
**Submission for the 2008 Aspire Award. From Nov 1, 2006 to Nov 1, 2007
Submitted by Renee Anderson for:**

**Anderson Memorials, Inc.
106 4th St SW
Austin, MN 55912
507-437-3636**

2007 was a great year for our company to get full page or featured newspaper exposure.

Jeff Anderson, company president was featured in the Southern Minnesota Magazine.

A local newspaper did a special on family businesses and we were one of the companies chosen. The reporter and photographer came to our office and our home.

Then a few months later the same paper did a full page article about Jeff and his craft.

Our outdoor display at one of our offices was featured on the front page for the way we decorate our bronze statuary At Christmas. That photo was later used by the newspaper to get more subscribers.

We also donated several memorials to young children in 2007. We were not aware of any media coverage but we received wonderful thank you cards..

We sponsored (along with other businesses) an area high school art show.

We designed, produced and donated a percentage of the cost for a bronze statue for a feature in the baby section of a cemetery.

We helped sponsor a concert for a teenager who died in a car accident.

We are currently working on two veterans memorials and Jeff was interviewed by a television station for updates on the projects. Also, enclosed is an article about one of the projects.

We donated a sculpture that is placed at a public playground. Various community members (including the past mayor) have called our office to thank us for bringing art to the community.

An organization contracted with us to produce over 500 markers to be placed on the unmarked graves of those who died in mental institutions. There have been several articles about this project and one newspaper came to our office to photograph us working on the memorials.

Southern Minnesota Magazin

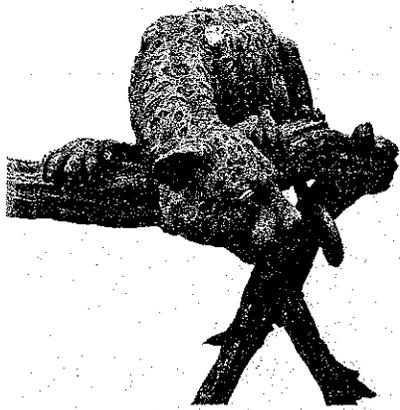
Spring 2007

**Art ideas
for your
garden**

**Come On In:
Craftsman home
exhibits artisan
qualities**



**Road Trip: Going deep
inside Niagara Cave**



Monumental ART

As a fourth-generation stone carver and as the current owner of Anderson Memorials Inc. — which dates back to the 1870s — Jeff Anderson said his job is one of the few jobs around where every day is different.

Some days he might work on an individual commemorative monument; others he might work on a larger veterans monument.

And contrary to what might be believed, he says his job at a memorial business is anything but depressing; in fact, he said it's quite the opposite.

He said the goal at his business is to help people — many of whom have been consumed with the trauma and sorrow of death. He helps them look back on the happiness of their loved one's life.

"That's what our product is — it's a remembrance," he said. "The funeral only lasts a few days, but our products will stick around forever."

Whether he's dealing with granite, marble, glass, bronze or wood, he said he is usually making a monument for people he's never even met. So the challenge then becomes to make a product as if it were for his best friend.

"It's actually a very rewarding situation," Anderson said. "We have a goal that the memorials should be as unique as the people they represent. The things we do become landmarks."

He said the most satisfying part

about his job is seeing families who are pleased with his designs and who express to him how much that memorial correctly represented their deceased loved one.

In addition to individual and family monuments, he also helps design and build many of the area's major memorials, including the ones at the Mower County Veterans Memorial in Austin, the Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial in Rochester, the Northfield Area Veterans Memorial in Northfield and the Serenity of Life Sculpture in Lakeville, along with several others.

These bigger projects cost several hundred thousand dollars and take years of time to complete, he said.

Most recently, he has won top awards for his Northfield Area Veterans Memorial and the Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial.

The Northfield memorial includes three spires of staggered heights that represent the three stages of

From the time he was a small child, Jeff Anderson has been working on pieces of stone.

Now as an adult, he is among the top 50 commemorative artists in all of North America, and he and his firm have won 19 national and international awards for design, workmanship and public relations.

STORY BY SARAH LIGHT
PHOTOS BY ERIC JOHNSON

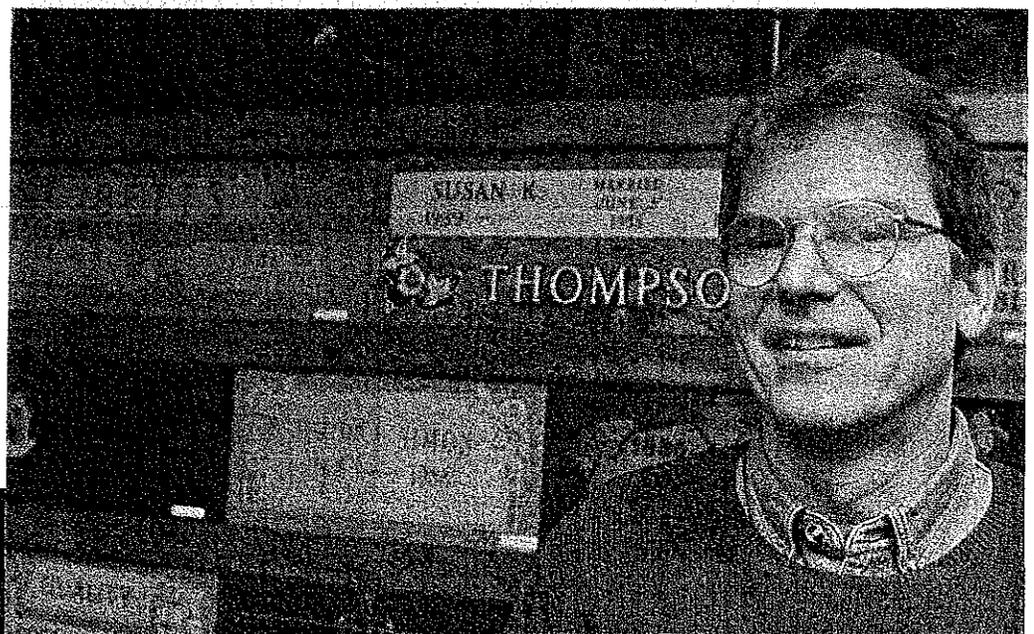
American military history, which include efforts to gain American freedom, struggles to maintain national unity and freedom of all citizens, and efforts to defend and protect the freedom of others. Also at the memorial, six vertical stone tablets pay tribute to each of the six branches of the U.S. military and recognize those who have given their lives in times of war.

In addition, there is a statue of a soldier marching home who is haunted by the memories of war.

During most of the projects, such as in this memorial, Anderson said he helps with the conceptual work for the monuments, and then he passes them off to other artists to make a larger version of that concept.

Feature, p. 30 ▶

Jeff Anderson stands beside monuments he designed.



Real Results

JAN MATTSON

21 Columbus

Wonderfully cared for 4 bedroom home with newer siding windows & shingles. Spacious kitchen has cherry cupboards, nice bow window in living room. \$86,000

046 680th Ave

Beautiful large home on 3.57 acres. Short drive to town. Outbuildings in great condition. Home ready for move-in. \$149,900

Plainview Lane

4 bedroom home with attached garage. Backs up to school & tennis courts. Spacious living room with lots of window area. \$149,900

718 Bridge

Nicely cared for 3 bedroom home with 9'x14' eating area off kitchen. One bedroom has been made into main floor laundry. \$59,900

903 Cedar

Cozy & clean home in nice neighborhood. 2 bedrooms dining/living combo den and nice wooded lot. Close to the lake too! \$59,900

100 Johnson

Northside Oaks! A great way to live. Condo has 2 bedrooms nice dining area, laundry room, all new energy efficient windows & new appliances. Tastefully decorated. \$105,000

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402 Central Ave. S. Hollandale



CHARACTER-HEAVY! Completely remodeled 2 bedroom home in Hollandale. All you have to do is move in! Better Call Blecker for more information. MLS# 2924905 \$109,900

1404 S. Broadway, Albert Lea



Beautiful home in Albert Lea. Features include: 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, and a large picture window. Call your private showing. Better Call Blecker! MLS# 2922105 \$109,900 Call Now for Appointment

207 13th St. Northwood



Completely remodeled 3 bed 2 bath home features all new siding, shingles, turn in water heater, central air and all new 2nd floor bath!

