January 2012

Inkwell

Eau Claire Association of Educators

www.ecteachers.org

Volume 2011-2012

Issue 6

Affiliated with Wisconsin Education Association Council and National Education Association

TOP STORIES OF 2011

In keeping with the 2011 and 2010 January issues of the *Inkwell*, I present to you my top ten news stories of ECAE 2011!

It would be an understatement to say the last year has been challenging and stressful, but we're making a difference and shaping history along the way.

10. Budget Repair Bill Introduced by Governor Scott Walker
9. Chris Hambuch-Boyle Receives First Annual Jeanne Richie Activist Award
8. Senator Kathleen Vinehout one of 14 who receives Friend of Education Award
7. Recall Efforts in Senate District 10
6. Protests grow and grow – Walker has nowhere to hide!
5. Joint Finance Committee turns 100s away- February 15-16
4. Elect Pro Education School Board Candidates: Trish Cummins & Carol Craig
3. School Board Extends Contracts for one year!
2. Thousands and Thousands of Protesters Show Up at the Wisconsin state capital
1. 14 Democratic Senators leave the state—February 17th

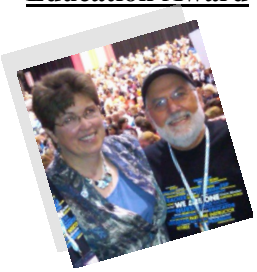
10. Budget Repair Bill Introduced by Governor Scott Walker

February 11, the day will live in infamy for myself and many others included as this was the day the Scott Walker dropped a bomb on the state. This act by the governor deeply divided the state and demonstrated to the people of Wisconsin that he and members of his party (Moulton, Bernier, and Petryk – from our area) would not listen or compromise. Well, in all fairness, Governor Walker did take the phone call from the Koch brothers (prank)!

9. Chris Hambuch-Boyle Receives First Annual Jeanne Richie Activist Award

We were honored and proud to present to Chris Hambuch-Boyle the Jeanne Richie Activist Award. The Executive Board of ECAE created the award to honor an ECAE member's significant contributions to activism among our ECAE members for the benefits of students and members.

8. Senator Kathleen Vinehout One of 14 Who Receives Friends of Education Award



I wish all of you could have been at the NEA Representative Assembly in Chicago this past July! Somewhere around 13,000 delegates all gathered under one roof to do the work of the association and to watch our Senator—Kathleen Vinehout receive the NEA's Friend of Education Award! It was pretty spectacular.

(continue page 4)

Important Date:

Building Representative Meeting January 18, 4:30-6:00 American Legion Hall on Water Street

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Walker Policies Costing Wisconsin Jobs

Gov. Scott Walker's economic policies have caused so much job loss that Wisconsin is trailing the national pace of job creation.

That's brought home by a new report from IWF, *The Price of Extremism: Wisconsin's Economy under the Walker Administration.*

If only Wisconsin had matched the national pace of job creation since April, about 34,000 more families would have a breadwinner with a full-time job, the report says.

Wisconsin lags the national economy because of Walker's "cuts only" approach to budgeting. His policies have pulled billions of dollars out of the state economy—--the worst possible action he could have taken during a difficult economic period.

Walker's cuts include:

- Cuts in state aid for important programs at the state and local level
- Cuts in aid to low-income families
- Cuts in take-home pay for hundreds of thousands of public employees
- Rejections of federal dollars

The indirect ripple effects of these policies will alone cause the destruction of about 18,000 full-time jobs, according to IWF's economic simulations. The report also includes estimates of the impact on a number of individual counties.

Related links:
Read *The Price of Extremism: Wisconsin's Economy Under the Walker Administration*
See the press release

How Gov. Walker's Policies Impact Your Community — County-by-county breakdowns

Professional Development Plan and Goal Approval Session

WHEN: January 19, 2012
WHERE: South Middle School, Room 122 (enter Door 1)
TIME: 3:00—8:00 PM
RSVP: Contact Ron Martin (martinr@weac.org) to set up a time!

