

Stone Bank superintendent announces resignation

Administrator has led two districts for nearly 4 years

Freeman Staff

TOWN OF MERTON – After serving as superintendent of both the Lake Country and Stone Bank school districts for nearly four years, Mark Lichte has announced his resignation from the Stone Bank district, effective June 30. The Stone Bank School Board voted to accept Lichte's resignation at a meeting Monday night, Lichte said. He served as superintendent of the district for nine years.

"It's just time," Lichte said of his decision. "Nine years in one district is a long time. I think the position should be rotated, let someone bring in new ideas." Lichte is in talks with the Lake Country district to stay on as superintendent, likely full-time, he said. He began working as superintendent of both districts in 2004, after former Lake Country superintendent Ken Moe left. He has split his time between the two districts for nearly four years.

"It was not a career goal of mine," Lichte said. Still, working for the Stone Bank district has been "the highlight of my career so far," he said. "They (the Stone Bank School Board) have been very supportive. They knew they were not going to have someone there forever," Lichte said. Though similar in many ways, the two districts differ in their place in the communities they serve, Lichte said. Where the Lake Country district is "kind of an eclectic group" with students from several areas, the Stone Bank district is really the "hub of the community," he said. "They're both wonderful places," Lichte said. Lichte and his family live near Stone Bank and plan to continue living there for now, he said. By announcing his resignation now, the Stone Bank School Board will have a whole year to plan for his absence and find a replacement, he said. "A new administrator will bring fresh changes and positive ideas," Lichte said.

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IN BRIEF

DNR: Rain won't submerge county trout fishing

WAUKESHA – Trout should not be affected by recent heavy rains and most fishing streams in the county are "in pretty good shape." The state Department of Natural Resources reports that Waukesha County waters are not expected to see a dip in the trout population, according to a Tuesday release. Good bets for brook and brown trout are Rosenvon and Mason creeks and for catch-and-release only in the Scuppernong River system, including Paradise, Scuppernong and McKeawn springs. Outside of those springs, the Scuppernong system has a 9-inch minimum size limit and a daily bag of three trout. Susan Beyer, inland fisheries supervisor for the DNR in Waukesha, said the south branch of the Scuppernong near Kettle Moraine State Forest has produced "a few nice big brown trout over the years."

911BC to debut on Wisconsin Public TV

DOUSMAN – 911BC K-9 Search and Recovery will debut on Wisconsin Public Television at 7 p.m. Thursday. The program, "In Wisconsin," will feature a segment on Dousman-based 911BC and forensic evidence dogs. It will be on a second time at noon Sunday. 911BC K-9 Search and Recovery is a nationally recognized K-9 forensic recovery team. Members work with local police agencies along with state and federal agencies across the United States.

Sensenbrenner applauds aid for Jefferson County

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, R-Menomonee Falls, Tuesday praised the Federal Emergency Management Agency's decision to add Jefferson County to the list of Wisconsin counties eligible to receive federal disaster assistance as a result of recent flooding. The aid will offer some relief to Jefferson County residents who have endured great losses, Sensenbrenner said in a news release Tuesday.

Grothman against unionizing professors

MADISON – Sen. Glenn Grothman, R-West Bend, called upon state Senate Democrats to remove a provision from their budget Monday providing for the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty to be unionized. "The state's finances are in dire straits and press releases from the UW system imply they need more money. Now is not the time for the University of Wisconsin to become the first system in the Big Ten to be unionized," Grothman said in a news release Monday. "I'm not sure how much of the additional \$120 million the Senate plans to spend for the UW System is because of unionization, but I'm sure it will be substantial."

Camp to offer classes in dog dancing

WAUKESHA – Pet lovers are invited to learn the new sport of dancing with their dog for competition or just for fun at a camp Sept. 21 to Sept. 23 at the Army Lake Salvation Army Camp, N8725 Army Lake, East Troy. The camp starts at 5 p.m. Sept. 21. Seminars during the weekend will feature dance steps, costuming and how to pick dance music. Cost for the camp is \$275. Deadline for registration is Friday. The camp is sponsored by the Dances with Wooff club. To register, call Jane at (262) 363-5139.

