm animals.

Amanda has done many paintings she has done at home.

Amanda uses the computer and finding things to draw.

Amanda says that when she sees something interesting, she can just focus on it and start drawing, and the art work just falls into place. Amanda has her drawings framed so they could be displayed at the conferences in Marshall. All her artwork tells a story that only Amanda can tell. Amanda will be on display during “Art From the Heart”.



## Young writers gather together on May 15

by Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

Approximately 650 students (grades 3-8) and teachers and parents are scheduled to attend the 15th Annual Conference for Young Writers on May 15 at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. Students are offered a variety of activities including writing, drawing, and illustrating. Students will learn techniques to bring stories to life, create cool characters, explore the world of fairy tales, create a tall tale, dabble in watercolor painting and write poetry, use their senses to gather ideas and words, learn to draw, and do some songwriting, make their writing exciting with new skills, etc.

For more information, visit [www.swscedservices.org](http://www.swscedservices.org) for pictures from past conferences and other activities. Also, dates and other information are

For more student activities, please contact Sue Gorecki ([sue.gorecki@swsc.org](mailto:sue.gorecki@swsc.org) or 507-537-2258) or Andrea Anderson at SW/WC Service Cooperatives.

## ProStart teachers will be recognized at the National Restaurant Association Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show

(Chicago, Ill) The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) is honoring the top ProStart teachers in 34 states for their innovation in teaching the ProStart program. These inspirational teachers will be honored at a luncheon held at the Embassy Suites in Chicago on Saturday, May 19th, during the National Restaurant Association Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show.

*The Minnesota teacher who is the recipient of the NRAEF 2007 Teacher Excellence Award is Marcine Elder, Family and Consumer Science Instructor at Fulda High School. Marcine was one of the first FACS teachers in Minnesota to adopt the Pro Start curriculum. Her leadership and enthusiasm has encouraged other teachers to implement Pro Start in their schools. Marcine has worked at Fulda High School for 29 years, and is always advocating for her students to "work hard, and be involved in the community in positive, productive ways that make a difference"!*

"We commend these outstanding teachers for their efforts to instill in their students the passion and skills they will need to succeed in the restaurant and foodservice industry," said Mary M. Adolf, president and chief operating officer of the NRAEF. "To meet its future staffing needs, the industry is relying on educators like these to help build the next generation of leaders."

The Teacher Excellence Awards recognize exceptional educators who use the ProStart program in their classrooms. Each ProStart state coordinator is asked to nominate the state's leading educator who has demonstrated a commitment to their students and to the ProStart program. The winning teachers have employed innovative techniques, including field trips and guest speakers, to motivate their students to learn and participate in mentored internships to prepare them for a career in the industry. As part of their award, the teachers will be flown into Chicago and hosted for two nights by the NRAEF. Weekend activities include an opening reception on Friday evening at Buca di Beppo and a best practices networking session on Saturday, followed by the Teacher Excellence Awards Luncheon.

Developed by the NRAEF in partnership with state restaurant associations in 47 states, territories and districts, the ProStart program prepares high school students for the job market and higher education through coursework, work experience, credentials and scholarships. There are currently more than 54,000 students participating in this program.

Now in its 88th year, the annual National Restaurant Association Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show is the largest single gathering of restaurant, foodservice and lodging professionals in the Western Hemisphere. The 2007 Show will be held May 19-22, at McCormick Place in Chicago, Ill. The Show attracts 2,000 exhibiting companies and 73,000 attendees and visitors from all 50 states and 110 countries. Free, online media registration and more information can be found on the Show Web site at [www.restaurant.org/show/media](http://www.restaurant.org/show/media).



**Marcine Elder, Family & Consumer Science Instructor at Fulda High School.**

## HMEF ProStart Student Invitational

The Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation (HMEF) held the inaugural Minnesota ProStart Student Invitational at Southwest Minnesota State University on Thursday, March 29. The invitational showcased the culinary and academic talents of the junior and senior high school students enrolled in the ProStart program. The goal of the event was to give students additional exposure to the foodservice industry.

