Casey Bladow

Media Writing

2/6/2013

1. **Proximity – Moorhead teacher named Teacher of the Year. A Moorhead teacher winning this honor is as local as you can get. Living in the Fargo/Moorhead area having teachers that win this kind of honor should be a local hit.**

Published February 05, 2013, 11:31 PM

Horizon’s Karen Taylor named Moorhead Teacher of Year

MOORHEAD – If Karen Taylor gets the chance, she’ll make literacy a top priority for Minnesota.

By: Helmut Schmidt, INFORUM

“Literacy is a huge issue for me,” Moorhead School District’s 2013 Teacher of the Year said on Tuesday. Research shows that students who don’t read, write and communicate well are at greater risk of dropping out, the eighth-grade Horizon Middle School language arts teacher said. “We need to do a lot more for kids who are not reading at grade level,” said Taylor as she prepared for her first class of the day. “Sometimes, you have to go get them,” she said. The 43-year-old Oakport Township woman is in her eighth year of teaching in the Moorhead district. She started teaching in 1995 in the West Fargo School District. “It’s just an incredible honor to be honored by your peers,” Taylor said. Her bosses are impressed with how she teaches her students and her peers. Jeremy Larson, Horizon’s assistant principal, said Taylor helps with staff development at Horizon and Moorhead High School, and is a mentor for young teachers. “Karen is a very good choice. She’s very dedicated,” Larson said. “She’s a good resource for us to have as far as overall staff development.” Superintendent Lynne Kovash is impressed with how Taylor connects with her students. “The thing that I’ve noticed with her is the way that she can engage her students. … I think she has a wonderful way of doing that,” Kovash said. “I think she’s a great representative, really showing the power of teaching and that connection to students,” Kovash said. Taylor has a bachelor’s degree in English and education from Minnesota State University Moorhead and is working on a master’s degree in K-12 reading at Minnesota State University Mankato. She loves teaching at the middle school level. “I enjoy the enthusiasm and the potential” of the students, Taylor said. “They’re kind of embarking on the rest of their lives. They’re enthusiastic and adventurous and they make me laugh.” Taylor is eligible to be the state Teacher of the Year. That honor will be announced May 5

1. **Oddity – I think this one kind of explains itself… the world’s longest cat has died. Really nothing important in the world but definitely an odd twist in the news. Definitely something I would consider an oddity.**

Stewie, world's longest cat at more than 4 feet, dies

Published February 05, 2013, 11:39 PM

By: Associated Press, INFORUM

RENO, Nev. — Stewie the Cat, the longest domestic cat in the world at more than 4 feet long from nose to tail, has died.

Stewie was surrounded by family when he succumbed to a yearlong battle with cancer Monday evening at his Reno home, owner Robin Hendrickson said Tuesday. He was 8.

Guinness World Records declared Stewie the record-holder in August 2010, measuring 48.5 inches from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail.

Hundreds of fans flooded Stewie's Facebook site with memories and condolences Tuesday. The Maine Coon cat was a certified therapy animal that frequently visited a Reno senior center and helped promote animal welfare awareness with the Nevada Humane Society.

“Stewie was always very social and loved meeting new people,” Hendrickson said. “He has touched many lives, and for that I am grateful.”

1. **Magnitude – I’d say this story fits into this category vary easily. What kind of person spends 11 hours to shoplift 78 items totaling over $1,000 all while being under the influence of something. I’d say the magnitude of that says enough. The story definitely emphasizes on the amount of items stolen and the total length of time she spent attempting to accomplish this. In the end, the good guys went home and the bad guys went to jail.**

Published February 05, 2013, 12:37 PM

Woman charged with shoplifting 78 items in 11 hours from a single store

FARGO – A St. Michael, N.D., woman is charged with felony theft after court documents state she was arrested after spending 11 hours in a South Fargo Wal-Mart last Friday, then attempting to shoplift 78 items concealed about her person without paying for them.

By: Forum staff reports, INFORUM

FARGO – A 20-year-old St. Michael woman is charged with felony theft after police say she spent 11 hours in a south Fargo Wal-Mart on Friday, attempting to shoplift 78 items concealed about her person without paying for them.

Court records allege that store loss prevention officers watched Jessie Fay Cavanaugh for several hours, then called Fargo police when she tried to get into a cab.

She’s accused of trying to take 78 items worth a combined total of more than $1,000. Court documents say the arresting officer observed that Cavanaugh “appeared to be under the influence of something.”

Court records didn’t list the items she’s accused of trying to steal.

Cavanaugh appeared on the charges in Cass County District Court on Monday

1. **Timeliness – This story reviews the past events that have been taking place and then lets you know what is about to happen later today. Exactly how a timeline should be used to inform the reader and let them know what new news is coming forward.**

Published February 06, 2013, 09:00 AM

Boy Scouts board meets amid talk of policy on gays

IRVING, Texas — The Boy Scouts of America's policy excluding gay members and leaders could be up for a vote as soon as Wednesday, when the organization's national executive board meets behind closed doors under intense pressure from several sides.

By: Associated Press , INFORUM

IRVING, Texas — The Boy Scouts of America's policy excluding gay members and leaders could be up for a vote as soon as Wednesday, when the organization's national executive board meets behind closed doors under intense pressure from several sides.

BSA announced last week it was considering allowing troops to decide whether to allow gay membership. That news has placed a spotlight on executive board meetings that began Monday in Irving, Texas, where scouting headquarters is located.

BSA spokesman Deron Smith said last week that the board could take a vote Wednesday or decide to discuss the policy, but the organization would issue a statement either way. Otherwise, the board has remained silent, with reporters barred from the hotel where its meetings are taking place.

At nearby BSA headquarters, a handful of Scouts and leaders delivered petitions Monday in support of letting gay members join. The conservative group

Texas Values, meanwhile, says it has organized a Wednesday morning prayer vigil urging the Scouts to keep their policy the same.

President Barack Obama, an opponent of the policy, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, an Eagle Scout who supports it, both have weighed in.

“My attitude is that gays and lesbians should have access and opportunity the same way everybody else does in every institution and walk of life,” said

Obama, who as U.S. president is the honorary president of BSA, in a Sunday interview with CBS.

Perry, the author of the book “On My Honor: Why the American Values of the Boy Scouts Are Worth Fighting For,” said in a speech Saturday that “to have popular culture impact 100 years of their standards is inappropriate.”

The board faces several choices, none of which is likely to quell controversy. Standing pat would go against the public wishes of two high-profile board members — Ernst & Young CEO James Turley and AT&T Inc. CEO Randall Stephenson — who run companies with nondiscrimination policies and have said they would work from within to change the Scouts’ policy.

Conservatives have warned of mass defections if Scouting allows gay membership to be determined by troops. Local and regional leaders, as well as the leadership of churches that sponsor troops, would be forced to consider their own policies. And policy opponents who delivered four boxes of signatures to

BSA headquarters Monday said they wouldn't be satisfied by only a partial acceptance of gay scouts and leaders.

“We don't want to see Scouting gerrymandered into blue and red districts,” said Brad Hankins, campaign director of Scouts for Equality.