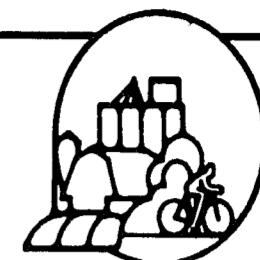


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THE INDEPENDENT



notebook

HAPP Coffee

This week's HAPP Coffee will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27. It will be at and sponsored by Farmers State Bank.

Blood drive set for next Friday

The Siouxland Blood Bank will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 4, for a community blood drive.

Life after Loss sessions offered

"Life after Loss" sessions for those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one will be held on seven consecutive Tuesday evenings at the CHEARS office located just west of the Sioux Center Community Hospital and Health Center beginning on Jan. 8.

These sessions are sponsored by CHEARS/Home Health and Hospice and the funeral homes in Sioux County. To register, please call 712-722-8146.

HAPP banquet to be Jan. 12

The Hawarden Area Partnership for Progress Banquet will be held Saturday, Jan. 12.

The featured speaker will be Dan Peterson, a motivational humorist. Tickets are available at the HAPP office.

Ad-Vertiser has early deadline

Due to the New Year's holiday, the deadline for the Jan. 2 edition of the *Area Wide Ad-Advertiser* will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27.

The deadline for the Jan. 3 edition of *The Independent* will be at noon on Monday, Dec. 31.



Teachers present contract proposal to school board

The West Sioux Education Association appeared before the West Sioux Board of Education on Tuesday, Dec. 18, with their initial proposal for the contract year 2002-2003. The proposal was made by Larry Gregg, chief negotiator for the Education Association. Other members of the committee are Carol DeBoer, Terri Kallsen, Carla Teahan, Theresa Weeheim and Steve Harman.

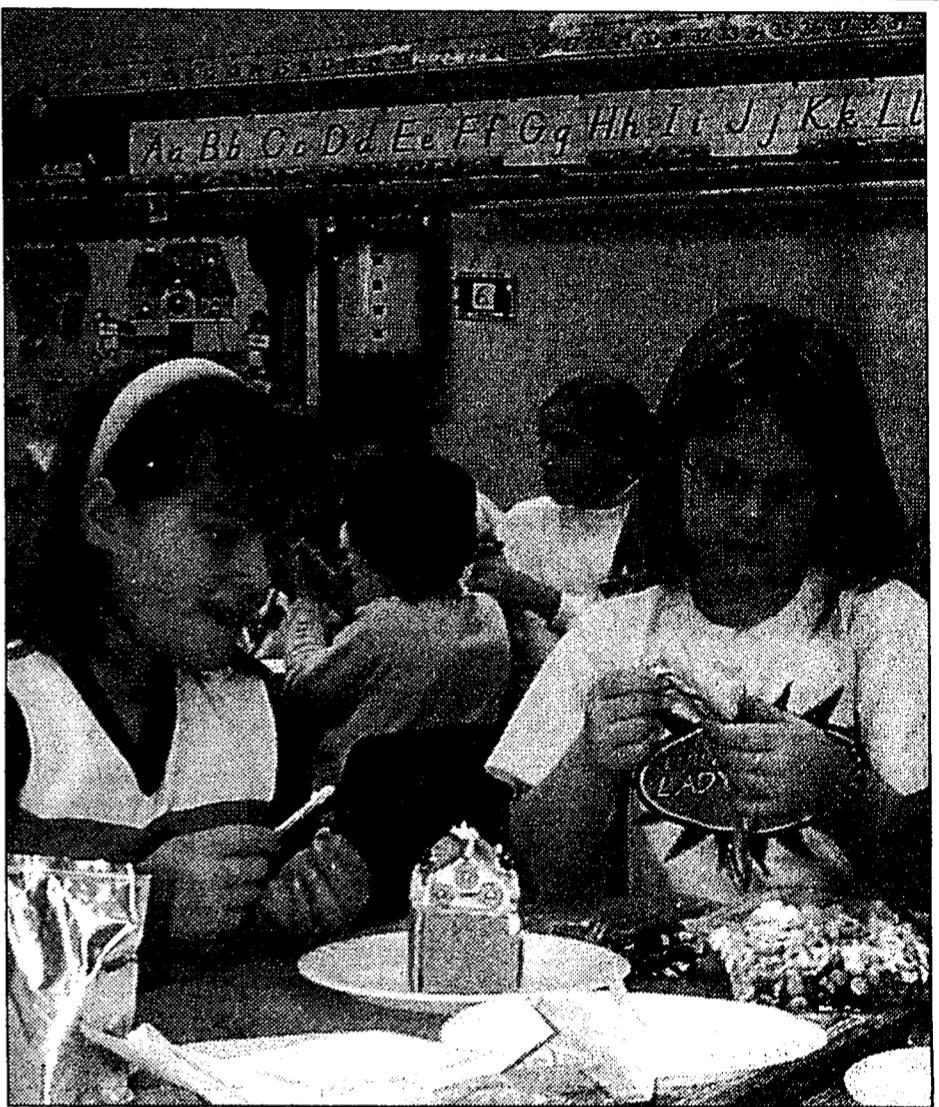
The proposal asks for a seven percent total package increase (including insurance) for the 2002-03 school year.

