



## BUSINESS NOTES

### Career

#### **Behavior Wizards expands services**

BAXTER - Behavior Wizards, a subsidiary of J and J Holmes Inc., a privately owned company providing services to children and adults diagnosed with a developmental disability or related conditions with offices in Baxter and Sartell, has expanded its services to include clinical psychiatric services provided by Dr. Elizabeth Delesante.

In her new position, Delesante will continue her mission of providing support to patients through her community outreach as well as a new clinic at Behavior Wizards in Sartell.

Delesante attended medical school at the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine and completed her residency at the East Carolina University School of Medicine. Before joining J and J Holmes, Inc. she was with the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center.

J and J Holmes Inc. recently named Bruce Fahlen as chief executive officer.

In his new position, Fahlen will assume primary oversight for all aspects of the business including the subsidiary Behavior Wizards consulting and technical assistance team, residential supported living, crisis and respite services, clinical psychiatric services as well as building and managing relationships with case management partners.

Janell Kramer is owner and chairman of the board of J and J Holmes.

Fahlen graduated from St. Cloud State University and has been in the human services field since 1984. He began his career with the state of Minnesota at the Brainerd Regional Human Services Center. His tenure in the industry has included behavior analyst roles, QMRP, residential program supervisor and consultant.

#### **Cass County EDC elects officers**

Officers for 2010 were elected at a recent Cass County Economic Development Corp. meeting.

Jim Tertin of Magnum Research in Pillager was elected president. Tertin has 36 years of experience in firearms and manufacturing. Dave Holk will serve as vice president. Holk has more than 41 years of experience in retail and is the manager of the Cass Lake Building Center in Cass Lake. Skip Duchesneau Jr., of DW Jones in Walker, will continue his role as treasurer. Howard Prushek, of the city of Remer, was elected secretary.

#### **Gravdahl is AmeriCorps Promise Fellow**

Jessica Gravidahl joined the University of Minnesota Extension on Oct. 19 as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow.

She will be working with students in three schools in Crow Wing County helping with their homework to help them increase their grade point average. She will be involving the students in civic engagement activities and other 4-H events.

She received her bachelor's degree in secondary education social studies from Bemidji State University. She is originally from St. Francis. Once her service is over through AmeriCorps, Gravidahl hopes to teach middle school social studies in Minnesota.

### **Mills joins Scissor Hands Salon**

Marlene Mills joined Scissor Hands Salon on Maple Street in Brainerd.

She has 38 years of experience as a stylist and specializes in cuts, customized color, low and highlights, as well as design wrapped perms.

## **EVENTS**

### **Brainerd Lakes Chamber hosts Eggs 'N' Issues**

Eggs 'n Issues, a gathering to discuss current topics and issues affecting the business community, is planned from 7:45-9:30 a.m. January 8 at The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes, 6967 Lake Forest Road, Baxter.

Legislators scheduled to participate are Sen. Paul Koering, District 12, R-Fort Ripley; Rep. John Ward, District 12A, DFL-Brainerd; and Rep. Larry Howes, District 4B, R-Walker.

Cost is \$15 per person for Brainerd Lakes Chamber members and \$25 per person for non-members and includes a breakfast buffet with scrambled eggs, breakfast meat, breakfast potatoes, fresh fruit and beverages. There will be time for questions and answers.

Advance reservations and cancellations accepted until 8 a.m., 72 hours prior to the event. Cancellations after that time are responsible for payment.

For more information, go online to [www.explorebrainerdlakes.com](http://www.explorebrainerdlakes.com) or call 829-2838.

### **Latte 'n' Learn Business Connection on Jan. 13**

BAXTER - Latte 'n' Learn Business Connection is planned at 7:30-8:30 a.m. Jan. 13 at the Country Inn and Suites, 15058 Dellwood Drive, Baxter.

Participants may join other business leaders for coffee and learn more about a new online resource - BusinessConnection.

BusinessConnection is a single entry point to become connected with private and public resources to solve everyday business problems. It is operated by Grow Minnesota!, the subsidiary of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic

Development.

Advanced registration is recommended. For more information, go online to [www.explorebrainerdlakes.com](http://www.explorebrainerdlakes.com) or call 829-2838. Cost is \$10 and includes materials and coffee.

### **CHOW networking event planned Jan. 13**

PEQUOT LAKES - Hopkins Health and Wellness Center and Snap Fitness are hosting the CHOW networking event from noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 13, 31108 Government Drive, Pequot Lakes.

