



**IN FOOD, C1**  
**MAKING SOUP FROM SCRAPS**



Shelby Tweten

**IN THE VALLEY, B1**  
**TWETEN BACK ON 'IDOL' THIS WEEK**

**IN SPORTS, D1**  
**READY FOR AN ADVENTURE**

CNHI Newspaper of the Year

## Odds of bonding

### Civic center upgrade may — or may not — be in final bill

By Mark Fischenich  
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**MANKATO** — Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton wants Mankato to get \$14.5 million in state bonding funds to cover half the cost of the civic center upgrade and expansion, but it's the Republican-controlled Legislature that will decide whether the civic center money gets to the governor's desk.

Republican state Rep. Tony Cornish of Good Thunder likes the odds of the often-vetoed project making the cut in 2012.

"I think they're pretty good," said Cornish, who agreed to co-sponsor the civic center project with chief sponsor Rep. Kathy Brynaert, DFL-Mankato.

For the project to have any chance, there has to be a bonding bill — something that's not required in the same way an operating budget is. With Dayton and Republican leaders squabbling through much of 2011, getting off to a contentious start in the 2012 legislative session, and facing an election in November that will determine future control of the Legislature, a stalemate on a bonding bill isn't out of the question.

Cornish, though, expects a bill to be agreed to eventually.

"There definitely will be one," he said. "I think there's no question, just because it's so important to the governor."

The size of the bill may be a considerable factor in whether Mankato's civic center and similar projects in St. Cloud and Rochester are included. Dayton wants a \$775 billion bill. Senate Majority Leader Dave Senjem, who's also chairman of the Senate committee that will write that chamber's bonding bill, suggested a \$417 million total was more likely since a \$497 million construction bill was approved just last summer.

If Senjem's figure reflects the ultimate size of the bill, it would be a challenge to find room for \$35 million for the expansion of the Mayo Civic Center in Senjem's home city of Rochester, \$10.1 million for a civic center project in St. Cloud and \$14.5 million for the Mankato project. More

Please see BONDING, Page A2

## Star Light Gala

### to raise money for families hit with tragedy



John Cross

Lisa May and her husband, Jack, lost their son, Thomas, in 2001. To honor him, they donated books to the Dakota Meadows Middle School Library. May now serves on the board of directors for One Bright Star, an organization that helps families who have lost children. One Bright Star and the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention program will hold their annual Star Light Gala Feb. 18 at Verizon Wireless Center.

## 'It means a lot that our children aren't forgotten'

By Robb Murray  
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**W**hen Lisa and Jack May made plans to go to the inaugural Star Light Gala, it was just for the gig. Jack plays in a band called the Moonlighters, and they'd been booked to perform at the gala well in advance.

There'd be a room full of grieving parents, of course. That's what the Star Light Gala is: a fundraiser for One Bright Star — a group that helps families that have lost children — and the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention program.

But the Mays' plan was to just go and enjoy the dinner and dancing. Have a nice night. Get paid to play music.

And then it happened.

Thomas May died in November 2001 of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, just a few months before Jack was to play in that gig.

Please see GALA, Page A2

### If You Go

**What**  
One Bright Star's and Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention's annual Star Light Gala

**When**  
Feb. 18. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner begins at 7 p.m. and the program begins at 7:45 p.m.

**Where**  
Verizon Wireless Center

The Star Light Gala committee is looking for help from companies or individuals that would like to purchase tables for the event or donate product and/or services to the live or silent auction. Interested companies should contact Sue Ostendorf at 995-1754 or at help@onebrightstar.org.

## Dealing with dementia, step 1: Early detection

### Physician: Family input should be mandatory

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Alexis McKenzie's mother had mild dementia, but things sounded OK when she phoned home: Dad was with her, finishing his wife's sentences as they talked about putting through the day and a drive to the store.

Then their phone service was cut off. "I mailed that check," McKenzie's father insisted. No, he'd mailed the phone company a bank deposit slip instead. McKenzie visited and discovered spoiling food. Dad the caregiver was in trouble, too.

Dementia can sneak up on families. Its sufferers are pretty adept at covering lapses early on, and spouses are sometimes there to compensate. Doctors too frequently are fooled as well. Now specialists are pushing for the first National Alzheimer's Plan to help overcome this barrier to early detection, urging what's called dementia-capable primary care, more screenings for warning signs and regular checks of caregivers' own physical and mental health.

Please see DEMENTIA, Page A7

## Corporate profits aren't what they seem

### So far, almost all growth this year comes from two companies

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Is the great profit engine of corporate America running out of steam?

While other parts of the economy struggled the past two years, large companies managed to rack up higher profits quarter after quarter. Now reality is catching up with big business.

As companies close their books on the final three months of last year, the big ones that make up the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index appear likely to earn about \$230 billion. That would be \$12.6 billion more than a year earlier.

But the increase, 5.8 percent, is less than half the speed at which quarterly profits grew the first nine months of 2011. In the average quarter since the beginning of 2010, earnings have grown five times as fast.

Please see PROFITS, Page A8

### UPCOMING

**Fighting INSV**  
The fingerprints of a plant virus.

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### Track police activity on the Web

You can track police calls in Blue Earth, Nicollet and Brown counties and for the cities of Mankato, North Mankato and St. Peter as well as Department of Natural Resource officer reports for all of southern Minnesota on [mankatofreepress.com](http://mankatofreepress.com).

You can also review the "Mankato's Most Wanted" list that is regularly updated. Latest police reports are displayed at the top, right-hand side of the home page.

As part of our growing base of community columnists, Sgt. Jacalyn Sticha of the Minnesota State Patrol also writes a column for [mankatofreepress.com](http://mankatofreepress.com) on various safety issues. Her column also appears under "Police Logs" and the category "Community."

WEATHER, PAGE B4

### Colder

Partly sunny. High around 24. Low tonight around 9.



Mankato, Minnesota

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