

PEOPLE

Flying high, local DJ has his feet on the ground

By Marcus Watson
The Northside News

For the last six years, a spare, lithe figure has been spotted at Madison's hottest dance clubs. Sometimes floating ethereally behind the myriad colored lights and slicing lasers; other times, just out of reach in the dark recesses of the DJ booth, appearing aloof to the driving bass and staccato rhythm of today's spin culture. More recently, this somewhat ghostly apparition is coming into focus.

Travis J. Hunter, 2001 honor roll graduate of Madison East High, is a product of his environment. As a tuba player in the school band, he gained an appreciation for the syncopated sound. As industrious as he was studious, he worked a state job in summers, saving his money and indulging his passion for auto mechanics, building hot cars with his father and uncle. And it was his father, a state worker as well, who unknowingly introduced Travis to the DJ world.

"The summer before my senior year," he says, "my dad had me follow around this guy to learn a new job. One day after work, he asked me over to his house to show me his DJ setup. In an hour, I was hooked."

He approached his parents, asking for permission to take out his savings. They acquiesced and, in a week, Travis possessed \$2100 of turntables and sound effects.

Lacking amplifiers or speakers dictated solo performances only.

"I was a basement DJ, playing to my

headphones, practicing for hours putting rhythm on top of beat."

During this time, he sought out established DJs, hoping to learn from them. Being underage, most clubs were barred to him, but a combination of persuasion and permissiveness sometimes worked.

"Man, I saw some weird stuff," he recalls. "There were leather people, fetish people, it was interesting."

These experiences only whetted his appetite and, after some cajoling, his parents co-signed a \$9000 loan. Travis now had one of the best DJ systems in the city, the centerpiece being a 4000 watt amplifier which, as he says, "cost about 75 cents a watt."

With his new equipment, he was ready to play for someone else.



Photos by Marcus Watson

After graduation, Travis kept his state job, enrolled in MATC's auto mechanic program, and kept honing his DJ skills. As word of his excellent system got around, touring DJs, who rarely carry their own gear, began renting from Travis. This windfall helped pay back the loan and cemented his position in the industry.

At present, Travis has started his last semester at MATC. Interestingly enough, he has returned to his roots, becoming one of the primary DJs for the Madison school district.

"The schools have a funding cap for their dances, so the less I charge, the more I can do. Its a win-win because I get more experience for the same money, and they get more dances."

"When I'm playing, I want people to be happy more than myself. There's an emotional connection with the music, and when it flows, it's good."

As a product of his environment, it seems it'll be good for a long time.



"My senior year, I had dances in my basement people are still talking about."

Ever involved, Travis' parents would monitor the gigs, keeping them safe and substance free.

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Re-elect Dorothy Wheeler for County Board

Dorothy Wheeler represents **Northside** values on the County Board.



Human Services: Dorothy confers with Health and Human Needs Committee Chair David Worzala about giving direct care employees pay raises for their important work.



Re-elect
Dorothy Wheeler
for
County Supervisor
District 18
April 4, 2006



Community Support: Dorothy speaks for Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive, at the opening of the Northside Farmers Market, where she volunteered many Sunday mornings during the summer.



Environment: Dorothy stands with David Simon, co-owner of Veridian Homes, at a press conference praising Simon's commitment to protecting lake water quality by containing runoff from his building sites.



Lake View Hill: Dorothy is gratified that this lovely view seen from atop Lake View Hill will not be marred by commercial development. She sponsored two resolutions making both Lake View Hill and Lake View Woods county parkland. This land is now under the jurisdiction of the Dane County Parks Commission.



Dedicated Legislator: Dorothy listens to the varied opinions of community members and fellow supervisors which help her make fair and sound policy decisions

Vote April 4

Authorized and paid for by Dorothy Wheeler for County Board, Chuck Smalley, Treasurer.

Northside Animal Hospital opens February 8

Compassionate care for companion animals the top priority

By Nan Cline
The Northside News

When Dr. June Brooks, DVM, opens the first full service veterinary hospital on the Northside at 2121 N. Sherman Avenue on February 8, my dogs will be among her new patients. Our experience with Dr. Brooks' skill as a veterinarian dates back several years, and I will never forget how calm and reassuring she was when I arrived at the Emergency Clinic for Animals with my seriously injured dog, Luke. I was struggling to stay calm and Dr. Brooks' quiet manner and professionalism made it possible for me to leave Luke for the night. These days he is back to good health, due in part to Dr. Brooks' skill.