Also features a 3 stall garage on a corner lot. Call today! MLS# 2923426 \$102,500

807 10th St. N., Northwood



A place to hang your hat! Spacious 4 bedroom 3 bath home. Hardwood floors throughout, custom cabinets in kitchen & patio doors to deck from family room. Large 3 car garage. This home is a must see! MLS# 2924376 \$229,000

234 Morin Rd., Alden



Ranch style home with nice sized living room and kitchen. Kitchen featuring area with patio doors to deck. Unique garage and workshop. Add to nice sized bedrooms, hardwood floors, a finished basement with gas fireplace, egress windows and an energy efficient furnace and you'll want to make this your home. MLS# 2920400 \$123,500

282 Morin Rd., Alden



So many new updates. Well nice the location, price, newly finished basement with large pantry and open design living room with pretty bay window. Never visit a listing without landscaping make this a great investment. Call today. MLS#2924250 \$99,900

54145 187th St., Austin



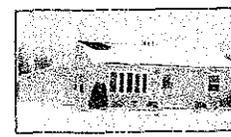
Beautifully landscaped setting for this charming ranch style home. Features include 3 bedrooms, spacious eat in kitchen with oak cabinets, finished family room in the lower level, large wooded lot. Just minutes from Austin. MLS# 2919855 \$140,000

27498 510th Ave., Austin



Beautiful ranch style home on 2.5 acres. Features include: 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, and a large picture window. Call your private showing. Better Call Blecker! MLS# 2921021 \$185,000

302 18th St. NW, Austin



Neighborhood pride is reflected in this well kept home! Ranch style home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a finished basement. Bow window in living room with hardwood floor. Garage is 26x30 insulated and sheet-rocked. Lets take a look today! MLS# 2923048 \$125,000

1906 3rd Ave., SW, Austin



Looking for that perfect Ranch style home? Completely remodeled 3 bedroom 2 bath home has a beautiful decorated interior. Finished basement and nicely landscaped fenced yard for additional living enjoyment. MLS# 2909413 Priced at 139,500

706 23rd St., SW, Austin



Beautiful 4 bedroom 3 bath stone stucco exterior. 26x38 family room and master bedroom with bath. Main floor laundry, formal dining room, 12x30 deck, patio walk-out wetbar and well for watering lawn. MLS#2924932 \$284,900

26435 540th Ave., Lansing



Better grade home at a reasonable price. Here is a home for your budget. This home is in excellent condition and features a new basement with an egress window, sliding flooring, patio doors out to deck overlooking a large backyard. Attached double garage. MLS#2924522 All for \$134,900

from p. 7

The business keeps in contact with hundreds of artisans and craftsmen from all over because of the many different styles that each employs, he said.

During the course of a year, Anderson Memorials makes between 4,000 and 5,000 pieces. This includes all of the preliminary design work, enlargement of the design, sculptural work and engravings.

Because the business philosophy is to make a product that will last forever, even the materials they use are chosen for their eternal properties, he said.

During his time in the profession, Anderson has been recognized by the American Institute of Commemorative Art, the Monument Builders of North America and the National Sculpture Society.

He graduated with an associate's degree in business administration from Rochester Community College, a bachelor's degree in industrial education, engineering and technology from Brigham Young University and a graduate studies degree in commercial art, sculpture and design from Winona State and the University of Minnesota.

Although Anderson Memorials currently has offices in Austin, Owatonna and Rochester, Anderson said he usually splits his time between the Austin and Rochester offices.

Anderson Memorials Inc. can be found in Austin at 106 Fourth St SW and in Rochester at 2843 S. Broadway.

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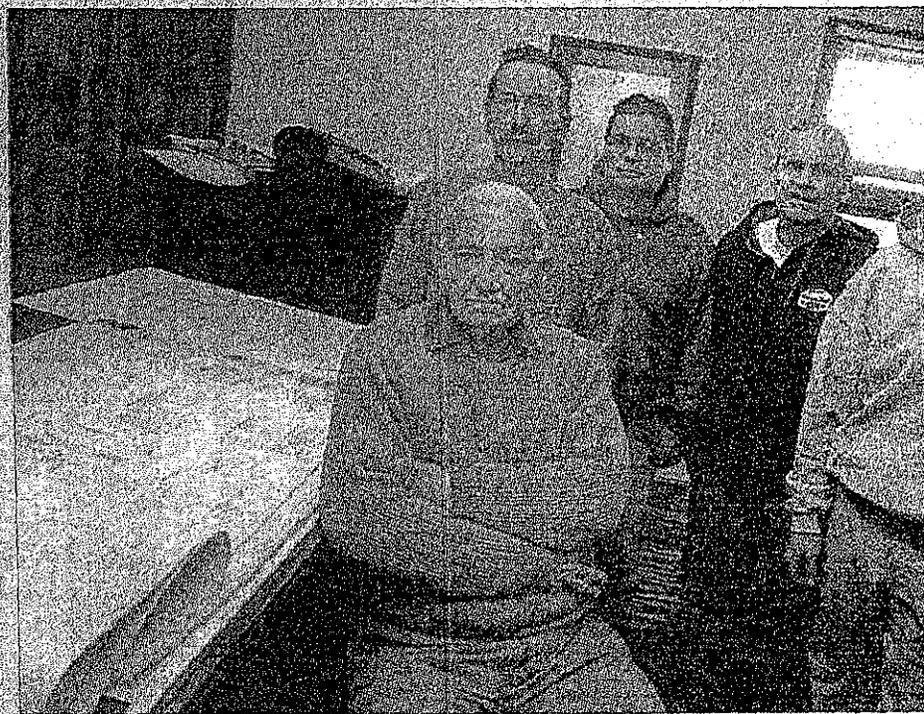
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Generations

Business & Industry

H
Pro

Roots in stone



Eric Johnson/photodesk@austi

John Wagner poses for a portrait with the vice presidents of Wagner Construction, a
From left: John Wagner, son Matthew, nephew Tim, nephew Terry and son Brendhan.

TELEPHONE



Eric Johnson/photodesk@austindailyherald.com

Jeff Anderson tells the story of bronze sculpture next to him as he holds the clay sculpture it was designed from. The bronze sculpture portion of Anderson Memorial has a personalized feel to it, often symbolizing a specific person's life.

For Austin artist, stone carving goes back four generations

By Katie Johnson
Austin Daily Herald

The Anderson family's roots in stone carving are buried deep — and may go all the way back to 19th-century Denmark.

Relatives have attempted to chisel away at their lineage, discovering how the spelling of their name was changed, where the business expanded and even how the art of stone carving runs through two blood lines, said Jeff Anderson, who co-owns Anderson Memorials

in America back at least four generations to the 1870s. Both of his paternal grandparents' parents were stone carvers, his grandmother's side came from Germany and his grandfather's side was from Denmark.

"Our family goes back two different lines in the monument industry," said Jeff.

When his grandfather's family came to the United States from Scandinavia, they changed the spelling of their last name from "Andersen" to "Anderson" due to a sort of family dispute.

By Katie Johnson
Austin Daily Herald

A business started 95 years ago by one man with a skill for construction has literally built most of the city of Austin.

Wagner Construction Co. began in 1912 when Nick Wagner came from Hastings, Minn., to Austin to help his brother-in-law build a barn. Other farmers noticed his workmanship, and so Nick began a business here.

He fathered 19 children from two wives; the first had died in

the flu epidemic in World War II. John Wagner, 79, the current president and treasurer of the company, is the ninth child in the family. His brother, David, vice president and secretary, recently died at age 78.

"He was a valuable asset to the company," John said. "He was a good partner and a good brother."

Two of John's sons, Matthew and Brendan, and two nephews, Tim and Terry, carry on the family tradition — the four are vice presidents of Wagner Construction.

"It's quite usually business to 195 years," John said. His brother, Joseph, business, Jose Co. in Austin, Carter. John also brothers who business called Tri-N

The company seen all over numerous churches, Angels, St. Ed Baptist — to sci Sumner and Bar

Hormel family's lasting legacy

By Jackie Wambach Holstrom
Austin Daily Herald

The death last year of George "Geordie" Hormel, grandson of George A. Hormel, piqued interest in — and bred disinformation on — the Hormel Foundation, an entity founded in the early 1940s by George and Jay Hormel.

The foundation retains a controlling interest in Hormel Foods Corporation stock, and dividends earned are used to bolster many Austin causes.

At least two common misconceptions surround the foundation. One is that the foundation to some degree runs the day-to-day activities of the company. The other is that Austin city streets will be paved in gold the moment the last heir dies.

Neither is true.

According to the official Hormel Web site, one of the purposes of the foundation is to make contributions which directly benefit Mower County, a wish of company founder George A. Hormel and his son, Jay, who formed the Foundation in 1941.





Submitted photo

An historical photo of the Anderson Memorial operation in Austin.

Anderson

From Page 1

Jeff's relatives came through Wisconsin and Rochester. Sven Anderson bought a granite company in Austin with his son in the early 1900s; they sold it three decades later.

An uncle of Jeff's bought it back in the 1940s, and it was handed to his grandfather, who liquidated it.

The current owners are Brigham Young University graduates. Jeff earned a degree in business education, engineering and technology. He even worked at a monument company in Utah.

"I grew up in the business, so by grade school, I was hanging around the shop," said Jeff. "By the time I got out of high school, I was proficient. It was second nature to go to the local monument shop."

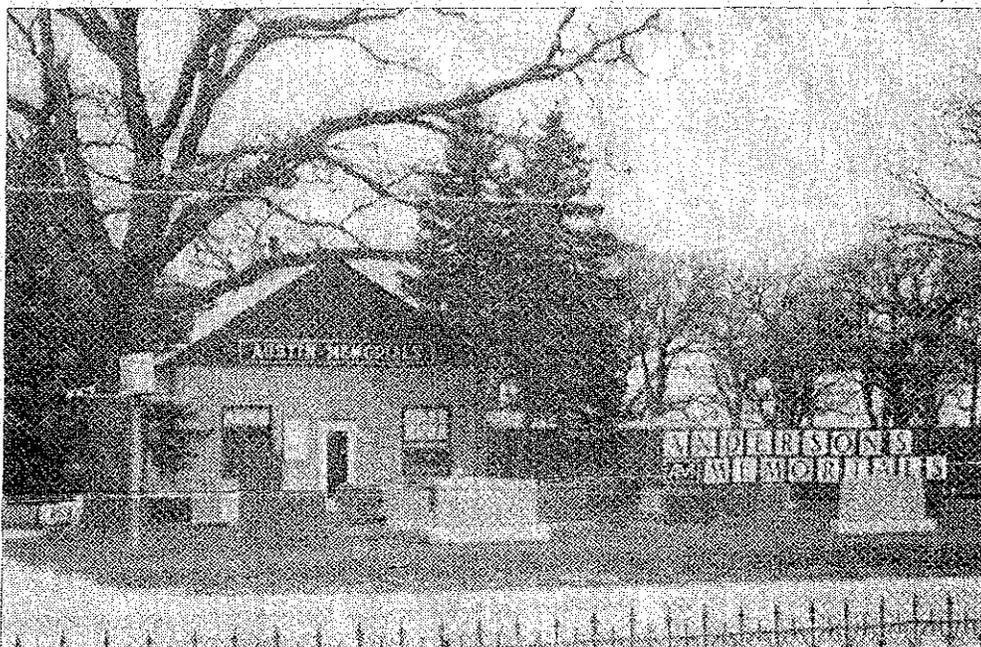
Renee, a native of New York, graduated with a paralegal degree.

