

Youth overcomes handicap obstacle

By Linda Schneider
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Weston Ribeau is only 19 years old, but he has overcome more obstacles than the average person will ever see in their lifetime.

Weston was born with spinal bifida, a condition where the spinal cord is exposed and the vertebrae did not cover the cord. His mother, Betty Williams, knew of her unborn baby's condition before his birth and was able to take some precautions while still in the womb. However, Weston's damaged spinal cord was so extreme at birth, his body never formed properly.

Weston was also born with hydrocephalus, water on the brain, and mental retardation — the doctor's prognosis for his future was not encouraging.

Today, he lives in a wheelchair and deals with health issue daily. He has had 51 operations. But that did not stop Betty or his two brothers, Jason and Cole, from encouraging him to always

do better.

Weston was 9 years old when he and his family moved back to Bird City. It was at that time he began bowling and competing in the Special Olympics. Before he joined Special Olympics, Weston believed he was the only person who was truly disabled. Special Olympics has been a great program for Weston, and being with other handicapped individuals helped him to overcome his shyness, Mrs. Williams said.

She said the Bird City community has helped in many ways, but it is the Cheylin school staff and students that deserve the real credit.

"Kudos to the senior class and thanks for including Weston in school activities," she said.

At Cheylin High School, Weston is just one of the students. He was able to go to his high school prom because the senior class provided the transportation for him. Mrs. Williams went with her son, it was her first prom also. They made the dance



WINNING THE SILVER AWARD, Weston shows his bowling skills with the aid of a special olympics volunteer.

floor wheelchair accessible for him and he ended up dancing with all the girls from his class.

Weston will be graduating

with the Cheylin class of 2008. However, he will have to attend one more year to get all his credits. This is still quite an accomplishment for someone who had such a dismal prognosis at the beginning of his life.

After finishing up with next year's classes, Weston and his mom will be making some life choices. Weston is dependent on Betty, so wherever he goes she goes.

They are starting to look at what is available so that Weston can continue with independent life skills. They have been looking into the Prairieland Development Center in Atwood, because it would be close to Bird City and her sister, Dianna Carpenter, who helps Betty with Weston.

Another option would be to go to Hays. Mrs. Williams has family in Hays and there would be more opportunity for Weston to get employment. If possible, he would like to work with golf carts.

Weston is a young man who looks to the future anticipating the best possible outcome. His life started out very different from where he is now and he has beaten the odds. It will not matter where Weston goes, as he will certainly be known as an overcomer.

Book Reviews

Book review from
St. Francis Public Library

Critical By Robin Cook

Angela Dawson, M.D., appears to have it all: at age thirty-seven, she owns a fabulous New York City apartment and a stunning seaside house on Nantucket, and enjoys the perks of her prosperous lifestyle. But her climb to the top has been rough, marked by a troubled childhood, a failed marriage, and the devastating blow of bankruptcy as a primary-care internist. Painfully aware of the role of economics in the health-care field, Angela returns to school to earn an MBA; she is determined to erase the memories of the controlling men in her past. Armed with a shiny new degree and blessed with tenacity, intelligence, and impeccable timing, Angela founds a start-up, Angels Healthcare, then prepares to take it public. With a controlling interest in three busy specialty hospitals in New York City and plans for others in Miami and Los Angeles, the future looks very bright for her. Confident in her abilities as both doctor and businesswoman, and virtually assured of finally controlling her own destiny, Angela is on the verge of seeing her ambitions fulfilled.

But then a surge of drug-resistant staph infections in all three hospitals devastates Angela's carefully constructed world. Not only do the infections result in deaths of

patients, but the fatalities cause a serious cash-flow problem, which puts her company's imminent IPO in jeopardy. And that's not all: Angela has serious doubts about her investors and the sources of their money, and the need for a sudden infusion of additional cash becomes all the more desperate. In the blink of an eye, after all her years of hard work, she may be left empty-handed. Vowing to keep her business afloat, Angela works around the clock to save what's she built - knowing all too well that the only person she can count on is herself.

New York City medical examiners Laurie Montgomery and Jack Stapelton are naturally intrigued by the uptick in staph-related post-procedure deaths at the three hospitals. Aside from their own professional curiosity, there's a personal stake as well: they are newly married, and Jack is facing surgery to repair a torn ACL at Angels Orthopedic Hospital. Despite Jack's protests, Laurie can't help investigating - thus opening a Pandora's box of corporate intrigue that threatens not just her livelihood, but her life and Jack's as well.

Book review from
St. Francis Public Library

The House By Danielle Steel

The house was magnificent, built in 1923 by a wealthy man for the woman he adored. For

her and for this house, he would spare no expense, from the marble floors to the glittering chandeliers. Almost a century later, a young woman walks through its empty rooms. Sarah Anderson is about to do something utterly out of character. An elderly client has died and left her both a generous inheritance and a priceless message: to use his money for something wonderful, to live well, and think of something other than work.

A workaholic attorney, Sarah had always lived life by the book. With a steady, if sputtering, relationship and a tiny apartment, Sarah cannot explain the force that draws her to the mansion and its history - to the story of a woman who once lived in the house... and to a history she never knew she had.