As the *Northside News* goes to press, final touches are being completed on the little red brick building with white trim that houses the Northside Animal Clinic. Brand new from the floor up, the Hospital boasts state of the art equipment including that for dental care and anesthesia monitoring.

The idea of opening a full service animal hospital on the Northside has been several years in the making. Dr. Brooks, a 10-year resident of the Northside, wanted to have her own clinic some day. When the timing was right for her and as soon as her market research verified that our community needed her services, she set to work finding a suitable site and carrying out preparations.

June Brooks brings broad experience to her veterinary practice. Her under-

graduate education was a bachelor's degree in human services. She worked in that field for a number of years until the passion to become a veterinarian became too strong for her to ignore. She was accepted at the highly regarded University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine here in Madison, graduating in 1993. After commuting to work at a veterinary clinic outside the city for a few years, Dr. Brooks practiced for five years at the Madison Cat Clinic on N. Sherman Avenue. Following were nearly four years of practice at the Emergency Clinic for Animals where Luke and I benefited from her skills. While setting up the Northside Animal Hospital she has continued work in emergency veterinary medicine at clinics in West Allis and Middleton, as well as being on staff at a veterinary clinic in Mazomanie.

The Northside Animal Hospital will provide general veterinary care mainly to dogs and cats, but also to small "pocket pets" such as ferrets and rabbits (but not to birds or reptiles, which require a specialist). Dr. Brooks' focus is individualized preventative medicine with the view that providing good care must include a consideration of an individual animal's specific requirements and lifestyle rather than treating every dog and every cat the same. She has a strong background as a diagnostician with internal medicine cases, and will provide surgery for spays and neuters. Board certified surgeons will be called in for specialized surgeries such as cruciate ligament repairs.



Photo by Abha Thakkar

Dr. June Brooks, DVM, bring many years of veterinary experience to the Northside. Brooks also calls the Northside home.

Prescription diets are available to treat urinary tract disease, kidney, liver, joint, diabetes and dermatology cases. "I'm looking forward to providing quality veterinary care at a reasonable price to my friends, family and neighbors," says Dr. Brooks. Call the Northside Animal Clinic at 204-2700.

Elect Al Vorhees

Al Vorhees is a man of quiet resolve, firm convictions and principled positions.

*Alder Paul Van Rooy said,
"I can work with Al Vorhees on district issues.
I will vote for him on April 4."*

Dane County Board
Al Vorhees
District 18

Paid for by Vorhees for Co. Brd., Jim Mohrbacher, Treas.

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We are looking forward to working with pets and people on the Northside!

FOCUS ON FOOD

Photos by Abha Thakkar



On-site: Sherman Plaza owner Dave Bruns (left) and Pierce's Manager Ron James flank Northside Community Co-op President Lisa Wiese and Dave Meyer, two neighborhood leaders who kept the hope for a new store alive for the past three years.

Northside Market

Cont. from page 1

that the structure originally housed a grocery and builders have been able to utilize some of the earlier design features. Unfavorable weather in December slowed construction, but work is progressing smoothly now. The excitement and optimism inside Pierce's the day we visited was palpable. Everyone, from the workers laying floor tile to the foremen Justin Ballard and Steve Statz, from Ron James to Dave Bruns, is proud to be a part of this project.

Pierce's will hire about 60 employees, and hopes that Northsiders will apply. Both full and part-time work is available, and Pierce's is willing to train applicants with good people skills. They encourage students to

apply. Contact Ron James (249-9744) to set up a time to fill out an application and interview, if you are interested.

The store will likely be open from 7 am to 10 pm, 7 days a week. Be ready to support our local grocery store very soon!



Manager Ron James with the grocery store floorplan.

Food pantry

Cont. from page 1

cal Christian group, birthed out of a six-year long ministry of Mad City Church to the Packer Townhouse and Northport Apartment neighborhoods along Northport Drive. During that time, Mad City Church and its members have donated over \$100,000 in resources to the neighborhoods.

We have worked closely with the residents, owners, management and Community Learning Center staff to help provide basic needs such as food, school supplies and Christmas presents for children and adults. We have also established emergency food pantries at the Northport Apartments and the Packer Townhouses.

