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Banner News

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Borgen Square offers shelter for DMACC students

Isaac Rittman
Banner Staff Writer

“It’s like we’re all just one big poor family,” said Quinntez Gillespie, a Boone campus student who recently moved to the Borgen Square Apartments.

The majority of the students living in the apartments, located on the east side of the Boone campus, are grateful for a place to live so close to the school. Most of the students who live in the Borgen Square Apartments are either athletes from another state, or students going to DMACC from out of state.

The primary complaint from these students was that they had to buy their own groceries, instead of mooching off their parents.

DMACC basketball player, Jesse Blackwell, said, “I mean don’t get me wrong, the apartments are nice and clean, but all of my money I get goes straight to my rent payments.”

The Borgen Square Apartments are unfurnished except for appliances. Most of the students who live in the apartments don’t have enough money to furnish their whole apartments. Many rooms basically consist of a bed and small television in the living room.

John Holmes, Bears forward, said, “The living conditions aren’t really all that bad. The only thing I really dislike about living here is when there are parties going on or music is up too loud when I’m either trying to take a nap before a game or practice, or if I have a big test to study for.”

The noise in the Borgen Square apartments has been a major complaint for many of the tenants. “The people that live above my roommate and I are very loud, if it’s not music playing at its max volume it’s them stamping around, one of these times they just might come through the floor,” said Becca Swalla.

Tenant, Ali Mackey, said, “The walls here are extremely thin, so when I lay in bed some nights I can hear my neighbors performing sexual acts.”

There have been many complaints about privacy by tenants. Many of the door locks in the rooms can be picked with a butter knife.

Appliances in the apartments aren’t always in working order. DMACC student and Borgen Square tenant, Prince Osayi, said, “The first time I walked into my buddy’s apartment I thought that I heard gun shots zinging through the room, but later he would inform me that it was just his dishwasher acting up.”

Snow, fierce wind strand drivers in Midwest

Doug Glass
Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Fierce wind blew snow across roads and stranded hundreds of drivers on Midwest highways Friday, as thousands shivered without power and airlines were forced to call off hundreds of flights.

At least 15 storms-related deaths have been reported since the snow began falling Wednesday, including a 10-year-old Wisconsin boy who died Friday in a car accident.

The storm left more than a foot of snow in some areas Friday. Even as the flakes stopped falling by afternoon, gusts of 40 mph prompted blizzard warnings and prevented major highways from reopening.

Officials at Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport canceled 500 flights, blaming bad weather elsewhere.

In the Northeast, a storm dumped snow across northern New England, while areas to the south were left with a messy mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain.

Hundreds of miles of interstate highway in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota remained closed for much of Friday, with plow drivers forced to pull off roads because of the wind-blown snow.

More than 100 vehicles were abandoned as their stranded drivers were rescued in Iowa, where blizzard warnings were extended into Saturday.

“Mobility and visibility are horrendous right now with wind chills hovering around zero. Conditions are very treacherous,” Lt. Col. Greg Happgood, a spokesman for the Iowa National Guard, said Friday afternoon.

Close to 400 rigs crowded the parking lot of the Trails Truck and Travel Center, where Interstate 90 and 35 converge at Albert Lea, Minn.

“All I see is trucks. It’s just a sea of trucks,” manager Rick Boyer said.

“Everybody’s standing around watching weather reports on our display TVs. They’re blocking up the aisles,” he said.

Minneapolis had 11 inches of snow by sunrise Friday. Western Iowa got up to 17 inches, and strong wind built up drifts 10 feet high. The eastern Dakotas had up to 18 inches.

The storm, the area’s second major winter blast in a week, was part of a larger line of thunderstorms and snowstorms that stretched from Minnesota to the Gulf Coast.

Student actor breaks a leg, performs show from wheelchair

Tim Larson
Executive Editor

“Break a leg,” a phrase often heard in the theatre, as actors and crew implore one another to perform well. The etymology of the phrase is unclear, what is known is that it is not intended to be taken literally.

Twenty minutes before the DMACC Theatre’s presentation of “Murder is a Game,” Mary Elizabeth Drahos, one of the leading actresses, took a well-wisher’s advice literally. Drahos, while preparing backstage, fell, chipping a bone in her foot.

