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AREA NEWS

Council renews contract with sheriff's office

HULL—City of Hull officials decided to remain under contract with the Sioux County Sheriff's Office, renewing the city's annual contract with the department that provides the city's police protection and services.

The new contract includes a three-percent cost increase for the city, bringing the total cost to \$172,434.63. That amount will be paid to the sheriff's office in quarterly installments.

In light of the new contract, Hull's city council expressed its concern regarding the increasing speed of traffic through the city. The council agreed to ask patrolling officers with the sheriff's department to increase enforcement of existing speed limits.

City administrator Randy Feenstra pointed out the presence of increasing traffic within the city and said that many of the cars are disobeying speed limits and traffic laws.

Feenstra added that safety is the council's main concern and proactively decreasing the speed of traffic could prevent a tragic event from occurring.

Lisa Boss detention request reversed

LE MARS—A request to put a halt to the house arrest of Lisa Boss was withdrawn last Monday, hours before a hearing concerning the request. Lisa Boss has been held in a Sioux City women's shelter under around-the-clock electronic monitoring since January.

Lisa Boss's husband Donald Boss Jr. is awaiting trial in the murder of his 10-year-old son Timothy. Her attorney Maggi Moss orally withdrew the request last Monday.

The request was connected with an application on July 12 to discontinue Lisa Boss's material witness status which was also withdrawn.

Moss explained in that application that Lisa Boss's designation as a material witness no longer meets Iowa Code standards and that further detention of Lisa Boss would be unfair and wrongful without an explanation for the continuance of her house arrest.

Property purchased jointly by city entities

ROCK RAPIDS—Property and a building owned by Rock Rapids Repair was purchased jointly by the City of Rock Rapids and Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities. The 6,000-square-foot building will be used to store equipment for the two entities.

The former railroad property located at 320 S. Second Ave. was purchased for \$75,000 from Don Gerritsen, owner of Rock Rapids Repair.

Gerritsen has plans to relocate his auto reconstruction business to rural Rock Rapids.

The City of Rock Rapids and Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities will not take over the property until March 1, Gerritsen's deadline to relocate.

Main street to finish face lift

ORANGE CITY—Because less than 500 linear feet of store fronts along Orange City's main street lack a Dutch facade, the Orange City city council discussed accelerating the program that promotes the Dutch heritage of the community.

A proposed five-year plan was discussed, including certain incentives the council will extend to the retail building owners who will be asked to put Dutch fronts on the remaining main street buildings.

Council members estimated that the completion of the project would cost \$300 a linear foot and \$150,000 for the whole project. Divided among the five-year proposed time-line, \$30,000 a year for five years would need to be budgeted by the city. Past yearly budgets for the Dutch store front project were slightly less than the \$30,000 figure.

A luncheon was suggested to facilitate discussion among building owners and city officials regarding the completion of the project, and no formal action was taken on the issue.

Vander Esch appeal date set

DES MOINES—Thursday, September 12, at 2:30 p.m. the Iowa Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear an appeal from Lawrence Vander Esch of Hull who hopes to overturn sexual abuse convictions handed down to him as a result of his inappropriate sexual contact with three male employees of Pizza Ranch.

The appeal centers around the state's definition of consent and whether or not the consent Vander Esch received from his employees is grounds to reverse the convictions.

Vander Esch was arrested April 12, 2001, and charged with four counts of third-degree sexual abuse stemming from incidents that occurred between June 12, 1998, and December 13, 2000. Vander Esch pleaded guilty to the charges on August 20, 2001, after attempting to get the charges dismissed.

Officials expect the court will issue a ruling about six months after the case is heard.

Supervisors hear request to assist Orange City project

Orange City museum board requests financial support from supervisors
By Amanda Vande Brake

Members of the Flagship Windmill Dutch Museum Committee attended Tuesday's regular Sioux County Board of Supervisors' meeting to request financial support from the county for the construction of a Dutch heritage museum in Orange City.

The museum project is dependent on a variety of funding sources, and one of the major sources is a Vision Iowa Community, Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant. The museum committee met with Vision Iowa officials on August 14 and learned that a letter of support from Sioux County supervisors was not sufficient.

Officials told the committee that the county must make a financial commitment in order for the project to be considered for a Vision Iowa CAT grant award. This requirement is a recent addition to Vision Iowa CAT grant application criteria and was not in place when Vision Iowa funds were initially considered by the committee to back the museum.

The committee presented its plan for the museum at the supervisors' meeting, requesting that the county pledge \$40,000 to be paid out to the museum fund over the course of two to three years.

"They really threw a big obstacle in your way," supervisor Bernie Smith said at the meeting.

"It is a hurdle," committee member Gary Blythe agreed.

The board agreed to continue discussion at its September 3 meeting.

