

JANUARY

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2006 - A YEAR IN REVIEW

DECEMBER

Musco to expand Osky facilities

By **DUANE NOLLEN**
The Oskaloosa Herald

OSKALOOSA — Musco Lighting is celebrating 30 years of business with plans for a \$5 million expansion of its Oskaloosa facilities.

Musco has grown from 100 Oskaloosa employees in 1996 to 350 in 2006. Musco officials plan to expand the business to accommodate 1,000 employees in the years to come.

Musco President Joe Crookham told the members of the Oskaloosa City Council's Planning Committee Tuesday evening that the company has "over planned and under expanded" in the last few years.

Crookham told committee members that Musco is committed to maintaining Oskaloosa's downtown vitality by expanding around the mall area rather than moving to the

edge of town.

During the next 12 months, Musco plans to add or remodel about 6,400 square feet of office space and construction of an additional 60,000-square-foot production facility west of South D Street. The new facility would be west of the United Way offices and would adjoin a three-story building that used to be a soup factory on First Avenue West. Long-range plans call for the construction of a new office building just west of the current Musco engineering building on the southside of the Penn Central Mall and a sky walk to connect the building to the Musco administration building.

Crookham said Musco is financing the entire expansion project and will not need public funds.

"We're not asking for anything at this time," Crookham said. Musco is not looking for

any financial rebates or tax credits for the expansion project, he added.

Crookham would like the city's Planning and Zoning Committee to look at the Musco project to see how it will fit in with the city's growth plans. He also would like the city to have the staff — such as a city engineer — to help facilitate this kind of undertaking and for long-range planning.

Oskaloosa City Manager Don Sandor asked what Crookham about Musco's timetable for the project.

Crookham said that the company is finishing a 6,000-foot office expansion in the old K-Mart building and it should be occupied in a few weeks.

He said the construction of the building west of D Street will start fairly soon.

Committee member Jimmy Carter asked Crookham about plans for parking lot development.

Crookham said that parking was one of the primary factors behind the expansion.

In mid-September, the parking lot by the Musco office will be restriped to add another 50 parking spaces. Also, the parking lot west of the Musco engineering building will be restriped, Crookham said.

Currently, the parking lot by the Musco administration offices is used both by Musco employees and the public who wish to shop at Penn Central Mall. Crookham said 50 parking spaces in that lot will be designated for the public's use.

Committee chair Pam Blomgren asked if there will be new signage in the lot to delineate public and Musco parking.

"We'll label the parking," Crookham said. Also there still will be two roads through the parking area for people to use, they will just be relocated, he added.



Musco expansion plans

As Musco Lighting celebrates its 30th anniversary, company officials are sharing their expansion plans.

- Expansion plans will total more than \$5 million.

- Over the coming years, Musco will expand its work force from 350 employees to 1,000.

- Musco will build a 60,000-square-foot facility west of South D Street.

- Musco has revamped parking in the Penn Central Mall parking lot and redesignate more than 50 parking spots for Musco and public use.

- Musco also plans to build a parking lot across the street, south of the new production facility on First Avenue West.

- Musco and city officials will work together as the company proceeds with its growth plans over the next 10 years.

North Mahaska softball wraps up another successful season

NEW SHARON — The North Mahaska softball team wrapped up another successful summer with a trip to the Class 1A state tournament.

The Warhawks finished the year at 29-10 and placed fifth at the state tournament.

Kallie Carmichael became the first Class 1A

player to smack two home runs in one game, but North Mahaska lost to eventual state champion Akron-Westfield 16-4 in the first round. The Warhawks bounced back with an 8-6 win over Don Bosco in the consolation semifinal and a 5-1 win over New London in the fifth-place game.

Warhawks knock off Don Bosco at state

By **SCOTT JACKSON**
The Ottumwa Courier

FORT DODGE — It was an unusual day at the state softball tournament.

It also proved to be a dramatically successful one for the North Mahaska Warhawks.

A day at state that began with rain, which forced a two-hour delay in consolation action and the move to the much-bigger diamond four at Harlan Rogers Park, ended with the Warhawks trying to run out the clock on defense.

The unusual day ended with the Warhawks exacting revenge on Don Bosco in come-from-behind fashion. Back-to-back two-out, two-RBI hits from Natalie Deming and Ashley Livezey gave North Mahaska an 8-6 win in a game called after six innings due to a 90-minute time limit.

"Our seniors and juniors wanted this rematch after losing to (Don Bosco) in the seventh-place game last year," Warhawks coach Mike Ryan said. "They had some teams picked out they wanted to beat at state. They got one today."

"The key to this game was bouncing back. That's exactly what our kids did. We never gave up, that's the best part about our team."

