

# WESTRIDGE CINEMA

## New art space building bears Bakken name

By Riley Mollerud  
Daily Journal

The new Gordy and Joan Bakken Building rehearsal space will help take the pressure off the small rehearsal space at a Center for the Arts.

"The old space was really just too small of an area to do anything," said Michael Burgraff, executive director at A Center for the Arts.

The space was named after Gordon and Joan Bakken because they used to own the two buildings where the senior citizens center and A Center For the Arts buildings are now. He gave the two buildings to the city. City officials let

the senior center and an arts program move into these two spaces and evolve into what they are today. The Journal was unable to contact Gordon Bakken.

A space above the senior center that had been unused is finally being put to some good use.

"It made sense to the theater and the senior center that it would be a good idea to better use the space," Burgraff said.

The new space is about three-quarters of the senior center below. It consists of eight artist studios, two rehearsal rooms, one community rehearsal room, a foyer and a commons area with wi-fi so students using



Marie Noplos/Daily Journal

Volunteer Desta Hunt and Gordy Bakken celebrate during the dedication of A Center for the Arts new rehearsal space above the Senior Citizen Center last week. Michael Burgraff, executive director of ACOFTA, presented a plaque to Bakken in honor of his and his wife, Joan's service to the community, that will be placed on the outside the building naming it The Bakken Building. Joan was unable to attend.

the space after school can use it to do their homework. The new area has no elevator access but has a 32-step staircase to get up to the space.

"We can't thank the city enough for the use of that

space," Burgraff said. "We also thank Gordon Bakken for giving these spaces to the city so that they could be used for our purposes, people should not have to wait till they are dead to be thanked."

## Request: Delay beyond control

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The development agreement laid out that within 12 months, Schlossman was to commence rehabilitation work on the property and also that within 24 months, a minimum of 10,000 square feet needed to be rehabilitated. However, development has yet to take place.

At the end of March, those requirements weren't met, so the city sent a notice saying he was in default of the development agreement, according to City Administrator Mark Sievert.

During the meeting, Schlossman got choked up and had to pause from his statement, as he talked about how his divorce started just

after the development agreement went into place.

"I regret the delay beyond my control," Schlossman said. "I pride myself in honoring agreements. I want to fulfill the agreement."

The city council adjourned to a closed meeting Monday to discuss the Schlossman property default. The council did not reconvene in an open meeting, however. The result would be communicated through attorneys, according to Mayor Hal Leland.

The council gave specific instructions to the attorney regarding the issue, Sievert said.

"This is a legal issue right now," Sievert said. "He is in default."

## Woman pleads guilty to kidnapping baby

MINNEAPOLIS — A Minneapolis woman has pleaded guilty to kidnapping a friend's baby in February, a disappearance that triggered an Amber Alert.

The Hennepin County

attorney's office says 30-year-old Isabel Diaz-Castillo pleaded guilty last week.

Diaz-Castillo is expected to receive a three-year sentence on Aug. 19. — AP

# Theisen sentenced in murder conspiracy, burglary cases

For The Journal

Branagan Jordan Theisen, 22, of Henning, was sentenced to prison time July 11 in Otter Tail County District Court for felony charges in two cases. He was sentenced to 36 months in prison for felony first-degree burglary-possession of a dangerous weapon. He pleaded guilty May 17. In exchange for the plea, an additional count of felony theft was dismissed.

According to the criminal complaint, Theisen was an accomplice to Anthony James Hogsy, 38, of Underwood, for burglarizing a then-occupied Battle Lake residence in

February 2012. Law enforcement reportedly learned of the roommate duo's role in the burglary Feb. 16, 2012, when Hogsy tried to sell a gun to a confidential informant.

Hogsy reportedly said he'd stolen 11 guns and hand tools from a residence. Theisen said he helped Hogsy bring items into their house and that he went to pick up the stolen items.

Hogsy was sentenced July 30, 2012 to 41 months in prison for first-degree burglary-possession of a dangerous weapon. In exchange for a guilty plea, additional counts of felony theft and felony receiving stolen

property were dismissed.

Theisen was also sentenced July 11 to 34 months in prison for his involvement in an alleged plot that involved robbing and burning a house in Pelican Rapids, and murdering the occupants. Theisen pleaded guilty May 17 to felony first-degree aggravated robbery.

In exchange for the plea, an additional count of felony first-degree conspiracy to commit assault was dismissed.

Theisen was one of eight people, including three juveniles, involved in the case.

According to the criminal complaint, the group

drove two vehicles to a Pelican Rapids home Oct. 4, 2012 and brought along a crow bar, bear mace, a lead pipe, a knife, a machete, a metal baseball bat, gasoline and a gun. The plan was to kill everyone inside and burn down the house.

One of the house's occupants, Fikret Saric, walked into the front yard and fired two gunshots, one of which struck the passenger side front door of one of the vehicles. The alleged motive in the case was to retrieve stolen marijuana and drug paraphernalia after a drug deal gone bad.

The sentences will be served concurrently.

## RTC: Details still in the works

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likely be presented to the council prior to Oct. 30.

Pending the purchase and development agreements, and before Aug. 31, the city and Historic Kirkbride will look to agree upon an early demolition plan for buildings not contributing to the redevelopment of the RTC, such as the administration building.

Historic Kirkbride will also identify its investor group and financial sources for the project.

The company will confidentially provide the city with financial information so the city can conduct its due diligence on the developer's financial condition. Both parties will also, before Aug. 31, enter into a mutually acceptable non-disclosure agreement covering the exchanged information.

Some of the items planned to be addressed in the purchase and development agreements between the two entities include structuring an estimated project timeline with deadlines, ensure the project's

compatibility with the larger community of Fergus Falls, further define the type, scope and quality of the project, and identify the development group and its partners, including the capacity of the group to complete the project.

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