2012 ELECTIONS

Positions open on the ECAE Executive Board for the Spring Elections are

- **Negotiations Chair**
- **Secretary**
- **PreK-5 Level Representative**

Contact Ron Martin (martinr@weac.org) if you are interested in learning more about each position. Nominations are due to Pat Geraghty, ECAE Elections Chair by March 14, 2012 (pgeraghty@ecasd.k12.wi.us).

ECAE Awards and Due Dates

Jeannie Richie ECAE Activist Award Purpose

The Jeannie Richie Activist Award is to recognize an individual's significant contribution to activism among our ECAE members for the benefit of students and members. Jeannie Richie was a dedicated kindergarten teacher who quietly changed the lives of countless students. She began her career in Altoona and taught in Eau Claire from 1994 until her death in 2010. She was committed to her profession and dearly loved her students. She helped found the Longfellow Puddle Jump, an annual run/walk to fund efforts to support underprivileged children at Longfellow Elementary School. She advocated for kindergarten students and teachers and to improve the quality of early education. In large part because of her efforts, kindergarten attendance was mandatory statewide at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Jeanne taught Sunday school and was an active member in the Newman Parish, and she volunteered her time at organizations such as the YMCA, the Community Table, and the Feed My People Food Bank.

- **Criteria:** Candidate must be a member of ECAE. Candidate must have been actively involved in ECAE. Candidate must have been active in his/her local home community.
- **Selection Process:** Nominations must come from ECAE members. All nominations must be received by the due date established by the president of ECAE. Nominations will be read, judged, and selected by the ECAE Executive Board. A majority vote of the Executive Board members present and voting constitutes an affirmation of the selected individual.
- **Award:** The award plaque will be presented at the ECASD Celebration of Service or a similar event.
- **Nominations due:** Send to Ron Martin (martinr@weac.org) by March 6, 2012.

Excellence in Education Award Purpose

Presented jointly by ECAE, WEAC, the NEA Foundation and the National Education Association; this award recognizes, rewards and promotes excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. It also honors public education and the dedicated members of ECAE and WEAC.

- **Criteria:** Candidate should demonstrate instructional expertise, creativity, and innovation. Candidate demonstrates an acknowledgement of individual student needs, learning styles, and experiences. Candidate is an advocate for the profession, public education, and student. Candidate shows an appreciation for diversity, sensitivity and support. Candidate shows exemplary leadership. Candidate is involved with parents and in the community members in the classroom**.** Candidate believes and demonstrates lifelong learning.
- **Selection Process:** Nominations must come from ECAE members. All nominations must be received by the due date established by the president of ECAE. Nominations will be read, judged, and selected by the ECAE Executive Board. A majority vote of the Executive Board members present and voting constitutes an affirmation of the selected individual.
- **Award:** The award plaque will be presented at the ECASD Celebration of Service or a similar event.
- **Nominations due:** Send to Ron Martin (martinr@weac.org) by March 6, 2012.

Friend of Education Award Purpose

To honor a person or group in Eau Claire or area who has shown support for our public schools, teachers and students.

- **Criteria:** Candidate must have demonstrated advocacy for students and public education. Candidate must have supported the work of teachers in our schools. Candidate must have shown respect for the people and the work of our association. Candidate must not be an employee of the Eau Claire Area School District.
- **Selection Process:** Nominations must come from ECAE members. All nominations must be received by the due date established by the president of ECAE. Nominations will be read, judged, and selected by the ECAE Executive Board. A majority vote of the Executive Board members present and voting constitutes an affirmation of the selected individual.
- **Award:** The award plaque will be presented at the ECASD Celebration of Service or a similar event.
- **Nominations due:** Send to Ron Martin (martinr@weac.org) by March 6, 2012.