"He was always artistic," she said of her husband.

In the 1970s, the couple came to Minnesota to help out Jeff's father with the business, as he was having health problems. They never left.

"We fell in love with Austin," said Renee.

Jeff and Renee raised a family here and both run the business in Austin and own



Submitted photo

Anderson Memorials was once located where Worlein Funeral Home now stands across from Oakwood Cemetery. The company moved in 1990.

In 1990, the Austin business moved from the current Worlein Funeral Home location to Fourth Street Southwest. The new Holiday Inn was buying property from the Oakwood Cemetery, who the Andersons were renting from.

The award-winning company has

design and computerized shop; the Rochester business is where heavier granite work is done.

Recently, the couple has expanded their bronze monument work with a showcase in front of their business, proving that memorials don't have to be generic.

Carving into monuments

life

Text by Sarah Light
Photos by Eric Johnson
Austin Daily Herald

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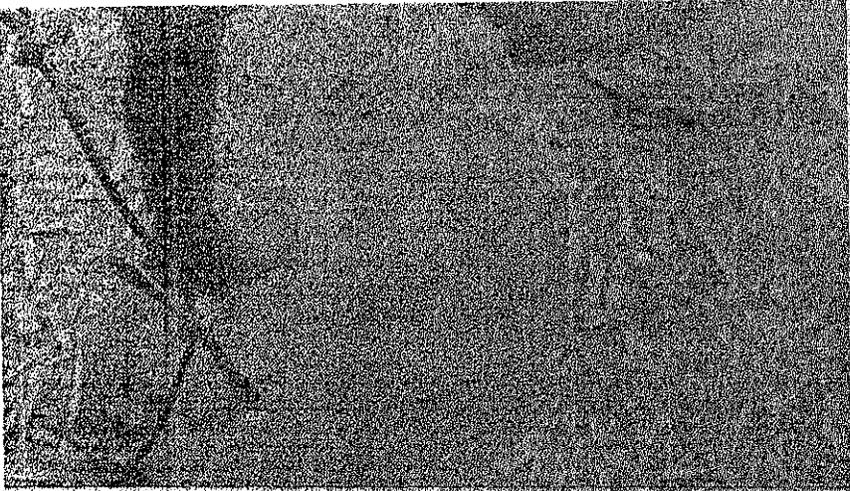
of the U.S. military and recognize those who have given their lives in times of war.

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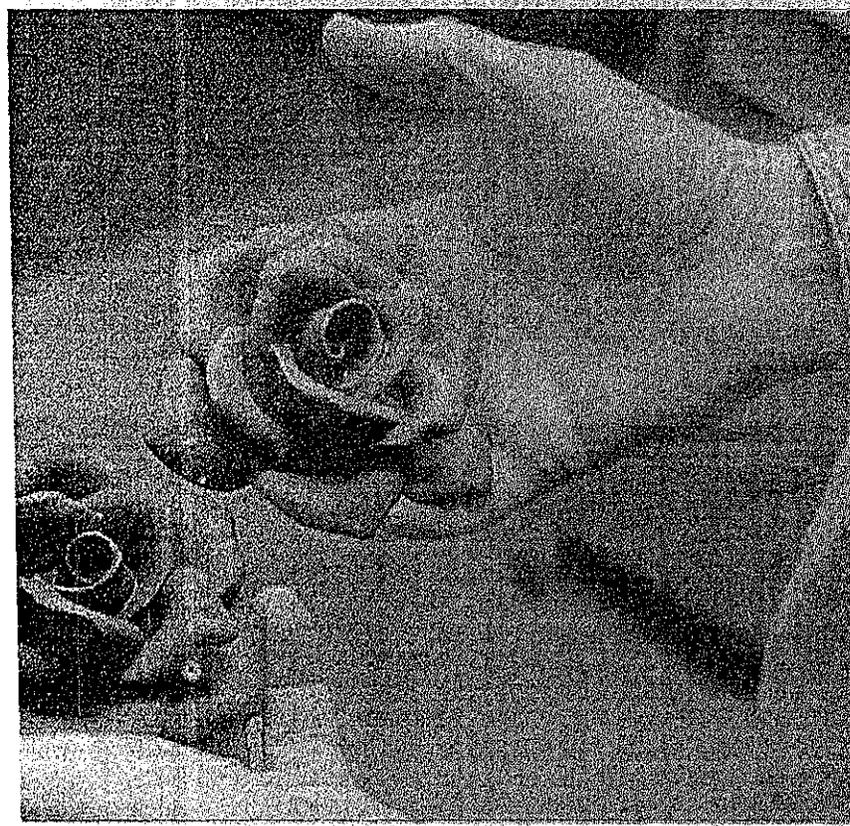
The business keeps in contact with hundreds of artisans and craftsmen from all





design for individuals, families and military memorials. This statue, above, stands at the

ls up examples of some of his bronze work at his home studio. The different color varia- hem and then simply waiting to see what the oxygen will do with the cooling metal.



It Now Designing

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These bigger projects cost several hundred thousand dollars and take years of time to complete, he said.

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Anderson. This piece, as created from a model, seen behind, was for a memory garden sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. that each employs, he said.

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MOVING ON?

Captain finalist for top cop in Mason City

Finalist likely to be narrowed today

From staff reports

Austin Police Capt. Curt Rude is one of 10 finalists for the police chief position in Mason City, Iowa.

A 22-year member of the Austin police force, Rude said this morning it would



be a "gratifying experience" to serve in the top seat of a community's police department. The chief position in Mason City seemed like an interesting

venue to follow up on, he said.

Rude began his police career in Austin and has served in the department's No. 2 position for six years.

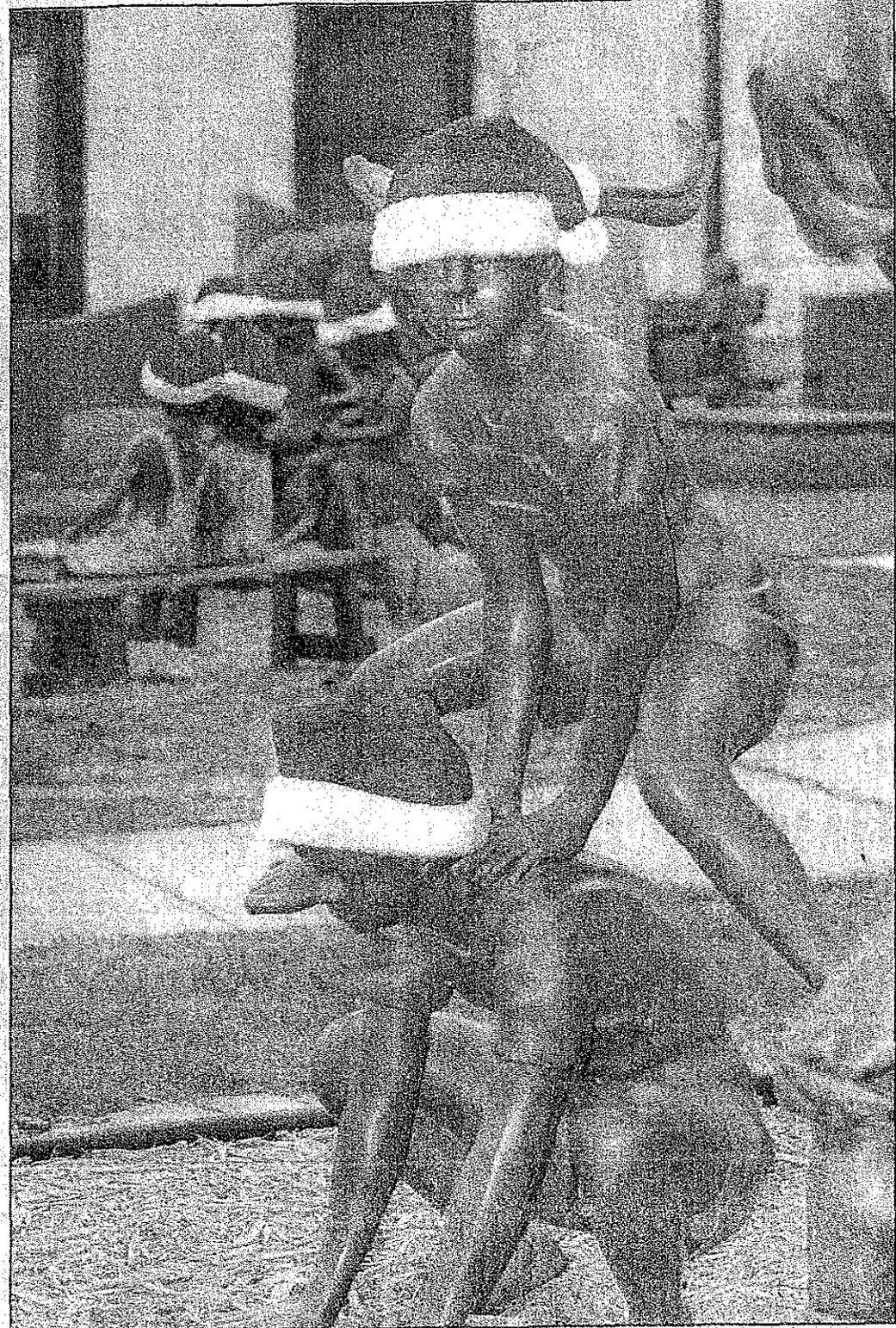
Mason City's city council put the list of finalists on Tuesday night.

