



'Tis the season
Outdoor editor Larry Myhre says this is the ideal time to clean up your outdoor gear.
OUTDOORS C1



Too much of a good thing
Salt reduction lessens health risks.
HEALTH D1

Sioux City Journal

THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 2010

SIUXCITYJOURNAL.COM

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Pigskin pledge brings pals together again

SIUX CITY — Tod "Gig" Harling flashes a smile donning a Christmas gift from his sister. It's a Minnesota Vikings football sweatshirt.

Ever been to a Vikings game?

"I honestly can't remember," says Harling, 47. "I can't remember much of anything anymore. That happens when half your brain is gone."

The 1982 East High grad jokes about a condition that's no laughing matter. He was diagnosed with brain cancer 11 months ago. Doctors at



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Mercy Medical Center removed a tumor the size of a tennis ball Feb. 13, 2009. Chemotherapy and radiation followed, but didn't deliver results Harling sought. He went off medication the end of June.

"He was told last February he had one to two years," says Harling's mother, Cheryl Hamm.

"My time is about over," Harling says, closing his mouth and nodding. "I think I can go about any time."

Not exactly. Certainly not this week. The Vikings have a playoff game against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

Enter childhood buddy Joel Stukas of Athens, Texas.

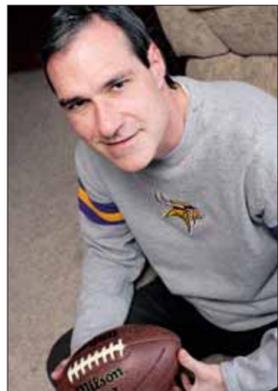
Stukas, 46, picked up tickets for the game. He left Wednesday and will pick up Harling in Sioux City today.

They leave tomorrow for the big game in Minneapolis. His is a 20-hour cruise, one way.

"I feel fortunate to have a lifelong friend and be in a situation where I'm able to take him to a game," says Stukas, who will spend 40 hours on the highways in this mission.

He and Harling have been pals since their kindergarten year at Whittier Elementary in Sioux City. As third graders they teased each other about their favorite football teams; boys in soggy gloves and snow pants tack-

HARLING, PAGE A8



Journal photo by Jim Lee / Find more photos at siouxcityjournal.com

Tod Harling of Sioux City will sport his Minnesota Vikings sweatshirt Sunday when he and buddy Joel Stukas attend the Vikings vs. Cowboys playoff game in Minneapolis. Stukas, who resides in Texas, is driving his friend to the game.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

UNIMAGINABLE HORROR



The Associated Press

Injured people sit along Delmas Road on Wednesday, the day after an earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti Tuesday evening.

Thousands feared dead in Haiti quake

WHAT HAPPENED

A powerful, magnitude-7.0 quake struck the capital of Haiti on Wednesday, flattening the president's palace, the cathedral, hospitals, schools, the main prison and whole neighborhoods. Officials feared thousands — perhaps up to 500,000 — may have perished but there was no firm count.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

At first light Wednesday, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter evacuated four critically injured U.S. Embassy staff to the hospital on the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

President Barack Obama promised an all-out rescue and humanitarian effort, adding that the U.S. commitment to its hemispheric neighbor will be unwavering. "We have to be there for them in their hour of need," Obama said.

WHAT IT MEANS

The international Red Cross said a third of Haiti's 9 million people may need emergency aid and that it would take a day or two for a clear picture of the damage to emerge.

Most Haitians are desperately poor, and after years of political instability the country has no real construction standards. In November 2008, following the collapse of a school in Petionville, the mayor of Port-au-Prince estimated about 60 percent of buildings were shoddily built and unsafe normally.

Bankers apologize for risky actions that led to crisis

Executive compensation likely to increase after their survival

BY JIM KUHNHENN AND DANIEL WAGNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Challenged by a skeptical special commission, top Wall Street bankers apologized Wednesday for risky behavior that led to the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. But they still declared it seemed appropriate at the time.

The bankers — whose companies collectively received more than \$100 billion in taxpayer assistance to weather the crisis — offered no regrets for executive pay that is now likely to increase as a result of their survival. They did say they are correcting some compensation practices that could lead to excessive risk-taking.

The tension at the first hearing of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission was evident from the outset.

"People are angry," commission Chairman Phil Angelides said. Reports of "record profits and bonuses in the wake of receiving trillions of dollars in government assistance while so many families are struggling to stay afloat has only heightened the sense of confusion," he said.

Lloyd Blankfein, the chief executive of Goldman Sachs, took the brunt of the questions, especially on his firm's practice of selling mortgage-backed securities and then betting against them.

"I'm just going to be blunt with you," Angelides told him, "it sounds to me a little bit like selling a car with faulty brakes and then buying an insurance policy on the buyer of those cars."

Blankfein replied: "I do think the behavior is improper. We regret the consequence that people have lost money in it." Later, though, he defended the firm's actions as "exercises in risk management."

In a moment of self-analysis, Blankfein said the world of high-finance simply rationalized its way into risky transactions. Summarizing the thinking in the industry at the time, he said: "Gosh, the world is getting wealthier. Technology has done things. ... These businesses are going to do well."

"You talked yourself into a place of complacency," he concluded.

The panel began its yearlong inquiry amid rising public fury over bailouts and bankers' pay. House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., said Wednesday he will

Inside

The Federal Reserve says the economic recovery is spreading to more parts of the country.
BUSINESS A7

BANKERS, PAGE A8

INSIDE: Read more about the quake in WORLD C3. • ONLINE: Get the latest news at siouxcityjournal.com.

How to help

Here are a few organizations accepting financial gifts to help survivors of the earthquake in Haiti:

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS has pledged \$1 million to assist communities impacted by the earthquake. People who would like to add to that may donate to International Red Cross at the local American Red Cross office, 4200 War Eagle Drive, Sioux City, IA 51109, or online, at siouxlandredcross.org.

SIUXLAND SALVATION ARMY will accept donations mailed to Haiti Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 783, Sioux City, IA 51102-0783, or online at usc.salvationarmy.org, or by phone by calling 800-SAL-ARMY.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE has been working in Haiti for 30 years. Gifts marked "Haiti Earthquake 2010" can be given online at crwrc.org, or by calling 800-55-CRWRC, or mailed to CRWRC at 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560-0600.

Sheldon church workers turn into lifesavers

BY MICHELE LINCK
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SHELDON, Iowa — Members of a First Reformed Church of Sheldon mission team were about 10 miles from Port au Prince, Haiti, when the magnitude 7 earthquake shook the city into a pile of building shards and rubble on Tuesday.

They were part of a 50-member team that had traveled to Haiti mostly to repair roofs at a school and a church and do other construction work.

"The earthquake hit right after we got to the compound and it almost



Submitted photo

Dr. Bryan Den Hartog, an orthopedic surgeon and Sheldon, Iowa native, works to save the toe of a Haitian boy injured in the earthquake that struck Port au Prince on Tuesday.

HOW TO FIND A U.S. CITIZEN LIVING OR TRAVELING IN HAITI:

Call the U.S. Department of State at 888-407-4747.



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WEATHER: More on page A2 and at siouxcityjournal.com

TODAY 31/13 Partly sunny
FRI 35/18 Partly sunny
SAT 38/18 Mostly sunny

THE MINI: Iowa legislators demonstrate they are all talk and no show. We hear that the 80-day, short, concentrated session will be extremely busy, but they spend day one patting each other on the back, handing out awards and appreciation, then listen to the governor for most of the day. Let's start like this: The session is open, the first order of business is ... Both parties are as bad as the other.

Richard Wagener, Anthon, Iowa