Adding to the odd feel was the continued calls by officials against Don Bosco ace Brittany Becker. After having six illegal pitches called against Becker in the Dons' quarterfinal-round loss to Madrid Monday, Becker found herself on the negative end of five more illegal pitch calls in the first inning against the Warhawks.

Those pitches helped North Mahaska build a 1-0 lead and ended Becker's day in the pitching circle before

the opening frame was over.

"Becker pitched against us last year exactly like she did (Tuesday) without anything being called," Ryan said. "Apparently, word spread through the umpires. It's tough to work so hard doing what you do to get to state and have those calls suddenly be made against you."

Becker helped Don Bosco rally for the lead with her bat, nailing an RBI double as part of a three-run third that put the Dons up 4-1. Becker's double would be one of five total hits that traveled over the heads of outfielders playing somewhat shallow in a ballpark normally reserved for slow-pitch adult softball leagues. All told, three triples and a pair of doubles sailed into diamond four's wide open outfield spaces.

"Offensively, we really looked forward to hitting on this field," Deming said. "You just look out there and

see all that open room; you just know gap shots are going to let you run for a while."

The Warhawks bounced back in the fourth, tying the game on Kallie Carmichael's two-RBI triple. Don Bosco retook the lead in their half of the fourth, completing a two-out scoring rally with a two-RBI triple from Nicole McGrew.

Deming, who was rocked for 16 hits and 16 runs the night before against top-ranked Akron-Westfield, shined in relief. The Warhawk ace retired all six Don Bosco batters faced despite the pitching in the hitter-friendly confines.

"Being on a slow-pitch field, it was definitely different. It reminded me a lot of Tri-County's field, which is their normal baseball diamond," Deming said. "We have some experience playing on deep fields, so it didn't really affect us."

BREAKING NEWS: Oskaloosa teen faces sexual abuse charge

By **JARED McNEILL**
The Oskaloosa Herald

OSKALOOSA — Continued detention is in order for an Oskaloosa teen who is, according to court records, charged with second-degree sexual abuse — a class B felony — for an incident that occurred in November, 2005.

According to court records, on Nov. 15, 2005, Ross Allen Baxter, 15, engaged in a sex act with a child under the age of 12 years old.

A petition outlining the charge was filed with Mahaska County's juvenile court.

On Jan. 5, court records indicated Baxter was ordered to appear for an adjudicatory

hearing on Feb. 2 at 9:30 a.m.

An application for detention was also filed on Jan. 5. According to the application, there was "probable cause" to believe the charge is true. Also, the application says, "There is a serious risk that the child, if released, may commit an act which would inflict serious bodily harm on the child or on another."

The application also states, "The child is charged with sexual abuse 2nd Degree of a 3 yr. old child who was in daycare in the home where the child resides. Since the investigation of the incident, the child is residing in the home where the day care is being provided and is present when children are there due to not attending school full-time.

Placement in a more supervised setting is in the best interest of the child and community."

The application requested that Baxter "be detained at the S.I.A.D.S.A. (South Iowa Area Detention Service Agency), Chariton pending further Court Order."

An order authorizing detention was then filed the same day. According to that order, Assistant County Attorney Misty White-Reinier, Terri A. Buekelman (Baxter's counsel), Baxter and Baxter's father appeared before the Iowa District Court of Mahaska County.

The order states, "The Court finds that there is probable cause based upon substantial evidence to believe the child has committed the act as alleged in

the petition and the child is a child within the jurisdiction of the Court under Chapter 232 of the code."

The order goes on, "The Court further finds that full-time detention is authorized under Section 232.22(1)(d)(2) of the Code and warranted in this case. The Court further finds that removal from the home is the result of a determination that continuation in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child because of concerns for the safety of children being cared for by the child's caretakers."

In the order, the court also found "that reasonable efforts as defined in Section 232.57 of the Code have made to prevent to eliminate the need for removal of the child from the child's home."

The Baxter case timeline

- Ross Allen Baxter, 16, of Oskaloosa, wearing a dark suit, tie and crew cut, pleaded guilty on Monday, Aug. 28, to six counts of assault with intent to commit sexual abuse.

- He was sentenced to 12 years in prison, which was suspended to five-years of probation. He was required to register as a sex offender.

- Baxter committed six offenses against three female victims: four assaults occurred in June 2004, one in July 2004 and one in November 2005.

- The pre-sentence investigation report recommended Baxter receive

probation and Mahaska County Attorney Rose Anne Mefford recommended he get a 12-year suspended sentence and placed on probation.

- Mefford said Baxter "was allowed to plead to a reduced charge" on three of the six charges. The three that were reduced were originally labeled as "sexual abuse," with each one carrying a maximum sentence of 25 years.

- Several parents voiced dissatisfaction with the punishment Baxter received. "Probation is not an adequate request from what has been done so far. I feel it would be a slap on my daughter's face," said one parent.

Happy New Year

from the

Musco Team

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