Participants will be able to tour the facilities and learn more about services. CHOW is a networking lunch activity with the Brainerd Lakes Chamber. Cost to attend is \$5 with advance reservations and \$7 at the door. Advance registration and cancellations accepted until 4 p.m. Jan. 12. For more information, go online to [www.explorebrainerdlakes.com](http://www.explorebrainerdlakes.com) or call 829-2838.

### **Red Rock Radio hosts Business After Hours**

Red Rock Radio plans to host the Brainerd Lakes Chamber networking event Business After Hours from 4:30-6 p.m. Jan. 12 at Famous Dave's, 15674 Edgewood Drive, Baxter.

Participants will meet the Morning Show team and their staff and learn more about their music, on air talent, and what sets their station apart with food at Famous Dave's.

Advanced registration is recommended. For more information, go online to [www.explorebrainerdlakes.com](http://www.explorebrainerdlakes.com) or call 829-2838.

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Spanish and Mexican culture courses offered**

Central Lakes College has added intermediate Spanish and Many Faces of Mexico to its non-credit course offerings through the Business and Industry Center starting in January.

The intermediate Spanish course includes reading, writing, and speaking to provide a basic vocabulary and knowledge of present, past and imperfect tenses. Conversations will be enhanced through short readings, paired activities, discussions of DVD clips, role playing and situation cards.

Janet Kurtz, instructor, said that every lesson will involve cultural expertise as part of the communication process.

The class (\$160) meets on Thursdays from 6-7:50 p.m. Jan. 11-May 14 in E358 of the Brainerd campus.

Kurtz teaches Many Faces of Mexico on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays during the same period, from 10-10:50 a.m. in the same room. This class (\$240) explores the cultural, historical and social realities which together form present-day Mexico.

From the indigenous (Aztec, Olmec, Tarahumara) roots through the

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developing colonial years and finally, the past and current relations with the United States, this course sets a foundation for intercultural communications.

The deadline to register is Jan. 4.

For more information, call the Business and Industry Center at CLC, (800) 933-0346, ext. 8142 or 855-8142.

### **Rural Economic Rebound talk planned Jan. 7**

Central Lakes College in Brainerd on Thursday, Jan. 7 will host a talk by one state development official regarding the rural economic rebound.

Business Development in Rural Minnesota features Colleen Landkamer, state director, USDA Rural Development, from 7:45-9:30 a.m. in the Music Hall (E471), with registration at 7:30 a.m.

Rural Minnesota is said to have a bright future with natural resources, a well-trained workforce, and a variety of educational options. Landkamer will talk about future business opportunities in rural Minnesota.

A panel with some of our region's key development resources will discuss emerging opportunities. Discussion will cover bioscience, renewable energy and your vision. Continuing education credits are available.

The program is free and offered in conjunction with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Everyone attending is asked to pre-register by calling 855-8142 or e-mailing [jsterner@clcmn.edu](mailto:jsterner@clcmn.edu).

## **AWARDS**

### **Marco gains recognition**

Sharp Imaging and Information Company of America recognized Marco, which has offices in Brainerd, as a Hyakuman Kai Elite Dealer.

Sharp awards Hyakuman Kai Elite status to dealers that provide exceptional service to the local business community. Marco is among a select group of dealers recognized by Sharp from the hundreds of dealers that sell Sharp's advanced color and monochrome business products in the U.S.

### **Sound Connection earns award**

The Sound Connection Inc., Brainerd, earned Compustar remote starter Dealer of the Year for the fifth consecutive year.

The business was named dealer of the year at the annual Compustar training and awards ceremony in Bloomington. The award, which states Highest Customer Service and Lowest Defect Rate was given to Ben Larson, chief executive officer of Brainerd/St. Joseph stores.

### **Brickers receive award for Coats for Kids**

Brainerd Rotary Club president, Rick Bricker and his wife, Sue, owners of Crystal Cleaners in Brainerd, recently received an award from BL Broadcasting and Kinship Partners for 20 years of work with the Coats for

Kids program.

Coats for Kids is a 20-year partnership between the Kinship Partners youth mentoring program, Crystal Cleaners and BL Broadcasting to provide warm winter coats and other winter outerwear to children and families in need. This program benefits an estimated 1,200 needy youth and adults each winter.

More than 1,500 coats, 600 hats, 600 gloves/mittens, 200 snow boots and other winter outerwear were distributed this year.

The text of the award recognized the Brickers for keeping a generation of children warm and being an inspiration to the area.

