

New technology helps Star Lake man walk again

For THE HERALD

As Mike Olson walked away from Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center on Nov. 24 a wave goodbye signified an extraordinary accomplishment for him. At 45, Mike had completed a momentous step on his road to recovery following the diagnosis of Guillain-Barre five months earlier.

Guillain-Barre is a very rare disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the nerves causing weakness and numbness in the extremities, sometimes even paralyzing the whole body.

Olson's story begins on June 13 when a seemingly ordinary day changed everything in an instant.

"I woke up with tingling in my hands and didn't think much about it. The next day, it was hard for me to walk; my feet were tingling and I fell three times. I knew that something was wrong. So, I drove myself down to the local clinic where they transferred me to St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield. The physicians first suspected Lyme's disease, but within a week I was completely paralyzed," said Olson, of Star Lake.

Although Olson doesn't recall much of his days at the hospital, he does recall the tremendous amount of pain and round-the-clock morphine with no relief.

The increasing muscular paralysis temporarily affected his chest muscles causing shortness of breath. Suffering from respiratory failure, Olson was moved to the ICU and required a tracheostomy for long-term mechanical ventilation.

Olson was waging the battle of his life.

Even though he still manifested the same symptoms, gradually his pain was controlled. After two months in the hospital, he was discharged to Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center. Here, Olson's long journey to recovery began, with intense

physical and occupational therapy and skilled nursing and ventilator care.

Being robbed of his physical abilities, Olson had to relearn what so many people undoubtedly take for granted, such as walking; balancing; having full mobility of our limbs; and being able to dress, shower and feed themselves. Looking back, he recalls lying in bed, not being able to move, heavily medicated, and hooked up to machines and a ventilator.

Olson said, "I remember thinking and wondering if I would ever be able to walk again."

Throughout the Chippewa Valley, various strategies to advance technology and provide effective safe patient handling have been executed. Transitions Rehabilitation, the therapy unit at Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center, recently installed the Guldman GH2 Ceiling Hoist.

"The GH2 is a track mounted ceiling lift that has allowed our therapists to stand and walk patients sooner, thereby decreasing length of stay and improving quality of life for the patient. The lift provides the sense of security necessary to improve balance and walking quality," said Louis Alix, Regional Rehabilitation Director.

The lift is featured at only one other skilled nursing facility in the Chippewa Valley, Wissota Health's affiliate Dove Healthcare - South in Eau Claire.

After a seemingly difficult day of therapy, Mike was shown a picture of the GH2 ceiling lift.

Olson said, "I felt hyped-up! I thought, 'Wow that's gonna be me again. I'm gonna be walking again!' It just really boosted my whole outlook; my whole morale."

Olson's Physical Therapist Shannon Tanzer said, "The GH2 ceiling lift has allowed stroke, paralysis, spinal cord injury and non-weight bearing or limited weight bearing patients the opportunity to experience walking again. It allows the patient to gain a feeling of independence because when the pull of gravity is eliminated, there is no worry of falling."

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Shannon Tanzer
Physical therapist

portunity to experience walking again. It allows the patient to gain a feeling of independence because when the pull of gravity is eliminated, there is no worry of falling. The ceiling lift also offers an aerobic workout which contributes to building strength and ultimately allows for faster recovery and a quicker return home."

As he reflected on his many achievements in therapy Olson commented, "The highest point of my stay here was getting strapped into the ceiling lift for the first time and then taking my first step. I was walking again! It was really tough and really hard, because I hadn't walked in five months. But it was really neat to take my first step again."

Olson was removed from the ventilator and completely breathing on his own in early November. Upon going home a few weeks later, he was ambulating with the assist of his walker and independent with most activities of daily living.

"The success Mike has achieved far out matches any of my expectations," said Dr. Mark Lindsay, Pulmonologist and Medical Director at Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center.

"From being virtually paralyzed three months ago and to



For THE HERALD

Mike Olson demonstrates the GH2 Ceiling Hoist, a track-mounted ceiling lift that allows therapists to stand and walk patients sooner. Mike is now at home and walking.

now being able to walk is astounding! The multidisciplinary care team at Wissota Health did an outstanding job. Although some patients with Guillain-Barre have some persistent symptoms, based on Mike's tremendous progress to date, he has an excellent long-term prognosis."