Other salary requests include "any state funds remaining after meeting mandatory salary minimums will be divided among remaining staff (those whose salary was not increased to state minimums) using a formula modeled on the regular salary schedule," and "any increase in contract days -- over the 2001-02 total -- will be compensated at the per diem rate. The additional compensation for these addi-

tional days will be above and beyond the negotiated salary schedule, state mandated minimum salaries, or other supplemental salary increases received from the state."

They have also asked for an increase in supplemental pay for extra-curricular activities. The proposal requests that pay be based on "experience step 1, BA level of the 2002-03 regular salary schedule." The current contract bases supplemental pay on experience step 0.

In the insurance section of the contract, the teachers are asking the district to "provide each employee with an insurance pool equal to the full cost of major medical coverage and a \$5,000 group life insurance coverage plus \$575 that may be applied at the employee's discretion, to any of the following: single insurance, family insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, long-term disability insurance, vision insurance, tax-sheltered annuity, (continued on page seven)



It looks so good

Amanda Renken, second grade, and Morgan Schlumbohm, fourth grade, work together to build a gingerbread house. West Sioux elementary students made gingerbread houses last week and then took them to area businesses and nursing homes.

The Independent takes a look back at 2001



Fire Chief Sonny Strong and Assistant Chief Jon Strong demonstrated the fire department's new thermal imaging camera to Mayor Ric Porter.

Jan. 11 - Michael J. Wiggins was appointed president of Farmers State Bank of Hawarden by its board of directors.

Pamida officials who had been working with Hawarden city representatives toward building a new store here indicated that all planned building for the coming year was put on hold.

Jan. 18 - At the annual Chamber Banquet, the Chamber of Commerce and Hawarden Economic Development Corporation voted to consolidate and form the Hawarden Area Partnership for Progress. Also at the banquet, Jerry Klemme was named Citizen of the Year.

Jan. 25 - The Bomgaars store in Hawarden moved across the street to the space that formerly housed Coast to Coast and Wholesale Auto Paints.

Feb. 1 - Brian Monsma was named the new administrator at Hawarden Community Hospital.

Feb. 8 - First Lady Christie Vilsack stopped at the Hawarden Public Library as part of a tour of local libraries.

Feb. 15 - The Ruth Suckow homestead in Hawarden was named to the list of Iowa's Most Endangered Properties for 2001.

March 1 - Hawarden residents narrowly passed a \$950,000 bond issue to allow the city to turn the old middle school into a community center and city hall.

March 8 - The Hawarden Fire Department demonstrated their new thermal imaging camera for the city council.

March 15 - Darrell Westra, owner of the Hawarden Pizza Ranch, received special recognition for being the chain's oldest franchisee.

March 22 - Hawarden saw a slight increase in population during the past 10 years according to official results from the 2000 Census. The city's

population grew from 2,439 in 1990 to 2,478 in 2000.

March 29 - Wendy Lubkeman was hired as the director for HAPP.

The Hawarden Public Library began a year-long celebration of their centennial.

April 5 - The New Playground Equipment Committee announced that they had reached their goal of raising \$40,000 for new playground equipment at the city park.

April 12 - The Hawarden Police Department installed in-car video cameras in their two patrol cars. The cameras record traffic stops and traffic related arrests.

April 19 - Hawarden na-

tive and Pizza Ranch co-founder Lawrence Vander Esch was charged with several counts of sexual abuse.

May 3 - Hawarden experienced near record flooding on the Big Sioux due to heavy rains. The river at Hawarden crested at 23.9 feet, nearly nine feet above flood stage.

Kelli DeBruin and Tegan Gullikson were chosen as alternates to the National History Day Competition.

May 10 - The Hispanic students at West Sioux Elementary treated their fellow students to a morning of fun in observance of Cinco de Mayo.

May 17 - Laura Van Sloten was selected as a finalist to attend the National History Day Competition.

Karen Nelson, a teacher at West Sioux Elementary for 32 years, readied for her retirement.

May 24 - West Sioux High School held commencement exercises for 51 seniors.

May 31 - Dollar General Corporation opened their store in Hawarden. They located their store in the building that formerly housed Bomgaars.

A ribbon cutting was held in the Hawarden City Park to celebrate the erection of the new playground equipment. It took the committee less than (continued on page nine)