The event consisted of two different competitions, a Culinary Competition (including knife skills) & a Management Competition (a quiz bowl and case study). This event was held in conjunction with the Culinary Skills Challenge (see page 15).

Six Minnesota ProStart high schools competed in the Culinary Competition: Minneota Public School, Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, Elk River High School, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster High School, S.T.E.P. Anoka-Hennepin District #11 and Tracy Area High School. These teams demonstrated their creative abilities through the preparation of a three-course meal in 60 minutes. Their performance during the practical session was observed and rated by judges from leading post-secondary colleges and universities and the restaurant and foodservice industry.

The ProStart Management Competition showcased the talents of students from S.T.E.P. Anoka Hennepin District #11 and Elk River High School in two parts. In the first portion, a case study, students were tested on their communication skills and their ability to apply their knowledge of the restaurant and foodservice industry to practical situations. The second portion of the competition, the quiz bowl, was a question and answer event.

In the culinary competition, the gold-medal team was Elk River High School. Minneota Public School won the silver medal and Sauk Rapids-Rice High School won the bronze. Elk River High School also took the gold medal in the Management Competition and S.T.E.P. Anoka-Hennepin District #11 brought home the silver. The winning team from each competition will move on to represent Minnesota at the National ProStart Student Invitational in Charlotte, NC, April 20-22.

Many thanks go to Mary Lou Blasing and Tom Hoff with the SW/WC Service Cooperatives, Michael Cheng, Godwin-Charles Ogbeide and Kurt Struwe of SMSU for their dedicated service in helping organize and implement our first competition.

This event was sponsored by Le Cordon Bleu and Southwest Minnesota State University.

-Submitted by Hospitality Minnesota Educational Foundation



**Minneota Public School won the silver medal in the Culinary Competition. L to R; Instructor Lea Anne Bot, Casey McCoy, Emily Ufkin, Jerren Roberts, Cory Myhre, Matt Maertens, Pro Start Coordinator Betty Fisk, and Director of Operations Laurie Staiger.**



*Students Were Cooking, Creating, Decorating & Designing;*

# Culinary Skills Challenge Students Participated in 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Event at SMSU

On March 29, 2007, almost 300 students in grades 9-12 from 17 high schools in southwestern Minnesota attended the 3rd annual Culinary Skills Challenge at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). Areas of competition included:

- Cooking
- Cake Decorating – basic and advanced levels
- Place Setting
- Menu Design

Michael Cheng, Associate Professor of the Hospitality Management Program and the Director of the Culinology Program at Southwest Minnesota State University, served as the host for this year's competition, which is funded in part by the SW Minnesota Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Projects at the SW/WC Service Cooperatives. Chefs and food industry professionals from the Schwan Food Company, Southwest MN State University, Le Cordon Bleu, as well as restaurants such as Caboodle Café of Lynd, Braco/Specia of Sioux Falls, Doubletree of Minneapolis, and others judged students' performance.



*Dave Anderson, of Famous Dave's BBQ restaurants signed books.*

Dave's heartfelt message and area chefs were honored to have him share his expertise in judging the dishes prepared by the students in the cooking events.

Along with the competitions, several hands-on seminars were available for students and FACS teachers to attend. Area pastry chefs had participants try some basic techniques in cake decorating. Chef Angie Pappas from Le Cordon Bleu gave students the chance to experience chocolate sensations, students from the Marshall Adult Basic Education classes provided a taste of some ethnic dishes, and a SMSU Culinology student had participants try their hand at food sculpting to make garnishes.

Students received individual awards, donated by the Minnesota Pork Board, for their



*A member of the Marshall High School Culinary Team.*

performance in the competitions, as well as an overall award/traveling plaque for the high school with most students placing in the various events being won by Worthington High School.

Special thanks to the Schwan Food Company, the Minnesota Pork Board and Aramark for their sponsorship, and product donations from Hy Vee Foods of Marshall.

Check [www.lifetimeoflearning.com](http://www.lifetimeoflearning.com) for updates as we schedule and plan next year's event!



*Worthington High School Cake Decorating Competition*

## Culinary Skills Challenge

March 29, 2007

### Competition Results

#### *Cake Decorating –Level I*

1st Place .....Joni Vandenberg  
Edgerton  
2nd Place .....Janelle Thoof  
Lincoln HI  
3rd Place .....Bethany Tomaszewski  
Lincoln HI

#### *Cake Decorating –Level II*

1st Place .....Linda Khounin  
Worthington  
2nd Place .....Aggie Stout  
Pipestone Area HS  
3rd Place .....Jan Jochum  
RTR

#### *Cooking*

1st Place .....Liz Pals  
Nadia Christianson  
Marshall HS  
2nd Place .....Sarah Hornung  
Teah McCoy  
Jonathan Claeys  
Minneota HS  
3rd Place .....Troy Thoof  
Matt Gordon  
Drew Mikkelsen  
Tim Schreier  
RTR

#### *Place Setting*

1st Place .....Megan Hunstad  
Edgerton  
2nd Place .....Patsy Vasquez  
Worthington  
3rd Place .....Dennis Pham  
Worthington

#### *Menu Design*

1st Place .....Marissa Murphy  
Brittany Wiener  
Worthington  
2nd Place .....Anna Lugo  
Worthington  
3rd Place .....Jami Hauschild  
Scott Midtaune  
Lincoln HI



*Overall Traveling Plaque 2007 Award Winner: Worthington High School*

# Senior High Knowledge Bowl®

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

The Student Activities Program at SW/WC Service Cooperatives coordinated several Sr. High Knowledge Bowl® events in March - four sub-regional and two regional events. One hundred and twenty seven teams participated in the four sub-regional events with sixty-seven teams competing in the regional events. Information and pictures follow for the various events.

## REGION 6

### March 9 – Sub-Regional at New London

The top three teams and their total points were:

Glencoe-Silver Lake #1 - 126

Montevideo #1 - 99.5

Canby #1 - 90.5

### March 12 – Sub-Regional at Canby

The top three teams and their total points were:

Lac qui Parle Valley #1 - 115

Hutchinson #2 - 84

Lac qui Parle Valley #3 - 80.5

### March 15 – Regional at Granite Falls

The top three teams that advanced to the state competition were:

Glencoe-Silver Lake #1 - 129

Lac qui Parle Valley #1 - 96.5

New London-Spicer #1 - 92.5

## REGION 8

### March 9 – Sub-Regional at Adrian

The top three teams and their total points were:

Redwood Area #1 - 95.5

Redwood Area #2 - 92.5

Murray County Central #1 - 87

### March 14 – Sub-Regional at Marshall

The top three teams and their total points were:

Marshall #3 - 107

Springfield #1 - 89.5

Tracy #1 - 88.5

### March 16 – Regional at Marshall

The top five teams that advanced to the state competition were:

Redwood Area #1 - 103

Marshall #3 - 99

Windom #1 - 96

Marshall #2 - 93

Murray County Central #1

For information about the state event see article "Knowledge Bowl® - a numbers game" on page 17. For more information about Knowledge Bowl, contact Sue Gorecki, SW/WC Service Cooperatives at [sue.gorecki@swsc.org](mailto:sue.gorecki@swsc.org) or 507-537-2258.

## Region 6 Winners - Granite Falls — March 15, 2007



1st Place - Glencoe Silver Lake



2nd Place Lac qui Parle Valley #1



3rd Place - New London Spicer #1

## Region 8 Winners - Marshall March 16, 2007



1st Place - Redwood Area #1



2nd Place - Marshall #3



4th Place - Marshall #2



3rd Place - Windom #1



5th Place - Murray County Central #1



# Knowledge Bowl® . . . a numbers game!

by Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

Skills desired by Fortune 500 Companies (in order of importance) are (1) teamwork, (2) problem solving, (3) interpersonal skills, (4) oral communications, and (5) listening. What academic challenge targets these skills? Knowledge Bowl®! Knowledge Bowl® competitions are interdisciplinary academic contests designed for secondary high school students in grades 7-12. During the contest, teams of students compete in written and oral rounds by answering questions related to all areas of learning typical of secondary educational programs. Questions test students' recall, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. Points are awarded for correctly answered questions. Higher order thinking skills paired with speed are critical. Intense competition results as teams race against each other to be the first to "buzz in" and answer the question correctly.

**769** – the total number of Sr. High Knowledge Bowl teams in the State of Minnesota.

**127** – the total number of Sr. High teams from Regions 6 & 8 (southwest/west central Minnesota) that participated in Sr. High Knowledge Bowl this season.

**48** – the number of teams that competed in the Minnesota Service Cooperatives' Knowledge Bowl State Meet held at Cragun's Conference Center on April 17-18, 2007. What an achievement to make it to the state event! The forty-eight teams were divided into two tiers of 24 schools each – "A" and "AA" based on school population (9-12). The competition consisted of a written round and five oral rounds.

**5** – the number of teams from Region 8 that advanced to the state event. The teams were Marshall (2 teams), Murray County Central, Redwood Area, and Windom.

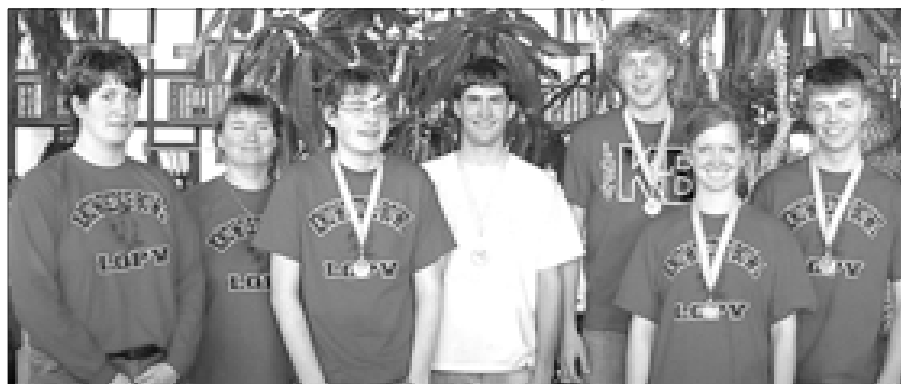
**3** – the number of teams from Region 6 that advanced to the state event. The teams were Glencoe-Silver Lake, Lac qui Parle Valley, and New London-Spicer.

**1** – the state champion for "A Schools" – Glencoe-Silver Lake (GSL). Congratulations to students: Josh Braband, Angus Dalbec, Mark Mathews, Alethea Roe, Blake Shamla and coach: Vicky Harris. GSL had come close to qualifying for the state event other years but were either one place back or lost in a tiebreaker situation. So making it to the state event and then winning their tier was awesome! They scored 139.5 points and the first runner-up, Morris, scored 123 points. The 5th runner-up after a tiebreaker was Lac qui Parle Valley with 112.5 points. Other schools from our area were ranked as follows: Murray County Central – 14th, Redwood Area – 16th, and Windom – 20th in the "A Schools" tier. Rankings for our teams that competed in the "AA Schools" tier were: New London-Spicer – 19th, Marshall – 21st and 24th.

*For further information about Knowledge Bowl, please contact Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, SW/WC Service Cooperatives at [sue.gorecki@swsc.org](mailto:sue.gorecki@swsc.org) or 507-537-2258.*



**First Place - Glencoe Silver Lake Knowledge Bowl Team.**



**Fifth Runnerup - Lac qui Parle Valley Knowledge Bowl Team.**

## Knowledge Bowl State Champs *continued from page 1*

After three oral rounds, GSL was in first place with 96 points, but St. John's Prep stood only four counters behind. Minnesota Valley Lutheran (MVL) was another point back with 91.

Harris thought her team returned to room 1 after lunch looking more relaxed. Whatever it was, GSL made its decisive move during the fourth round of orals, scoring 20 points to 10 by St. John's Prep and nine by MVL. Morris moved into room 1 for the final round, but it also failed to keep pace with GSL - claiming 14 points to the Panthers' 16.

Final overall tallies: 1st, GSL 139.5; 2nd, Morris 123; 3rd, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 119.5; 4th, Lake Park Audubon 119; 5th, St. John's Prep 114; 6th, Lac qui Parle Valley 112.5.