With community participation, we have served free monthly community dinners in both neighborhoods. All of this is simply to let you know that we have a substantial history of successful commitment to the Northside of Madison.

As a result of our long-term involvement, the owners and administration of the Northport Apartments and Packer Townhouses, the Housing Ministries of American Baptists in Wisconsin, has committed significant financial support for the food pantry.

The vision for the expanded food pantry is simple.

We want to provide for the basic needs of families that are having a difficult time making ends meet financially. We want to be a service to those in need by providing basic

foodstuffs and supplies, free meals and free clothing. Beyond that, though, we want to treat those we serve with respect and build them up through hope and encouragement.

The food pantry is a wonderful opportunity for people from diverse church and non-church backgrounds to come together in service to the community.

It also represents an opportunity to offer a positive, servant-hearted expression of the Church in our city. Our core team and volunteers include members from multiple churches and denominations. We encourage participation from outside the church community as well.

Area businesses have opened their hearts to us and provided The River

What your donation can do for the food pantry:

\$100 will pay for food for up to 8 families of 3 for 1 week;

\$250 will underwrite one Friday night dinner for up to 200 people;

\$500 will cover the purchase of food for 1/2 month of operation;

\$1,000 will cover the purchase of food for a full month of operation;

\$5,000 will cover the cost of all operational expenses and the purchase of food for one month.

100% of all donations are used for operational expenses. The pantry is staffed entirely by volunteers.

All donations are tax deductible. Send checks to The River Food Pantry and sent to 2201 Darwin Rd, Madison, WI 53704.

Food Pantry with donation of sufficient building materials, shelving and kitchen appliances as well as startup finances.

Our remodeling is expected to be finished by the end of January. The River Food Pantry will be open every Friday evening to all Dane County residents who declare a need for our services. While people are waiting to shop they can enjoy a nutritious meal in a friendly atmosphere.

While there are sufficient funds to cover remodeling and opening the pantry, the pantry will need to raise

ongoing operational funds for the procurement of food and supplies. Our estimated budget for the first year is \$75,000.

If you want to participate in serving the Northside



Pantry volunteer work crew: (front l - r) Cheryl Bradley, Bridget Bradley, Tom Thuemling, Jenny Czerkas, Gary Morton; (back l - r) Tim Roth, Jaye Barbeau, Matt Leonard, Jonathan Lombard, Rick Miles, Andy Czerkas, Carl Williams

of Madison, please feel free to contact Andy or Jenny at the phone or email below.

Groups who want to prepare and serve dinner or provide food and supplies are also encouraged to contact us.

If you are interested in learning more about The River Food Pantry, feel free to contact us at (608) 268-6342 or e-mail us at jandaczermas@charter.net.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Kennedy Heights Community Center winter update



Programs are in full swing at Kennedy Heights Community Center. The Early Childhood Program has had a lot of visitors. Clare Norelle, a local folk singer, came and taught the students songs from around the world, and the First Book program has been coming to the program regularly to read stories and distribute books to the program participants.

The after-school program just finished an eight week science program in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Extension and is about to start a Life Skills program with the older children.

Youth program participants have been working on creating a violence prevention DVD and the Girl Neighborhood Power photo club participants are about to publish their own greeting card set.

A number of youth in the Kennedy Heights Community participated in

the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth service day. Instead of taking a day off, they had a day on. Youth learned about the life and vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. and participated in educational workshops throughout the day.

Our Women's Group was busy knitting and in December the group hosted a show of all the materials that have been produced over the last year.

Mark your calendars!! On Saturday May 6 Kennedy Heights is celebrating our 20th anniversary with a "Many Cultures, One Community" festival for all community members. We will host a day of cultural performances, a historical exhibit, plenty of activities for children and families, free food and presentation by Mayor Dave.

If you are interested in participating in a program or volunteering at the center with a program or for the 20th anniversary, please contact Alyssa Kenney at 244-0767.

Sherman Village Neighborhood Association Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm
Gompers Elementary School on Wyoming Way

- Meet your neighbors!
- Restart you neighborhood association!
- Become a neighborhood leader!
- Learn about and share important neighborhood issues!