After quite some debate, it was decided that the show would continue, with one small adjustment. Nurse Helga, played by Jackie Zimmerman, was added to the script at the last minute to push the temporarily paralyzed Drahos’ wheelchair.

“Originally she [Zimmerman] was going to play my part while I went to the emergency room.” Said Drahos. “I went on anyway because I didn’t want to waste all of that hard work and let everyone down.”

The idea to put the chair-bound Drahos on stage was not initially a serious suggestion.

“Jonathan said it would be really funny if I did my part from a wheelchair,” said Drahos. Despite her injury, Drahos was able to deliver her performance convincingly. “I kind of a bitch, so I just pointed and snapped my fingers.”

Mary Elizabeth Drahos performs in ‘Murder is a Game’ after injuring her ankle moments before the presentation began. For further play coverage, turn to Page 5.

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Red Cross helps after storm

Julianne Hamil  
Business Manager

The Red Cross Disaster Services set up shop at the Boone DMACC Campus Friday March 2 to aid stranded truckers. The drivers were on Hwy 161, about thirty miles north of Hwy 30, when the white out conditions stopped them in their tracks. Cory Roundtree, a truck driver from Purcell, OK, said, “DMACC was comfortable for us, being here gave us something to do. We had internet access and the pool tables to keep us busy while we waited out the storm.”

A convoy consisting of a snow plow, two Humvee’s from the National Guard and a Boone County Sheriff’s Deputy, all came to assist in transferring these stranded motorists to safety. The motorists were transported to the Boone National Guard Armory where they stayed for one night before being transferred to DMACC.

The Red Cross Disaster Service team supplied food and beverages to seven stranded motorist throughout the storm. The DMACC facilities aided in not just shelter for these individuals, but full bathroom and showers facilities along with entertainment.

(Me [sic] and the seven people who were stranded want to thank the Red Cross and DMACC for providing the facilities and giving our families piece of mind knowing we were safe and in a warm place,” said Evan Shelton, truck driver from Columbia, TN.

The stranded seven were escorted from DMACC by family and the sheriff’s department back to their vehicles Saturday morning.

Red Cross Emergency Services Director, Ryan Doll, echoed the sentiments of Shelton, complimenting DMACC for having such an excellent facility.

Blood drive held in Courter Center

Liz Jay  
Banner Staff Writer

Within the first 35 minutes of the blood drive on Feb. 22 there were 18 people signed up to give blood and 10 people had already gone through. Phi Theta Kappa had set a goal of 40 units, and only 35 minutes into the drive they were well on their way.

Education major, Pamela Holt, has been a member of Phi Theta Kappa since last fall and for a good cause. “I haven’t been able to donate at the last two because I’ve been sick.”

“The Red Cross is very helpful. They bring everything, free t-shirts, cookies and juice, nurses and beds. They also help with goal setting,” said Holt.

While some students have given blood in the past, others are first time donors. Morgan Wright, liberal arts, first time donor, said, “I never have [donated] before. It’s convenient and for a good cause.”

Rosanna Yutzy, another first time donor, said she wasn’t scared. “I’m just curious about how things will work out,” said Yutzy. “I’ve heard of it before and I thought it would be interesting to help others if I can.”

Shelia Bergman, a regular blood donor, had advice for those who are hesitant to donate. “Don’t be afraid of it. It doesn’t hurt,” Bergman said, “the more you do it you get used to it so it’s not as bad.”

Red Cross team supervisor, Mary Fritz, said, “I think we are a little busier then last time we were here. We’ve had a lot of students come in.”

Phi Theta Kappa members, Hannah Blum and Adel Fellmetz work the sign in desk for the Phi Theta Kappa sponsored blood drive. Together with the Red Cross, Phi Theta Kappa enlisted the help of DMACC students and faculty to collect blood donations for the Blood Bank of Iowa.
Phi Theta Kappa College Day
Jessi Hackler
Banner Staff Writer

Crammed hallways and university banners marked the Phi Theta Kappa College Day at DMACC.
Several different colleges and universities flooded the Courter Center to talk to DMACC students about what their schools had to offer. Each college had representatives to promote their educational programs.

“All Phi Theta students are amazing,” said, Cornell College representative, Sharon Grice. “We are offering $10,000 to $20,000 scholarships for Phi Theta students,” said Grice, “65 percent of our students go on to grad school.”