After celebrating at Culver's in St. Cloud, Harris and her champs returned home to congratulatory comments - including an e-mail to Harris from GSL

football coach Dave Dose. Harris said she and Dose think their school is "cool" to have state championship teams in football and Knowledge Bowl.

"We've gotten a lot faster over the years," Mathews said.

Indeed, Harris feels her high school members now provide strong examples for the younger members - as now-graduated alums like Dan Mahan, Jordan Meehl and Carrie Harris did for them.

She expects recruiting future GSL Knowledge Bowlers to even get easier.

What about next year?

Saluting Braband and Mathews, Dalbec said it will be hard to replace them. But he sounds anxious to try.

"I think we still have enough people to do well," said Roe, who predicts at least another state appearance in 2008.





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# Southwest Minnesota Technical Skills Challenge

Ninety-five persons attended the fifth annual Southwest Minnesota Technical Skills Challenge that was held on April 4, 2007 at the Minnesota West Community & Technical College campus in Worthington. Students in grades 9-12 from ten high schools throughout SW MN participated in the following technical competition areas:

Accounting  
Digital Photography  
Graphic Design  
Public Service Announcement – Video  
Pick-A-Path Web Story

Students competed as individuals and teams, depending on the competition. Instructors from post secondary training programs at Minnesota West and industry professionals developed the challenges for each competition, and post secondary students, teachers and industry representatives were involved in the judging process.

Competition activities included:

- taking a written test on various concepts of accounting;
- creating a suite of digital photos on the topic “collections” and creatively displaying them;
- utilizing a variety of graphic design tools to create marketing materials for a fictitious business called “Hike and Bike;”
- writing, video taping and editing a 60-second public service announcement for a local agency, service or non-profit business; and
- a collaborative team of general education and special education students, who developed an interactive story using Microsoft PowerPoint software to inspire young readers.

Award medals were given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers within each competition area.

This event was organized by the SW MN Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Consortium at the SW/WC Service Cooperatives in Marshall.

*Planning is underway for next year's  
Technical Skills Challenge.  
Check [www.lifetimeoflearning.com](http://www.lifetimeoflearning.com)  
for information updates.*



*Accounting Concepts*



*Digital Photography*



*Pick-A-Path Web Story*



*Public Service Announcement Video*



*Graphic Design*

## Technical Skills Challenge

April 4, 2007

*MN West Community & Technical  
College - Worthington*

### Competition Results

#### Accounting Concepts

1st Place ..... Jody Hanson  
Comfrey HS

2nd Place ..... Wesley Davis  
Comfrey HS

3rd Place ..... Jamie Sulflow  
Comfrey HS

#### Digital Photography

1st Place ..... Qui Chen  
Worthington HS

2nd Place ..... Ashley Facile  
Edgerton HS

3rd Place ..... Jade Sandbulte  
Edgerton HS

#### Graphic Design

1st Place ..... Chris Creel  
Collin Brand  
Springfield HS

2nd Place ..... Stephanie Jacoby  
Katie Krebs  
Jill Lehr  
Springfield HS

3rd Place ..... Erica Matter  
Trisha Lewis  
Comfrey HS

#### Pick-A-Path Web Story

1st Place ..... Austin Edmundson  
Dalton Dahms  
Sam Schneider  
Pipestone Area HS

#### Public Service Announcement - Video

1st Place ..... Randy Zavala  
Anndi Russell  
Brittany Elsing  
Worthington

2nd Place ..... Brandi Klarenbeek  
Chelsi Fink  
Amanda Tilstra  
Hills-Beaver Creek HS

3rd Place ..... Beth Rabenburg  
Robby Vargas  
Tim Zaske  
Worthington HS



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## Finding the right resources just got easier

"Disability Linkage Line provided resources, ideas and suggestions that I had not even imagined. I am very grateful to have had such a knowledgeable resource."

**Q: What is Disability Linkage Line?**

**A:** Disability Linkage Line is a free, statewide information and referral resource for all your disability-related questions. We make it easy for you to explore available options and choose the services that are right for you.

