



The Briards, clockwise, Amanda, Montgomery, Mathias, Makenzie, Maverick and Whitman.

Photo by Paul Gregersen/FOCUS

## Briards celebrate a decade in the meat business

### As teenagers, they purchased Mills Locker Plant

Paul Gregersen  
pgregersen@eotfocus.com

Anniversary BBQ planned for June 4

Amanda and Whitman Briard purchased Mills Locker Plant in 2000.

A remarkable leap at 18 and 19 years old.

Ten years later, they've seen their business as well as their family grow.

They have four children who they call "the M&Ms." Mathias, 9, Makenzie, 8, Maverick, 6 and Montgomery, 5. "They enjoy watching and working right along with us," Amanda said.

"We've had many employees throughout the years; making friends with many of them. By our side have been manager, Rodney Vandermay and 'Master Bacon Slicer' Bev Boutiette," Amanda said. "We have a motto of team

"It has taken all 10 of the years to learn the qualities needed to do what we do. Patience being one of the most important. We are still learning."  
—Amanda Briard

work as it requires a lot of communication to have a successful business."

The Briards have become friends with many of their customers as well, too many to mention.

"It has taken all 10 of the years to learn the qualities needed to do what we do. Patience being one of the most important. We are still learning."

Their services include custom processing of beef, hog and sheep. They offer regular cuts as well as sausage.

They also process wild game like deer, bear, geese, duck and elk.

"Bring us in an opossum

and we might find something yummy to make out of it," the Briards joke.

Stop in, say hi and check out the bacon, hamburger, steaks, ribs, jerky sticks and several varieties of brats in their retail display case.

Their hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Whitman, Amanda, the M&Ms, Mills Locker Plant staff and customers will mark the anniversary by hosting a BBQ, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by and celebrate.

## Less-invasive hysterectomy option now in Perham

Hysterectomy is the second most frequently performed operation for women, second only to Cesarean section. Women who need a hysterectomy have a new, less-invasive option at MeritCare Perham known as laparoscopic supracervical hysterectomy (LSH).

The procedure causes less trauma to the body, making recovery much faster than with traditional surgery. Women who have LSH can be back to their normal activities in one to two weeks, compared to the six-week average recovery for a traditional hysterectomy.

LSH is now available at MeritCare Perham/Perham Memorial Hospital. For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Jaimie Deraney, OB/GYN, patients can call MeritCare Clinic Perham at 218-347-1200.

LSH uses a laparoscope, a thin, lighted instrument which acts like a video camera so the surgeon can clearly see a magnified view of the pelvic organs, along with small surgical instruments. They are all inserted through three to four tiny incisions (each less than ¼ inch big) in the navel and



Submitted photo  
Dr. Jaimie Deraney, OB/GYN now offers laparoscopic supracervical hysterectomy (LSH) at Perham Memorial Hospital.

abdomen.

LSH offers many advantages in addition to a shorter recovery time. Often a woman can be home resting comfortably within a day or two. Because LSH does not require the surgeon to make two large abdominal incisions, a woman will not have the same kind of visible scar typical with most traditional surgeries. Complications from surgery are also reduced compared to traditional methods.

## Local farmers awarded MDA Sustainable Ag Grant

A Henning couple has been awarded a grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to conduct solar research on their farm.

Diane and Chuck Webb, owner-operators of Gardens Gourmet, will use the grant to research the use of solar collection and thermal storage to provide in-floor heat for vegetable production. The solar collectors will heat water and store the energy for use in two raised beds and two low beds that are 3 feet wide and 100 feet long.

Project Director Chuck Webb says data will be collected hourly and electronically compiled with a computer software program. He says they're very eager to see the results of this three-year project.

"We can't wait to see how successful this collection and storage system will be," said Webb. "With in-floor heat, we could start planting vegetables much earlier in the spring and extend the growing season well into late fall."

Diane Webb says a longer growing season means more

produce to meet the demands of consumers.

"With the increased interest in locally grown foods, Minnesota growers are working hard to find ways to provide consumers with fresh fruits and vegetables for longer than the typical four to five month season," she said.

The MDA's Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Program has been awarding grants for new and innovative projects for 22 years. Grant recipients are required to gather data for three years, culminating with a public field day at the conclusion of the project.

Gardens Gourmet farm is located 15 miles southwest of Wadena on State Highway 29. The Webbs raise berries, herbs and vegetables.

It is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation where consumers can purchase a membership for seasonal produce or they can purchase Gardens Gourmet products at the Webb's roadside market and at local farmers markets.

For more information visit [www.GardensGourmet.com](http://www.GardensGourmet.com).

## New Horizons Realty opens New York Mills branch

New Horizons Realty of Perham Inc. is excited to introduce a second office location in downtown New York Mills.

The new location is located at 19 Walker Avenue, across the street from the NY Mills Post Office.

"I am excited about the expansion and look forward to helping our clients and customers in the New York Mills area. I have owned the building for a couple years now and when I heard about Brunswick's plan to add a Crestliner division, I figured

no time better time than the present to take the next step," said broker/owner Chad Anderson.

Anderson has been an active professional in real estate for eight years. He is a native of central Otter Tail County and has one son, Kadin.

Agents are available in the new office Monday through Friday; Saturday and Sunday by appointment.

