

AROUND THE COUNTY

By Noel LaBine

Please look into the details of our August 12th State of the Wright County Economy presentation by St. Cloud State University Economics Professor, King Banian. This event will be held at the new Albertville Cityhall.

Some local good news includes member Brett Weis, President of WSB & Associates, becoming a finalist in the Twin West Chamber's 2009 Entrepreneur and Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year. Also, member The Bainey Group got the bid to build the newest church in Wright County, which will be located just east of Buffalo.

The big news in Wright County that will affect many cities was the denial of the Minnesota Supreme Court for Bridgewater Telephone Company's (TDS) petition for further review of its challenge to the City of Monticello's Fiber Net project. The effect of this ruling is that the City may now access the revenues from the bonds, which were issued last year to finance the construction of a telecommunications fiber system. The city had installed some basic fiber infrastructure already, but now they are going full speed ahead to bring this high-tech service to their community. The FiberNet Monticello will be providing 100% fiber optic internet, digital voice, and digital TV.

There has been another effort to stimulate the economy through the SBA loan program with their latest change allowing some debt refinancing for business expansion projects. Although these SBA loan changes do not affect most business deals, the deals they do affect are that much better off because of the changes.

Meanwhile, the crops in Wright County continue to grow well. Many areas of the county have very good looking crops, and all of them are going to need more rain to produce the bumper crop that looks possible now. That hope plus the positive changes in the market such as increased savings, and increases in the service sector part of the economy all contribute to making things look good around Wright County.