**Q: How do I use Disability Linkage Line?**

**A:** Simply call the toll-free number Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You will be connected to the center that serves your region of Minnesota: Northern, Central, Southern or Metro.

**Q: How does Disability Linkage Line work?**

**A:** A resource specialist will answer your call, listen to your needs, explore possible options, and provide you the information you need. If we can't answer your question or refer you to resources right away, we'll research your situation and get back to you promptly. At your request, we can follow up to see whether your needs were met or whether you would like the names of other resources.

**Q: When should I call Disability Linkage Line?**

**A:** Anytime you have a question or need help finding disability-related resources or services. There are no "wrong" questions. Our goal is to provide you information on any topic related to disabilities and community resources. Some areas we focus on are employment, disability benefits, housing, modifications, assistive technology, personal care assistance, and disability awareness and rights.

**Q: Who can use the Disability Linkage Line?**

**A:** Anyone can call the Disability Linkage Line. It is specifically designed for Minnesotans with disabilities or chronic illnesses and their families, caregivers or service providers.

**Q: Is information available in other formats?**

**A:** The database of information used by Disability Linkage Line is online at [www.MinnesotaHelp.info](http://www.MinnesotaHelp.info). TTY/TDD users can access Disability Linkage Line through Minnesota Relay (711). Information about Disability Linkage Line is available in Braille or other formats at your request.

"I'm very pleased with this service! Disability Linkage Line researched my situation and got back to me within an hour, then called back in about a week to follow up, which was excellent."





## Upcoming Trainings

Staff development opportunities are listed on our website ([www.swsc.org](http://www.swsc.org)):

Wednesday, June 6th .....Health & Safety Levy Meeting  
 Wednesday, June 13th .....General Administrators Meeting  
 Thursday, June 14th .....UFARS/Finance Year End Mtg  
 Wednesday, June 20th .....Principal's Advisory Council Meeting  
 Thursday, June 21st .....Principal Academy  
 July 9,10,11 .....CAD Software Training  
 Wednesday, August 29 .....Teaching & Learning Conference

*Additional workshop information, as well as, registration information  
 is available online at [www.swsc.org](http://www.swsc.org) under Workshops/Seminars.*

## Region 6 & 8 Paraprofessional Conference

*August 15 & 16, 2007 — Two day workshop*

Pipestone Area High School • Pipestone, MN

*Or*

*August 16, 2007 — One day workshop*

Willmar Senior High School • Willmar, MN

• **Registration @ 8:30 a.m.**

• **Conference 9:00 a.m.- 3:10 p.m.** (lunch & refreshments provided)

*Sponsored by the SW/WC Regional Educational Service Center, Little Crow Special Education Cooperative, Montevideo Area Special Education Cooperative, Minnesota River Valley Education District, Minnesota Valley Cooperative Center, Red Rock Ridge Special Ed. Service Center, Pipestone Area Special Ed. Service Center, & MN Department of Education*

### Conference Fees:

- Sponsoring District Fee      \$30.00-one day  
    \$50.00-two day
- Sponsoring District Cooperatives are listed above
- Non-Sponsored District Fee   \$75.00-one or two days

**REGISTRATION is ONLINE ONLY – by August 3rd!**

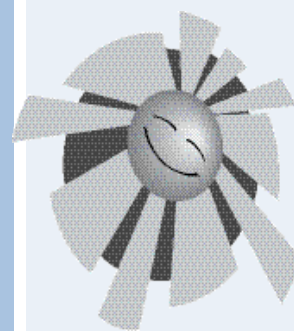
[www.swsc.org](http://www.swsc.org)

**Register for Breakout Sessions Now!**

You Must Be Registered To Attend-bring confirmation sheet to workshop as proof of registration.