"I have a great team of agents and we all have your best interest in mind," Anderson said.



## Meet production, water quality goals with new drainage systems

Gary Sands and Jeffrey Strock, U of M Extension

Many soils in Minnesota and the upper Midwest are fertile, but only made productive through artificial subsurface (tile) drainage.

New drainage systems continue to be installed in Minnesota and elsewhere, largely to replace older, less functional drainage systems. The agronomic and environmental benefits of subsurface agricultural drainage are many: improved crop establishment, growth and yield; improved soil trafficability and field operations; reduced soil compaction; and reduced surface runoff, with associated reductions in sediment and phosphorus losses from poorly drained agricultural fields.

Unfortunately, several unwanted environmental effects are caused by agricultural drainage, including nitrate/nitrogen losses to surface waters (a component in Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia) and losses of temporary surface ponding that supports migratory bird habitat.

However, practitioners of agricultural drainage have never had more options for designing and managing subsurface drainage systems to incorporate both productivity and water quality goals.

Extension engineers and soil scientists at the University of Minnesota are in the process of reevaluating the drainage benefits and water quality impacts for the poorly drained soils of Minnesota. They plan to have new design tables and online tools available in early 2011.

The annual Extension Drainage and Water Management workshops have emphasized alternative approaches to drainage design and management for the past few years. Contractors, designers,

and agricultural producers are encouraged to consider new approaches to system layout and selection of design, including water removal rates, for every new drainage project.

Managed drainage—sometimes called "controlled drainage"—provides an opportunity to manage water table depths in a drained field, in contrast with a traditional drainage system that functions to maintain water table depths at or below the tile depth. More details are on the Extension website at [www.extension.umn.edu/go/1033](http://www.extension.umn.edu/go/1033).

When higher water tables can be sustained, opportunities to reduce drainage volumes and nitrate losses by 10 to 30 percent materialize, without negatively impacting crop yield. A recent field study in southwest Minnesota showed that for a Millington soil, average drainage volume

was reduced by 61 percent, and nitrate and total phosphorus losses by 61 and 50 percent, respectively.

Drainage water management is eligible for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Detailed information on the EQIP and other USDA conservation programs can be found on the Minnesota NRCS website at [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip2010.html](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip2010.html).

Information on other alternatives for drainage water management systems can be found on Extension's "Drainage Outlet" website, [www.extension.umn.edu/DrainageOutlet](http://www.extension.umn.edu/DrainageOutlet).

### EOT Focus office will be closed Monday, May 31

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the EOT Focus office will be closed on Monday, May 31. We would appreciate receiving editorial copy for the June 3 issue by Friday, May 28. Thank you.

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# Focus East Otter Tail

Thursday, July 22, 2010 • Year 129 • Issue 29

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*"It is just really sad. They have four young children and it is sad to see a family go through this. It is a bad deal." — Hunter Briard*

The Mills Locker Plant in New York Mills burned to the ground Sunday and Monday. Five fire departments fought the blaze. No other buildings were damaged.

Photos by Paul Gregersen/FOCUS

## FIRE DESTROYS MILLS LOCKER PLANT

### Briard Family, New York Mills community lose piece of history

A fire that began Sunday and stretched into Monday has destroyed the Mills Locker Plant in New York Mills.

The building is a total loss. The cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

Amanda and Whitman Briard purchased the business when they were just teenagers.

Ten years and four children later, the Mills Locker Plant was one of the last meat lockers in the area. The business had just been remodeled, and the ten-year anniversary had been celebrated a little over a month ago.

The plant was full of processed meat during the time of the fire.

Five fire departments tried to save this building, but with no success. Luckily, no other buildings on the street were damaged.

"All it needed was air to get it

FIRE

continued on 5a



The Mills Locker Plant has been a staple in New York Mills for decades.

### HENNING

## Man dies after being found injured in street

Joe VanDeLaarschot  
editor@eotfocus.com

A man found injured early Sunday morning in a street in Henning has died from his injuries.

The Henning Police Department has identified the victim as 31-year-old Dajun Timothy Honer.

According to police, at about 3 a.m. Sunday, Hon-

er was found injured and lying in a lane of traffic on State Highway 210 in Henning.

Honer was taken by ambulance to Tri County Hospital where he later died due to his injuries.

The investigation continues and an autopsy is pending at the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office.

### HOW SWEET IT IS



Photo by Heidi Kratzke/FOCUS

Julie Johnson, owner of Ottertail Bakery, recently received an unexpected phone call requesting she send some of her rolls to Washington, D.C. for a Senate session.

## Senators snack on Ottertail Bakery sweets

Heidi Kratzke  
newsdesk@eotfocus.com

Sometime last week, somewhere in Washington, D.C., in some room, the Senate convened for a meeting. And Ottertail baker Julie Johnson has no idea what the items on the agenda were for the day.

What she does know is a dozen cookies and 18 rolls, more specifically six bismarcks, six long johns, and six caramel rolls, were on the table for the political rendezvous.

The story of how these bakery items made their way from Johnson's Ottertail Bakery in the city of Ottertail to the Senate meeting in Washington, D.C. is one Johnson herself has trouble believing.

"I got a call on Tuesday from a gal who said she was from the White House wondering if we'd be interested in sending rolls for their morning Senate session," Johnson explains.