Officials expected to narrow the candidate list to five by the end of today, according to a spokeswoman at the town's city hall.

Police chiefs from Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa are among the 10 candidates for police chief in Mason City. One of them is Mason City Police lieutenant Ronald Vandenberg.

Mason City, considered the center of activity in northern Iowa, is about 40 miles south of Austin.

LEAPING INTO THE HOLIDAY



John Weiss/Post-Bulletin

Anderson Memorials Inc. got into the Christmas spirit again this year by putting Santa hats on figures on some of the bronze lawn sculptures it sells from its office near downtown Austin. "We've had a lot of people stop and say 'Hey, that's really neat,'" said salesman Dale Kaderabek.

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s to tion for reentry to society that
 he received in prison. It
 set taught him discipline, ambi-
 ing tion and punctuality, he says,
 "stuff I really needed in life."
 Those programs are the
 ho type prison officials want
 l expanded, and they hope to
 e, he see new funding in Gov. Tim
 Pawlenty's budget to be intro-
 duced in January.

**with someone at the
 etin in Austin?**

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the ALL-NEW Austin Post-Bulletin



AND THEY SCORE!
 Well-balanced Packers prevail
 in home opener. Page 1B

JUSTICE CENTER FUNDING
 Austin City Council transfers \$1 million
 for project. Page 3A

84 PERCENT AND CLIMBING
 United Way thermometer rises toward goal. Page 3A

Austin Post-Bulletin

www.postbulletin.com Wednesday, December 6, 2006 50 cents

MOVING ON?
**Captain
 finalist for
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*List likely to be
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By Tim Rude

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The chief position in Mason City opened like an interview with Rude to follow up on, he said.

Rude began his police career in Austin and has served in the department's No. 2 position for six years.

Mason City's city council

LEAPING INTO THE HOLIDAY



AUSTIN FINANCIAL CREATIONS HEARING

City budget fat or lean?

Debate starts on proposed \$3.2 million levy; utility costs and capital expenses among reasons cited for 7.75 percent increase

By Tim Rude

With its bigger size, the City of Austin's proposed 2007 budget slipped into a "fiscally" budget Tuesday.

After more than an hour of details about what's inside the budget, 1st Ward councilman Geoff Baker asked whether it is "as skinny as we can get."

City Administrator Jim Herrin said he didn't think the suggested 07 budget was "fat" and that he believes the staff administers the budget tightly.

Finance Director Von Unkert, who gave the presentation, said the budget is "as lean as he can get it with the direction given to him by the council during the last several months."

Public hearing

As required by the state, the city held a Tuesday, Dec. 5 public hearing Tuesday in council chambers.

\$3,232,500
 Proposed by levy for 2007

7.75 percent
 Increase proposed for 07 from the 2006 levy

2.66 percent
 Amount of the 07 levy that stays the same

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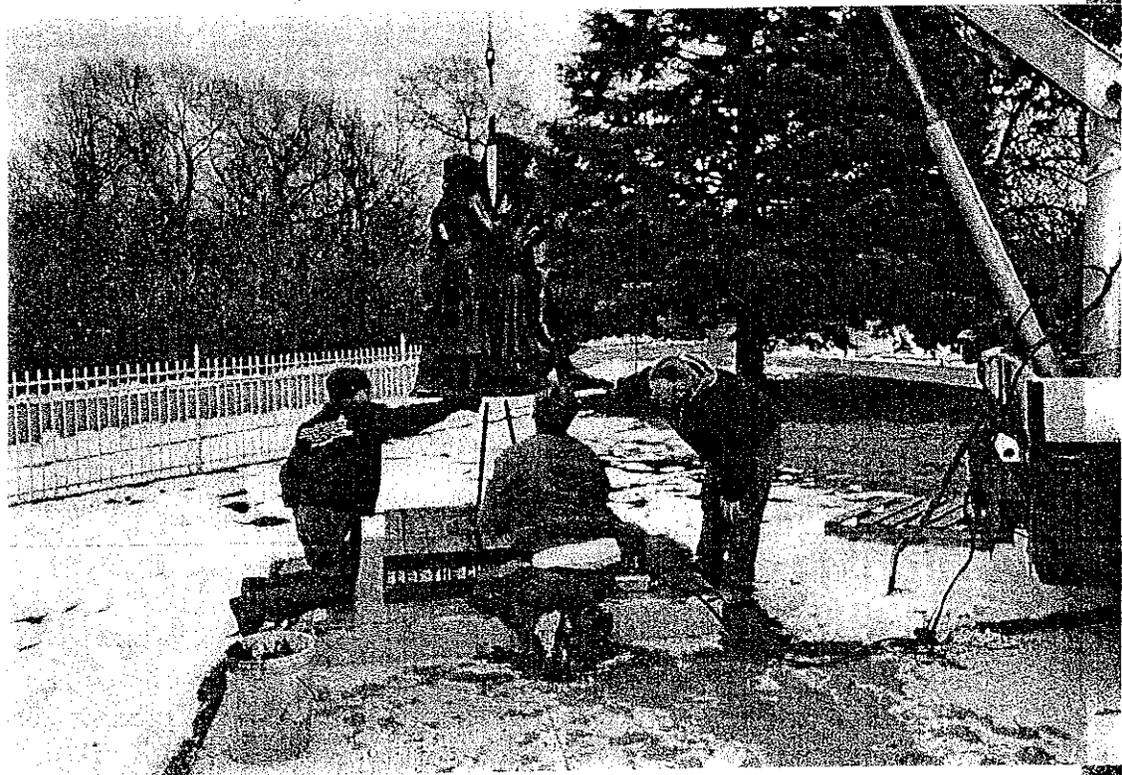
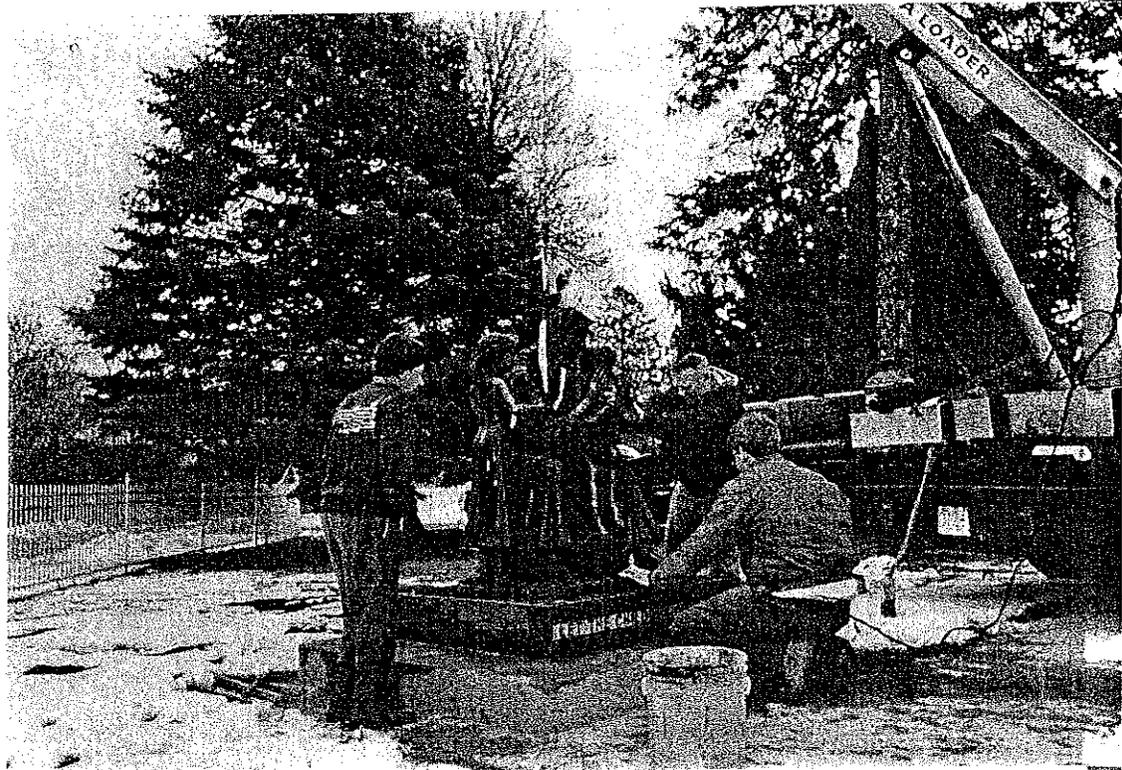
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4
Mariah Paaverud
AHS "Artist of the Year Nominee"
2005-2006

To Andersons Memorial
Thank you again for being a sponsor
for the Art Shows and Assembly!
The Class of 007 has some big ideas
for Spring this year. You help
make all things possible!
Thanks!
Sincerely,
Brenna Paaverud

3-13-07
Dear Anderson Monument,
Thank you for donating the
stone for the Tyler O'Neill monument
that Boy Scout Troop 186 are having
you engrave. All involved with the
troop and especially Tyler's family
appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,
Boy Scout Troop 186



adopted a policy to discourage smoking at city-owned recreation facilities.

