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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2013 **FOUR SECTIONS 75 CENTS** 

# Life lessons learned

#### Francour, a hospice volunteer, honored

By ALISA FOX **EagleHerald staff writer** afox@eagleherald.com

MARINETTE - Volunteers are not uncommon in the community and they come from all backgrounds and for their own reasons. For Chad Francour, the decision was an easy one. He just wanted to give back.

Francour, a Town of Peshtigo native and a 2006 Marinette High School graduate, was recently honored for his work with Hospice Advantage in Green Bay with their Heart of Compassion and Volunteer of the Year awards. In four months, he provided more than 120 hours of service with the hospice by visiting and comforting patients who have six months to live or less and their families.

"I like the work," the 25-year-old Francour said. "It has humbled me a lot and has made me think about life differently. I met a

lot of great people this way." According to the press release



Special to the EagleHerald

Chad Francour (left) is shown with Hospice Advantage president Rod Hildebrandt. Francour received two awards from that organization — Heart of Compassion and Volunteer of the Year. Francour, who graduated last week with a double major from UW-Green Bay, has devoted more than 120 hours of volunteer service in four months with the hospice group.

from Hospice patients. During these visits, he

Francour would regularly drive 30 them, hold their hands and listen did what I do and to see how their or more miles to make visits to as they told him about their lives. life progressed," he said. "Some "I did see some people die and  $\,$  people get creeped out, but I'm not  $\,$  See FRANCOUR, A3

Advantage, would read books or scripture to it always humbled me to see why I

worried about that because it's a part of life. It really changes your whole outlook to witness that.'

To receive the award, Hospice Advantage gave Francour and his brother-in-law an all-expense paid trip to Miami.

"Miami was awesome, we loved it," he said. "My favorite part was renting a Porsche Boxster and getting to ride around in it all day. The awards ceremony and dinner was great, too. I did not at all expect the Volunteer of the Year award."

Earlier this month, Francour graduated from UW-Green Bay with double majors in human development and psychology. He plans to use those majors to continue working with people.

"I would love to continue working with Hospice Advantage as a career," he added. "I even gave them a plan I could implement if they hired me. If they called me and agreed to hire me, I'd pack and be there in Ann Arbor (Mich.) the very next day."

Francour, the son of Dave and Lynn Francour, has been very successful at moving past injuries he sustained in a snowmobiling accident several years ago.

When he was 16, his snowmobile collided with a truck while crossing U.S. 41 just outside of Marinette. He was in a coma for six weeks after that and stayed in the hospital for more than 120



EagleHerald/Rick Gebhard

#### Reading about the world

Lydia Greenwood (left) and her sister Alyssa Greenwood color books Thursday at Park Elementary School to take home during the Literacy Night, a Title One Reading program, held in conjunction with Stephenson Public Library, that explores the world of reading. (Color reprints: www.ehextra.com)

### Menominee teachers lash out at school board

By MIKE DESOTELL EagleHerald staff writer

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MENOMINEE — Three members of the Menominee City District Education Association (MCDEA), representing teachers in the Menominee Public School District let their thoughts be heard by members of the school board Thursday night. The teachers have been working without a new contract for nearly a year and their frustrations with the negotiating process rang loud and clear.

financial situation of the district and the state of Michigan, Julie Flores, copresident of the MCDEA, said she was troubled by the "great divide" that keeps the board from working with the union to solve the

"I just don't understand why (there's) such a lack of respect when we are trying and you won't even meet to try to understand what helps us out."

> **Gail Everhart** MCDEA member

problems of the district.

"Communication trust between the board and MAPS (Menominee Area Public School) employees continues to be very bad," she said. "And only seems While sympathetic the to be getting worse and worse as times goes on."

Flores came right out and said the situation is very stressful to work under.

"Much of the stress and poor morale felt by the staff right now is coming from See TEACHERS, A3

your failure to agree to sit down and bargain a fair contract with your employees," she told the board.

In a passionate plea, Flores extended an invitation to get back to the bargaining table to reach an agreement that would be fair and acceptable to both sides. She also told the board what she felt was the biggest roadblock standing in the way.

## Jurors deadlock on Jodi Arias penalty phase; mistrial called

PHOENIX (AP) — Jurors some very difficult duties." who spent five months couldn't decide whether she should get life in prison or die for murdering her boyfriend, sending prosecutors back to the drawing board to rehash the shocking case of sex, lies and violence to another 12 people.

Judge Sherry Stephens gave a heavy sigh as she announced a mistrial in the penalty phase of the case Thursday and scheduled a July 18 retrial.

"This was not your typical trial," she told jurors. "You were asked to perform

The panel then filed out determining Jodi Arias' fate of the courtroom after 13 hours of deliberation that spanned three days, with one female juror turning to the victim's family and mouthing, "Sorry." She and

> jury were crying. None of the jurors com-

two other women on the

mented as they left court. The mistrial set the stage for a whole new proceeding to determine whether the 32-year-old former waitress should get a life sentence or the death penalty for murdering Travis Alexander five years ago. He was shot and



stabbed nearly 30 times -

his throat slit ear to ear in what prosecutors said See ARIAS, A3

was a jealous rage because he wanted to date other

people. A new jury will be seated to try again to reach a decision on Arias' sentence unless the prosecutor takes execution off the table and agrees to a life term. Jury selection for the next phase could take weeks, given the difficulty of seating an impartial jury in a death penalty case that has attracted global attention.

Arias, who first said she wanted to die and later pleaded to the jury for her

#### Bridge collapses in NW Washington

Wash. (AP) - An Interstate National Park to a cluster 5 bridge over a river north Seattle collapsed Thursday evening, dumping vehicles and people into State Patrol said.

The four-lane bridge over the Skagit River collapsed about 7 p.m., Trooper Mark Francis said. There was no immediate estimate of how many people were in the water or whether there were any injuries or deaths, he said.

It also was not known the bridge about 60 miles now," Grospe said. north of Seattle in Skagit County, which stretches See BRIDGE. A3

VERNON, from the North Cascades islands of

Washington coast. Xavier Grospe, 62, who lives near the river, said he the water, the Washington could see three cars with what appeared to be one person per vehicle. The vehicles were sitting still in the water, partially submerged and partly above the waterline, and the apparent drivers were sitting either on top of the vehicles or on the edge of open windows.

"It doesn't look like anywhat caused the collapse of body's in danger right

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Good morning, Jovce Jones! Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald



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