"I thought it was a prank," she has of her initial reaction to the unexpected call. "I asked her, 'Okay, who is this?'"

Expecting the caller to reveal her identity as one of Johnson's friends out to prank her, the Ottertail city baker was shocked to learn that the call was the real deal. The woman provided Johnson with her contact information in Washington, D.C., explaining how her job is to contact bakeries across the country and have them send their sweets to D.C.

Johnson got the call around 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13 and by noon that same day a UPS representative showed up at the bakery, and the package was on its way to the nation's capitol.

The rolls were sent via UPS Next Day Air mail. The caller from the White House paid for

BAKERY

continued on 5a

## Stories on and off the screen

### The Prairie Drive-In Theater closed 30 years ago

Bob Williams  
sports@eotfocus.com

The plot thickens around Perham this week during the 100th anniversary of the East Otter Tail County fair, but 30 years ago the plot was really thick at the Prairie Drive-In Theater.

"The last few years we were open the fair just killed us," Dave Quincer said.

The Quincer family owned and operated both seasonal drive-ins here in Perham and Wadena. Dave continues the family tradition running The Cozy Theater in downtown Wadena.

"As a kid growing up, this is what I always wanted to do," he said. "I spent every night in the summers as a kid at the drive-ins and the theater."

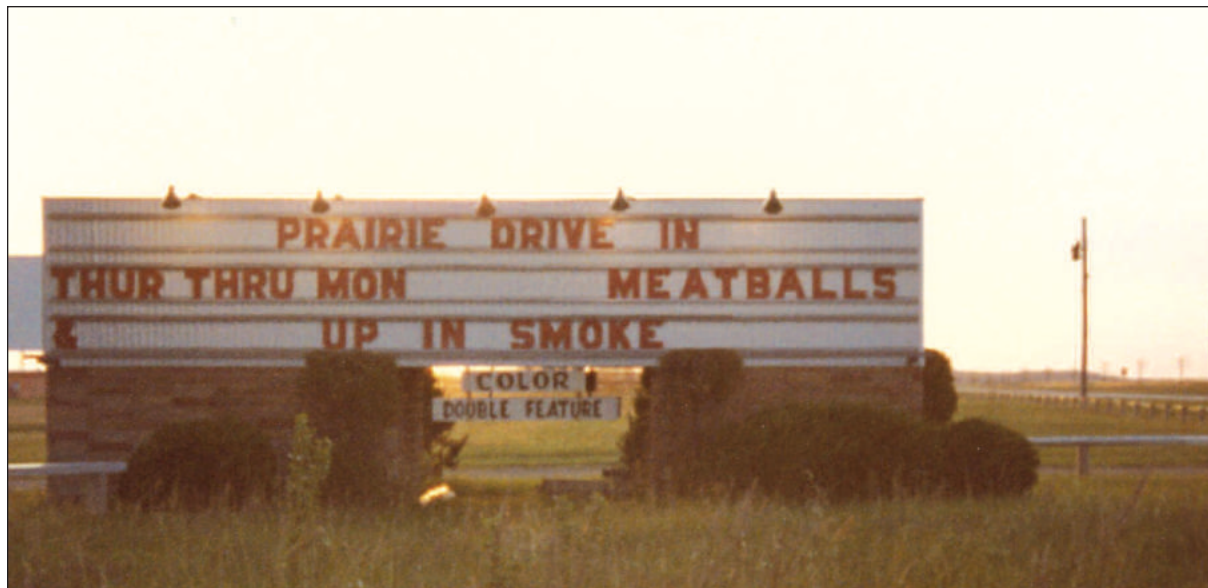
Dave graduated from college with a degree in accounting and set off to work for the government instead.

"It wasn't where my heart was." He moved back to Wadena in 1992.

A tinge of irony to our story, Dave's departure from the area was a major factor in the closing of the Perham drive-in back in July of 1987.

His upcoming nuptials and subsequent move to Iowa left both drive-ins, and the downtown theater in Perham, in the hands of his father and uncle. Without Dave around, there just weren't enough hands to keep all the reels spinning.

His uncle Don and father Rich had to run the Wadena drive-in two years longer, with Rich running projectors



Submitted photo

A look from the past at the Prairie Drive-in sign advertising a pair of comedies from 1978 and 1979.

and Don selling tickets.

Two years later, the Wadena drive-in would shut down its projectors for good in July of 1989. July is a bittersweet month for local drive-in memories.

"Our last weekend we had a really good weekend," he said.

As a seasonal business, the Prairie Drive-in faced continual competition, not only from the fair but also from innovation.

Videotapes were creeping into the weekend plans of customers. Similarly, the theater industry today faces even more competition from

Netflix, pay-per-view to the Internet. "We had some lean years in the middle 80s but business has actually come back," Quincer said. "With the present economy, people aren't buy-

PRAIRIE DRIVE-IN

continued on 5a

Continuing the hometown newspaper traditions of the Perham Enterprise Bulletin and New York Mills Herald.