The resolution, which passed in a 4-3 vote Monday, sets voluntary guidelines for tobacco use at numerous sites including the City Arena, the Albert Lea Civic Theatre and parks.

"It's a message you're sending that we encourage a healthy lifestyle in our community," City Manager Victoria Simonsen said.

In Minnesota, 78 other communities have policies or ordinances prohibiting tobacco use in parks.

Rochester street lane closing on Thursday

Where: Civic Center Drive between First and Second streets Southeast

When: 9 a.m. to noon Thursday

What: One southbound lane and the northbound left-turn lane at First Street Southeast to be closed

Why: Installation of art in the skyway exhibit

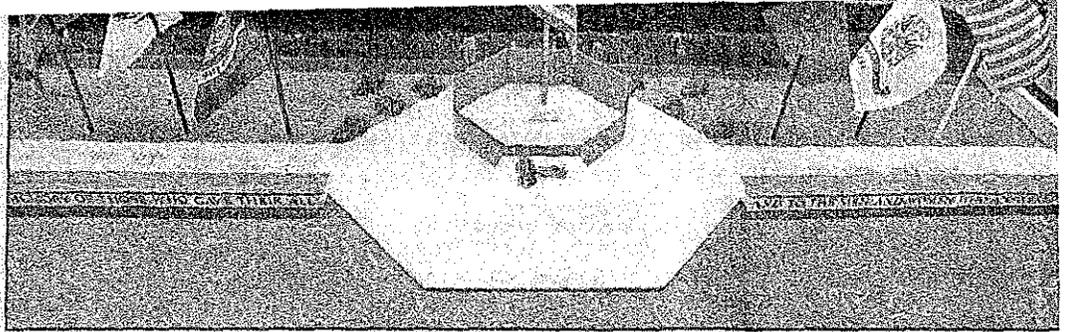
CORRECTIONS

The Post-Bulletin is committed to publishing fair and accurate information, in print and online. If you find an error or have a concern about content, call Managing Editor Jay Furst at 285-7742 or send an e-mail to furst@postbulletin.com.

UP NEXT

In Thursday's Region

Working on your schedule for the holidays? We help out with the annual Holiday Happenings, which includes everything going on through the season. Then it is up to you to mark your calendar.



Elizabeth Nida/Post-Bulletin

This is a mock depiction for the "All Veterans Memorial" in Stewartville. The \$150,000 memorial is aimed at focusing the attention of drivers on U.S. 63 to the sacrifices made by veterans.

Fundraising begins for vets memorial in Stewartville

By Heather J. Carlson

hcarlson@postbulletin.com

STEWARTVILLE — Plans are under way to build a \$150,000 veterans memorial featuring a life-size bronze statue in front of the local American Legion.

The Stewartville American Legion launched a fundraising campaign for the "All Veterans Memorial" on Veterans Day. The new memorial is aimed at focusing the attention of drivers on U.S. 63 to the sacrifices made by veterans.

"(The memorial) will be a daily reminder. It's not something that people will only see on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. It's something they will see every day of the week as they go by," said Jeff Anderson, who designed the memorial.

Anderson is owner of Anderson's Rochester Granite & Monument Co., and designer of Rochester's Soldiers Field memorial.

The Legion already has a small memorial in front of its building that includes a brick octagon with a plaque and an American flag. The new memorial will be built off the existing tribute by adding a life-size bronze statue of a soldier holding a dying soldier in his arms, said Chef Finley, a member of the Legion's memorial committee. It will also include an 18-foot-high granite wall running the length of the Legion hall with the following inscription: "To the men and women who answered the call, we honor the memory of those who gave their all."

Also included will be 8-by-20-inch granite pavers with the names of veterans and flags representing the different branches of the military. Construction is slated to begin in the spring.

The Legion's fundraising push comes after

To honor your vet

☎ 533-9281

Granite pavers can be purchased in honor of military veterans for \$250. For more information, call the Stewartville American Legion at 533-9281.

Gulf War veteran Frank Lager proposed building a veterans memorial in a park next to the Stewartville Care Center. City leaders voiced support for the plan, as did leaders of Stewartville's Veterans of Foreign War. Legion

"(The memorial) will be a daily reminder. It's not something that people will only see on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. It's something they will see every day of the week as they go by."

— Jeff Anderson, who designed the memorial

leaders expressed concern that the proposed location was too isolated and difficult to find.

"We wanted (the memorial) to be public, where everybody could see it," Finley said.

Lager recently died after a battle with cancer. The city has decided to build a peace plaza in Lager's honor next to the care center instead of a veterans memorial. Despite the disagreement over memorial plans, Finley emphasized that the Legion's planned memorial is aimed at

honoring every veteran who has served — even veterans who do not live in Stewartville.

"We're not discriminating

against anybody," he said. "If you're a veteran, we're inviting you to purchase a paver to help make the memorial great."

Stewartville Mayor Chuck Murphy said he has not yet seen design plans for the new memorial, but said the city backs the Legion's efforts.

He added, "We always support whatever (the veterans groups) try to do to improve the community and promote the cause of veterans."

throughout the month, Den-
nison said.

Austin had 88 yards rushing
on 23 attempts.

It: turnovers and penalties
define game

score will be seeing balls for
various sports for the first

mittees, also said he wanted
community.

Statue adorns Austin playground

Austin Area Zonta Club, Anderson Memorial donate bronze artwork

By Tim Ruzek
truzek@postbulletin.com

Two children sat on a bench Tuesday,
laughing while facing a playground.

Centered in the middle of the bench,
they still had room for one more child to
sit on each side of them.

A local group is hoping to see real-life
kids take those seats on the new bronze
statue depicting two children on a bench.

Austin Area Zonta Club officially dedi-
cated on Tuesday its "Come Sit With Us,"
statue that sits on the edge of a playground
along South Main Street just north of the
city's Veterans Pavilion.

About a dozen Zonta members attended
the ceremony with Austin Mayor Tom
Stiehm and others.

The statue was placed at the park about
a month ago, said Dennis Maschka, director
of parks and recreation.

It's a piece of art that encourages kids to
interact with it, said Dariene Thaisen, a
Zonta member who had the idea for it.
Thaisen said she "fell in love" with the
statue when seeing it at Anderson Memo-
rials.

"This was just the perfect thing," said
Thaisen, who's also a Parks and Recre-
ation Board member.

Jeff and Renee Anderson of Anderson
Memorials in Austin donated the statue.

Zonta members paid for the statue's
granite base and engraving. The city put in
the cement slab for it.

The statue will help beautify the city
and offer something for everyone to enjoy,
Zonta president Mary Jo Follmuth said.

Zonta's funds for the project came from
the remaining fundraising money it col-
lected in about 2000 to donate decorative,
artistic benches for the east lawn of Austin
High School.

A few years ago, Zonta used the same
funds to donate a peace statue along North
Main Street at the downtown Mill Pond.

The 18-member club has existed in
Austin for more than 50 years, Follmuth
said.

Zonta International is a worldwide
service organization of executives in busi-
ness and professionals working together
to advance the status of women. About
33,000 people belong to the organization
in more than 1,200 clubs in 67 countries.



Nathan Howard/nho

The Austin chapter of Zonta Internati
bronze statue of two children sitting on
ground near the Veterans Pavillion on Tu

■ Vol. 82, No. 255
■ 12 pages

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Rochester, Minnesota

Daily



UP NEXT

In Thursday's Austin P-B:

Is progress being made in
the negotiations for building
a new justice center in
Mower County? Read the lat-
est.

TODAY'S PUNCHLINE

"Twenty-six."

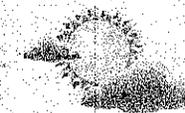
Joke on page A2

WEATHER

Thursday:
Partly sunny

High: 60

Low: 37



More weather
Page B6

CONTACT US

News tips, delivery:
434-7340

In person:
201 S. Main St.
Austin, MN 55912

Zonta International unveils art in the

By LEE BONORDEN
lee.bonorden@austindailyherald.com

Zonta International's Austin chapter has brought art to another park in Austin.

The organization's new "Come sit with us" sculpture was unveiled Tuesday afternoon at Austin Community Bandshell Park.

It depicts two children sitting on a park bench, chatting with each other. The inscription is also an invitation to children who visit the park. "Come sit with us" it reads.

Mary Jo Follmuth, president, introduced dignitaries, including Austin Mayor Tom Stiehm and Austin Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department director Dennis Maschka.

