

Local brother and sister planning trip to Australia; fundraising well under way

by Newton Greiner

The brother and sister duo pictured here will be heading off to the "land down under" next summer. As long as they can raise \$8,000 by that time.

They are planning to participate in a program called *People to People*, a student ambassador trip to Australia during the second week of July, 2014.

They were recommended anonymously by one of their teachers for the honor, and now all they have to do is raise a stack of money. Obviously not an easy task. They are well on their way to the goal of raising their first \$1,000 each by the first of November. The bake sale they had over the weekend brought them a little closer to that goal.

If all goes well and according to plan, which they seem confident it will, they will leave from Burlington International Airport on the 18 hour flight to Australia with one stopover in Los Angeles along the way.

Once in Australia they will travel all over the east coast of Australia where they will see such wonders as the Sydney Opera House and the Great Barrier Reef. They will stay with an Aboriginal family, swim and snorkel with wild dolphins and see all the sights of the world's smallest continent.



They will be in Australia for a total of 20 days with a group of 40 other students and ten chaperones (some of whom have over 20 years of experience with the program.) Among the chaperones will be a nurse, teachers, and a school principal.

The trip is more than just a sight seeing tour, according to Jordan, who will be traveling with her brother Josh.

"This is a way to build self confidence, to sort of come out of your shell, and build leadership skills," they said.

They will learn how

the Australian government works and they will get credits for high school and college in the process.

Their first 50/50 raffle drawing will be awarded to some lucky winner on October 31 and people can still get tickets today to get in under the first drawing deadline. Tickets are available from the students directly or call the house for more information. If you don't win this time there will be plenty of other chances to win, as they will be holding a 50/50 drawing every month until the trip next summer. Tickets will be available at the

Adirondack Regional Federal Credit Union today (Wednesday, October 30, between the hours of 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.)

Also watch for BINGO Night and other fund raisers around town in the future including a breakfast that they will put on at some point.

They will be accepting any donations people can spare and they will do odd jobs and work to make the money as well. This will be the first long trip either of them have been on, although they have traveled a little bit (they went to Florida once), but they said they are really looking forward to it.

"We're really psyched," Josh said.

Between the two of them they have a lot of interests and activities in their busy lives. For Jordan it's volleyball, the high school play, the high school musical, babysitting, painting, drawing and sketching and horseback riding as well as a plan to try snowboarding this winter at Big Tupper.

Josh likes to play hockey all year round. He plans to go out for football

again next season and he's in the upcoming high school dramatic production of *Sherlock Holmes*. He plans to hunt this season and he also likes to snowboard.

Both of them said they are available to work and do odd jobs like stacking your wood or

babysitting in order to earn money for the trip, and of course they will accept donations of any amount to put toward the goal.

If you would like to contact Jordan Burnett or Josh Fowler and help them out toward their goal you can call 359-2933.

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\$109,000 will be financed through bonding over a six year period.

The town lawmakers also appropriated \$4,500 for a new trail mower for the cross-country trail network that has been developed by town volunteers at the Tupper Lake Golf Course in recent years.

Another \$4,000 was appropriated in the new budget to purchase more pieces of playground equipment for Little Wolf Beach and Campgrounds, for enjoyment of local and visiting children there. There is also money in the new budget for the Little Wolf Caretaker Mike Gaff to continue to make improvements at the town facility on Little Wolf Lake, including extending sewer service to more sites on the water's edge and installing water and electric services to four of the ten tent sites on the picnic area side of the property.

In the outside village highway fund, a sum of \$20,000 was appropriated by the budget-makers and the board for the continuation of road work on Old Wawbeek Road, where the town crew has worked extensively in recent summers. The sum will pay for the remainder of the gravel needed and more blacktopping materials, Mr. Amell noted in a recent discussion

about the budget.

The highway budget also includes \$4,000 or more to continue a program of updating traffic signs in and around town, as part of a new federal mandate. Some signs are refurbished while others are replaced, the supervisor explained.

Next year's budget also includes funds to pay for the painting of the exterior of the town-owned restaurant building at the public golf course.

The new budget too includes some maintenance fee adjustments for some of the town sewer and water districts- to account for maintenance cost increases and decreases in recent years. The annual fees paid by the members of Sewer District 17 (Coney Beach Road) will increase by \$10 year while those property owners who below to Sewer District 17-1 (North Little Wolf Road) will see a \$25 decrease in their fees paid to the town for the upkeep of that district. There is no change forecast for property owners (Sewer District 17-2) on South Little Wolf Beach Road.

The debate this year between the Robert Zande family and the town on providing a sewer system grinder pump to an unopened lot they have owned in Sewer District 23 (Moody Road, Lake Simond Road, Tamarac area) and the resulting

decision that the Zandes will receive the device at no cost, will have no effect on the 2014 maintenance budget shared by the 273 property owners in the large district. The \$4,500 cost of the pump will be paid this year from the fund balance in that district. There are about 30 vacant lots in the district that could eventually be served by a grinder pump. Each pump that comes on line in the future will be paid for by a \$20 fee levied for one year to each property owner in the district, as part of the decision made by the town board this year.

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