PERHAM ENTERPRISE BULLETIN  
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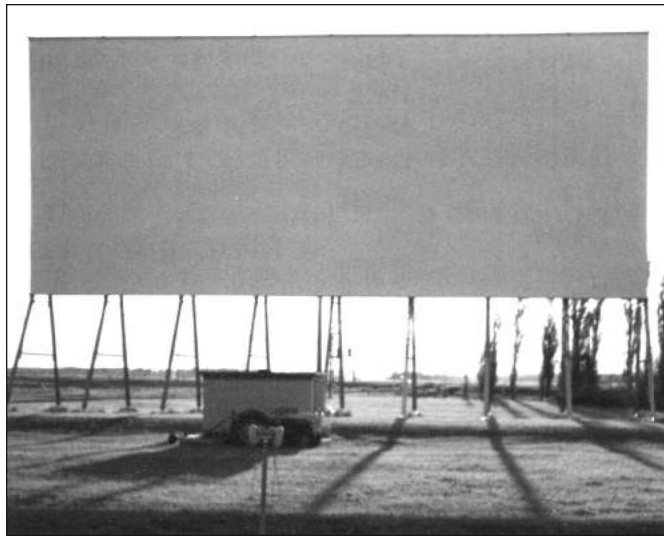
- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -  
"Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts."  
Edward R. Murrow

INSIDE  
'Border Patrol' performs in area 10a



Submitted photos

The snack bar, above, at the Prairie Drive-in Theater. The screen at the drive-in, right, was torn down by Airport authorities in 1988.



## Prairie Drive-in

continued from Front

ing as many DVDs.”

The airport in Perham also had an impact on the drive-in in the latter years of the 80s.

The airport was interested in the property to expand runways, in order to land larger planes and would eventually take over the property in June of 1988.

Quincer noted many nights when crop dusting planes would zoom right next to and behind the giant screen.

The screen at Wadena was 60 feet off the ground and 90 feet wide; Perham's was a little smaller.

“The airport had been after us a couple years. It kind of became a waiting game. I still remember the last time we went out there late spring of 1988 to get the last of our stuff,” said Quincer. “Every spring I get drive-in fever.”

The final touches to the demise of the Perham drive-in were the removal of the screen and moonlight tower that lit up the field at night. If only that tower could talk today. It would have about as many stories as Dave Quincer.

The 80s were a much different time than the present. It was certainly a tad more row-

dy. One place for people to act up a bit was at the drive-in. Quincer has countless stories of craziness that occurred.

As time progressed, drunk and unruly customers, mostly kids, started to become a nuisance both to other customers and business.

“I guess it was a place where people went to safely drink,” he said.

It was also a place where some people went to raise hell. “We wanted those people out of there.”

It wasn't just the cliché stories of sneaking a kid in the trunk to see a movie for free. Vandalism got to be a major issue.

The snack bar used to have windows where one could still see the movie screen while ordering refreshments.

Frequent vandalism required the Quincer family to board up those windows. They had to board up the projection hole, as ruffraff were breaking and entering there, as well.

In Wadena, the family was forced to hire an off-duty police officer to monitor the grounds.

Naturally, they lost some

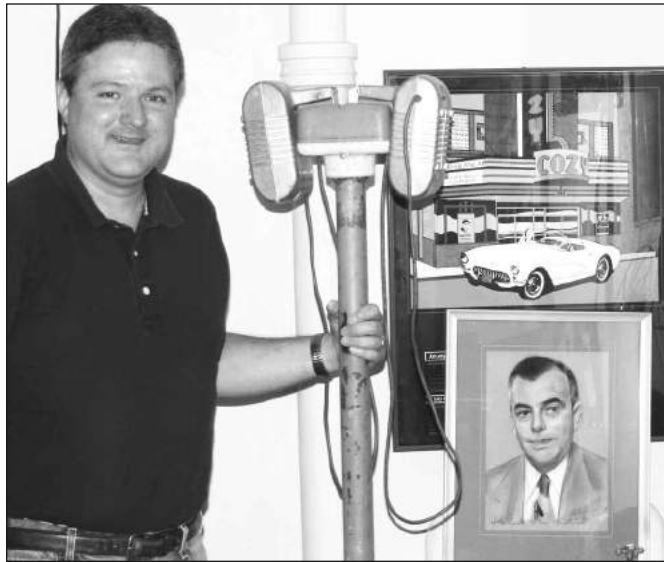


Photo by Bob Williams/FOCUS

Dave Quincer, owner of the Cozy Theater, keeps an old speaker stand in his office from the Prairie Drive-In, along with a rendering of the Cozy Theater in Wadena and a picture of his Grandfather Clarence Quincer, who purchased the theater in 1940 from his father John Quincer.

customers and in the waning years of their business toed the line between enforcement and entertainment. It was give and take and part of the times.

Quincer recalled a late May incident where Otter Tail County officers requested to swing through the grounds. Their concern was too much underage drinking.

“Some idiot started throwing beer bottles at the squad car.”

Deputies shut the drive-in down immediately.

“We locked ourselves in the snack bar and by order of the officers my dad announced we had to shut down.”

The lights went out. The horns were blasting. The beer bottles were chucked. It was a mad scene. But this was just one instance.

“After that we had a good summer. I still have a lot of good memories,” said Quincer. “Not all the nights were like that.”

In its heyday, around 1976, 600-900 people would attend

triple features, what was then known as the dusk to dawn show. These were held Memorial Day, the 3rd of July and Labor Day.