Buena Vista representative, Brittany Schmitt, said, “We’re looking to provide students with information about BVU and to let them know what we offer.” Mike Walden, another BVU representative, promoted several internment programs that Buena Vista offered their students.

“Two thirds of our students participate in internships,” said Walden.

Briggs Siitari, from The College of St. Catherine, said, “We have a small community of learners. We have a strong social justice piece. We encourage our students to volunteer.” St. Kate’s is offering $3,000 scholarships for PTK students.

The Director of Transfer Enrollment at Simpson College, Gwen Schroder, said that Simpson was awarding $7,000 scholarships to Phi Theta students.

Spring break Mar. 19-23
Steven Fisher
Banner Staff Writer

As spring break approaches, many students are planning their vacation in the sun. Travels to Mexico, Florida, Texas, and California are some of the most popular.
For the lucky few who get to travel over this up-coming break, there are some precautions that need to be taken to ensure a smooth and exciting time.

Choose the group wisely and make sure everyone gets along with each other. Generally a group of high school buddies or college roommates can work very well.
Once the crew is finalized, each person should figure out where they want to go and how much money will be available to them on this trip. Some people will have more than others so group cooperation is a must. Knowing everyone on this trip can make this aspect easier when planning and booking.

With a budget in place, research the area where the group will be traveling. This will help prevent the group from wasting time trying to find the hot spots.

Once the destination has been chosen, figure out the travel plans. The group’s budget will determine if this will be a trip of luxury or economy. Local travel agents or internet travel sites can help with this.
Jessica Lucas, a travel advisor for STA Travel in Ames, said, “We have contracts with many airlines and travel companies to give students and faculty members extra discounts. Our student tickets have reduced rates and are flexible tickets that can be changed and cancelled. We also have many tours and accommodations that have special rates for students.”

Web sites like Orbitz, Travelocity, Expedia and Hostel world, offer overviews of local hotels and attractions to help further your decision from the comfort of your home. Hotels are a good choice for a larger budget. For the low budget traveler, youth hostels cost much less and offer a unique atmosphere.

DMACC student, Nate Prindle, said, “Every other college has spring break the week before, if ours was matched up with Iowa and ISU it would be much easier. So maybe next year DMACC can match their break with Iowa and ISU.”

When traveling outside the U.S., check for government travel and health warnings at travel.state.gov. A passport is also needed to travel almost anywhere outside the U.S. Since it can take a while to get approved for a pass-port, make sure you get it a head of time.
Students and instructors filled the Courter Center on Feb. 21 for some laughs and some unexpected insults made in good fun.

Eric Blake, a comedian, has been seen on Comedy Central’s “Premium Blend.” His comic timing and improvisation skills kept audiences entertained. “He’s great. I’ve seen him [sic] on TV. He’s really funny and relates to everyone here,” said student, Cy Wynn.

He seemed to get most of his laughs when he would single people out and make fun of them. Several people were picked on; student, J.D. Simmons, was singled out for being short. “He got me really good. I’m cool.”

The audience especially enjoyed participating in the act. Watching a student be pulled on stage, student, Heather Holler, said, “He is really funny with his subjects and what he does.”

“I am enjoying him. There is really nothing uncomfortable for me. Comedians are usually given more latitude than others for being politically correct. Taboo subjects are accepted more in settings like this,” said Assistant Provost, Brian Green.

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

Comedian Eric Blake performs in the Courter Center on Feb. 21. Blake’s performance was funded by the Student Activities Council.
How is it affecting you that our spring break is different from everyone elses?

It’s different? Ah, I guess it isn’t affecting me at all. I’m going to be working anyways.

-Ryan Logan

I’m just fine with it because I’m not with my family anyway. I’m not even doing that much.

-Karissa Marlow

I have to work one extra day.

-Steve Lochray

My kids go to Sacred Heart and are on a different schedule. We were supposed to go to Florida so I’m kind of bummed.

-Julie Messerly
DMACC careers end for five sophomore players

Alisa Brinkman - From Rolfe, Iowa, graduated from Pocahontas High School. Brinkman played in 61 games, scored 650 points, had 464 rebounds, was named to the 2007 Region XI All-Tournament Team. She will play basketball at Kent State in the fall.