Contact: Dean Herman, 246-0266

Boundaries: Wheeler Rd on the north, North Sherman Ave. on the east, Sunfield, Kenwood and Iowa Drives on the south, Barby Ln and Cherokee Park on the west

Neighborhood info:
<http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/profile/83.html>

Lake View Hill Neighborhood Association Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, at 6:30 pm
Warner Park Community Center

- Meet your neighbors
- Learn about and share important neighborhood news
- The BIG 2006 plant sale
- Lake View Hill woods and conservancy update
- Neighborhood directory

update plans

Contact: Dana Erlandsen (204-9215; erlandsen@aol.com)

Boundaries: N Sherman to Mayfield to Iowa to Havey to School to Northport

Neighborhood info:

<http://www.madison.com/communities/lakeviewhill>,
<http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/profile/43.html>

Note: the boundaries listed on the city website are incorrect



Friends of Lake View Hill Annual Meeting

February 25 @ 10:30

Warner Park Community Center

- Learn about the New Conservancy -- All of the Hill and Woods!
- 2006 Conservation Plan
- Conservation Volunteer Opportunities
 - Controlled Burn to Weed Out Invasive Species
 - Plant Trees, Sedges & Natural Wildflowers
 - Earn Time Dollars through the Northside Timebank
- Elections • Treats



Controlled burn -- Spring 2005

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Welcome Pierce's Northside Market!

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CHURCH NEWS

Local church reaches sesquicentennial

Auction, raffle to mark event

By Chris DuPre

Lakeview Lutheran Church

Lakeview Lutheran Church is more than a house of worship. It's also a Northside community center.

In an effort to continue the congregation's role in helping neighborhood nonprofit organizations, the inaugural Lakeview Community Auction & Raffle will be held from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the church, 4001 Mandrake Road.

"Our church supports many nonprofit organizations and events, including the Lakeview Food Pantry, Red Cross Blood Drive, Family Place North, Troy Community Gardens, Girls Scouts and the community Thanksgiving dinner," said Cindy Witt, Lakeview member and, with husband Ted, co-chair of the auction. "We are holding this event to raise money to continue supporting these Northside neighborhood nonprofit organizations."

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the congregation. "Lakeview has served the Northside as long as the city of Madison has officially existed," Pastor Dean Kirst said. "Our roots are deep. Our future is bright. Our hope is for the community to help us bring in the next 150 years of service and proclamation.

"The fundraiser is important to raise money for Lakeview to remain an available space for many Northside

activities and needs," he said. "We do not wish to charge people for actual costs of using the building. We hope to continue to be able to ask for a small donation. Part of our ministry is to serve the Northside with our building and grounds."

The April 1 events will feature a raffle, silent auction and live auction.

"We are a vital, growing congregation with deep roots on the Northside, and we want to do more," Church Council President Mary Cragin said. "We hope to expand and continue our ministries and to further reach out and involve the Northside community in them."

Some of the items donated so far:

- A two-night stay for eight at a two-bedroom condo at the Great Wolf Lodge, including eight water passes and eight passes to Wiley's Woods, valued at more than \$800.
- "Favre," an autobiography written by Brett Favre and his mother, Bonita, and signed by both Brett and Bonita.
- A diamond necklace worth \$125.
- A \$100 Starbucks gift basket.
- A \$75 spring bulb basket donated by Felly's Flowers.
- Three different Betty Lou Cruises



The committee planning the Community Auction & Raffle show off some of the goodies that will be available on Saturday, April 1st.

Photo by Abha Thakkar

tificates are Coffee Gallerie, Frugal Muse, Noah's Ark Pet Store, Lois and Company, Milio's Subs, Savidusky's, Princeton Club and others.

The silent auction items will be on display throughout the event, and the winners will be announced during the final hour of the auction. Food will be available at the event.

Raffle tickets will be available starting in early March. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

"We know that Lakeview is a valued part of the Northside community," Cragin said. "The services and programs that we provide affect an incredible cross-section of residents and have far-reaching affects beyond the Northside. Our food pantry, the Family Enhancement Program and the Thanksgiving dinner are just three examples.

"The building is available to and is used by such a diverse collection of organizations – like the Madison Area Urban Ministry, Friends of Troy Gardens, the American Red Cross, World Dance and the Girl Scouts, which again have an impact on far more individuals than those who belong to Lakeview," she said. "Lakeview wants the opportunity to reach out to more people by virtue of additional services and programs."