The last night of showings in Perham was July 26, 1987: Secret of My Success, starring Michael J. Fox and The Bedroom Window, starring Steve Guttenberg.

The fourth of July show that year featured Earnest Goes to Camp and Tough Guys. Other hits from that summer were Top Gun, Beverly Hills Cop, Three Amigos, Lethal Weapon and Some Kind of Wonderful. Crocodile Dundee and Ferris Bueller's Day Off opened the final year on Memorial Day.

A few drive-ins remain in Minnesota. They can be found in Warren, Litchfield, Luverne, Cottage Grove and Lake Elmo. One remains west of the border in Williston, N.D. and a handful can be found in South Dakota.

It's a shame Perham or Wadena cannot say the same.



Submitted photo

A movie guide from 1982 shows a variety of films shown at the Prairie Drive-In.



The Briards, Amanda, Montgomery, Mathias, Makenzie, Maverick and Whitman, are one of the most loved families in the New York Mills area. Their tragic loss is not only personal, but also felt by the entire community.

## Fire

continued from Front

moving. We could not save it,” said New York Mills Fire Chief Reed Jacobson.

Family and friends say the couple is devastated.

“They did a fantastic job. It is just really sad. They have four young children and it is sad to see a family go through this. It is a bad deal,” said family member Hunter Briard.

Not only does the family mourn the loss, but the town also mourns with them.

“You hate to see another

business leave New York Mills,” said Jacobson.

In spite of their loss, the family is still hopeful. A sign next to the burned locker plant tells the town that they are planning on reopening as soon as possible.

David Virnala, an employee at the locker plant during the 1970s, said the facility was built in the late 1940s and remained one of the best lockers in the nation.

## Bakery

continued from Front

both the order and the likely even more expensive postage for mailing the box of rolls and cookies.

For the last 16 years, Johnson has owned the Ottertail Bakery, establishing a reputation for some of the most delicious bread and goodies around. With all her experience in the bakery business, Johnson

said she hasn't once heard of the White House contacting a local baker and asking for donuts and cookies.

Days after the surprising order was placed, Johnson is still in disbelief. “The lady said she was calling from the White House, and I thought, ‘The white house in back of me?’”

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## “The Gathering” hosted in Ottertail July 30 – August 8

Heid Kratzke  
editor@otfocus.com

Worship music, art, writing, and dancing will once again be featured at the Gathering, an annual event put on by Firestarters Ministries. The theme for this year's event is: “We will be victorious.”

Each night, for ten nights, hundreds of people will show up for the Ottertail celebration. This year, the Gathering will be held in the renovated Ottertail Creamery building at 107 West Main Street in the city of Ottertail.

Starting Friday, July 30 through Sunday, August 8 the public is welcome to come to Ottertail for a time of celebration, creative expression, and worship. The Gathering will feature worship music each night starting at 7 p.m. A variety of speakers will be sharing messages.

During the day, several family-friendly activities are planned such as volleyball at the lake and a trip to the rope swing. On weekends, morning worship sessions will also be

held at the Creamery. As all times are subject to change, it is important to keep checking the event schedule online.

For most of the afternoons, different arts workshops are planned—each focusing on encouraging people in a different creative outlet. Workshop topics this year include: drawing, dance, music and worship, photography, oil painting, writing, and pottery.

The Gathering workshops run from 2 to 4 p.m. As with the night meetings, they are free of charge. Everyone is invited to attend the workshops and learn more about the creative arts.

In addition to serving as the Firestarters worship center, the Ottertail Creamery is home to the new Red Brick Boutique gift shop and a ministry coffee shop.

For more details about the Gathering 2010, including a complete schedule of events, visit: [www.firestartersmusic.com/thegathering](http://www.firestartersmusic.com/thegathering).

Specific questions may be emailed to: [gathering@firestartersmusic.com](mailto:gathering@firestartersmusic.com).

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# Focus East Otter Tail

Thursday, July 29, 2010 • Year 129 • Issue 30

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## CENTENNIAL FAIR NOW HISTORY



The 100th EOT County Fair provided a weekend of fun and excitement for area residents. Photo by Megan Wutzke/FOCUS

MORE FAIR PHOTOS ON FINAL FRAMES - PAGE 14

## Progress made in probe of Henning man's death

Joe VanDeLaarschot  
editor@eotfocus.com

Law enforcement officials report they are making progress in the investigation of the recent suspicious death of a Henning man.

Dajun Timothy Honer, 31, was found injured and lying in a lane of traffic on State Highway 210 in Henning at about 3 a.m. on July 18. He was transported to an area hospital where he later died.

Preliminary reports from the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office revealed

that Honer died of blunt trauma to the head.

According to a news release from the Otter Tail Sheriff's Department, the investigation has revealed that Honer had been traveling in a 2005 Chevrolet Impala prior to being found on the highway.

The vehicle was located and taken to the Otter Tail County Operations Center for a forensics exam.

The driver and two additional passengers have been identified and interviewed.

The case remains under investigation.

## Perham-Dent board eyes possible bus changes for new school year

Joe VanDeLaarschot  
editor@eotfocus.com

A projected \$8,000 increase in the cost of transporting students to and from school has the Perham-Dent Board of Education searching for ways to reduce busing costs for the 2010-2011 school year.