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 is to flowers,  
 smiles  
 are to  
 humanity.  
 These are  
 but trifles,  
 to be sure;  
 but,  
 scattered  
 along life's  
 pathway,  
 the good  
 they do is  
 inconceivable."*

Joseph Addison  
 English essayist, poet, & politician  
 (1672 - 1719)

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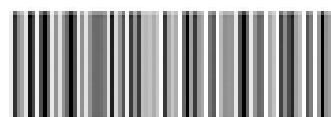
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# May is Better Hearing & Speech Month



## PROTECT YOUR HEARING

An estimated 5.2 million American youngsters have some degree of hearing loss from such sources of noise as rock concerts, fireworks and lawn mowers, government research suggests. In at least 250,000 of these young people, the problem may be moderate to profound.

This means that that a noise-induced hearing threshold shift (NITS) is present in 12.5% of all Americans, ages 6 to 19, or 5.2 million young people. The findings also suggest that 4.9%, or 250,000 young people have moderate to profound NITS that may indicate permanent damage.

Government researchers urge the use of hearing protection on a routine and consistent basis.

## INFANT HEARING LOSS

About 200, or one in every 350 babies, is born hard of hearing or deaf in Minnesota each year. Most babies who are born with a hearing loss have parents who have normal hearing and have had no experience with hearing loss. Identifying hearing loss early is important. About 33% of children with a hearing loss have a second disability.

Hearing loss in babies may be found through infant hearing tests done in the hospital shortly after birth. If the baby doesn't pass the initial screening, or the followup screening, they should be referred to the audiologist, who is the hearing specialist who can help determine if the baby really has a hearing loss, including the amount and type of hearing loss. Early communication is critical.

Causes of hearing loss can include infections, medications, problems with birth and delivery. Hearing loss can also be inherited. About 50% of the infants with hearing loss inherited it from their families. Hearing loss can be genetic even if there are no other family members who were born hard of hearing or deaf. In other cases, the cause of the hearing loss may not be known.

Early intervention is the key. Universal newborn hearing screening is becoming a standard of care for newborns in Minnesota. Research has shown that early intervention, before six months of age, is critical to the success of hard of hearing or deaf children. When these timelines are met, they have the opportunity to achieve age appropriate language and cognitive skills by the time they enter kindergarten.

Children born in Regions 6 & 8 are served by an Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Team whose members include Sharyce Baartman, Educational Audiologist, Jill Rohman, Consultant for Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and Ed Van Der Heiden, Educational Audiologist. For further information about getting your baby's hearing evaluated, please call Southwest/West Central Service Co-operatives at (507) 537-2269.

## Educational Resource Library News and Notes

By Mary Weber, Resource Library Coordinator

Phone number: 1.320.269.9243

Fax number: 1.320/269.7132

Email address: mweber@swsc.org

Can you believe another school year is almost done? Time seems to move along more quickly every year. It has been a busy year. Thanks for your participation in the Educational Resource Library program. Time brings more comfort using our updated name.

This year I spent some money purchasing new DVDs for the media part of the library. I will try to add some each year. I will send a list to participating schools in the fall. I purchased some in the areas of science and social studies. Please feel free to suggest videos/DVDs for future purchase.

This week we sent the Science PAC; BTIOs; Planetarium; and Kits 2007-08 reservation packets out to schools having used materials this year. If you cannot find the packet, please let us know. If you are interested in using these items, please contact our office. Requests are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Delivery remains once a week (on Tuesdays) to contracted schools basically north of Marshall. For contracted schools south of Marshall we continue to use the Plum Creek Library delivery to public libraries.

I am continuing to put together specific topic bibliographies. Currently I have the beginnings of three new ones: Autism materials; Bullying materials; and Reading Rainbow titles. I continue to update our Special Education Test materials list. Contact the office if you have an interest in any of these. My next project is a resource bibliography of instructional strategies materials. If you have need for other specific topic bibliographies, contact me and we'll try to pull together a list for you.

We are also working on updating our catalog list on the Service Coop website (HYPERLINK "<http://www.swsc.org>" [www.swsc.org](http://www.swsc.org)). It will include new purchases for the past couple years. We have also deleted some items. I hope it will be ready for Fall 2007.

Have a great end to this year and a great summer! We look forward to serving you again in the fall with renewed excitement for children and education!

*Remember, it is never too early to have  
your child's hearing tested...every child is special.*

Sources: Journal of Pediatrics, Minnesota Dept. of Health





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