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HITTING THE DANCE FLOOR: North Branch hosts section competition . **PAGE 10**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

A real snake charmer, that one is

This young guy enjoys having a boa constrictor placed on his shoulders during the "Snake, Rattle & Roll" program put on at North Branch Sunrise Elementary School on Friday, Jan. 31. The program, which was led by Emily Roberts of "Snake Discovery," let kids touch and even hold a variety of snakes and other reptiles. A majority of the large group of kids were like this guy and eagerly interacted with the animals; however, there were a few like the girl in the background who were a little more hesitant.

Terry's Disposal given 'last chance' to comply with CUP

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Following a public hearing the week before regarding conditional use permit (CUP) violations by Terry's Disposal that North Branch Mayor Jim Swenson described as "almost like a court trial," the North Branch city council, during their Jan. 28 meeting, unanimously approved giving the business one last chance to come into compliance with their CUP terms.

'(The city and county) feel it's critically important the site be cleaned up in totality.'

At issue is the storage of various waste materials at the business' address, located at 41414 Harder Avenue. According to city administrator Renae Fry, the city has observed numerous "problem materials" such as appliances, tires, electronics and other hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

Renae Fry
North Branch City Administrator

Beyond that, Fry noted that Chisago County is also going through the process of ordering Terry's to remove remnant curbside recycling

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GOING TO STATE!

North Branch One Act Play advances to state competition for only second time in school history

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

During an interview prior to the high school One Act Play competition season, North Branch director Laura Michels admitted she had chosen a challenging play for the cast to perform.

"I picked this show because it's not an easy show to do," she said, noting that "Through the Looking Glass" required synchronized, precision dialogue and movement by the entire cast. "If one person is off, it ruins the effect."

Michels' gamble, however, paid off big time as the troupe took first place in the Section 7AA prelim competition on Saturday, Jan. 25, which earned them a trip to the section finals the following Saturday.

There, they repeated their stellar performance and took home the section championship, earning them a trip to state for only the second time in school history.

"I am still in shock," Michels said two days after the competition. "We are over the moon excited to have the opportunity

SEE STATE, PAGE 8



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The cast of North Branch Area High School's One Act Play pose in their steampunk-style costumes for "Through the Looking Glass," based on Alice in Wonderland.

Featured Listings at CENTURY 21 Moline Realty

 38961 Llama St. NW, Dalbo One of a kind "Queen Anne Victorian" on 20 Acres. 4BR/4BA. 10' Ceilings, Hardwood Floors. Wrap around Porch, 2 tier Deck, 20x10 Shed. Att. heated 3 Car Garage. \$479,900	 1842 Buchanan St. SE, Cambridge Beautiful Townhome! 2BR/1.5 BA. Kitchen/Dining w/Deck access. Appliances included. Laundry next to Bedrooms. Deep Garage for Bikes, Toys or Workshop. \$139,900	 1015 23rd Pine Lane, Cambridge 2BR/1.5 BA Home in Pine Village a 55+ Community! Vinyl & Metal Siding, large Deck w/attached Storage Room. 18x24 Shed. Handicap Accessible. \$24,900	 239 6th Avenue SW, Cambridge Stunning 4+BR/3BA Rambler w/custom updates throughout. Formal Dining, Main Floor BRs, BA & Laundry. 4 Season Porch, Deck, Patio. Insulated 2 Car att. Garage. \$292,900	 XXX Rush Lake Road, Rush City 1.47 Acre lot on Rush Creek for your dream Home/Cabin. Dock & boating access to East Rush Lake. Lake Access without lake taxes. Peaceful & quiet w/abundant wildlife. \$55,000
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