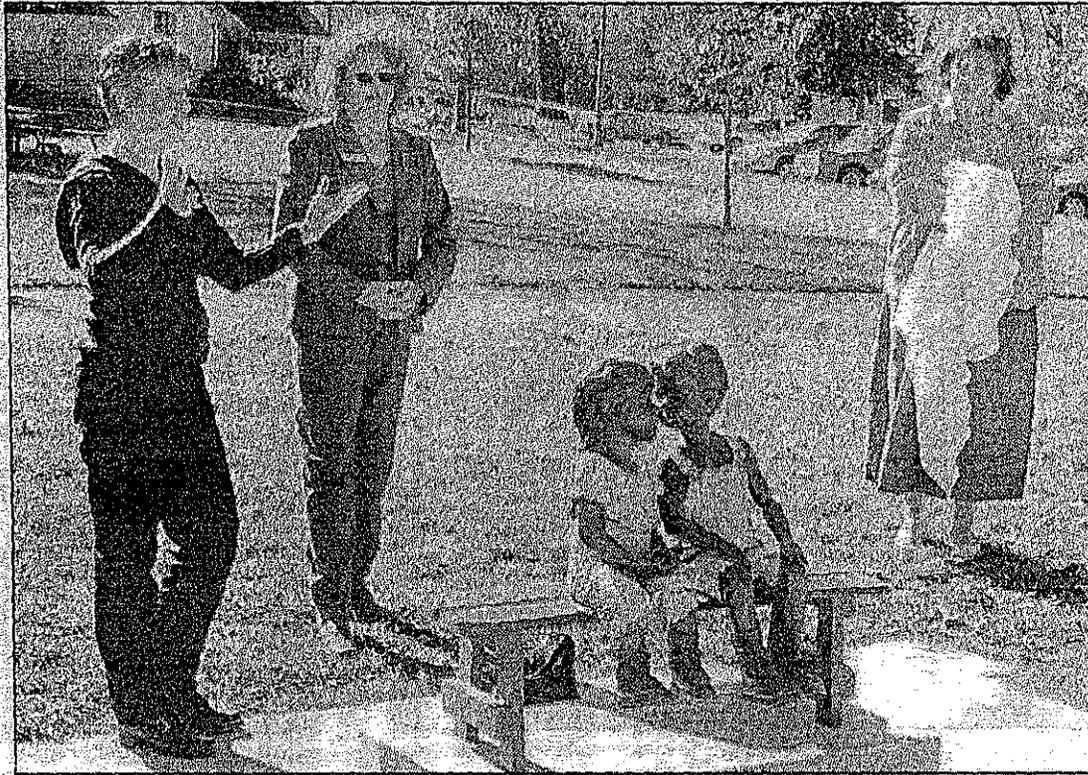
Another special guest was Joann Hanson, a Zonta area director.

Follmuth also introduced Jeff and Renee Anderson of Anderson Memorials, where the children and bench sculpture was designed and created.

Austin Zonta and Anderson Memorials have previously partnered on sculpture projects at Austin High School (benches) and Horace Austin Park (the peace sculpture along North Main Street).

"We want to thank them for partnering with Zonta once again," Follmuth said.

Renee Anderson, also a Zonta member,



Lee Bonorden/lee.bonorden@austindailyherald.com

From left are Austin Area Zonta president Mary Jo Follmuth and Zonta members Darlene Thaisen and Renee Anderson at the start of Tuesday's sculpture dedication in Austin Community Bandshell Park.

and we did the peace sculpture project along the Mill Pond Pathway." Anderson said of the 2005 project.

"Then, we still had some money left over and Darlene suggested another statue and donating it to the city," Anderson recalled.

Thaisen, a Zonta member since 1984, is a member of the Austin Park Board.

She showed the group

concerts and former St. Paul's Lutheran Church (now

Veterans Pavilion), as well as an expansive play system

area, the park offers multiple amenities for all visitors, according to Maschka.

"It's great," he said. "I'm very excited about getting some art in the park. It would be nice to keep going with an idea like this."

Jeff Anderson said the sculpture was a "staff function" at his business. "We try to create interesting pieces that we can do multiple copies of," he said of the bronze sculpture.

"Bronze is considered an eternal metal," he explained. "The reason why it is considered that is because as it weathers it develops a patina or surface coating through oxidation. Unlike iron which continues to rust, when bronze gets that oxidation on it that protects it. It will change colors depending on the environment. In a park setting like this it will remain more a brownish-toned sculpture."

Anderson Memorials has left its creations in many places. For instance, the Mower County Veterans Memorial in downtown Austin on courthouse square.

"We're major thanks to Renee Anderson; three memorial sculptures. A lot of times life is hard. To do a piece like another 18 months.

"We get things Zonta city and beautify trees in his founding. Follmuth one very unique."

Thaisen was credited the sculpture pleased.

"I really grateful to have outlast Zonta said. "The and other who folded grateful thru nity while tence. Who they are for

"This is live on," s.

EVERY SEASON STARTS AT

NOVEMBER

"It all started with Dariene Thaisen," Anderson said and Thaisen explained her mission.

"It's an invitation to children to come and interact with art," said Thaisen. "That's my big theme with this piece of art: that kids have an opportunity to do this in the park."

Thaisen was club president in 1997 and challenged members to come up with a way to celebrate Zonta's golden anniversary in Austin.

"Nancy Grunewald chaired the fundraising committee and we worked very hard and raised a lot of money," Anderson said.

The organization's golden anniversary was celebrated in 2000 and Zonta brought benches to the east main entrance pathway to Austin High School with the help of art instructor Bruce Loeschen and his students.

"We had funds left over

wanted to bring art to the city's parks. The idea was approved and Anderson Memorials agreed to partner with the organization.

The city provided the cement slab located on the east lawn of the Austin Community Bandshell Park's elaborate play system for children. The club donated the sculpture.

A clear blue skies and bright sunshine, the fall season colors in Austin Community Bandshell Park were the perfect backdrop for Tuesday's sculpture unveiling.

Mayor Stiehm expressed the city's appreciation to the Zonta members for the gesture and Maschka added his own.

"The park is used virtually every weekend from May to October," Maschka said.

With walking-biking paths, Skinkers Hill and nearby pond, bandshell for

ZONTA IMPACTS MANY

The impact of Zonta International in Austin is far-reaching. Mary Jo Follmuth, president of Austin Area Zonta, said the service organization of executives in business and the professions "work together to advance the status of women.

"It's 2 main goals are to serve the community and to work for understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of executives," Follmuth said.

Organized and chartered in 1950, two-thirds of the funds raised by the organization stay in the area while the other third helps fund the international organization's mission.

Follmuth tracks the local projects endorsed and supported by Austin Area Zonta in the 2006-07 business year.

The list included Austin Science Fair, Relay For Life and Reading on the Mall.

From the sale of mixed nuts, the organization made contributions to the Austin High School DCD prom and Salvation Army Austin Corps.

Cassidy Ptacek received Zonta's Young Women in Public Affairs award.

Earl and Bev Thompson, Clarks Grove, organize the Nepal Social Service Fund, collecting donations for women in Nepal.

Arc Mower County also received funds from the organization along with the Mower County chapter of the American Red Cross. Friends of the J.C. Hornel Nature Centre

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Map showing location near I-190 and I-19.

...energy she was so, so positive. You can tell when people come in whether they do or they don't have it. This gal definitely

after midnight near the intersection of Minnesota Highway 42 and 10th Street Southeast. Trogstad's pickup was southbound on 42 when Trogstad

...according to Mayo Clinic's phone directory. She had graduated this spring with a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Winona State University.

30th St. S.E.

P-1

Long ignored, dignity restored

Headstones will mark graves in State Hospital cemetery

By Edie Grossfield
egrossfield@postbulletin.com

The first large installment of tombstones to mark 2,019 nameless graves in the old Rochester State Hospital cemetery begins today.

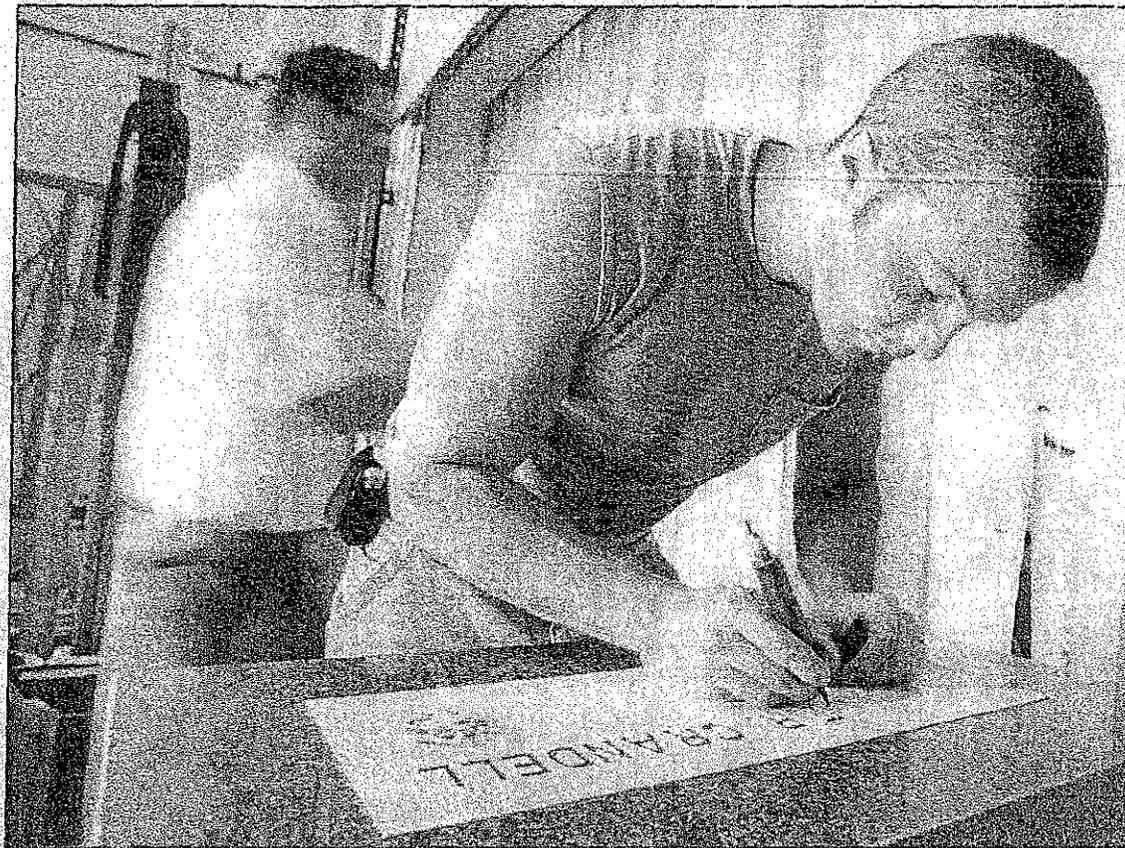
And for Jeff Anderson, owner of Anderson's Rochester Granite and Monument Co., it is an honor to be involved in what he calls a long-overdue project.