At an earlier meeting, the board had agreed board president Jim Rieber should contact the company that has the current bus contract, Bauck Busing Ltd., to see if some way could be found to reduce the cost of busing students. A reduction of about 5 percent had been suggested.

Rieber told board members at their July 21 regular board meeting that the possible elimination of one bus route could save the school district as much as \$40,000. But, Rieber said the cut in costs would come with some side effects.

"Cutting one bus route could possibly extend other routes by as much as 15 minutes," Rieber told the board. "That might mean that a student already being picked up at about 6:50 a.m. might have to look for the bus to pick them up at around 6:35 instead."

Some board members suggested that other alternatives should be examined because a change might cause students to have to meet their bus much too early.

"Would he (Kent Zitzow) be willing to freeze the cost at what it was for last year with the same number of buses?" asked board member Dr.

Michael Hamann.

Other suggestions included possibly not picking up students that live within a mile of their school or charging those students to be bused. No final decision was made on the issue.

After more discussion the board decided to place the item on the agenda for the group's next meeting for more debate and possible action.

In another budget related matter, the board agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, August 3 at 7 p.m. to only discuss the levy for the new school year's budget. The location of the meeting was not yet determined at the July 21 meeting.

### MCA test scores

Superintendent Tamara Uselman presented some good news and bad news to the board about the recently received results of the MCA test scores.

The standardized tests are taken by students in Minnesota to determine whether or not they have achieved state goals.

Uselman told the board that the school district is making adequate yearly progress in:

- Graduation by all students and all sub-groups.
- Attendance by all students and all sub-groups.
- Participation by all students and all sub-groups.
- Proficiency in reading and math by all students.

But, Uselman's good news

### CHANGES

continued on 9a

## LOOKING FORWARD

Briards purchase building across the street, hopes of reopening locker plant by year's end

Paul Gregersen  
pgregersen@eotfocus.com

Last week began with devastating news for Amanda and Whitman Briard, along with the New York Mills community, when a fire destroyed the Mills Locker Plant.

The landmark on the corner in Mills for over 50 years was nothing but a pile of debris by Monday morning. The cause is still unknown.

With the help of a supportive community, family and friends, the Briards have begun looking to the future with a new found sense of determination

and gratitude for their loved ones and the small tight-knit town.

Within the week, they had purchased the Mid-State Auto Auction building with the goal of reopening by year's end.

"We have a lot of work to do. But it's pretty exciting," Amanda said with a sense of hope in her voice.

Their former location was the Briards' second home of sorts for their entire adult lives to this point.

They purchased the business

### LOCKER PLANT

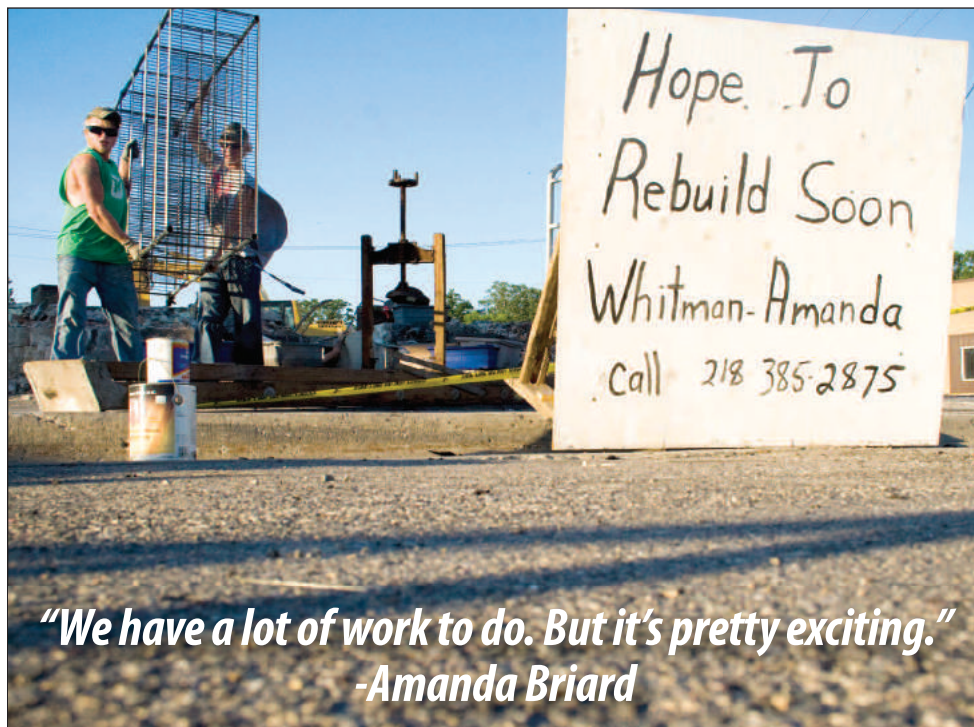
continued on 9a

We would like to express a sincere thank you to our community and emergency departments. We could never do it without you. To our neighbors and friends for all their thoughts and prayers. To our family for everything. Most of all to our savior for keeping us safe and for not spreading the fire any further.

Words cannot express our gratitude and knowing we can move on is such a blessing.

Thank You!

