

Wrestling coach retires
Minnesota wrestling coach Joel Skillings has announced his retirement.

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High honor

Taylor Reiss hauled in more accolades this week.

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The Minnesota Mascot

Home of Boxelder Bug Days — Minneota, Minnesota

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Wednesday, June 19, 2019 • (USPS - 351-880) • No. 48 • 128 years - Established in 1891

A final 'Letter from Vietnam'

By Scott Thoma
Mascot Staff Writer

Mark Garrow was a year younger than Tom Bradley in school, but the two spent a lot of time together hunting, fishing, playing cards — things buddies often do.

After he graduated from Minneota High School in 1965, Bradley was drafted into the U.S. Army.

"Dennis Braaten (also one of Bradley's friends) and I were fishing at Red Lake and I told Denny that I needed to send Tom a postcard," said Garrow, thinking back to 1968.

"After I got a postcard at the post office the next day, I started walking over to Tom's parents' house to get his address."

Garrow doesn't recall who it was, but he was stopped by someone on the sidewalk before he arrived at the Bradley home.

"They told me Tom had been killed in Vietnam," Garrow said, somberly. "I couldn't believe it."

A couple of days later, Garrow was asked to come over to the Bradley home. Tom's clothes and other items had been shipped there and the Bradleys wanted Garrow to have an item of their son's as a keepsake.

"I really didn't want any of the army clothes because I always felt those should be worn by those in the military," Garrow explained.

"So his parents asked me to take his boots. So



Deb (Bradley) Ahmann, right, above, shows Dennis Braaten, left, and Bob Bossuyt a photo of her brother in a basic training yearbook. The beginning of the final letter Tom Bradley sent home (below), was dated June 18, 1968, the day before he was killed. Bradley's photo is inset.
Staff Photo by Scott Thoma.

I did. And they were the most comfortable boots I've ever owned in my life."

Garrow doesn't have the boots anymore, but his memory of his fallen friend will always be with him.

Garrow and dozens of others paid their respects to Bradley on Saturday at the Hettling Brothers Vietnam Memorial and History Center in Minneota.

Bradley's siblings, Deb (Bradley) Ahmann and Dick Bradley, hosted a memorial event there to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their brother's death on June 19, 1968 at age 21.

"They say you never die if you keep hearing someone's name," said Deb, who now lives in Marshall. "And I can't begin to tell you how many times I've heard Tom's name today."

"Someone told me this was like a celebration; and it does feel like a celebration. I keep hearing all these stories that I didn't know about my brother ... and that is just what I was hoping for."

"I hadn't seen some of these people in 50 years," said Dick, who lives in St. James.

"These are people I grew up with. Some of them were friends of Tom's that became friends of mine after Tom died. So it was great seeing them all again."

Braaten was a classmate of Tom Bradley and served as one of the pallbearers at his funeral.

Bradley/Page 3



Jun. 18, 69
Viet Nam

Hi,
How's everything been going? How's the weather? Hasn't been too bad over here. A lot of rain.
Had a rough time the 15th. We ran into a battalion of NVA. It started at 9 and ended at 6. Killed 56, we had 1 G.I. killed and about 30 wounded. They put me in for a Army Commendation Medal. A guy got shot 3 times and got left up front when we pulled back. Me and another guy ran up there and got him. If I had to

It was Father's Day

City Hall Bar & Grill Manager Jordan Dressen shares a smile with his nine-month-old son Harlan during the Summer Bash celebrated by the City Hall Bar and Grill on Saturday. And it was Father's Day on Sunday. This duo seemed to be enjoying each other on this very special weekend.

Staff Photo by Scott Thoma



Weather

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
June 12	73	51	0.00
June 13	81	43	0.00
June 14	89	62	0.00
June 15	92	63	0.08
June 16	86	61	0.00
June 17	71	56	0.10
June 18	85	51	0.00

Outlook:

The highs in the 70s and 80s with lows in the 50s and 60s. Highest chances of rain on Thursday (90%), Friday (50%).

Happy first day of summer on Friday!



Summer Bash replaces winter blues

By Scott Thoma
Mascot Staff Writer

Jordan Dressen hoisted his nine-month-old son Harlan over his head and the two shared huge smiles in the courtyard on Saturday behind the City Hall Bar & Grill he manages.

It was still a day away from Father's Day, but Dressen was in good spirits with his son because of the success of the first annual Summer Bash that he had organized for the bar and grill.

"I'm very pleased with the turnout we had," said Dressen. "I know there are a lot of things going on today, but we still had a lot of people come and I saw a lot of familiar faces."

Summer Bash was planned by Dressen to counter the laborious winter we endured this year. Many outdoor activities were held outdoors beginning at 3 p.m., nearly the exact time the rain stopped falling and the sun broke through the clouds.

"It was fortunate that it stopped raining," Dressen noted. "It turned out to be a really nice day."

A bean bag tournament, which featured eight teams, kicked off the event behind the City Hall Bar



John Kimpe of Minneota lets a bean bag fly during the Summer Bash tournament on Saturday afternoon.
Photo by Scott Thoma.

Brau Brothers Brewing Company of Marshall hosted a "tap takeover" that featured samples of its varieties of beer.

Dressen also offered three new food specials for the event — loaded Chicago Dogs, Italian Nachos and BBQ Chicken Salad. While patrons were enjoying those specials along with other food and beverages indoors, those venturing outdoors were listening to the music on stage of The Broken Oak and Kayla Daniels.

In between the musical acts, Dressen drew the name of Dave Storlien for \$100 gift card to City Hall Bar & Grill. Those dining at City Hall Bar & Grill during the week were given a ticket to place in a bucket for the drawing.

Following the live music, Outlaw Entertainment of Arlington, S.D. was the DJ for remainder of the evening, which included karaoke.

"I wanted to have something fun for people to do and to also have it be outside," said Dressen. "We will definitely do this again next year."

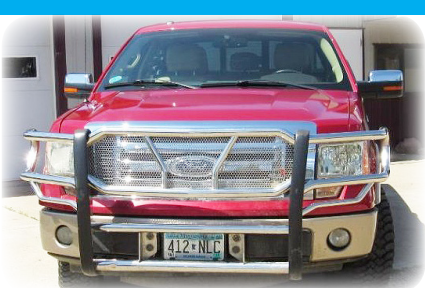
That should make Harlan smile again.

Bash Photos/Page 2

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