The Rochester State Hospital Cemetery Recognition Group, working with St. Paul-based Advocating Change Together (ACT), has commissioned Anderson's to make and place 500 headstones in the cemetery, which is located on the southwest side of Quarry Hill Park.

Last year, the state Legislature allocated \$275,000 for state cemetery recognition projects to Remembering With Dignity, an ACT program. The Rochester group received \$100,000 of that grant.

It's not the first time Anderson's has worked with ACT on such projects. Three years ago, the company made 800 headstones for the old St. Peter State Hospital cemetery, where 2,600 people were buried anonymously.

Monday morning, in his sandblasting shop on South Broadway,



Post-Bulletin photos by Ken Klotzbach
Hyrum Blake of Anderson's Rochester Granite & Monument Co. does stencil work on a headstone that will be placed at the State Hospital cemetery in Quarry Hill Park. At right are other stones that will be placed in the cemetery.

Web Exclusive



To watch a video about how monuments are placed, go to Postbulletin.com

Anderson brushed quartz dust off a newly engraved headstone, revealing the name of Mary Ackman.

Looking at the headstone and wondering about this woman who was born in 1870 and died at the state hospital in 1940, Anderson



said he is glad to be working on the project.

"It's something that when you look back at all of the history and all the information... every one of these headstones has a story," he said.

Inside

- Anderson family's to mark the graves by 18 years ago. A4

Tornado, storms sweep through region

News

Headstones ready for Quarry Hill cemetery

Anderson's has been commissioned by the Rochester State Hospital Cemetery Recognition Group to make 500 headstones. Eventually, the group hopes to provide a headstone for all 2,019 people buried in the cemetery, which is located in Quarry Hill Park.

Jeff Anderson, owner of the monument company, is using

state hospital records and getting help from cemetery researchers Beth and John Thompson of Rochester, to place the headstones in their proper locations. The Thomps- sons are genealogists who have been instrumental in pushing the recognition project forward.

Although the city has continued to keep the cemetery mowed throughout the years, most people in Rochester didn't even know it was there. Until recently, it has been just a big open field where park visitors have hiked, played Frisbee and gone sledding.

Using about \$27,000 in grants from the city, Olmsted County and the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation of Rochester, the recognition group has created an entrance for the cemetery. It incorporates an existing monument, which was built and installed by Anderson's in 1979, landscaping and two cement balls that once capped red brick columns at the old entrance.

For Beth Thompson, who has been working tirelessly on the recognition project for more than three years, it is exciting to see the entrance shaping up and headstones going in.

"The first time I came around the corner and saw the landscaping in there with the memorial up, it was just the culmination of everything we've worked for," Thompson said. "We keep saying to each other that when we started this project we were told to expect

seven years before anything happens. Well, we aren't even halfway through seven years."

The recognition group hopes to eventually mark all 2,019 graves. The Legislature allocated another \$200,000 to Remembering With Dignity this year, and the Rochester group will receive some portion of the grant, Thompson said.

She said she knows her group has been lucky to have the right people at the right time, especially given that other community members in the past have tried to make something happen at the old cemetery.

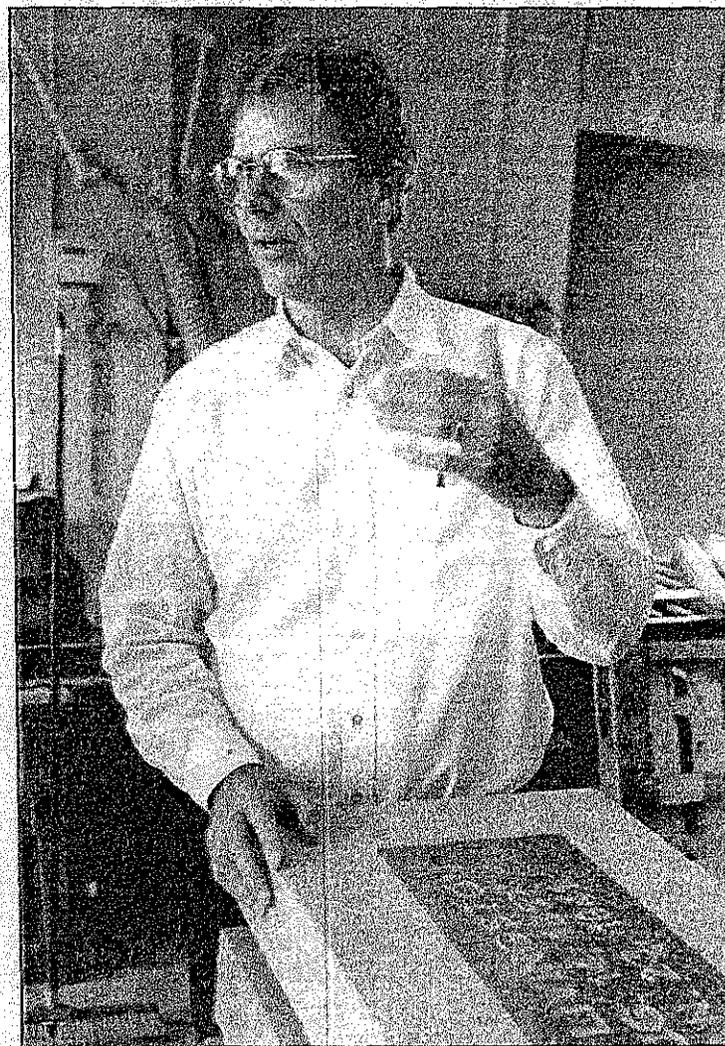
About 18 years ago, Roland Anderson, Jeff's father, tried to organize an effort to mark the graves. He worked with Berdine Erickson, a retired state hospital ward attendant who passed away last year.

The two men worked together on placing a monument in the cemetery, but couldn't find funding for headstones.

Today, Jeff Anderson, the fourth-generation owner in the 137-year-old family business, said he is grateful he can carry out the wishes of his father and Erickson with the help of Advocating Change Together and the local cemetery recognition group.

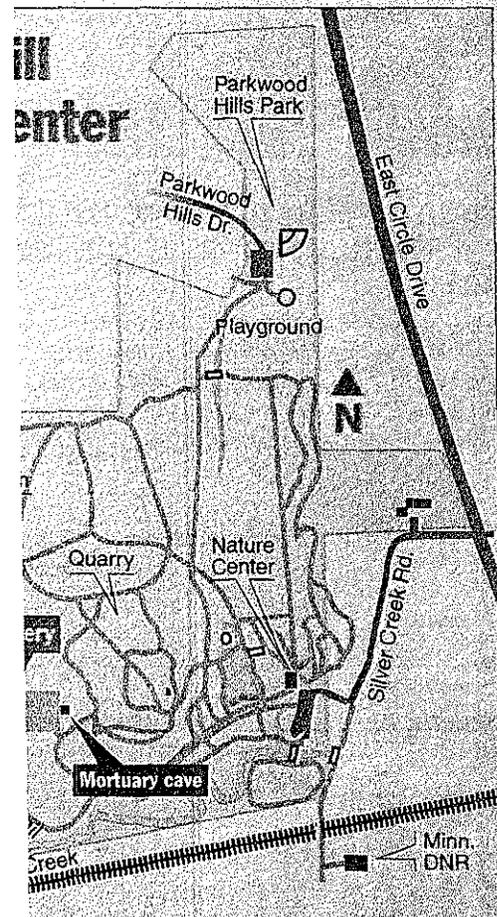
WEB EXCLUSIVE

To see a video about Anderson's involvement in the cemetery recognition project, go to www.postbulletin.com.



Ken Klotzbach/Post-Bulletin

Jeff Anderson, owner of Anderson's Rochester Granite and Monument Co., talks about the headstones his company is making to mark the graves of patients buried in the old Rochester State Hospital cemetery, now Quarry Hill Park.



Setting stones

Continued from front page

They also met Jim Behrends, director of adult and family services in Olmsted County. He had been involved in a similar project in setting graves for the St. Peter Hospital.

Thompson was the core of the group, "four of us," said Thompson. "Since the group has always had the right people come into it at the right time to make great things happen."

Years ago RSHCRG started. It is affiliated with Remember Dignity, a coalition of disability rights and advocacy organizations founded in 1994 that is working to honor people who have died in Minnesota's state institutions. One of that group's goals is to restore over 12,500 marked graves in institution cemeteries across the state. Their affiliation is with Changing Change Together, a disability rights organization that provides information, skill building and leadership opportunities to individuals with disabilities, and is working to change institutional barriers by organizing people with disabilities around issues of common concern.

Project
RSHCRG now has around 20 members. Anyone interested is welcome to contact the members. Group members have prepared a PowerPoint presentation to raise funds locally. They've also received grants from the state for the project.