Whitman and Amanda Briard, our M&Ms and the Mills Locker Plant Team



"We have a lot of work to do. But it's pretty exciting."  
-Amanda Briard

Photos by Paul Gregersen/FOCUS  
A sign placed outside the Mills Locker Plant, shortly after the fire, displays the determination and will the Briards have retained during a time of sadness and hope.

Continuing the hometown newspaper traditions of the Perham Enterprise Bulletin and New York Mills Herald.



- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -  
"Rainbows apologize for angry skies."  
~Sylvia Voirol

INSIDE  
Volunteers wanted for Mills Puppet Pageant 12a

EDUCATION

# 'Stuff the bus' for Otter Tail County students

Joe VanDeLaarschot  
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Four Otter Tail County groups are working together again this year to help the less fortunate students in the area prepare for the upcoming new school year.

Kinship, the Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council, the United Way and the Salvation Army are helping sponsor

their annual Stuff the Bus event that will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 3 at Perham High School from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

For that day local residents are being asked to help students be ready for school this year by donating new school supplies at the Stuff the Bus event.

Organizers say the items needed include back packs, pencils, pens, rulers, notebooks, crayons, colored pen-

cils, glue sticks, markers, pencil boxes/pouches, scissors, two pocket folders, scotch tape, protractors, book covers, Kleenex and erasers.

According to Jill Shipment of Kinship, and one of the event's organizers, the groups decided to start a local event so that those in need would not have to driver several miles outside of the area to be provided with the necessary items.

"All the items stay local, which is also a big part of why we are doing this," said Shipman.

If you can't make the event Shipman said donated supplies can also be dropped off at the United Way in Fergus Falls.

Shipman the effort is one way the community can help students start off the new school year on the right foot and with the needed school supplies.



Jade, top left, shows off her gift bag from Ghost Runner's gift shop. Connie, top right, got a surprise when she received a leather wallet while shopping. Judy and Betty of Chaska, left, received a plant and gift certificate while shopping. Submitted photos



## REWARDS GIVEN TO AREA SHOPPERS

On the 4th of July weekend and during the turtle races on July 7, Dale Wright, a retired Perham jeweler, and Terrie Anderson of Ghost Runner, were rewarding shoppers on behalf of the Perham Events Committee.

Judy and Betty of Chaska, Minn., were shopping in Karvonen Furniture when they received a plant and gift certificate from Jean's the Right Plant Place.

Jade from the Twin Cities was caught purchasing an item in Nadine's and received a gift bag

from Ghost Runner's gift shop.

Connie of California was excited to receive a leather wallet courtesy of Richter's Men's Wear while shopping at Sugar and Spice.

Also rewarded were Carol Rhedin of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who received chocolates from Ma's Little Red Barn, Pat Waldorf of Brainerd Minn., and Lynne Pratley from Delano, Minn., each received a plant and gift certificate from Blossoms Birds and Beyond.

## Plan for a future with fewer ash trees in Minnesota

Angela Gupta  
U of M Extension

Minnesota now has more ash trees than any other state, a claim held by Michigan until emerald ash borer (EAB) arrived there and destroyed millions of ash beginning in 2002.

Ash trees are an important part of Minnesota's forest environment and our communities. They are also very common in wind and snow fencing around the state.

University of Minnesota Extension recognized the serious impact EAB would have when it helped fund and develop the EAB First Detector program in 2007. The program trains dedicated citizens to look for the first signs of this invasive forest pest, and trainees were involved in the first discovery of EAB in Minnesota last year.

Since 2007, Extension's EAB education has broadened to include Forest Pest First Detectors, EAB Community Preparedness and numerous other training opportunities.

Additionally, Extension has begun to develop ash management recommendations for private forest landowners.

If you have ash trees on your property, now is the time to plan for a future with fewer ash trees. If you live within 15 miles of known EAB infestations in St. Paul, Minneapolis or Houston County, consider insecticides for your trees.

If you live anywhere else in the state, you need to start preparing for a future without ash trees.

Here are some helpful tips for homeowners:

- Think outside the box. Contemplate a wider choice of tree species appropriate to your site and needs.
- Underplanting. Consider planting shade-tolerant trees beneath canopies of existing trees.
- Diversify the species you select. Tree and plant diversity will help prevent future large-scale mortality the next time we discover a major pest attacking a tree species.

## Changes

continued from Front

was tempered with the bad. She told board members that the district was not making adequate yearly progress in the district wide math performance by students who qualify for free and reduced meals.

"We will improve," vowed Uselman. "We take this very seriously."

Uselman said she will report to the board on a more regular basis on how student performance is in the test areas. Goals will be set and improvements plans will be submitted to the school board by the September

school board meeting.

### Board meeting location

The board also briefly discussed the locations for its meetings. The board currently meets in the city council chambers at Perham City Hall. It was suggested the board hold its meetings regularly at a location in a school district building.

Uselman said once it has been determined that a location in a district building suits the board's meeting needs then the meetings could be scheduled at a location other than city hall.

## Locker plant

continued from Front

when they were teenagers 10 years ago and have raised four young children, who they call their "M&Ms" within the walls of the building that is now just a memory.

As crews continue to clean up the charred rubble on the corner, the Briards know their future is bright.