Any person or business interested in donating an item for the auction/raffle should contact Cindy Witt at 244-1303 or the church at 244-6181.

Upcoming Events

Please contact each church for more information

Kid's Easter Celebration, St. Paul Lutheran, Feb. 8, Age 3 to grade 5, egg hunt, games, Easter story time. Sign-up (required) by 3/31/06. Call 244-8077.

40 Days of Purpose campaign launches March 19, **St. Paul Lutheran.** Join 13,000 churches from 60 denominations. Call 244-8077.

Senior Forums, Lakeview Lutheran, call 244-6181 to preregister. Lunch starts at 11:30 with program noon-1. Feb. 7 - *Memory Loss & Aging* and Feb. 21 - *The Grieving Process.*

Healthy Relationship with Food: 6-part series, **Lakeview Lutheran.** Begins Wed, March 15, 5-7 pm, Preregistration required, 244-6181.

Labyrinth Walks, Lakeview Lutheran, 244-6181, Free-will donation. March 1-3, 9 am-7 p.m & March 4, 9 am-noon.

Armchair Fitness, Tuesdays, 4:45-5:45 pm, **Lakeview Lutheran,** 244-6181

Encouraging Camp Meetings, Area churches gather for celebration. March 13-17, 7 pm at Warner Park Rec Center, **Faith Baptist Church,** 850-7333



LAKEVIEW LUTHERAN COMMUNITY

- Live Auction!
- Silent Auction!
- Raffle!

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Purchase raffle tickets and attend the auction.

Saturday, April 1
1 - 4 pm
Lakeview Lutheran
4001 Mandrake Rd.

Lakeview hosts several non-profit organizations and events including:

- Lakeview Food Pantry
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Family Place North
- Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Girl Scouts
- Troy Community Gardens
- And Many More!

For more information or to purchase raffle tickets, please call 244-6181.

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Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Blended

Bringing People into a Saving Relationship with Jesus

The Sherman Way

By Dr. Ann Yehle

Sherman Middle School Principal

Sherman students and staff establish "Habits for Success"

During the 04-05 school year, Sherman students and staff began to tackle the question, "what are habits a person must have in order to have a successful life and complete tasks in a quality fashion?" To answer this question, groups of Sherman staff and Sherman students came together in various focus groups. These groups engaged in lively discussions, conducted research, and ultimately settled on five essential habits for success. These five habits for success have been introduced school-wide with the 05-06 school year. The five habits for success include imagination, analysis, point of view, determination, and communication.

Sherman students and staff are practicing using these habits and learning how these habits can assist them in being successful on the academic front but also in their lives outside of school as larger members of the Madison community and in their family lives. Through practicing and mastering the habits for success, Sherman students will be better prepared for the world outside of K-12 education.

Thank you Northside

We thank all of the members of the Northside community that have volunteered their time and fiscal resources to our school. On a daily basis, I see our Sherman students benefiting from your generosity. Even with the out-

pouring of support we have received, we continue to have needs for volunteers as well as other resources. If you are interested in learning more about how you can make a direct positive impact on Sherman Middle School students, please contact me or Kit Laibly at 204-2100. Finally, if you have questions/concerns about Sherman Middle School, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Community musical

Sherman Middle School will be putting on the musical "Makin' It in Middle School" on May 6th, 7th & 8th at East High School. Our guest director is Ms. Selena Lane, a musical theater student at Edgewood College. Ms. Lane has worked extensively with adolescents, and we are fortunate to have her join us in this production. We are looking for community members that would like to be involved in the production. Please contact Julie Wilke at 204-2125 for information on how you can help out.

Sherman receives grant to promote health & wellness

Sherman has received a large grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support the addition of healthy food items to our school day. This means effective sometime in January until June 2007, we will be able to serve FREE healthy food to all interested students and staff. Look for more information on our Fruits & Vegetables Program in upcoming "Sherman Way" articles.

Sherman M.S. holds "Battle of the Teams" food drive

In December, the Sherman Middle School Equity Leadership Council organized a school-wide food drive. The council, made up of 7th grade students, set up the drive to be a "Battle of the Teams" with the 4 teams at each grade level competing against each other to win an ice cream sundae party. The two week food drive featured a theme each week, the first week being "Meal in a can or box" and the second being "Personal Care Week." A total of 3,130 items were collected school-wide! The JSZ Team at 6th grade collected 1,296 items, the SUM Team at 7th grade collected 146 items, and the FDB Team at 8th grade collected 1,215 items. All items were donated to the Bashford United Methodist Food Pantry which services our Northside families. Way to go Sherman students!