When asked what helped him the most during his recuperation, Olson said, "The one thing that really stands out is all the

staff here at Wissota Health have a great sense of humor. The nursing staff and therapy staff were always playfully teasing and giving me a lot of 'guff' and this helped me to maintain an upbeat, optimistic frame of mind, even on my bad days."

"My advice to any person facing a life changing illness is to make the best of each day and don't give up; you can't give up. Know that there are people out there that care," Olson said.

RELIGIOUS DIRECTORY

E-mail changes to life@chippewa.com
The Chippewa Herald, P.O. Box 69,
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Alliance
Keystone New Life Alliance Church, 1/2 mile west of CC on County Z, Cornell. Pastor Jim Brandli. 239-6490. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Assembly of God
Assembly of God, Highway 64, Bloomer. Pastor Phil Halverson. 568-1570. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

River Valley Community Church, 341 W. Prairie View Road, Chippewa Falls. Pastor Jim Oppenorth. 723-3078. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.
New Hope Assembly of God, 318 S. Seventh St., Cornell. Pastor William Nicholson. 239-6954 or 967-2003. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Baptist
Bloomer Baptist Church, 2620 Duncan Road, Bloomer. Pastor Eldon Carlson. 568-1980. Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.

Bridgewater Baptist Church, 650 Woodward Ave., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Jack Taylor. 720-1974. Sunday worship: 11 a.m.

Crossroads Church, 209 W. South Ave., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Wade Duroe. 723-1054. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Faith Baptist Church, 724 Main St., Cornell. Pastor Mark Williams. 239-6902. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Grace Baptist Church of Hallie, on the corner of 15th St. and 17th Ave. Pastor Brian W. Jahn. 835-8615. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Baptist Church, New Auburn. Pastor Wayne North. 237-2616. Saturday service: 9 a.m. prayer, 10:40 a.m. worship.

Bible Church
Berean Bible Church, 301 W. Grand Ave., Chippewa Falls. Sunday worship: 10 a.m. 723-8534. www.bereanbiblechurch.com

Chippewa Valley Bible Church, 531 E. South Ave., Chippewa Falls. 723-2872. Sunday worship: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.
Maple Grove Bible Church, 2494 350th St., Stanley. 5 miles south of Stanley on County H, one mile west on 25th Ave. Pastor Steve Mohr. 644-2643. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Brethren
Stanley Church of the Brethren, 203 S. Franklin, Stanley. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Catholic
Holy Cross Catholic Church, Cornell. Fr. Jeremiah Cashman. Mass: 5:15 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday.
Holy Ghost Catholic Church, 412 S. Main St., Chippewa Falls. Rev. Arul Joseph. Mass: 6 p.m. Saturday, 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Holy Family Parish, Stanley. Fr. Robert W. Nelson. 644-5435. Mass: 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Notre Dame Catholic Church, 117 Allen St., Chippewa Falls. Rev. Brian J. Jazdzewski. Mass: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Jim Falls. Fr. Brian J. Jazdzewski. 382-4422. Mass: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Sacred Heart of Jesus- St. Joseph, Boyd. Father Robert W. Nelson. Mass: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday.

St. Anthony's Catholic Church-Drywood. Fr. Don Bauer. 289-4551. Mass: 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

St. Bridget's Parish, Seymour. Fr. Arul Joseph. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 810 Pearl St., Chippewa Falls. Fr. William Felix. Mass: 4 p.m. Saturday, 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday.

St. John the Baptist, Highway 40, town of Cooks Valley. Rev. James Arthur. Mass: 8 p.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

St. Paul's Catholic Church, 1222 Main St., Bloomer. 568-3255. Fr. James Arthur. www.bloomer.net/-Stpauls/. Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 and 11 a.m.

St. Peter's Catholic Church, Town of Tilden. County Q and B. Fr. William Felix. Mass: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Cadott. Fr. Don Bauer. 289-4551. Mass: 4 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday.

Christian Life Fellowship, Bloomer Baptist Church, 2620 Duncan Rd., Bloomer. 568-4121 or 967-2145. Saturday worship: 2 p.m. 967-2145. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Landmark Christian Church, Hwy. 124 and 40th Ave. to 126th St., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Brad Crocker. 726-1332. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Tabernacle, P.O. Box 118, Stanley. Pastor Lowell Snow. 644-5883. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Trinity Christian Fellowship, W11581 County Highway X, Stanley. Rev. Luke Geraty. 644-5532. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Church of God
Remnant Church of God, 250 East 10th Ave., Stanley. Pastor Ruth Tetzlaff. 644-4858. Sunday worship: 6 p.m.