Brittany Rose - From Ogden, Iowa, graduated from Ogden High School. Rose has scored 49 points and 45 rebounds in 26 games this season. She plans to attend to Iowa State University, majoring in biology.

Kayla Richter - From Council Bluffs, graduated from Bishop T.K. Gorman High School in Tyler, Texas. Richter has played in 60 games, scored 575 points, including 110-3's and 193 rebounds. She plans to attend Iowa State University, majoring in fitness and sports management.

Emily Duffy - From Hazleton, Iowa, graduated from Oelwein High School. Duffy played in 49 games for the Bears until a season-ending injury in the game against Kirkwood on Jan. 17. Duffy scored 388 points, 79 three-pointers in 49 games and averaged 7.9 points per game.

Jocelyn Anderson - From Growrie, Iowa, graduated from Prairie Valley High School. Anderson played in 61 games, scored 937 points, had 639 rebounds, and was the blocked shot leader with 324. She was named to the 2007 Region XI All-Tournament Team and has signed to play at Iowa State University.

Bears beat the Panthers

Quintezz Gillespie
Banner Sports Writer

Boone Bears beat the Ellsworth Panthers, 76-56, on March 3, in the Bears Den.

With ten days off between games, the Bears came into the match fresh. Bears started in a three-two zone, defending Ellsworth's shooters.

Rodney Grace put down a baseline slam, assisted by Brent Jackmen. Jackmen topped his assist the next time down the floor, hitting a jump shot.

Antons Sauls connected with Center, Dusko Stojnic, for a jumper, bringing the score 11-15 with 8:30 in the half.

J’Sean Gaddy threw an assist to his old Indian Hills Teammate Sauls for the fast break lay-up.

John Holmes, on his way to the locker room, said, “I got elbowed in the mouth and it knocked my tooth loose.” Bears lead by six at the half, 21-15.

Ellsworth guard, Nathan Kennedy, started off the second half with a technical foul. Sauls split his shots from the line and the Bears took the ball out 36-30. Mid way in the second half, Gaddy came down to hit a three pointer, pushing the Bears lead to nine.

Holmes put in two off of a behind-the-back pass from Grant Burns. Burns got his own points on the next play, picking up the and-one foul.

Eight minutes into the second half, Sauls dropped a three pointer, causing Ellsworth to call time out.

Burns and Grace connected throughout the game. “We [are] getting use to each other,” said Burns. “He runs the baseline and I penetrate and find him.” Added Grace, “That’s my boy we always call time out.

Francois Harris saw some unexpected playing time late in the second half.

After the game, Head Coach, Orv Salmon, said, “We played good enough to win.”
Diary of Samantha

“I just don’t have any patience for you, or me, or Joe. So f*** you and f*** them and f*** everyone! Don’t ever speak to me again!” This is only a sentence of the message my sister left on my answering machine at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. Leave it to Rose to show such class ‘till her last day before to wish her good luck. I got her machine; I told her I would call her later on to check on her. Apparently, this wasn’t a good idea.

I got a call from Rose demanding that I talk to our mother about her father (my sister and I have different fathers). Rose’s father wasn’t exactly a shining example of fatherhood. Think Charles Manson with children. This 6-foot 6-inch, shoulder考虑 a distinct taste for sadism and never hesitated to demonstrate this proclivity in front of his children.

My mother tried to leave him once; she grabbed me and ran. My brother and my sister were left at the house in the middle of a dark forest away from the eye of civilization. She ran out of the house without anything but her bag thinking that she would never harm her own children and that if she ran hard enough she could make it to the woods, put herself safe and then go back for Joe and Rose.

Unfortunately she was horribly incorrect in this assumption. She only made it two miles before we found her hiding behind a tree. I was incredibly young, but I vividly remember that day. I remember quivering against my mother’s chest as she rocked me back and forth, tears streaming down her face. I remember the heavy sound of his hunting boots crunching against the forest floor as he approached our hiding place. He didn’t yell her name or threats. I wonder if he just enjoyed the hunt, the fascination with fear?

I remember her heart beating faster and faster until he threw open the door to the dilapidated tool shed. He stood there breathing heavily, 7-inch Bowie knife in hand. A whimper escaped from under my wig. I remember her heart, breathing heavily, 7-inch M&Ms. I realized you could...
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