Emerson School awarded two grants

By Rosy Bayuk

Emerson Elementary School was recently awarded two grants that are designed to enrich student learning.

The Madison Foundation Grant has funded the Emerson Photography Club, which is currently up and running. Students are learning the skills of photography and photographic display. Students will be learning ways to digitally edit their photographs, and to enhance their photos with captions or stories. Students in the photography club will share their expertise by teaching other students their new skills.

The Dance County Cultural Affairs Commission has awarded Emerson School an "Artist in Residence" grant. During the month of March, artist Shawn Sheehy, a professional papermaker and bookmaker will be working

with third through fifth grade students in art class to create handmade paper. They will then work with Mr. Sheehy to bind handmade books with their paper. Each grade level will learn a unique binding technique for their books. Students will work with their classroom teachers to produce creative writing which they will type themselves in keyboarding class. These works will be partly inspired by students from East High School who will visit and perform original spoken work pieces. The focus of the writings will be based on Emerson's positive behavior school-wide theme.

The project will culminate with an "Arts Night" at Emerson in May. This event will feature an exhibit of handmade books completed by students, and related musical performances. Congratulations Emerson School!

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Letter

Cont. from page 2

I would think if one were losing business in one area, one would attempt to increase business in another aspect of the business that's been successful. By ceasing to serve food, Wiganowski isn't doing that. It seems to me that he is perhaps looking for a reason to close his business.

So I'm also wondering why Wiganowski is whining about the smoking ban when he is allowing customers to smoke in his bar? I went there a few months ago and witnessed at least one person openly smoking at the bar. The barista appeared to do nothing about it.

Again, I ask, what is Wiggy whining about? Does he think he is above the law? Apparently so.

- Lorry Bond, Madison

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SCHOOL & YOUTH NEWS

Black Hawk boys beat all comers



Photo provided by Sue Martin

Photo from left to right: Ms. Brennan, Tyler Kubicek, DeAndre Galligan, Drew McAdams, Nick Sampson, Mr. Fieck, Marquis Mason, Jeff Hull, Robert Miner, John Martin.

By Sue Martin

Congratulations to the Black Hawk 8th grade boys basketball team! They had a very fun and successful season. The team went undefeated with a 5-0 regular season and 8-0 overall record. Black Hawk became All City Tournament Champions by winning the 10-team Tournament on December 17 at the Memorial High School Fieldhouse.

The championship game was a

Northside matchup against a very talented Sherman Middle School team. The Black Hawk team, coached by Mr. Fieck and Ms. Brennan, included 11 members. The starting five were DeAndre Galligan, Jeff Hull, Tyler Kubicek, Marquis Mason, and Nick Sampson. Teammates were Steven Her, Drew McAdams, Devonta McCollum, John Martin, Robert Miner, and Trevon Townsend. Once again, congratulations on a fabulous season!

♥ **Happy Valentines Day!** ♥

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Black Hawk Middle School Family Math Carnival

On March 8, 2006, Black Hawk Middle School (1402 Wyoming Way) will have their annual Math Carnival. The evening will begin with dinner at 6:15 p.m. (pizza, hot dogs, chips, candy, and soda will be sold) in the cafeteria. Games will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Admission is \$1.00 per person. This \$1.00 will buy \$20 in play money which you will use to play the games. Students will be running the games along with their teachers. They will be sharing with parents and students some of the math concepts they have learned in class. At the end of the evening, everyone uses the play money which they have won to buy gifts.

We will have lots of gifts for everyone, so bring the whole family and support this Black Hawk family event and support our Math Department.

Black Hawk PTO Fundraising Dinner April 13

The Black Hawk PTO is having a fundraiser sponsored by Outback Steakhouse on Wednesday April 13, serving at 5pm.

Pre-purchase ticket by March 31st at the following prices by contacting Black Hawk Middle School.

Adults \$7.00 K-8	\$5.00 Kids 5 & under \$2.00
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Tickets purchased on April 1st and the night of will be prized as follows:
Adult \$8 K-8 \$6 Kids (5 and under) \$3.00

All profits will go towards the School library and motivational speakers.