Thompson credited Dave and Jessica of Fountain for helping with the "grunt" work, which includes clearing trees, digging out cemetery rows and removing trees that have encroached on the cemetery in the winter, which does less damage to the earth.

Thompson and John also have done research on names, to make sure they are spelled correctly and correct dates of birth and death. Every so often they make a trip to the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul to keep records



Working on the Rochester State Hospital Cemetery marker restoration project earlier this summer are, from left, Jeff Anderson of Anderson Memorials in Rochester, which submitted the bid to supply the markers, and Rochester State Hospital Cemetery Recognition Group members Dave and Jessica Schwier of Fountain and Beth and John Thompson of Rochester. (Bluff Country Reader photo by Lisa Brainard)

the group helps as a free service. At some point in the future, Thompson said the group would like to try to find the Rosemont Cemetery, first used by the Rochester State Hospital, where 36 women and 40 men were

buried. It is supposed to have been placed "at a distance of about 80 rods from the hospital buildings." The location is presently unknown.

But for now, their focus is to get all the graves marked in the

Quarry Hill Cemetery. Thompson said they will gladly work on that until the mission is completed.

DEMOLITION BIDS WANTED

Spring Grove Communications is requesting bids for demolition of the building located at 167 W Main St. (Yesterday's or the Muller Meat Market) in Spring Grove.

The bid should include all costs associated with removal and proper disposal of all building material. Proof of insurance required.

Bids will be accepted until noon on Tuesday, October 9, 2007.

Are you without health insurance?

Talk to Jim at Harmony State Agency.

He knows all about health insurance... and he's nice!

Call or stop in for a



shooting and attempted to

dren went to the home of

Dignity restored

Ceremony honors once anonymous grave sites

By Edie Grossfield

egrossfield@postbulletin.com

More than 100 people showed up Sunday at Quarry Hill Park for a ceremony to recognize 2,019 people buried anonymously at the old Rochester State Hospital cemetery.

"May they know they are honored and not forgotten," the Rev. Dennis Tooley said during a prayer. Tooley was a chaplain at the Rochester State Hospital, which closed in 1982.

Round, numbered, cement markers are all that remain on most of the graves in the cemetery. But for many graves, even those markers are no longer in place.

The Rochester State Hospital Cemetery Recognition Group has teamed up with Remembering With Dignity, a project of the St. Paul-based Advocating Change Together, to place headstones on all of the graves in the cemetery.

A \$100,000 state grant will allow the groups to place 500 headstones next spring and summer. They have state hospital patient records that coordinate with the cemetery plat maps to identify the graves.

Relatives of those buried in the cemetery were in the crowd Sunday.

Members of the groups working on the project made speeches, as did Rochester Mayor Ardele Brede and state Rep. Andy Welti, a Democrat from Plainview. Also in attendance was Sen. David Senjem, a Republican from Rochester.

The day was special for Stephen Duggan, of Rosemount, Minn., whose mother, Lillian Schueneman, is buried in the cemetery. About 20 years ago, Duggan, who was taken from his mother as a young boy and put up for adoption, found out



Jerry Olson/Post-Bu

Steve Duggan, center, was able to move his mother's grave marker to proper location during a ceremony Sunday at Quarry Hill Park in Rochester. To the right of Duggan are his grandson, Hunter Vraa, daughter, Paula V and his wife, Sue Duggan.

Follow-up

she had been a resident at the Rochester State Hospital.

Duggan placed a headstone at the cemetery to honor his mother; however, he didn't know exactly where her remains lie.

On Sunday, Duggan stood with his wife, Sue, three sons, daughter and two grandsons, watching as his mother's headstone was placed on the correct site.

Dan Duggan of St. Peter, Minn., said he was grateful for the community's recognition of those buried there.

"I think it was a nice ceremony to remember my dad's mother," he said



Jerry Olson/Post-Bu

Bret Hesla played a variety of instruments during the "Remember With Dignity" program.

CONTACT US

LIFE

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HEARING LOSS BLAMED ON



**VETERANS MEMORIAL
DEDICATION
SATURDAY
MAY 19, 2007
10:30 AM
HIRDLER PARK
SHIELDSVILLE, MINNESOTA**

The Plaques were made by Anderson Memorials
The Stone Soldier was made by McFailane Stone Company

MONDAY

Post-Bulletin

IF IT MATTERS TO YOU, IT MATTERS TO US



Author bridges the oc

WWW.POSTBULLETIN.COM

Blood drive honors classmate

By Jeff Hansel

jhansel@postbulletin.com

Near the evergreens in the northeast corner of Oakwood Cemetery stands a dark stone

Etched on the stone is a 14-point buck deer, notes from loved ones and an image of Jesus wrapping his arms around Matt McCoy, who died six years ago at age 13

It is here that Matt's friends sometimes still come to remember the friend who taught them how to embrace each day's joy and how to care for others

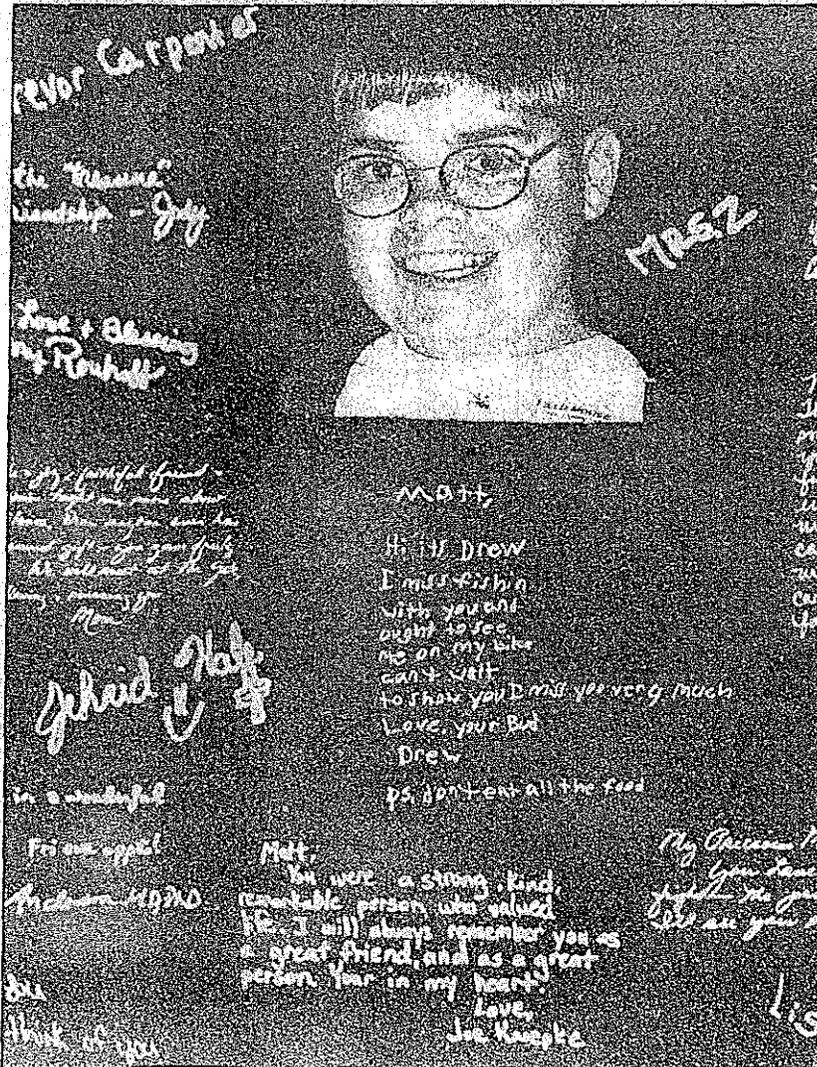
Their handwritten words are etched in the granite from a time when they were once young kids, full of childish whims. Yet it was also a time of loss

Tuesday and Wednesday, the Century High School class of 2007 will have the Matt McCoy Memorial Blood Bank at the school where, this year, McCoy would have been a senior. Matt had a lifelong illness that prevented his body from making red blood cells, and he was in constant need of blood from donations

"Matt was one of the most friendly kids you'd ever meet," said Bryan Frischmann, a Century student whose companionship was a source of comfort to Matt. Frischmann's message carved in the granite six years ago promises "you'll always be in my heart." That promise has been kept

"I always think about him every time I play a hockey game. I always say a prayer for him," Frischmann said

Classmate Lisa Harney said McCoy "was really a happy kid. I guess I remember him always being happy"



Ken Klotzbach/Post-Bulletin

Personal notes from friends and former school mates are engraved on the back side of Matt McCoy's gravestone.

Friend Joe Knoepke agreed "always had a smile on his face" "He was a great kid," Knoepke said "He really loved the outdoors; he died says, "You were a strong,

To help

The Matt McCoy Memorial Blood Drive will be from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at Century High School. Or go this weekend to the blood bank at Maricopa's Hilton Building, 2000 N. 1st St., W., and mention Matt's name.

Inside

Regular donation helps avert shortage **D1**

kind, remarkable person who valued life." Those words describe all who knew him

Matt's mother, Lori, said she was amazed her son's friend so committed.

"His greatest joy was just being with other people. He had so many friendships because he spent so much time in clinical settings," Frischmann said

Matt also is survived by his older sister Kate and brother Drew, 15, who, at age 9, was in need of his own bone marrow

Frischmann said this year's blood drive, which will be in Matt's honor, is the kind of thing Matt would be doing himself if he were alive

"This is definitely a reflection of who he was," Frischmann said

"I always feel like I'm watching over us — and that's what I'm doing now," Frischmann said