Past Recipients

Jeannie Richie Activist Award:

2011
Chris Hambuch-Boyle

Excellence in Education Award

2011
Linda Johnson

2010
Pat Telisak

2009
Pat Kluck

ECAE Friend of Education Award

2011
Kathleen Vinehout Senator

2010
Diane Willer
Field Trip Funding Organizer

2009
Trish Cummins
School Board

2007
Dean Schultz
Ayres Associates

2000
Justine Vernon
Parent Volunteer

1999
Marlene Soppeland

1998
Rick Olson

1994
Rolff Kleven & Dr. Carol Craig

1992
Daniel Kincaid

1990
Cray Research, Inc.

Top Stories of 2011 continued from page 1……

7. Recall Efforts in Senate District 10

ECAE members can be darn proud of the work they did in the Recall Efforts of Senator Sheila Harsdorf! Although we were not able to turn the seat to a candidate who is more closely aligned with the working middle class and public education, the overall impact of the summer recalls was very exciting. Close to half a million people voted in these nine races, with about 51% casting their votes for Democrats and 49% casting their votes for Republicans. Overall, the GOP vote share in these nine districts was about seven percentage points lower in the recalls than it was for governor last fall. Did you know we also helped turn out more voters in the 10th senate district than the 2010 turnout for governor? Great job ECAE members!

6. Protests grow and grow—Walker has nowhere to hide!

From the steps of the Capital to the sidewalks of Eau Claire, ECAE members were seen marching and carrying protest signs. Many ECAE members were a part of the rallies in Madison and the ones we held right here in the Chippewa Valley. The protests were publicized nationwide and they even made worldwide news! It was amazing the number of times Governor Walker came to Eau Claire—but not once did he make a public appearance—it was always private and behind closed doors. Even though we weren't able to be present, we were there with our signs protesting his radical agenda for Wisconsin. There were even individuals who joined Walker on opening fishing day activities! You can run Governor Walker...but you can't hide!!!

5. Joint Finance Committee turns 100s away—February 15-16.

It has been common practice for the joint finance committee to conduct hearings on the proposed budget. It gives the committee the opportunity to hear from individuals and organizations that are affected by the changes proposed in the upcoming budget. This allows the committee to make an informed decision about what to include and what not to include in the budget. Hundreds of people signed up to testify before the joint finance committee; however, the committee decided to end the hearing and turn away 100s of people. The democrats on the committee were outraged and continued to hold the hearing extending well into the wee hours of the next morning!

4. Election of Pro Education School Board Candidates: Trish Cummins and Dr. Carol Craig.

At the close of the filing date for school board candidates, there were only two individuals who had properly submitted their names and proper number of signatures to support their candidacy. We were thrilled with the individuals who submitted their names. From past experience with both candidates, I knew we had the right candidates for the job. At the last minute, a write-in candidate emerged. This individual was running on the notion that the budget repair bill that Governor Walker introduced in February was right for the school district as well as the significant cut in revenue for the school district. We organized and rallied around the two education friendly candidates, and they both won!

3. School Board and ECAE Extends Contract for One Year!

Here in Eau Claire we have a strong and dedicated group of school board members who truly care about the education of the young people of this district which includes the working conditions of the employees! It was by no means an easy quick let's extend the contract by one year decision—both sides had to seriously weigh the pros and cons. Ultimately we all decided it was the best thing for us to do. For ECAE members that meant a freeze in salary and paying more for our health insurance and WRS contribution. As one school board member so eloquently put it: "Thank you to all the bargaining groups and it is important for the public to understand that employees took a wage freeze and will also see a significant cut in pay due to the additional contributions they will have to make. There are many employees in the ECASD and this will affect Eau Claire's economy." She went on to share that she appreciated our sacrifice.(Wendy Sue Johnson, Official board minutes of the March 13, 2011 special meeting).

2. Thousands and Thousands of Protesters Show Up at the WI State Capital.

Beginning on February 14th, thousands of protestors showed up to display their dissatisfaction in the Governor and the Republican controlled senate and assembly. Each day more and more protestors showed up at the capital. I was there for many of the days and I was part of the peaceful presentations and demonstrations. I was so impressed with how peaceful and polite people were. We marched and chanted in the capital and when they wouldn't let us in the capital, we marched and chanted around the capital. We welcomed the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ed Schultz, and other well-known individuals. We marched with Congressmen Ron Kind. It was truly a remarkable time in labor history. I know many of you were part of the protesters and to those who couldn't make it, we know you were there in spirit.