PTO Olympics raised \$1,100 for Mendota Elementary

On a Friday in December, Mendota Elementary teachers, families and area businesses came together to provide a day of friendly competition for our students and to raise money for our school. Thanks to the contributions of many, we had a great success! With several different mascots cheering them on, our students gave their best efforts at the Three-legged Race, the Rope Climb, and the Basketball Shoot-out, among other challenges. East High student volunteers were on hand to help run the events and encourage good sportsmanship. All student participants received snacks and award bags filled with gifts from several different businesses. Between business donations and parent pledges, we raised over \$1,100! This money will directly enhance our students' education by funding field trips and off-setting costs for teaching supplies. Mendota Elementary PTO is deeply grateful to the businesses and families that supported us.

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Currently, Paul and the Romans. Visitors welcome.

Community Supported Agriculture

Sign up for a weekly box of fresh veggies grown on the Northside!



Photos provided by Marge Pitts



By Marge Pitts
Friends of Troy Gardens

What are you going to eat this year?

Here's a good idea—fresh, locally grown produce boxed up for you each week. Whatever is ripe and perfect according to the season, including a weekly newsletter with recipes for what you get and stories about what it took to grow it this year. This is what Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is all about.

The Madison area is lucky to be home to more than 24 CSA farms, including our own Northside CSA, Troy Community Farm. These small, mostly organic farms bring fresh, locally grown vegetables, fruits, meat poultry, dairy products, eggs, flowers and herbs directly to Madison each week.

CSA farms are supported by local "eaters" who join the farm by paying a

flat fee for a "share" at the start of the growing season. This entitles the household to a box of fresh local foods each week along with newsletters, recipes, and invitations to events and activities at the farm. Troy Farm's membership includes a flower garden for you to cut-your-own bouquet of flowers each week, along with the great fun of picking up your share at beautiful Troy Gardens. Hint: if you can spare a bit of time, plan for a lovely and healthful walk on the land when you pick up your share.

Purchasing a whole season of produce up front in the spring may seem a bit daunting, but the cost is actually quite reasonable.

A share of Troy Farm this year—enough to feed a family of four—is \$400 for produce from June through October. But it gets better.

If you carry Physicians Plus health insurance, you can be reimbursed \$200 for a Troy CSA share for a family, or \$100 for a Troy CSA Share for an individual. And Troy Gardens offers a limited number of subsidized shares for low-income families. Some of our low-income shares are still available for 2006.

Call Troy Gardens at 240-0409 to find out more, or sign up on our website and see photos of what a typical box includes – www.troygardens.org.

The Madison Area Community

Supported Agriculture Coalition (MACSAC) hosts an open house each spring to familiarize us eaters with the many options available to us from our local CSA farms.

This year's open house will be held at Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue, on Saturday, March 18, from 1pm until 4pm. This free, family friendly event will feature information tables by 24 area CSA farms. You can talk to the farmers and learn about CSA's through cooking demonstrations, workshops, and slide shows.

Dig this ! Apply for your community garden plot at Troy Gardens now!



The event also features live music, a kid's craft area, and a raffle for a gift certificate toward the cost of a CSA membership. The raffle benefits the Partner Shares fund to support CSA memberships for low-income households. Raffle tickets are available for purchase now through MACSAC, 608-226-0300. Winners need not be pre-

sent. Please visit www.macsac.org for more information.

Many Troy Community Gardeners work the same plots year after year. But each year some gardeners move on and plots become available for new gardeners. Returning Troy gardeners can ensure they get their old plots again this year by registering before March 1. Registration forms are available at www.troygardens.org, or by contacting Troy Gardens at 240-0409.

Gardeners new to Troy are invited to a registration and orientation meeting on Saturday, April 1st, at a location to be announced. There will be a special meeting for Hmong gardeners, including translation, at 9am that day, followed by general registration and orientation at 10am.

New gardeners are permitted to rent one 20' x 20' plot in their first year. In following years they can rent additional plots if everything has gone well.

Community gardeners sign up for a plot each spring, paying a minimal fee, adjusted according to income and household size, to help defray the costs of site maintenance and management (tilling, mowing, plot layout, and provision of water, tools, and compost).

Gardeners also assist in site maintenance and management through volunteer commitments.

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