

Briefcase

Events manager, marketer hired

Angela Hite of Eau Claire in January became the community relations director for Dove Healthcare Nursing & Rehabilitation, Orchard Hills Assisted Living, Rutledge Home, Wisconsin Health and Regional Vent Center.



Hite

Hite has more than eight years of experience in the senior living industry and will be responsible for implementing and coordinating all marketing projects and events.

Savings association reports loss

Citizens Community Bancorp, the new holding company for Citizens Community Federal, reported a \$115,000 net loss for its fiscal 2007 first quarter that ended Dec. 31, 2006.

According to a company statement, the loss was "primarily due to a one-time, after-tax charge of \$370,000 related to agreements with two Citizens Community Federal executives who resigned."

The statement also said the company "does not intend to replace either executive position." Company officials did not comment on the reasons for the resignations.

Without the one-time charge, the company would have reported first-quarter net income of \$255,000, a 52.7 percent increase from the same period in the previous year. Its first-quarter net income for 2006 was \$167,000.

Eau Claire-based Citizens Community Bancorp is the holding company for Citizens Community Federal, a federal savings association operating 12 banking offices in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

Chamber officers begin duties April 1

The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce recently elected new officers, who will assume their duties April 1.

Newly elected are Chairman Steve Weld of Weld, Riley, Prenz & Ricci; Chairman-elect Sam Stagliano of Bauman Associates; Secretary-treasurer Peter Farrow of Group Health Cooperative; and past board chairwoman Linda Clark of Xcel Energy.

Financial worker earns designation

Terry Krumenauer of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Chippewa Falls has earned the professional Certified Financial Planner designation.

Individuals with the CFP certification must meet continuing education requirements and uphold the code of ethics and professional

responsibilities developed by the CFP board.

Edward Jones is based in St. Louis.

Association elects officers, board

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Northwest Wisconsin elected the following officers at its Jan. 25 meeting: Joe Hengel, Hengel Brothers (La Crosse), president; Jim Eron, Eron & Gee/Herman's Plumbing & Heating (Wisconsin Rapids), vice president; Ron Kohls, Kohls Plumbing & Heating (Vesper), secretary; and Mike Merryfield, Mechanical, Inc. (Tomahawk), treasurer.

Newly elected board members are: Jim De Young, Countryside Plumbing & Heating (New Richmond); Charles Falch, Bartingale Mechanical (Eau Claire); Brad Kita, Malbrit Heating/Cooling/Plumbing (Wausau); Mike Oleson, Van Ert Electric (Wausau); and John Swenson, Sheet Metal Enterprises (Chetek).

Travel agency earns status

Sandals and Beaches Resorts, a Caribbean resort, has designated Carlson Wag-onlit — Chippewa Valley Travel as a preferred Sandals Agency. Carlson Wag-onlit Travel's Chippewa Falls office now is recognized by Sandals and Beaches as an expert vacation, destination wedding and honeymoon planner.

M&I announces staff promotions

The Northwest Wisconsin Region of M&I Bank has announced the retirements of Rob Hood, district president, and Terry Rothmann, Northwest regional business banking manager.

The bank also announced the following appointments: Bill Kaiser, community bank president for M&I Bank, Eau Claire; Hugh Jones, senior vice president in charge of business development for the Northwest Wisconsin Region; and John Tubbs, community bank president, M&I Bank, Wausau.

Dollar Tree opens on London Road

Dollar Tree opened this week at 2615 London Road.

The store offers seasonal and specialty items as well as food, health and beauty items, office supplies and toys.

Dollar Tree stores are open seven days a week and typically are located in high-traffic strip malls near grocery stores or mass-merchandisers.

Financial planner opens new office

Tom Lind announced that he has moved his financial services business, Northwoods Investment



Lind

Center, to the lower level of Kristo Orthodontics, 3902 Oakwood Hills Parkway.

Bank hires human resources employee

Chippewa Falls native Danielle Bruley has joined Bank of Luxemburg's human resources department.

She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from UW-Green Bay in 2006.



Bruley

Financial planners move to new office

Rob Barthen, president of Barthen Retirement & Insurance Solutions, announced that his firm has moved to 3902 Oakwood Hills Parkway, Suite 4.

The firm specializes in 401(k) rollovers and IRA planning.

Siding company listed in Top 500

ABC Seamless of Eau Claire, Asher Enterprises, was listed at No. 338 in Qualified Remodeler's Top 500 list for 2006, ABC Seamless president Jerry Beyers announced.

The annual listing is published in Qualified Remodeler Magazine, a national trade publication.

Companies that make the list are recognized for annual sales volume, number of years in business, association services, community service and industry awards.

Sara Lee plans move to Lake Hallie

Sara Lee Corp. will move its sales and distribution facility this summer from Eau Claire to a new building at 2889 130th St., Lake Hallie, said Karen Stolman, manager of communications for SLC.

The company will retain its 11 employees. The current Sara Lee facility is at 320 Putnam St.

From staff reports

McKinley/Income tax fun

from Page 1

and you'll be linked to electronic filing programs provided free by dozens of companies.

What's in it for them? The opportunity to sell you various value-added offers. "Value," of course, is a subjective term, so pay close attention to where you're clicking and what you're getting.