1. 14 Democratic Senators Leave the State—February 17th.

14 brave Democratic Senators left the state to slow down what was turning into a quick and swift action by the Governor and the Republican controlled legislature. Apparently when you have control of all the legislature and the Governor's office, you can do whatever you want—even pass a bill (law) without properly notifying the public, and not holding a hearing on the bill. If not for the 14, the process would have not been slowed down and we would not have been able to organize and get the word out about the horrendous attack on organized labor as well as many other groups and individuals. They were not shirking their responsibilities as elected officials (as some would suggest), but rather they did the only democratic thing they could—leave the state and deny a quorum to allow for the state to be educated on what the bill contained. To the 14—they are our heroes!

So there you have it—2011 all wrapped up in one article; however, we all know so much more happened. There were things we could be excited about and things that made us think and become engaged! So here's to 2012—may it be a year filled with success, joy, and camaraderie.

Solidarity,

Ronald E. Martin

Ron "Duff" Martin

NEA's Gift to Teachers

Tis the season for gift giving, and the National Education Association has given America's teachers a beautiful present wrapped, tied with a bow, and perfect for use in 2012. The gift was a guide to a substantially elevated teaching profession and, best of all, the responsibility for that profession.

About a year ago, **Dennis Van Roekel,** President of the **National Education Association (NEA),** created a commission to look at effective teaching and effective teachers. He did something that was unprecedented at NEA. He selected some of the best teachers in America, gave them complete autonomy, and invited some of the best minds on teacher quality to *listen* to these practitioners and advise them rather than the reverse of teachers listening to "experts"---which is most typical when it comes to commissions charged with studying our profession. Dennis knew that teachers care deeply about their profession, are weary of the demonization occurring, and have little tolerance for unprepared and minimally committed teachers who make cameo appearances in America's classrooms.

People who know Dennis were not surprised that he took this bold step and risked his re-election by challenging some long held policies that had become irrelevant in the 21st Century. You see, Dennis Van Roekel is a great teacher himself. He proudly introduces himself as a math teacher of 20 plus years from Paradise Valley High School in Phoenix, Arizona, rather than the president of the largest professional union in the United States. He is a leader on a mission, and he knows that the NEA---with one in every 100 Americans as a member---has the presence and the power to make the changes needed to assure that every child will have an effective teacher every year.

This report, ***Transforming Teaching: Connecting Professional Responsibility with Student Learning,*** is a pathway to a systemic approach to teacher quality like that used by the highest performing countries. I think one sentence in the report sums it up: "We envision a teaching profession that embraces collective accountability for student learning with collaborative autonomy that allows educators to do what is best for students." Imagine that: teachers with the ability to decide and implement what is best for the kids in their classrooms and schools and the accountability that goes with decision making. That's what happens all the time in Finland and Singapore and other countries that lead the world in student achievement.

The report identified three guiding principles to transform the teaching profession. It proclaimed that student learning is the center of everything a teacher does. I know that sounds like a "duh" moment, but we live in a world where bureaucracy reigns and a "one size fits all" mentality drives public policy that strangles a teacher or a school's ability to customize for every child the best education plan. Trust and authority, the report's authors said, must be closest to the child---and "closest" is not Washington, DC.

Another guiding principle was that teachers must take primary responsibility for student learning. The operative word is the plural "teachers." In today's world, collaboration and collegiality are necessities for maximizing effectiveness. (I would add that high stakes testing and compensation undermine this principle.)

The final guiding principle centers around teacher empowerment and responsibility for who gets hired and fired, how evaluation occurs, and how teachers might advance in teaching while remaining in touch with students. We know the power of peer assistance and review systems, but too often, school systems ignore the best practices if funding is an issue.