The Vision Iowa grant, if approved, will cover \$401,600 of the estimated \$1,383,000 project. A total of \$110,000 has already been pledged by members of the community, according to Blythe.

Other sources of funding will be determined in a to-be-scheduled, three-part community vote on a five-percent hotel-motel tax, a reassignment of local option sales tax monies and a general obligation bond. Any single source of funding is contingent on the entire fund package's passage at this point, according to Orange City city manager Duane Feekes.

Feekes also explained to the board of supervisors that the committee's timeline for the museum project calls for breaking ground next spring.

The museum will provide a central and accessible location, combining historic and Dutch heritage collections currently located throughout the Orange City area under a single, regularly staffed and accessible roof. The combined collection promises to "develop syner-



Craig Romkema takes a moment's break from typing his part of a conversation and talks with his mother Barb in the living room of their log home north of Le Mars. The portable computer Craig uses has the ability to display large print or small print, depending on the situation.

Poetry expands communication, explains life struggles

By Amanda Vande Brake

The sounds of words have always resonated within the heart and mind of Craig Romkema, 22, of rural Le Mars, in a way that expands most understandings of conventional communication.

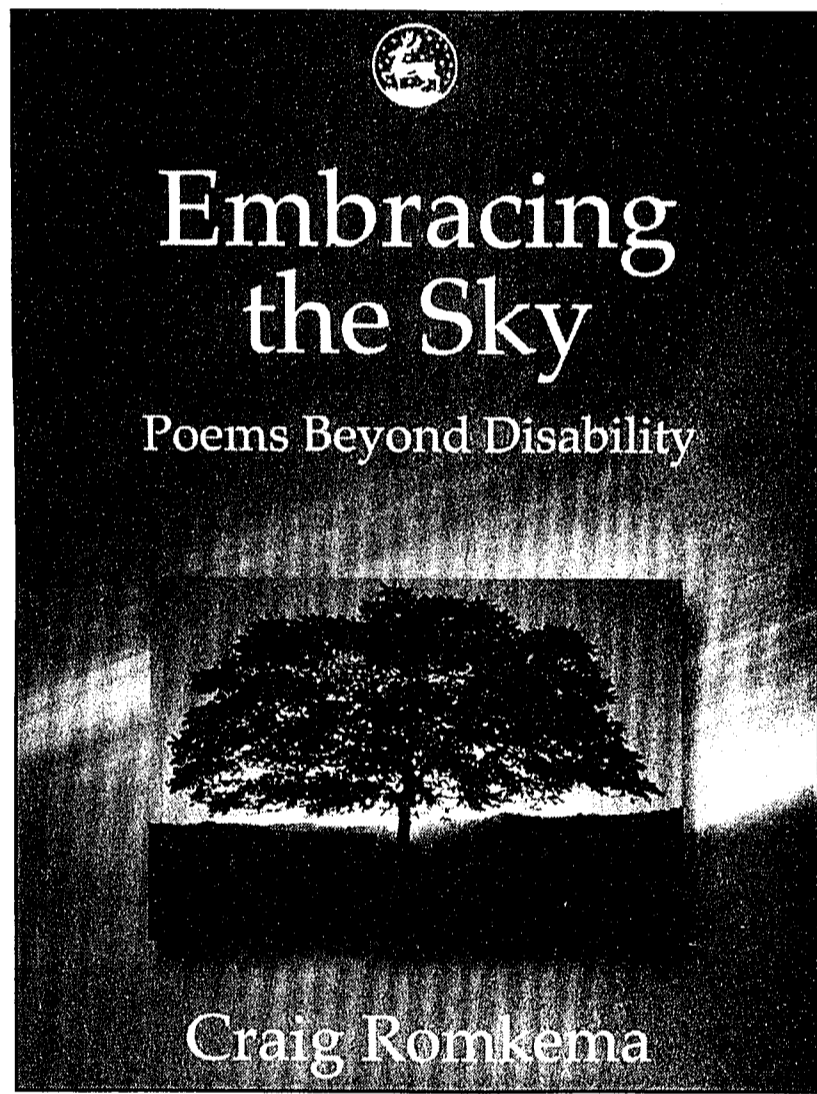
Romkema continues to ignore boundaries with the publication of his collection of poems entitled "Embracing the Sky: Poems Beyond Disability." The paperback book was published in June by Jessica Kingsley Publishers of London, England, a leader in the publishing of professional and academic titles related to topics within the social and behavioral sciences.

The publication of Romkema's poetry is a major milestone in the life of this MOC-Floyd Valley High School graduate and second-year Dordt College student, especially considering what he has accomplished to make this collection possible.

For me, life is a living symphony/of sound.—"Listener"

Autism has inhibited some of Romkema's brain functions since he was about four months old. At the same time, the disorder has facilitated "other doors" to open in Romkema's brain, allowing him to hear in an ultra-sensitive way.

