

Striking a Chord...



*By Valorie Brecht,
news reporter*

Hello, all. Hope you are ready for Christmas next week. May your day be blessed as you celebrate with family and friends.

As you have probably realized by now, change is in the air here at the Press. Ryan Spoehr, our current editor, is transferring to another position within News Publishing Company and will be leaving at the end of the month. With that, I will be taking on the role of editor. Additionally, Kyle VonRuden is joining the team as reporter.

With these changes, I feel some thanks and recognition are in order. First, I want to thank Ryan for the guidance he's given and for leading operations at the Press. I've learned a lot from him. He has done an excellent job and I sincerely wish him the best in the future.

Secondly, I want to officially welcome Kyle on board as reporter. I am thankful for his willing-

ness to join the staff here and jump into reporting. I believe he will be a great addition to the paper.

Finally, I am humbled and excited by the opportunity to serve as editor. I will endeavor to serve you, the readers, well. Please do feel free to stop in the office with any story ideas you may have or things you think I should be aware of. Or you can just stop in to chat. Please feel free to email me (editor@clark-copress.com) or call me (715.743.2600) as well. I want to report on topics that the community cares about.

These past six months have been a good experience of getting to know my community in a new way. I grew up in Loyal, but in the past six months I've learned a lot more about local organizations and happenings. Our county's small towns like Neillville, Greenwood and Loyal have a lot going for them. Clark County is a great place to live, and I hope the paper can showcase that, among other things.

I've also gotten to meet some pretty cool people so far, and I'm looking forward to that continuing. It is always interesting to hear a person's story or to hear people share about their passion.

Also, thanks in advance for your support. Although it may sound obvious, without readers, none of this would not be possible.

Anyway, in other news,

my December has been busy (as no doubt yours has been as well).

The weekend prior to this last weekend I went to the Twin Cities to spend time with some friends from college, which was a joy.

Some of the highlights included visiting the European Christmas Market in downtown Saint Paul. There were booths with a variety of ethnic foods and crafts. While I didn't buy anything, it was interesting to look around.

We also ate real Ramen soup (i.e. not the cheap Walmart kind). My friend Heather suggested we try a Japanese restaurant that served Ramen soup, and although admittedly my friend Kayla and I were a bit skeptical of some of the soup mix-ins (black fungus, fish cakes and seaweed), it actually turned out to be very tasty. It's a good thing Heather was there to help us become slightly more "cultured." I'll still stick with a fork over chopsticks, though.

We also stopped by an ice cream shop that served rolled ice cream. Basically, the workers at the shop pour out a liquid base onto a cold metal slab. They spread out the ice cream mixture until it covers the surface. They then use a scraper to roll the ice cream into burrito shapes. Does the ice cream taste any different being in rolls? No. Does it make you feel slightly cooler (in more ways than one) to eat rolled ice cream? Yes.