This commission was led by a highly regarded teacher. **Commission Chair Maddie Fennell** was 2007 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Maddie is the face of millions of teachers who spend 24/7 thinking about a better lesson for the student who seemed confused in class today or for the child who needs extra support through a personal crisis. Like all teachers, Maddie is always looking for better ways of connecting with parents and the community. And Maddie is also, like most of her colleagues, thinking about how to improve America's system of teaching and learning. We owe it to all the Maddie Fennells to read this report, use it as a resource for conversation and change, and assure that teachers and their profession are considered the most important in America.

Stay tuned for future blogs that will provide more specific information and opinion on this report. I will share mine, and I hope you share yours. It's not a perfect report, but it's the best roadmap to a stronger and more effective teaching profession than we've seen in a long time.

Written by former NEA Executive Director John Wilson (**Here's the link to the blog. http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/john_wilson_unleashed/.)**

Are you in charge of your life or is life in charge of you? Are you living your life on purpose?

Co-Active Coaching is about you as a whole person: your values, goals, work, balance, fulfillment, and life purpose. We work with highly motivated individuals, like you, to develop your own definition of success. Our clients want to achieve specific goals to lead a more fulfilling life. Together, we will design a plan that is tailored to your needs and aspirations.

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kbruder@discoveringlifesolutions.com
Or
Tricia Thatcher, Professional Co-Active Coach
tthatcher@discoveringlifesolutions.com

Chris Danou's Capitol Report

Looking Back and Looking Forward: The Year 2011 in Review

As 2011 comes to a close, it is important to reflect on the year that was while looking ahead to the potential that exists in the New Year 2012. As we all know, this past year was a tumultuous time in our state's history. Much of the controversy surrounded Governor Walker's proposed budget repair bill. The Governor's proposal included policy language that stripped collective bargaining rights from state and local government employees. The move generated massive protests at the Capitol last winter. In fact, many smaller protests continue at the Capitol and across the state today on a daily basis.

The controversies that have engulfed our Capitol have gone along way towards further polarizing a state which has traditionally prided itself on working together to get things done. The current political environment has made it difficult to work across the aisle and address the problems our government must deal with. It is time for leaders in both parties to garner input from citizens, reach across the aisle, find the best solutions to problems, and move forward in a positive, unified direction. While these goals are easier said than done, we can and must do better.

The new year presents us with a new opportunity. We have an opportunity to move past the divisiveness and unite for the common good. At the state level we have much work to do. We need to restore funding for our schools, programs for our most vulnerable citizens must be made sustainable, our state's infrastructure must be maintained, and jobs must be created. We have a lot on our plate and a difficult road to hoe. Yet Wisconsin's history has shown a resiliency that makes me bullish on 2012 and on our great state.

As we begin anew in 2012, I renew my commitment to reach across the aisle and work with my colleagues on the other side. There is too much at stake and the issues are too important to miss this opportunity. Both sides know we can do better and frankly, our constituents all across Wisconsin deserve better in 2012. It is my hope that we remember 2012 as the year Wisconsin came together. So as another New Year dawns on our great state, here's to wishing you and your family, friends and neighbors a happy and healthy 2012!

Recall Workshop Next Steps to Success

Are You Ready To Stand Up To Scott Walker?

Please join us for a workshop that will cover our union's plan to achieve electoral success and recall Scott Walker. Workshops will be held regionally across the state. Members and retirees interested in leading local union efforts around the recall are encouraged to attend.

Highlights:

- Our union's plan to win.
- The next phases of the 4x10 initiative.
- Talking to colleagues, family, and friends about the recall.
- Creating and implementing local union plans.
- Legal dos and don'ts.

Details:

- **Saturday, February 4th**
- **8:30 to 12:30**
- **Lunch at 12:30**
- **Chippewa Valley Technical College**

For online registration go to :

https://www.cvent.com/d/dcqkn0

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY……

January 1–31

National Mentoring Month
Sponsored by the Harvard Mentoring Project, this observance encourages volunteer mentors to help young people from under-privileged backgrounds reach their full potential. Find out more about National Mentoring Month.

