

## A sign of good times

*Hearing-impaired students treated to get-together*

By Troy Espe  
Leader-Telegram staff

Angela Barth is an eighth-grader at South Middle School where only a handful of students are hearing-impaired.

But on Friday, Barth was surrounded by fellow deaf students.

"I like socializing with other deaf and hard of hearing kids," she said through an interpreter.

Students gathered Friday for a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Rendezvous at UW-Eau Claire.

Eau Claire faculty organized the annual end-of-year field-trip. They invited students from Independence, Gilmanton and Wausau. Eau Claire Noon Lions Club and SBC Pioneers sponsored the party.

"It's a great time to bring them together so they can interact with other kids," said Heather Galloy, a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing at South Middle School.

About 30 elementary and secondary students attended. They socialized, ate lunch and played pool at the Hilltop Recreation Center.

"It's fun to meet other people," Samantha Ollhoff, a sophomore at Wausau West High School, said.

Trix Bruce, a deaf poet and storyteller, conducted workshops.

"I really enjoy empowering the children," she said.

"They've been so motivated. A



Staff photo by Dan Relland

Thirty students from Eau Claire, Gilmanton, Independence and Wausau participated in a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Rendezvous on Friday at UW-Eau Claire. At left, Trix Bruce, a deaf poet and story-

connection has been made."

Bruce has performed nationwide. She held a show Friday night at Northstar Middle School.

"We realize deaf kids need

someone to look up to as a role model," she said.

Bruce encourages schools to invest in technology such as computers and videoconferencing so deaf students can be

teller from Snohomish, Wash., led a workshop with Robbins School students. Pictured from left were Jenna Flaget, Lance Rosciszewski and Michael Hokanson.

independent.

Bruce's dynamic personality inspired students, said Dawn Koplitz, an educational sign language interpreter for the Eau Claire school district.

"It's been awesome," Koplitz said. "Trix is so creative. She engages the children so well."

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## Marine receives farewell

By Alyssa Waters  
Chippewa Falls News Bureau

There were no dry eyes at Lake Street United Methodist Church Friday when a first sergeant announced roll call during funeral services for Kyle Morrison of the U.S. Marine Corps.

"Pfc. Morrison ... Pfc. Morrison ... Pfc. Morrison," the sergeant called, each time with more urgency.

Then taps began to play.

Morrison, 19, who died in a traffic accident April 30, left for the Marines boot camp in June after graduating from Memorial High School.

According to the Morrison family and reports in New Jersey newspapers, Morrison died early last Saturday on the New Jersey Turnpike.

He and two Marine friends, one of whom was from New Jersey, were on leave from their base in Virginia when the Marines' Jeep Wrangler collided with a minivan.

Friday morning friends and family members took their turns at the front of the church to tell heart-warming stories of Morrison.

Morrison's uncle, John Swanson, said that as an adolescent, his nephew was shy and withdrawn.

"Not too uncommon for a



Morrison