### **Russell Herder gains Platinum award**

Russell Herder, with offices in Brainerd, was recently presented with a Platinum award in the Best Service Line-Neurology category at the 2009 HealthLeaders Media Marketing Awards show for the agency's Save This Brain campaign on behalf of Hennepin County Medical Center.

The awards celebrate the best results-based hospital, physician practice and health plan marketing campaigns. The Save This Brain campaign, initially launched in 2008, was a multifaceted initiative to educate consumers about the impact, treatment and prevention of traumatic brain injuries that included a series of community events, outreach efforts and a Web site, [SaveThisBrain.org](http://SaveThisBrain.org).

The agency received 10 marketing awards for the Save This Brain.

### **Herman earns Hellen Keller Award**

NISSWA - Erin Herman, Nisswa Lions Club member, was awarded the Helen Keller award by Lions Clubs International in recognition of her commitment to the Sight First project that is trying to eradicate blindness and the club's hearing aid project designed to ease pain and suffering and bring healing and hope to people worldwide.

Past President Ted Schaefer presented the award.

Herman is a past president of the Nisswa Lions.

## **DONATIONS**

### **Buffalo Wild Wings raises funds for St. Jude**

Buffalo Wild Wings raised more than \$595,000 for the children of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in October during the 18th annual St. Jude Halloween Promotion.

Despite challenging economic times, the amount raised exceeds last year's donation by more than 30 percent, St. Jude's reported.

During the month-long promotion, thousands of restaurants, convenience stores, grocery stores and other retail locations nationwide encouraged consumers to make a \$1 donation to St. Jude to support its groundbreaking research and lifesaving care.

### **CenterPoint Energy technicians volunteer**

CenterPoint Energy's Home Service Plus technicians joined forces with the Suburban Community Action Partnership and The Salvation Army to provide free furnace safety inspections and tune-ups to 48 needy families on Saturday. Technicians tuned-up customers' furnaces to ensure proper operation and provided important safety guidelines to avoid carbon monoxide build up and exposure.

CenterPoint Energy founded the HeatShare program in 1982, which is administered by The Salvation Army and lets customers help others stay warm during the winter. The Stay Warm Minnesota campaign was launched to help every Minnesota family experience a safe and comfortable winter. The campaign's Web site, [www.staywarm.mn.gov](http://www.staywarm.mn.gov) provides more information on heating assistance programs.

### **Fast Cop receives area donations**

Fast Cop Inc. received area donations from: Crow Wing Power Community Trust, Brainerd; Chuck Isackson State Farm Insurance, Brainerd; Hanneken Insurance Agency, Brainerd doing business as John Rinde Agency, Crosby; Barrys Properties & Insurance, Crosby; Security State Agency, Aitkin.

Fast Cop and the donators have interest in saving the lives of motoring youths on our public streets and highways. With each donation, Fast Cop is able to reach out to more youth with its life saving message. For more information on Fast Cop Inc. or Fast Cops school presentations, go to [www.fastcop.com](http://www.fastcop.com) or call (218) 546-7160.

### **Slumberland donates beds in December**

BAXTER - Slumberland Furniture is working to provide families in need with new beds through its annual Making Homes for the Holidays program.

Beginning Dec. 8, Slumberland will donate about 1,300 mattress and box spring sets to nonprofit partners throughout the communities it serves, through The Salvation Army, to families in need.

The Making Homes for the Holidays program began in 1993. Since then, Slumberland has donated more than 17,000 new mattresses and box springs to deserving families. Last year saw the largest donation in the program's history with 1,750 bed frames and mattresses donated. In addition to donating mattresses, Slumberland stores will also donate quilts and sheet sets, donated from local community partners which include the Lakeview Community Church in Hillman and Walmart.

The beds donated through the Baxter store will be delivered in mid December.

### **Labor union donates to veterans' center**

Members of a local AFL-CIO labor union presented the Veterans Resource Center at Central Lakes College in Brainerd with a 21-cubic foot freezer donated by Electrolux Home Products, St. Cloud, and a check for \$550 on Dec. 16.

The group will provide \$400 worth of food to stock the freezer, which is part of the veterans food shelf. Taking delivery were Don Pfeffer and Tyra Oswald of the Higher Education Veterans Program, which is helping about 300 campus veterans and families this holiday season. Presenting the union donations were Mary Beth Juetten, AFSCME Council 5 organizer; Myron Stevens, AFSCME steward at CLC; and Wayne Fleischhacker, area labor council representative.

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