"We can make things the way we want them," Amanda said about their new building and location.

Although they hope to reopen by 2011, the Briards aren't holding their breath.

"Our goal is November or

December. But it's up in the air at this point," said Amanda. "There are lots of things to be inspected."

Now that the smoke and dust have settled, holding their breath is the last thing the Briards are interested in doing.

It's time for them to take a deep breath, roll up their sleeves and look forward to the future like they did a decade ago.

If their track record speaks for itself, they should accomplish their goals with grace, class and faith in themselves and New York Mills.

## Graduation date unchanged for P-D students

Joe VanDeLaarschot  
editor@eotfocus.com

Graduation day for Perham High School students will remain the same for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Perham-Dent Board of Education at its regular meeting July 21 decided not change the date of the graduation ceremony. It will remain the Sunday during the Memorial Day weekend as it has been

for the last several years.

It had been suggested that the board change the graduation date from the Memorial Day weekend to the Friday of the last week of school

"It's really counterproductive to have graduation before the school year ends for the other grades," said board President Jim Rieber. "Teachers have said it's difficult to keep the other students engaged when the seniors are gone and there are

still some days left in the school year."

Rieber then proposed a motion to move the graduation ceremony to Friday, June 3.

Other board members seemed less open to any change in the graduation date.

"What do the families want to do?" asked board member Sue Von Ruden.

In the end board members decided to make no changes and leave the graduation date as it has been in the past.

## Minnesota State adds new two-year program

A new two-year degree program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College - Moorhead will prepare students to work in high-tech careers in the expanding field of biotechnology.

The Associate in Applied Science Biotechnology degree program, offered beginning this fall, is designed to meet the increasing demands for laboratory technicians skilled in a variety of techniques commonly used in biotechnology.

The Biotechnology AAS will prepare graduates to work as research assistants and tech-

nicians in laboratory and industrial settings and as quality control/quality assurance technicians.

The Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation has identified biotechnology as one of its three main areas of future emphasis and growth.

"As the Red River Valley Research Corridor continues to develop and biotech companies move into the area, students will have additional opportunities for internships, research experiences and employment," said Shana Petermann, a bio-

logical sciences instructor at M State - Moorhead and the biotechnology program director.

The Biotechnology AAS includes a strong focus on the sciences - including biology, chemistry and nanotechnology - as well as an industry internship experience.

Petermann said the Biotechnology AAS can also be tailored to allow students to pursue four-year degrees in fields such as biotechnology, forensic science and molecular biology.

For more information, contact Petermann at 218-299-

6841 or shana.petermann@minnesota.edu.

As a member of the Minnesota State College and Universities System, M State serves more than 6,500 students in credit courses each term through more than 120 career and liberal arts programs at its four campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena, and online.

By partnering with communities, the college also provides custom training services and other responsive training programs.

## Lausten named to U.S. Achievement Academy

The United States Achievement Academy announced recently that Micaela Lausten from New York Mills, has been recognized by the United States Achievement Academy as a student of excellence in science.

This is a prestigious honor very few students can hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10 percent of all American high school students.

Micaela, who attends New York Mills High School, was nominated for this honor by Shawna Pazdernik-Hensch, a science teacher at the school. Micaela will appear in the United States Achievement Academy's Official Yearbook which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United

States Achievement Academy students should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, founder of the United States Achievement Academy.

The academy recognizes students upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors and upon the standards for selection set

forth by the academy. The standards for selection include academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a qualified sponsor.

Micaela is the daughter of Mark and Adele Lausten from New York Mills.

### NEWS ON CAMPUS

## Stoll accepted to Minnesota State Mankato

Sam Stoll has been accepted for admission into Minnesota State University, Mankato, for the fall of 2010, according to Brian Jones, interim director of admissions. Stoll plans to study Musical Theatre.

While a student at Perham High School, Stoll participated in cross country, track & field, speech and choir. He is the son of Tony and Rose Stoll, Perham.

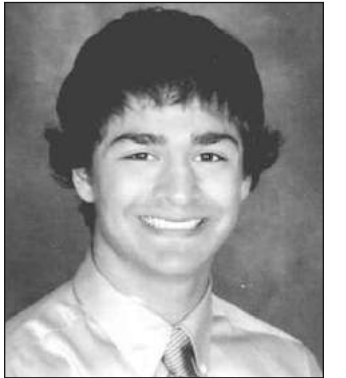
Minnesota State Mankato, a comprehensive, doctoral university with 14,950 students and two satellite sites. It offers more than 150 undergraduate programs of study, including 16 pre-professional, seven certificate, one associate and 127 bachelor's degree programs. It also offers more than 100 graduate programs.

## Doll accepted to Jamestown College

Taylor Doll of Perham has been accepted to Jamestown College beginning in the fall of 2010. He is the son of Joseph and Lori Doll.

Doll is a 2010 graduate of Perham High School where he was active in football, wrestling, baseball and Rotary. He plans to play baseball for the Jimmies. The College has awarded him a Dean's Scholarship and a Baseball Award.

Established in 1883, Jamestown College is a private, liberal arts four-year college granting Bachelor of Arts, bachelor of science, and bachelor of science in nursing degrees as



Taylor Doll

well as master's degrees in education. Jamestown College offers more than 40 areas of study.

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