Human help

It may surprise you to find that some people have so much gosh darn fun filling out 1040s that they give their time and energy to help others experience the thrill.

The Volunteer Income Tax

Assistance Program is available to filers with income under \$39,000. Taxpayers older than 60 can take advantage of the Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program. The only cost for this service is admitting that you're "elderly."

You can get information on both programs by calling the IRS.

Also, taxpayers of a certain age can visit one of 8,500 sites nationwide staffed by trained volunteers through the AARP Tax-Aide counseling program. You can find the location nearest you by visiting www.aarp.org/taxaide/home.html, or calling 888-227-7669.

Act now

Good news for those whose strategy for dealing with tax returns is "put them in a pile and forget about it — perhaps I'll die before they're due."

Because of a quirk in the calendar, you actually have until April 17 to turn in your 1040s. But it's best to get cracking now. Besides "accurate," the other words the IRS is concerned with are "on time."

Kevin McKinley, CFP® is a financial adviser at Robert W. Baird & Co. in Eau Claire. His show "On Your Money" airs at 7 a.m. Sundays on Wisconsin Public Radio, WHWC-FM (88.3). E-mail him at kevin@onyourmoney.com.

Overpass/Safety a concern

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However, if the crossing were replaced with a new bridge, he said, the U-Haul on Hastings Way would probably move.

"It would take up more room," he said of a new bridge. "We would lose some lot space."

On the other hand, he said, the operation wouldn't lose anything by moving.

"Customers would find us if we moved," he said. "And we could use a bigger facility."

At Shorty's Barber Shop a block west of the bridge, peo-

ple were more critical of the decision to change the overpass into an intersection.

"It wouldn't hurt my business," said Shorty Mueller, who has been cutting hair on Birch Street for 50 years. "It's the safety factor that concerns me."

He said most area residents he spoke with were against replacing the bridge with an at-grade crossing. Mueller said more than 250 people signed the petition he circulated recently to show support for a new overpass; three people said they favored a grade-level crossing.

"I'm just repeating what people are saying," he said. "Just look at the accident rates at the intersections with stop lights and you can see that the bridge crossing is safer."

Mueller also questioned whether the city's budget could cover the cost of replacing the bridge with a grade-level crossing.

Terry Biddle, who owns Awards & More business near the Seymour Road-Hastings intersection said in January he doesn't see why the city should pay more for a bridge instead of \$500,000 for an at-grade intersection.

Networking/BNI event is free

from Page 1

He said the ideal candidate would have payroll experience, but someone with a college degree and outside sales experience would also be considered.

Erik Metzler, general manager of Grandstay Residential Suites, said he was there to "network with leaders in the business sector, grow relationships and gain new business."

Since opening the extended-stay hotel at 5310 Prill Road, Metzler said Grandstay officials are "extremely happy with the results so far."

International Networking Night is a great way to make new contacts, said Elizabeth Fischer, author of "Mistakes I Made My First Five Years in Business," and a new book titled "What's in it For Me? Marketing from the Customer's Point of View."

"Small businesses need an opportunity to network," she said. "And, the price is right: It's free."

Fischer, also the keynote speaker at the event, later gave a presentation on how businesses can grow and succeed through networking and efficient follow-up.

Campana announced that Spring Networking Night, the next major BNI event, will be held May 8, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Florian Gardens.



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Charter Bank is pleased to announce the addition of Rob Strohbusch to our lending staff. Rob has owned his own mortgage company in Eau Claire for the past 18 years, and has a thorough knowledge of conventional, government, and non-conforming mortgage loans.

Rob will supervise all aspects of Charter Bank's secondary market loan programs and will also be involved with marketing, loan originations, and commercial real estate lending.

Rob is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire, with over 25 years of real estate lending experience. He and his wife, Sherry, reside in Eau Claire.

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CELEBRATE WITH YOUR VALENTINE

Enjoy an expertly prepared four course meal in our newly remodeled dining room.

Served Wednesday, Feb. 14th
& Saturday, Feb. 17th

Choose your favorites to personalize your valentine meal.

Appetizer: Choose 1

Cajun Marinated Shrimp Cocktail with Belvedere Cocktail Sauce
Caramelized Brie with Smoked Pear Chutney and Water Crackers
Trio of Stuffed Mushrooms including Boursin Cheese, Italian Sausage, and Seafood

Starter: Choose 1

Lobster Bisque
Organic Green Salad with Balsamic Reduction
Vine Ripened Tomato and Spinach Florentine

Entrée: Choose 1

Petite Filet Mignon with Grilled Portabella Mushrooms
Seafood Platter with Lobster Tail, Jumbo Shrimp Scampi and Cocoa Dusted Seared Scallops
Seared Airline Breast of Chicken with a Wild Mushroom Cream Sauce
Veal Scaloppini with Jerusalem Artichokes and Shiitake Mushrooms
**All entrees include fresh steamed vegetable, choice of potato, and fresh baked rolls*

Dessert: Choose 1

Deep Fried Strawberries with White Chocolate Fondue
Raspberry White Chocolate Cheesecake
Blueberry Crème Brûlée

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includes Complimentary Glass of Champagne



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