

AREA BRIEFS

Robles-Figueroa changing attorneys

APPLETON — A hearing scheduled for Monday to discuss dates for a new trial for a man convicted of killing his son was postponed when the defendant indicated he would be changing attorneys.

Israel Robles-Figueroa, 30, convicted of first-degree reckless homicide and child abuse, is in the Outagamie County Jail awaiting a new trial after a judge overturned his conviction because of racist remarks by one of the de-

Teen's legacy lives on through organs

Family, friends pay final respects to Xavier student

By Kathy Walsh Nufer
Post-Crescent staff writer

APPLETON — The shock felt by family and friends of Brad Williams after he died last week during football practice has given way to a celebration of the Xavier High School sophomore's life.

Williams' parents also have taken what friends described as their first steps toward healing by donating his organs and tissues, including his

corneas, to as many as 60 people, it was announced Monday.

That act benefiting strangers has filled his parents with "such peace and solace at a time when they yearn to hold their 15-year-old son," said the Rev. Mark Vander Steeg, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Greenville, at a noon news briefing that preceded Williams' 4 p.m. funeral mass.

Earlier Monday,

Williams gave the gift of sight to a young man who is legally blind, said Dr. Michael Vrabc, an ophthalmologist and corneal transplant surgeon who performed the surgery at Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah using one of Williams' corneas.

Vrabc, who has a freshman daughter at Xavier and whose wife teaches there, said it has "been a tough week, but



Williams

this is a bit of good news to come from this tragic time. The need for donors is great and we are so grateful to the family. Their sacrifice is very generous."

Among those speaking to reporters Monday at St. Bernard's Parish were Williams' uncle, principal, football coach and a family friend.

Whether picking up trash in the school hallway because it was the "right thing to do" or playing in the sandbox with his cousin, "Bradley was absolutely remarkable."

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Post-Crescent photo by Sharon Cekada

KEITH BOYE (right), uncle of Brad Williams, talks about the 15-year-old Xavier student during a news conference at St. Bernard Church on Monday in Appleton. With Boye are Xavier Principal Matt Reynebeau (left) and football coach Dave Hinkens.