January 1-31
National Radon Action Month
Radon is an extremely toxic, colorless gas. Test your home. Protect your health. For more information, see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website.

January 1
New Year's Day
This date marks the first day of the New Year in the Gregorian calendar. The Roman New Year is on March 1.
Opening of Ellis Island
In 1892, the first Ellis Island Immigration Station was officially opened in New York Harbor. By 1924, more than 25 million passengers and crew had entered the United States through the "Gateway to America." The Immigration Act of 1924 restricted immigration, marking the end of mass immigration to the United States. Visit the Ellis Island website to search passenger arrival records and learn more about the immigrant experience.

January 1
Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary
In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed this edict proclaiming that all slaves living within rebelling Confederate states "are, and henceforth shall be, free." Find out more about the Emancipation Proclamation at the National Archives.

January 1-3
Japanese New Year
Shogatsu is the celebration of the New Year - the most important holiday in Japan. Entrances are decorated with a Shimekezari. A Shimekazari is a twisted straw rope with fern leaves, an orange, and other items considered good omens. Family members gather in their hometown and spend the time together. People celebrate the New Year with sweet sake called Toso, a soup called Zoni and Osechi-ryori during the holiday.

January 13
Amber Alert Awareness Day
Learn more about Amber Alert at the Amber Alert website and The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. See also The Beginning of Amber Alert (2004) (PDF, 12pp).

January 15
World Religion Day
The aim of celebrating this day is to promote interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasizing the common denominators underlying all religions. See the World Religion Day website.

January 16
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Day of Service
Always celebrated on the third Monday in January, this federal holiday honors Reverend King's life and commitment to equality and unity. The Day of Service encourages citizens to follow King's words: "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." Read more at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service site. Volunteers of all ages work on projects in their communities to honor King's dedication to community service.

January 19
Robert E. Lee's Birthday
Learn more about Civil War General Robert E. Lee.

January 23
Chinese New Year (also called Lunar New Year)
It's the Year of the Dragon! To prepare for this major holiday, people clean their homes, buy new shoes and clothing (especially in red), and get new haircuts. The biggest event is the New Year dinner, an elaborate meal that celebrates family ties. The Lunar New Year is celebrated by Chinese, Koreans, and Vietnamese, among others, all over the world with music, dance, costumes, and firecrackers. Learn more at the Chinese New Year page.

January 23-27
No Name-Calling Week
Hundreds of schools across the country participate in No Name-Calling Week by engaging in educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and verbal bullying of all kinds. This week is aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with tools and inspiration to launch dialogues about ways to eliminate bullying. Learn more at the No Name-Calling Week website.

January 28
Christa McAuliffe Day Sharon Christa McAuliffe, the first teacher to fly in space, was selected from among more than 11,000 applicants from the education profession for entrance into the astronaut ranks. She was planning to conduct experiments and teach two lessons from Space Shuttle Challenger. On January 28, 1986, her spacecraft disintegrated 73 seconds after launch. Learn more about Christa McAuliffe. from **nea.org**

Coming next month: NEA Read Across America

Cleaning closets or garages? Looking for a bargain?

BARGAIN BLITZ

List your items in the Inkwell Bargain Blitz!

Deadline for submitting your ads is the 20th of each month. Sorry, no personal ads.
Send items to Shirl Ruesch at: sruesch@ecasd.k12.wi.us Please e-mail me when ad has been fulfilled. Thanks.

Sell: Bauer Vapor X60 Size 8 hockey skates. Very good condition. Purchased Nov., 2010 and worn for two months. Paid $700.00 will sell for $200.00. E-mail sayers@ecasd.k12.wi.us or call 715-839-9727.

Sell: Cabin with 30 acres for sale. Located in the upper peninsula near Paradise, MI (the blueberry capital). Cabin has two bedrooms, electric heat and also a great wood stove. It's five minutes from Lake Superior and great walking beaches near Whitefish Point. (Edmund Fitzgerald) There is a pond on the land that has nesting cranes every year. Contact Bill Simon wsimon@ecasd.k12.wi.us 852-5295. Priced right now at $69,900.

