

Earth, Beauty, Art Extravaganza and Silent Auction — from 3-8 p.m. at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, W2493 County ES, East Troy. The day will benefit the student scholarship fund. For more information, call Kim Bair at 642-3303 or Kim Miller at 594-3767.

"Same Time Next Year" — at 7:30 p.m. at the Young Auditorium on the UW-Whitewater campus. This play stars Mackenzie Phillips (TV's *One Day at a Time*) and Adrian Zmed. This comedy follows the lives of two people who share the ups and downs of 25 years minus the wedding bands. Tickets are \$18, \$22 and \$26. For more information or tickets, call 472-2222.

Events

Happy holidays

Grand Geneva's eighth annual Christmas in the Country

More than a half million lights will be illuminated at a special ceremony to kick off the eighth



Alex Kruser, 12, plays cello in the Lake Geneva Community Orchestra along with his sister, Natalie, 14. They travel to Lake Geneva



Music for the age

By Carel Schmidtkofer
Photographs by Terry Mayer

For three decades area residents have enjoyed the classical performances of the Lake Geneva Community Orchestra.

The all-volunteer ensemble has had its ups and downs over the years. At one point it disbanded completely due to low membership in the 1980s according to coordinator Nancy Johnson.

But today, there are over 40 members aged from 12 years to musicians in their 70s. The orchestra is definitely on an upswing with renewed interest from community musicians. For aspiring musician Natalie Kruser, playing violin with the Lake Geneva Community Orchestra is not only an enjoyable opportunity but a stone in the path to reaching her goal of becoming a professional violinist.

Natalie is only 14 years old, but she has been planning her career for almost seven years when she first started playing the instrument.

At that time, the young musician

performances for local wedding ceremonies and receptions.

Natalie is planning to study at the Conservatory of Music at Wheaton College but hasn't decided yet if she would rather pursue a performance career or focus on chamber music.

After attending a cello concert almost six years ago, brother Alex decided to take up the instrument himself.

An accomplished musician as well, Alex has also performed with the McHenry Youth Orchestra before joining the Lake Geneva Community Orchestra.

The siblings were the first children asked to participate in the orchestra last year.

"I like the conductor," Alex said. "He's really good and I like the music



Andrew Dogan conducts the orchestra, which has been entertaining

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