Ecumenical
Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center, 7490 156th St., Chippewa Falls, Catholic mass, Fr. Daniel Du Chez. Worship service: 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, 3 p.m. Saturday.

Episcopal
Christ Episcopal Church, (Anglican), 624 Bay St. Chippewa Falls. 723-7667. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

St. Simon's Episcopal Church, 19058 190th St., Chippewa Falls. Priest Fr. Robert Hoekstra. 723-0050. Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m.

Evangelical
Faith Evangelical Free Church, 705 N. Madison, Stanley. Pastor Matt Miklasz. 644-2001. Sunday worship: 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

Jehovah's Witness
Jehovah's Witnesses, 4668 133rd St., Chippewa Falls. Sunday Public Bible lecture: 9:30 a.m.

Latter Day Saints
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 5508 166th St., Chippewa Falls. 720-1810. Sunday Sacrament meeting: 10 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Day Saints, 123B Broadway St., Stanley. 644-5635. Sunday Sacrament meeting: 11 a.m.

Lutheran
Bethel-Dovre Lutheran Parish (ELCA), New Auburn. Pastor Susan Bartsch. Bethel, corner of Pine and Spruce Street. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m. Dovre, 5 miles northwest of New Auburn. Sunday worship: 9 a.m.

Big Drywood Lutheran Church, 27095 120th Ave., Cadott. Pastor Diane House. Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.

Central Lutheran Church (ELCA), 28 E. Columbia St., Chippewa Falls. 723-9336. Pastor Rick Hoyme. Sunday worship: 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Church (TAALC), 467 East Colome St., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Mark Homp. 723-8273 or 379-8748. Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. Monday. www.Christlutheran.info.

English Lutheran Church of Bateman, 20588 County X, Chippewa Falls. 723-4231. Pastor D.J. Ransner. Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.

Epiphany Lutheran Church, 114 West Oak, Stanley. Rev. Daniel Welch. 644-5899 or 644-0127. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church, 733 Woodward Ave. Pastor William C. Plautz & Pastor Craig A. Mathews. 723-7754. www.faithlutheranconf.org Sunday worship: 7:45 & 10:15 a.m. Contemporary services: 9 a.m. 1st and 3rd Sunday. Wednesdays: 6 p.m.

Our Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Synod), 240 Chapman Rd., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Philip Pitt. 723-6232. Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1300 Mansfield St., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Paul Oppedahl. Worship: 8 and 10:15 a.m. Sunday, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA), Stanley. 644-3665. Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Synod), Eagleton, Interim Pastor Philip Pitt. 723-6232. Sunday worship: 8 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran (Missouri Synod), Cadott. Rev. Raymond J. Bell Jr. 289-4521. Sunday worship: 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church (ELCA), County H at County S, Gilman. Layministers: Howard and Bonnie Weber. Sunday worship: 10:45 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Synod), 1319 Larson St., Bloomer. Pastor James Strand. Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

St. Peter's Lutheran (Missouri Synod), Boyd. Rev. Raymond J. Bell Jr. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church, 110 E. Grand Ave., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Dr. Gary G. Paul. 723-6380. Sunday worship: 9 a.m.

Methodist
Anson United Methodist Church. Sunday worship: 11:15 a.m. Pastor Cheri Miskimen.

Cadott United Methodist Church, Maple and Ginty Streets, Cadott. Rev. Young Choe. 644-5881. Worship service: 10:45 a.m.

Hallie United Methodist Church, 12146 22nd Ave., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Eric Nelson. 723-1071. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Holcombe United Methodist Church, Holcombe. Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m.

Jim Falls United Methodist Church, Jim Falls. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Stanley United Methodist Church, 243 S. Broadway, Stanley. Rev. Young Choe. 644-5881. Sunday worship: 9:45 a.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Island and Central streets, Chippewa Falls. Pastor Teresa Koca. 723-2806. Sunday worship: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. www.WisconsinUMC.org/Chippewa Falls-TrinityUMC.

Thorp United Methodist Church, 200 W. Main St., Thorp. Rev. Young Choe. 644-5881. Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church, 1700 Main St., Bloomer. Pastor Heather Brewer. (715) 568-1971. Sunday worship: 11 a.m.