This keen awareness of sound means that Romkema senses sound in an exaggerated way which is both a blessing and a curse. Being distracted by the hum of fluorescent



Romkema's book can be purchased at Dove Bookstore in Orange City, Zandbroz Variety in Sioux Falls, Barnes and Noble Booksellers and online at jkp.com or amazon.com.

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Local man enters U.S. Naval Academy

By Amanda Vande Brake

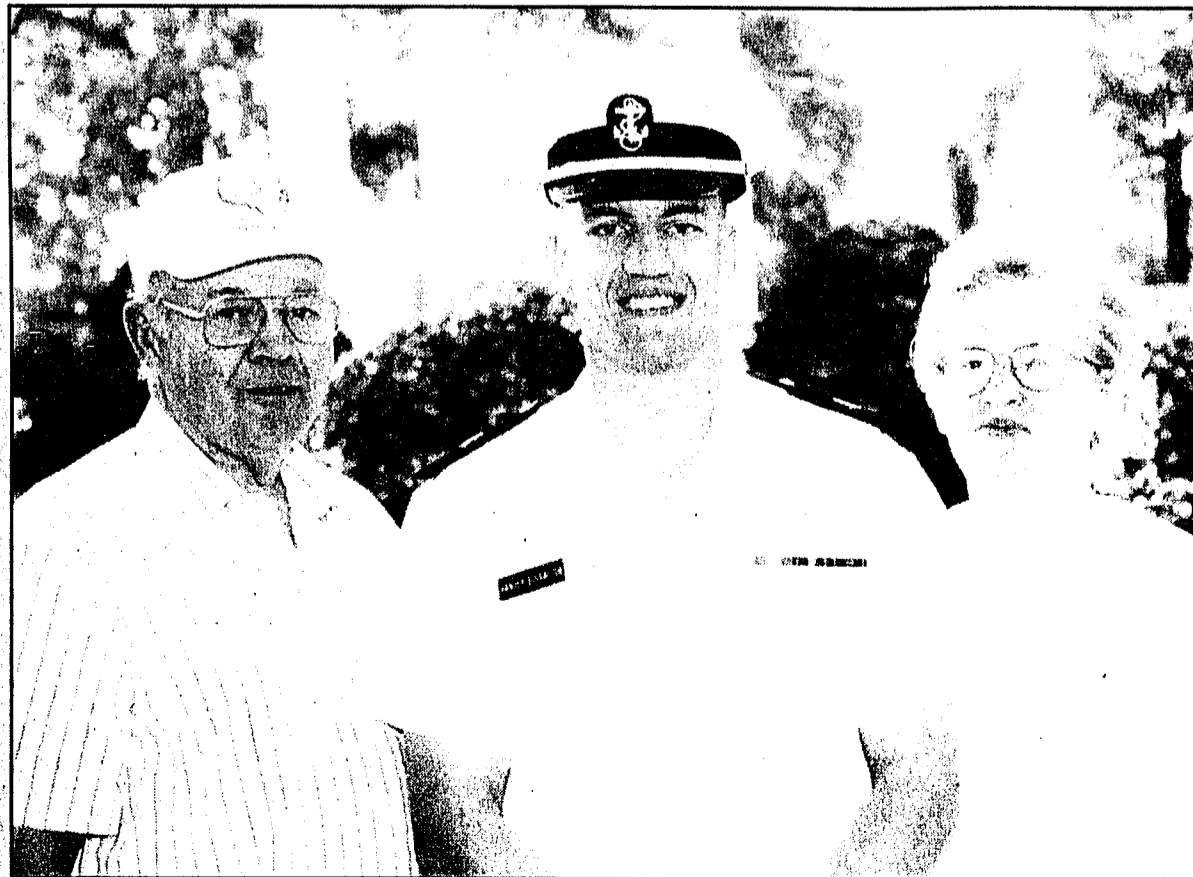
More than two years after he graduated from Sioux Center High School, Lloyd Vander Schaaf has set his sights higher than many of his fellow first-year students at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Vander Schaaf recently completed six weeks of Plebe Summer at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and the demanding orientation begins four years of preparation for commissioning as a Navy or Marine Corps officer.

After high school graduation, Vander Schaaf enlisted in the U.S. Navy and entered basic training at the recruit training command in Great Lakes, Illinois.

Following basic training, Vander Schaaf relocated to Charleston, South Carolina, and enrolled in two six-month programs from the middle of September 2000 to mid-October 2001.

The first school was an electrician school that provided Vander Schaaf with training in electrical theory. After Vander Schaaf ful-



Lloyd Vander Schaaf (center) enlisted in the Navy upon his graduation from Sioux Center High School in 2000 and began his first week of classes at the naval academy last week. His father Delbert Vander Scaaf (left) and his mother Elda (right) visited their son in Annapolis in early August.

VANDER SCHAAF, see Section 1 / Page 7