

New Richmond, WI 54017

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Vandals deface district facilities

by Shay Tilander and Meg Heaton

Vandals struck at the New Richmond High School Sunday night with an apparent message. Pro-River Falls High School messages were scrawled across the bleachers, track, goal posts and walking areas in blue and gold spray paint. Several messages encouraging the Wildcats were found at the damage site along with discouraging comments about the Tigers as well. High School officials were quick to erase the graffiti. By Monday afternoon much of the damage to the bleachers and the announcer's booth had already been cleaned up.

See Vandals/Page 7A



A goal post at the New Richmond High School football field was spray painted with the words "Go Wildcats."



Dan Mehls stands near the future location of home plate for the new Twins stadium in downtown Minneapolis.

Twins (Most) Project

New Richmond construction

By Jeff

Man

A New Richmond grad

the future success of the

team.

Not that Dan Mehls is

striking out opposing ball

He is, however, the

new \$50 million ballpark

new home in 2010.

"I can't think of anything more exciting than this,"

Mehls said, as he took a break from his considerable

duties Friday. "I never dreamed I would be involved

in major sports construction projects."

Mehls, the son of Chuck and Anne Mehls, is actually

a bit of an all star when it comes to stadium construction

projects.

He was previously in charge of the St. Louis Rams

football stadium project, Alerus Center construction

in Grand Forks, N.D., Tyson Event Center construction

in Sioux City, Iowa, and the renovation project for the

University of Iowa's historic football stadium.

For all his responsibility, Mehls' temporary office on

the site of the downtown Minneapolis stadium is

pretty quiet.

The other office trailers are much more hectic, with

construction officials posting area plans and contractors

seeking direction about the tasks they must complete.

See Ballpark/Page 3A

CaringBridge marks 10 years of connections

By Julia Ybarra-Young
News Staff Writer

"It's been 10 years and the pain never really goes away."

Darrin Hardegger, Somerset resident, spoke of losing his infant daughter, Brighid. His wife, Joann, suffered from HELLP syndrome, a life-threatening condition that required her to deliver Brighid at 24 weeks.

"She had to deliver the baby or die."



Darrin said.

While Joann recovered in the hospital and Brighid was in the ICU, Darrin said their good friend, Sona Mehring, approached him with an idea.

"She called and asked me if there was anything she could do," Darrin recalled. "She said, 'How about I build you a Web site? All you have to do is call each night and I'll update it.'"

Sona was a Web developer and designer by profession, so she said the suggestion was natural.

"It was apparent this was such a help," Sona said via a phone interview. "I knew this needed to be a service to everyone in

a health crisis."

So was the beginning of CaringBridge.org.

Sona said the first site she created was a manual site and she personally made the updates. Once she realized she wanted to make this available to everyone, she spent two to three months creating a program that anyone could immediately use on their own. People can establish a

See Caring Bridge/Page 7A

birthday, times

By Gail Winship
News staff writer

Lori and Grant Brinkman of New Richmond are searching for three different birthday cakes for an upcoming party. Each cake will reflect the individuality of their three distinctly different children who will be celebrating their birthdays next week.

Triplets Will, Drew and Amelia will turn two years old June 12.

They may share a birth date and a striking resemblance to one another - blond hair, contagious smiles, dad's big blue eyes and mom's delicate features - but like any other soon to be two-year-olds, that's where the sharing ends. Especially when it comes to toys.

Parents Grant and Lori agree that the trio generally share things at the same time.

As if on cue, Amelia, a colorful toy telephone says hello to "grand boys, busy practicing swings in the family calling out "ball" after each swing, spy and are immediately the one-of-a-kind toy, all three are reaching phone saying they to talk to "grandpa." A birthday cake is in the

"They push the line attention," Lori says. "They are very curious and always have been."

Last gently convinced that the caller wants, Drew and Will too reluctantly hands of

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CARINGBRIDGE: Site celebrates 10th anniversary

Continued from page 1A

working site in five minutes.

"It's gone through about four complete changes in the whole product," Darrin explained. "We're continuing to tweak it."

Since 1997, CaringBridge.org has hosted more than 62,000 Web sites; a new site is created every 15 minutes. This is a huge communication tool for keeping families and friends connected.

"There is a variety of uses for CaringBridge," Sona said. "Some people use it for two or

three weeks after surgery or

they go through cancer treatments. For families of newborns who have gone through a traumatic birth, some keep the site going as they enter kindergarten."

CaringBridge is a free service. As a non-profit organization, their funds come from donations and hospital partnerships. They do not advertise, relying on word-of-mouth.

"That's the number one way that CaringBridge awareness is made," Sona said.

Sona kept her day job in Web development until 2000 when

she left to focus on CaringBridge. She said she was at Eagan,

Minn. They have 18 employees and a Board of Directors. Joanne Hardegger has been a Board member for 10 years.

In 2006, Sona was recognized by MSN.com as one of the nation's leading women for change. She has also received the CBS affiliate-WCCO's Good Neighbor Award, the Angel Foundation Star Award and was a finalist for the Minnesota High Tech Association's TEKNE Award in 2004.

Darrin said that the next step for CaringBridge is to set up a Spanish-language version. They already have a company willing

to match funds to do the translation.

In the meantime, Sona said CaringBridge will remember its original inspiration.

"We are focusing on connecting family and friends in a health crisis," Sona stated.

Baby Brighid struggled for nine days against tremendous odds, but succumbed during surgery. Darrin said that he and his wife are glad to see the CaringBridge legacy spring from their family's tragedy.

"I think what it does for us is keep her alive," Darrin said. "Like a guardian angel."

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