Sarah enlists the help of architect Jeff Parker, who shares her passion for bringing the old house back to life. As they work to restore the home, as one relationship dies and another begins, Sarah makes a series of powerful discoveries: about the legacies that are passed from generation to generation...and about a future she's only beginning to imagine.

In a novel of daring and hope, of embracing life and taking chances, Danielle Steel brilliantly captures one woman's courageous choice to live her dreams - and receive unexpected gifts in return.

Club Clip

Plum Creek 4-H Club

The regular meeting of the Plum Creek 4-H Club was held on Jan. 8. The meeting was held in the Equity meeting room at 7 p.m. President Teri Walters called the meeting to order.

Roll call was answered by responding to the question, "What is one of your new year's resolutions?" Sixteen members and one leader were present.

Kaycee Williams reported on the Junior Leaders meeting. Brianna Cooks reported on the activities in the food project. Club leader, Sue Zimbelman, reported that officer training will be held next month. Members discussed money-making projects. The decision was made to have a cake

raffle or bake sale.

Mandi Cooks began the program with an illustrated talk about her arts and crafts project. She showed how to make a pillow by tying fleece. Brianna gave a demonstration on food preservation. She showed how to prepare strawberry jelly.

Recreation was led by the Cooks family. The club played the Snake Game, which was fun for everyone. The members sang Happy Birthday to Cassie Cooks. Club members recited the 4-H Pledge, and the meeting was adjourned. Refreshments of cupcakes were served by the Cooks family.

Mikaela Grace, reporter

Tuesday Club

Tuesday Club met Jan. 8, at the home of Fleda Raile. Assistant hostess was ValJean Schultz. The hostesses served a delicious dessert to the 14 members and one guest.

A short business meeting was led by Pat Confer, president. She then turned the meeting over to Mary Lee Frewen who introduced the guest speaker, Carol Gamblin, communications director for the

new 911 system. Carol presented an informative video on the duties and responsibilities of a 911 operator. After the video, Carol answered questions from the members present. Members were impressed with the high quality of the new 911 system and the training involved.

The meeting was closed by repeating the Collect.

Woman celebrates her 90th birthday

Hertha Kelley celebrated a belated 90th birthday on Saturday, Jan. 12, when her nieces and nephews took her out to lunch.

Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Duane Unger of Colby, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Unger of Oberlin, Mr.

and Mrs. Bob Gaede of San Antonio, Texas, and Dr. and Mrs. Ryan Unger of St. Francis.

Alvina Unger celebrated her 99th birthday in November at the Oberlin Good Samaritan Home.

Book Review

Book review from
St. Francis Public Library

Lisey's Story By Stephen King

Lisey Debusher Landon lost her husband, Scott, two years ago, after a 25-year marriage of the most profound and sometimes frightening intimacy. Scott was an award-winning, bestselling novelist and a very complicated man.

Early in their relationship, before they married, Lisey had to learn from him about books and blood and boots. Later, she understood that there was a place

Scott went, a place that both terrified and healed him, that could eat him alive or give him the ideas he needed in order to live.

Now it's Lisey's turn to face Scott's demons, Lisey's turn to go to Boo'ya Moon. What begins as a widow's effort to sort through the papers of her celebrated husband becomes a nearly fatal journey into the darkness he inhabited.

Perhaps King's most personal and powerful novel, Lisey's Story is about the wellsprings of creativity, the temptations of madness, and the secret language of love.

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Advertisement For Bids

Separate sealed BIDS will be received at the City Clerk's Office by the City Clerk in City of Bird City, 111 East 4th Street, Bird City, Kansas by the City Clerk, on January 29, 2008, until 2:00 PM, Local Time, and then such BIDS shall be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Office for furnishing all equipment, labor, materials and appurtenances required to construct two new lagoons, existing treatment plant demolition, and other such work as may be incidental to WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids; and to waive irregularities or informalities to accept the BID it deems most beneficial. Bids received after the specified time of closing will be returned unopened. The Owner will accept only those sealed bids, either hand delivered or received via U.S. Mail or other commercial carrier. Items transmitted by facsimile or electronically will not be accepted.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Miller & Associates, 1111 Central Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847

Miller & Associates, 109 East 2nd Street, McCook, NE 69001

City of Bird City, 111 East 4th Street, Bird City, KS 67731

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Miller & Associates, Consulting Engineers, P.C. located at 1111 Central Avenue, P.O. Box 306, Kearney, Nebraska 68847, Telephone 308/234-6456 upon payment of \$50.00 for each half-size set. Full-size sets of documents can be obtained for a deposit of \$75.00. Documents will not be available electronically. Any PLAN HOLDER, upon returning the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS within fourteen (14) days of the BID OPENING, and in good condition, will be refunded \$20.00.

Each BIDDER will be required to submit with his proposal, a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond made payable, without condition, to the City Clerk, Bird City, Kansas, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the proposal.

Attention of BIDDERS is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract, Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109 and E.O. 11246.

BIDDERS on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended as well as additional Federal provisions. Requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the specifications.

The prospective participants must certify by submittal of EPA Form 5700-49 (Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters) that to the best of its knowledge and belief, it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency.