

# BUZZ: Eye surgeon honored for international work

From B-1

why Brett has been able to play so well through the emotional roller-coaster of the past year, including his father's death, the death of his brother-in-law earlier this fall and his wife's recent diagnosis of breast cancer.

"He and I talk about it, and I feel so helpless," Bonita says. "I think there's something I should be able to do but there isn't. He says, 'How do you think I feel?' All you can do is pray a lot."

Brett rallies to the family just as the family rallies to him, she says.

"I think our entire family has the same attitude. With adversity something good usually comes no matter how hard it is at that moment. It's like Irv used to say when he was coaching, if you lost a ballgame, forget it and move on. That's how life has to be. You keep moving on no matter what strikes."

For now, moving on means talking about Brett and the book.

On Wisconsinites visiting her restaurant, Favre's on the Bayou: "We have so many Wisconsin people who come here

it's unbelievable. They are just so thrilled to meet anyone who has anything to do with Brett. I always compare people from up there with people from down here. Just down-home friendly."

On her kids' love of sports: "You can't force a kid to play sports just because you want them to. I always said our kids would love it or hate it because it was a year-round thing for us. You back 'em up with whatever they want to do. But you can't push 'em."

On her son's status in cheesehead nation: "It couldn't have been a better fit for the Packers and Brett. He's a country boy. He's small town. It's like a glove that fits perfect."

On advising him against throwing into triple coverage: "No, I don't do that. When I do see him we don't usually talk about football. His dad was the one who gave him that advice."

## Eye doctor honored

Kudos to Dr. Michael Vrabec, an Appleton eye surgeon who makes periodic goodwill missions to economically depressed regions of the world

with the ORBIS International group.

Vrabec, who has performed eye surgeries and trained local doctors in 14 countries since first hooking up with ORBIS in 1992, has been given a Medical Faculty Award by the non-profit group.

"Volunteers like Dr. Vrabec are the backbone of ORBIS," Brooke Johnson of ORBIS said. He received the award last week at a ceremony in Chicago.

## Santa sighting

In case the thundering sound that is the fast-approaching holiday season has escaped you, here is evidence that it has arrived: Santa Claus sets up shop at the Fox River Mall beginning Saturday.

Santa will be just as you remembered him from last year, but the mall will be breaking out a brand new set from which the big fella will make his lists and meet his admirers. And, yes, you again will be able to get a pager



Vrabec

so you can be beeped when your turn arrives.

## 'Last Letters Home' airs

In a nod to veterans and the families of soldiers from the Fox Valley, Time Warner Cable is offering up a Veterans Day gift of sorts.

"Last Letters Home," an emotional tribute to American soldiers who have been killed in Iraq, will air locally at 8 tonight on cable access stations.

The program is an HBO special. But at the request of the cable company, HBO has granted permission for the special to be broadcast on local stations so Fox Valley viewers who don't subscribe to HBO still can tune in. Viewers can find the one-hour special on Channel 200 (reserved for HBO) as well as on cable access Channel 4 (channel 2 for Neenah area subscribers) and Channel 19.

The show features family members reading the last letters sent home before a soldier's death.

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