A BROTHERLY BOND

Inspiration comes from challenges for Oconomowoc man and his sibling

By **KATHERINE MICHALETS**
Freeman Staff

OCONOMOWOC – The images of brotherhood – strength, support and security – aptly describe the relationship between Dean and Mark Laing. What may be considered most admirable about these two is not that one is physically challenged and the other is not, but that both learn from and are inspired by the other. "I am very proud of him and his accomplishments, his marriage with Tammy, how he raised his children, Jessica and Michael, to be respectful, down to earth and very caring," said Mark Laing of Hales Corners about his brother Dean Laing of Oconomowoc. Mark Laing, 48, who walks with crutches, has had cerebral palsy since birth. His two brothers helped him strive for his goals. His oldest brother, Billy, also has cerebral palsy but has the cognitive abilities of a 6-month-old. "When I looked at my older brother (Billy), I saw what could have been to me," Mark Laing said. "I'm pretty proud to say that I've never felt sorry for myself." Mark Laing also credits his can-do attitude to Dean Laing and his parents' support. Dean Laing, for example, would modify games so that Mark could play, too. "I saw what it meant to help someone else," Dean Laing said. "Because of that, I had always wanted to be a trial lawyer helping people with disabilities." That is just what he has become. Dean Laing works for O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman and DeJong, S.C. in Milwaukee. He has represented clients in many cases involv-

ing medical malpractice, an Americans with Disabilities Act case and wrongful death cases. "Others who haven't lived through it wouldn't be able to understand it in the same way," Dean Laing said about being able to best represent his clients' interests. He described his clients as having "mostly significant injuries," such as injuries from motorcycle accidents or disabilities resulting from prescription drugs wrongly prescribed. "Because of my background, I handle them very personally," he said. He said clients often use the money won in a case to adapt houses, computers and vehicles for disabled needs and maybe allow them to take a much-needed vacation. "It gives you a real sense of doing something good for someone," he said, which is what Dean and Mark describe their mother as doing. Sandie Laing, 81, still cares for her oldest son, Billy, in her Milwaukee home. "She never wanted any medical assistance," Dean Laing said. "The only reason that (Billy) is still alive today is because of the love and care he got at home." "I can't even fathom what they went through. It must have been really, really difficult," Mark Laing said of his parents. "My dad and mom always gave me the verbal cues that whatever I would attempt to do within reason I could do and be successful at it." Since his childhood, Mark Laing has attempted many things and achieved many things. He coaches football at Whitnall High School, is on the board of the United Cerebral Palsy of Southeastern Wisconsin and worked for the IRS until his retirement in 2006. He currently coaches junior varsity and varsity football. "Football is my passion," he said. Mark Laing likes to share this phrase with his players: "Stay hungry. Stay humble."



Submitted photo

Mark Laing, left, and Dean Laing are two brothers with a very strong bond. They have been inspired by each other and give their time to helping others with disabilities.

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His advice for those who are physically challenged is, "Never accept 'no' for an answer. Never let someone try to stop your dreams or your goals." (Katherine Michalets can be reached at kmichalets@conley.net.com)

Class offers parents ways to deal with anger

Sessions start Monday; continue into November

Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA – Parents serve as important role models for their children when it comes to learning how to handle anger. According to Karen Bresnehan of The Women's Center in Waukesha, if a child deals with their anger by yelling and screaming, it's likely a learned behavior from watching their parents. The Women's Center is offering a series of free classes on Mondays, beginning Sept. 17 and running through Nov. 5, entitled "Handling Anger Within the Family." "During the first part of the classes, we go over the past and how we learned to deal with anger," she said. "We'll talk about if we were taught to never express our anger or if we learned to be aggressive or to suppress any anger." "Kids learn from watching, so we need to be role models in directing

At a glance

- **WHAT:** "Handling Anger Within the Family" classes for parents
- **WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every Monday, starting Sept. 17 and continuing through Nov. 5
- **WHERE:** The Women's Center, 505 N. East Ave.
- **MORE:** The classes are free and there is free, on-site child care up to age 12 available by appointment. For more information and to register, call Karen at 547-4600.

their behavior."

The class offers tips on handling anger and basic parenting skills that offer consequences like using a "time out" rather than spanking, Bresnehan said. "Some of the tips include having the parent take a time out for themselves when they start to feel they are getting angry," she said. "We learn to be aware (of) our body signs, like the clenched fist, the heartbeat getting faster and feeling hot that we are getting angry." "It's important then to take time to cool down. No one can make you angry. You choose to be."

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