Sell: Minolta Maxxum 5D, excellent condition, includes camera 18-70 lens, strap, battery, charger, USB cord, owner's manual, two chips. $245.00 Call 715-878-4316 or e-mail jankerg@centurytel.net More information at http://www.steves-digicams.com/camera-reviews/konika/minolta-maxxum-5d-slr-review.html

Sell: Six acres in Ingram, WI. Located by 1000's of acres of public land. Driveway, turn around and electricity already installed. Email Jeff for more information. jbowe2@ecasd.k12.wi.us

Offering: Private art lessons to elementary students in your home for the student who can't get enough art. I have been doing this for about 7 years. Offering single student or group lessons. Work in a variety of art media, learn about artists, time periods, etc. For more information call Julie at 715-577-8503 or e-mail at jschaller@ecasd.k12.wi.us

Offering: Private piano or flute lessons at my home. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Nancy Wendt, 715-874-6141.

Sell: Things Bruce Hering has that he doesn't need anymore: 6' Halex Air Hockey Table (with paddles and 6 pucks) Craigslist price: $50. ECASD price $35. E-Swat Cyber Police 6' Tall by 3' wide vintage old-school stand-up arcade game. Ebay price: $300. ECASD price: $99. "American Idol" style microphone, used TWICE, like new. Online price (new): $179. Craigslist: $99. ECASD price: $79. Contact via email at heringba@gmail.com

Sell: Walkout ranch with large bonus room on 100ft. of lake frontage with low bank and sandy beach. Screen porch, hardwood floors, first floor laundry with heated tile floor, exercise room, 2 fireplaces (one gas), gentle sloping yard to lake front. 3 car garage. Majority of home was updated between 2007 and 2009. Four bedrooms, 3 baths, Eau Claire Schools. Contact: mcfarlane@charter.net

Experienced house cleaning by retired teacher who understands your stress. Enjoy more time with your family and friends. Nine or twelve months per year. Reasonable rate. Call Sybelle at 715-832-0829.

Want: Looking for a duplex, condo or small house to rent with two bedrooms. Call 715.497.9525 Odelia McLaughlin or e-mail at omclaughlin@ecasd.k12.wi.us

Need Painting done? Call the women who paint! Interior/exterior. Experienced. Efficient. Call Gretchen at 715-833-8089 or email gbeckstrom@ecasd.k12.wi.us

Offering: Private lessons to a small number of students this school year (maximum of 5). If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Bruce at home email: heringba@gmail.com

Cottage for rent: Two bedroom furnished cottage for rent, Upper Long Lake near Birchwood, WI. Rent by day, weekend or week. Spring fed, clear lake, good fishing and water sports, docks, low bank and nice surrounding area. Contact Elaine Stelter, 715-834-5264 or elainestelter@aol.com

Sell: Three bedroom ranch on the Northside of Eau Claire. Two baths, gas fireplace, hardwood floors in kitchen and dining rooms. $132,500. Call 715-497-9525

Sell: 2851 Neptune Court, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 4-bedroom, 1 ¾ bath home on cul-de-sac with two connecting decks. Roof with 30-year shingles was replaced in 2007 and concrete driveway with side pad in 2008. The four-season room has a built in sound system, can lighting, gas fireplace, wood floors and cathedral wood ceiling with French doors to access room from kitchen area. There is also a built-in wood fireplace in the lower-level 24'x12'4" family room. Gas forced air furnace and Central air conditioning. Included with house: refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, washer, dryer, garage heater, leather furniture (lower level), two stereo systems and a 60" TV. Asking $169,000 Contact: Gary, Cell: (715)864-1900, Home: (715)832-9448

NOTE: Please contact me when you no longer want your ad in the *Inkwell* or if you would like to have your ad in the *Inkwell*. E-mail me at sruesch@ecasd.k12.wi.us Thanks.