

Bethany Lutheran College president to retire

Dan Bruss oversaw growth of four-year school

By Tim Krohn
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MANKATO — After serving for 11 years as president of Bethany Lutheran College, Dan Bruss will retire in June 2015. Bruss, 60, said he's been

most proud to watch the college's growth in academic offerings in the past decade. "For us, going from a two-year school to a baccalaureate-granting program was great. We have a solid foundation now and that's the biggest

thing that's happened in the past 10 years." Prior to 2000, Bethany offered exclusively the associate in arts degree and upon Bruss' arrival only a handful of baccalaureate programs were available. Today there are 19

programs serving nearly 600 students. "The students are doing what we'd hoped they do — going on to graduate school and getting jobs. That's really exciting to see," Bruss said. Bruss grew up in southeast Wisconsin. Prior to Bethany, he was on the chemistry faculty at Central College in Pella,

Iowa. In addition to academic expansion, a wide variety of programs and infrastructure were built during Bruss' tenure, including the construction of a 16-unit apartment complex for junior/senior housing, the move from junior



Please BLC, Page B3 Dan Bruss

BRIEFS

Mankato mall Sbarro one of many closed

MANKATO — A Sbarro in the River Hills Mall Food Court is one of 155 of the pizza and pasta chain's stores that are being closed nationwide.

Sbarro officials announced the closings Wednesday, saying most of the stores that would be closing are in malls because that's where traffic is declining, The Associated Press reported. The business owns 400 stores nationwide and 800 stores worldwide.

The closings will affect about 1,400 workers. The number of employees losing jobs at each store wasn't announced. The River Hills Mall Sbarro closed Wednesday and employees were told to pick up their last pay checks Thursday.

Jack Morris talk changed to March 2

MANKATO — A presentation by former Minnesota Twins pitcher Jack Morris has been rescheduled.

Morris will share his stories and experiences 7 p.m. March 6 at the Verizon Wireless Center Banquet Hall.

There is no admission fee for the event, which is sponsored by Traverse des Sioux Library System. Seating is on a first-come basis.

College students to see grant hikes

As many as 100,000 Minnesota State Grant recipients could see a modest increase in their grant award next fall, based on new projections released by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Revised college enrollment numbers and recent increases in the federal Pell Grant program have freed up additional State Grant dollars — meaning thousands of low- and middle-income college students could see a one-time increase of up to \$200 in their State Grant award next fall.

"Any additional help we can give students to cover the cost of pursuing a postsecondary education is good news," Higher Education Commissioner Larry Pogemiller said in a statement.

OHE projects that after all awards are distributed to eligible students, the \$182 million Minnesota State Grant program will have an additional \$17.6 million left on the bottom line. These projections are based on assumptions for enrollment, cost of tuition and fees, and changes in wages and federal changes in financial aid policy, including Pell Grants.

The Free Press

Rule changes may make room for More Composting



Truck driver Brian Netzke empties composting bins at the Full Circle Organics composting facility in Good Thunder. State regulators are looking to modernize composting rules this year by proposing rule changes that would add a fourth "source-separated" category to the state regulations. The changes would make it easier and less expensive for smaller facilities to open new organic recycling centers.

Alex Kolyer for MPR News

Good Thunder facility proof of composting growth

By Elizabeth Baier
 Minnesota Public Radio News

State regulators have proposed adding a new category to the state's composting rules to include organic material such as food and yard debris that is separated from other waste before it reaches a composting facility.

The change would modernize the rules that govern large-scale composting facilities in Minnesota. If approved by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, it would add a specific compost category for facilities that accept source-separated organics and make it easier for others to open around Minnesota.

Although about 40 percent of the garbage Minnesotans throw away is organic and compostable, the state captures only about 4 per-

cent of the waste through organics recycling. Tim Farnan, an organics and recycling specialist for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, said the new rule could help meet a state goal of capturing up to 15 percent by 2030.

It would be the first change to the state's composting rules in more than two decades and set standards that are more strict than the existing rules for yard waste facilities but less strict than municipal solid waste facilities, Farnan said.

"Current facilities would have an opportunity to store material in different ways and to move composting material off their pad that has stormwater and groundwater protections at an earlier point in the composting process," Farnan said. "So that'll expand the capac-

ity they have." The rule change would expand the exemptions for smaller sites such as universities and community gardens.

It could also boost operations like Full Circle Organics in Good Thunder, where landowner David Fitzsimmons and his brothers invested \$1 million to build a composting facility on 10 acres of land. Open since last February, the facility hasn't made a profit yet. But Fitzsimmons is encouraged by the demand in the area.

"It sounded like a good idea (and) I think it still does," Fitzsim-

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GMG names recipients for awards

MANKATO — Greater Mankato Growth, Visit Mankato and City Center Partnership announced their 2013 Volunteer of the Year award recipients. Jesse Schott, Joe DeLory and Malda Farnham were honored for their leadership through service or volunteerism as well as making a contribution to the betterment of the community's quality of life, business environment and economic vitality.

GMG winner Schott serves as the chair for Kiwanis Holiday Lights Parade and Greater Mankato Young Professionals service committee and new member committee. Schott also volunteers for the CityArt installation and removal, Back Pack Food Program and Rake the Town. Schott was recently named the 2014 Young Professionals president.

Visit Mankato winner DeLory has volunteered his time and bike to both the 5K and KidsK since the Mankato Marathon's inception. DeLory puts his EMT training to use, coordinating and recruiting a team of doctors, nurses, medics and first responders on bicycles. He also volunteers as a course ride marshal for the River Ramble.

City Center Partnership winner Farnham singlehandedly started and managed the Adopt-a-Planter program. This project started four years ago when Farnham found 10 businesses on North Riverfront Drive that agreed to the installation of large floral planters in front of their establishments which they would maintain. The project was a success and has grown.

Award recipients will be honored at GMG's annual meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 13 at the Centennial Student Union Ballroom at Minnesota State University.

Gustafson appointed new vice president of GMG

MANKATO — Trudie Gustafson will become the new vice president of Greater Mankato Growth.

Gustafson will retire from Taylor Corp. after 37 years and begin her work with GMG March 31.

Gustafson has been with Taylor Corp. since 1977, serving as a vice president for the corporation beginning in 1999,



Trudie Gustafson

and as general manager for three different business divisions since 2004

with her most recent role as general manager of Carlson Craft.

Gustafson served on the Greater Mankato Economic Development Corp. board of directors prior to the merger of GMEDC with the Mankato Area Chamber of Commerce in 2007 to form GMG. She remained on the GMG board until 2011.

"We've been very deliberate about creating culture and expectations within GMG Inc. that enable us to attract and retain some of the most skilled and committed professionals, allowing us to serve as well as exceed the expectations of our members and businesses and add value to the Greater Mankato regional market-

place," said a statement from Jonathan Zierdt, president & CEO.

Gustafson will be responsible for the daily operations of the organization, its integration, efficiencies and impact across all three business units — GMG, Visit Mankato and City Center Partnership — in a role serving as chief operating officer.

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