United Methodist Church, 129 N. Central St., New Auburn. (715) 537-2933 or (715) 568-1971. Pastor Heather Brewer. Sunday worship: 9 a.m.

Zion United Methodist Church, 1102 Superior St., Chippewa Falls. 723-3639. Pastor Ann Scott. Sunday worship: 9 a.m. contemporary, 10:30 a.m. traditional.

Mission
Martin Mission Church, Holcombe. Pastor William Turner. Sunday worship: 11 a.m.

Non-Denominational
Christian Country Chapel, 19092 County Highway J, Chippewa Falls. Rev. Roger Mickelson. 723-8664. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Christian Outreach Center, Hallie Town Hall, Chippewa Falls. Pastor James Gale. 864-4643. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship, Micon Cinemas, 475 Chippewa Mall Drive, Chippewa Falls. Pastor Perry Polnaszek. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Northwoods Church, 4th and Thomas St., Cornell. Pastor Greg Sima. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Valley Vineyard Church, Heyde Center, 3 High St., Chippewa Falls. Pastors Michael and Trisha Houle. 828-6479. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Zion Christianson Fellowship, 11555 35th Ave., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Keith E. Gunn. 723-0682. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Open Bible
New Life Open Bible Church, 1179017th Ave., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Scott L. Emerson. 832-0043 or 723-4126. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Orthodox
St. John's Orthodox Church, Huron, 12 miles north of Stanley on Highway G or three miles south of Highway 64 on G. Liturgy: 10 a.m. on 2nd Sunday of the month.

Pentecostal
New Dimension Oneness Pentecostal Ministry, 416 Goldsmith St., Chippewa Falls. Minister Darrell Wood, Sr. Phone: 723-9520 or 579-0494.

New Life Open Bible, 11790 17th Ave., Lake Hallie. Pastor Scott L. Emerson. 832-0043. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Presbyterian
First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls, 130 West Central St. Pastor Dr. Barry Boyer. 723-5717. Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m. www.fpccchippewa falls.org

First Presbyterian Church, 4th and Ripley, Cornell. Pastor E. Bradley Carlross. 239-6263 or 239-6448. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.

Reformed
God-Centered Ministries, 2 Bay St., Chippewa Falls. Pastor Matt Lukowitz. 726-2228. Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m. www.godcentered-ministries.org.

United Church of Christ
First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1324 15th Ave., Bloomer. Pastor Phillip Schneider. Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

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Thaler Oil Co., Inc.
BP stores: Corner of Bridge & Cedar streets in Chippewa Falls, 401 S. Broadway St., Stanley; Office at 310 S. Main, Chippewa Falls. 723-2822

Northwestern Bank
Branches in Cornell, Lafayette, Boyd, Eau Claire, Thorp. Main bank in Chippewa Falls. 723-4461
www.northwesternbank.com

Drugged drivers face severe punishments

For THE HERALD

December marks the sixth anniversary of the enactment of a Wisconsin law that prohibits motorists from driving if they have any detectable amount of marijuana, cocaine or other restricted controlled substance in their system. The penalties for drugged driving are the same as for drunken driving.

"Law enforcement officers throughout the state have extensive training and experience in procedures that effectively identify drivers impaired by alcohol. Officers use many of those same procedures to identify drugged drivers," said Captain Jeff Frenette of the State Patrol Northwest Region. "Drivers who exhibit behavior or symptoms indicative of drug use must submit to a blood test that determines the presence of drugs. Refusing to submit to the blood test means an automatic revocation of the driver's license."

In addition to illegal drugs, the overuse or abuse of medications, especially when combined with alcohol, will often cause impaired driving.

State law prohibits drivers from being "under the influence of any drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving or under the combined influence of an intoxicant and any other drug to a degree which renders him or her incapable of driving safely."

"Drivers under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or a combination of the two are deadly threats to everyone on the road," Frenette said. "That's why officers never take a break - even over the holiday season - from arresting those who choose to get behind the wheel while impaired."

HEARD ABOUT TOWN

All-you-can eat family style fish fry, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 8, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Jim Falls. Carryouts available.

Triniteam joy day, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 14, Knights of Columbus Hall, 236 Pumphouse Road, Chippewa Falls. Bingo, snack, music by Jerry Way.