

LSH schools revamping grading model

Students won't be graded down for late work, cheating

By Amanda Dyslin
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LE SUEUR — Pending School Board approval, the Le Sueur-Henderson Middle/High School will be adopting a whole new grading and assessment model that focuses on what students are actually learn-

ing. Called "grading for learning," the model separates the grading of students' content knowledge from behavior. So, for example, if a student doesn't hand in an assignment, it's recorded as incomplete; the student doesn't lose the points, and he or she has to complete

the work. And when the student does turn in the assignment, he or she isn't docked for being late. "How we were graded forever isn't measuring what we want it to measure," said middle/high school principal Kevin Enerson. "We're talking about what is it that a student

needs to know and how do we communicate that?" The new grading system was the main component of the school's first Town Hall meeting Wednesday night at the school with parents and community members in an effort to be more transparent and communicative. A few teachers already have

been using the grading for learning model, and if the School Board approves the system this summer, it will be fully implemented. Enerson said Austin and Minnetonka are two of numerous districts utilizing the model, although he didn't know specifics regarding gains in student achievement since incorporating it.

"This is a huge movement across the nation," he said. The gist of grading for learning is that grades should reflect academic achievement. Besides late work not being penalized, students also have the opportunity to retake any assessment as long as it's

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BRIEFS

Dayton appoints area woman

ST. PAUL — A Madison Lake woman has been appointed to a governor's council on children with disabilities.

Ruth Ann Rosenwinkel has a seat on the Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Intervention until Jan. 4, 2016, the governor's office said. The appointment will begin on Monday.

According to state law, the council helps the state implement "comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary interagency programs of early intervention for children with disabilities and their families."

County Road 12 section closed

MANKATO — A section of Blue Earth County Road 12 is closed today for minor pavement repairs.

During the one-day project, crews will be removing bumps in the road between Highway 14 and Blue Earth County Road 3.

For more information, call Blue Earth County Highway Department at 304-4025.

Barrel, compost bin distribution Friday

MANKATO — Rain barrel and compost bin distribution is scheduled Friday at Blue Earth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 651 Summit Ave.

People who ordered rain barrel and compost bins through the Recycling Association of Minnesota online sale must pick up their purchases between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday.

There will not be sales of rain barrels or compost bins for sale during the Mankato distribution event, which is sold out.

For more information, visit the Recycling Association of Minnesota website: www.recycleminnesota.org.

Owners of RV aren't suspects

ANOKA — Sheriff's officials say the owners of an RV that contained the body of an Anoka man are not considered suspects in his death.

The body of 22-year-old Kevin Casserly was discovered May 1 in an exterior compartment of the RV by members of a bachelor party.

Authorities say the RV's owners are not considered suspects.

Diversity dinners to Expand Palates



Photo by John Cross

Massad's Mediterranean Grill owner John Massad will host the kickoff dinner in the Greater Mankato Diversity Council's new fundraiser. "Indulge in Diversity and Taste the World - Gourmet Series" will raise money for the council's prejudice reduction workshops while educating diners about global food and culture.

Massad's to host first event Saturday

By Dan Linehan
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Calling its new fundraiser a way to highlight the Mankato area's culinary and ethnic diversity, the Greater Mankato Diversity Council will be holding dinner events in local restaurants.

The \$35-a-ticket dinners will raise money for the Diversity Council, the 10-year-old nonprofit that sends facilitators into schools to conduct prejudice reduction workshops.

Massad's Mediterranean Grill will host the first dinner, scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday at the restaurant's new location, 1633 Monks Ave. It will be buffet-style, so attendees will be able to sample many different kinds of food, Board Member Tara Snilsberg said.

"With our mission of respecting

If You Go

What
Greater Mankato Diversity Council fundraising dinner
Where
Massad's Mediterranean Grill, 1633 Monks Ave.
When
6-9 p.m. Saturday
Cost
\$35 a ticket, only available at www.mankatodiversity.org. The deadline to buy tickets is noon Friday.
For more information, call Tara Snilsberg at 507-388-6854 or email Cathy Brennan at cbrennan@bcofmn.com.

diversity and diversity education, we thought it would be fun to collaborate with different restaurants and

try off-the-menu foods," she said.

The fundraiser, called "Indulge in Diversity and Taste the World - The Gourmet Series," is about more than food.

"It's not about a full stomach. It's about the experience and expanding your palate," Snilsberg said.

To that end, members of the Massad family will discuss their homeland of Lebanon as well as its food and spices.

There will also be a silent auction with cooking products, spices and herbs.

Diversity Council Board Chair Mohamed Alsadig informally kicked off the series Jan. 18 by cooking North African and Middle Eastern cuisine for a private Diversity Council audience. Much of the food in

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Community prepares to Rack and Roll

MANKATO — The Rack and Roll Task Force will introduce the installation of nearly 30 new bike racks today in the City Center as part of Bike and Walk Week.

The Rack and Roll Initiative encourages businesses to improve their bike friendliness by adding attractive and artistic bike racks at their businesses

and throughout the community, according to Visit Mankato tourism bureau.

At 5:30 p.m. today there will be a ribbon cutting in Jackson Park, 151 E. Jackson St. for the new bike racks. At 6 p.m. Mankato Mayor Eric Anderson and North Mankato Mayor Mark Dehen will be participating in a Mayors' Ride. The Rack and Roll

Task Force was formed through the inspiration of the Greater Mankato Bike and Walk Advocates and led by Visit Mankato with the purpose of establishing more bike parking in the community. The task force is made up of representatives from the Greater Bike and Walk Advocates, Visit Mankato, City Center Partnership, Twin Riv-

ers Council for the Arts, and cities of Mankato and North Mankato.

Mankato and North Mankato are one of 10 communities throughout the state designated a Bicycle Friendly Community.

Businesses can find Rack & Roll order forms online at <http://visitgreatermankato.com/visit-mankato-partners/>.

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DFL bonding bill heads to vote soon

By Dan Linehan
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ST. PAUL — Democrats from the House and Senate released a bonding bill compromise Wednesday that included the Mankato area's largest projects, including those for the civic center, Minnesota State University and the Regional Treatment Center.

They intend to hold a vote today in the House, though it's unclear if Republicans will support it.

Democratic leaders, though, say the bill satisfies the deal set before session that limited bonding to \$846 million.

"In my mind there's simply no reason not to honor the agreement, and I view (House Minority Leader) Kurt Daudt as a man of his word," House Speaker Paul Thissen said.

The bill includes \$14.5 million for Mankato's civic center and fully funds two St. Peter projects: \$56.3 million for the Minnesota Security Hospital and \$7.41 million for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program.

The civic center funding may lead to Mankato City Manager Pat Hentges shaving his head, and then again it may not. That tale started May 7, when Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben said on Twitter that Hentges "vowed to shave his head" if the civic center is funded.

"Hope to see a bald Pat soon!" she wrote.

Hentges said he thought it was only a joke, though he's taken the development in stride.

"I mean, I'm not worried about it," he said. "Apparently, I stuck my foot in my mouth. If I do it, it'll be for a good cause."

The bonding bill is a mixed-bag for local higher education; the bill doesn't include the \$7.47 million South Central College renovations and maintenance work, though it does include \$25.8 million for a clinical sciences building at Minnesota State University.

Rep. Bob Gunther, R-Fairmont, sits on the bonding committee but said Democrats hadn't shared the bill with him before it

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