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IT'S 'UN'FAIR SEASON

Local teen passes up chance to exhibit in the final year of her 4-H career

By Julie Buntjer
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WORTHINGTON

In her final year of 4-H, DeLayne Kuhl should have been competing with her fluffy dog, Nino, in obedience and agility at the 4-H Regional Dog Show. She would have likely brought an exhibit to the county fair for child development and joined her Okabena Bees 4-H Club to talk about their latest Community Pride project.

As a 4-H Ambassador and youth leader, she would have volunteered to help as a judge's assistant or to hand out ribbons at one of the livestock shows.

Instead, Kuhl is one of a few Nobles County 4-H members who won't get to enjoy "the lasts" in a youth organization she's been a part of for a decade.

In Nobles County, 4-H'ers will participate in Achievement Days next week. There will be conference judging on Monday with up to four non-livestock projects, and livestock contests Wednesday through Friday at the fairgrounds in Worthington. All of the events are closed to the general public so that the 4-H program can keep within the 250-person maximum on the fairgrounds.

Since so many events had been cancelled or in limbo due to COVID-19, Kuhl hadn't worked on any of her projects. She also had other things on her plate — including a double graduation this spring, first from Minnesota West Community & Technical College, and then from Worthington High School in challenging online formats because of the global pandemic. 4-H projects were put on the back burner until early June, and by then she wasn't sure what would take the place of the county fair.

"Usually you have to think of your projects early," Kuhl shared. "We didn't have any



Special to The Globe

DeLayne Kuhl (shown with her dog, Nino) will miss out on her final year of eligibility to exhibit in the 4-H program. While there will not be a Nobles County Fair next week, 4-H has planned Achievement Days instead to allow 4-H'ers to compete in livestock contests and non-livestock conference judging.

meetings, and it kind of got pushed aside. There was just a lot of unknown."

Kuhl said her 4-H club hasn't met since January, making it impossible to plan and carry out a community service project this year. The Community Pride project, always a collaboration with club members, is one of her favorite things about 4-H.

"One of my favorite (Community Pride projects) was the foster care packages," said Kuhl of the activity club members did just last year.

Her family does foster care, so they suggested the idea of making care packages

for kids entering the foster care system. The idea was met with overwhelming support by club members, and the 4-H'ers volunteered to approach local businesses seeking donations.

Each care package consisted of a drawstring bag filled with essential personal hygiene products, and once they were assembled, they were donated to Nobles County Family Services.

"We had great participation through the club — it was really fun," Kuhl shared.

FAIR: Page 6

2 candidates campaign for Nobles County District 1

By Leah Ward
The Globe

Justin Ahlers (incumbent)
Occupation: Farmer, Director of Public Works

Commissioner District (and hometown): District 1 (Dundee)

What qualifications do you have for county commissioner? I have been honored to serve as district commissioner for the last three and a half years.

My experience as a farmer keeps me in touch with the needs with the rural areas. My employment as director of public works for the city of Lismore enables me to understand the needs of the small communities.

What are your top priorities in county government? I would like to continue providing services to the public while remaining cognizant of the levy and the impact it has on our taxpayers. I believe my voting record for the last three and a half years proves that.

County commissioners plan to host a public hearing in August on the potential to enact a half-cent sales tax to generate revenue for road projects. Should a sales tax be implemented? If so, which roads would you prioritize? The board of commissioners is holding a public hearing on Aug. 18 at the Worthington Event Center at 9 a.m. and again at 7 p.m. to discuss this issue. My mind is not made up at this time. I want to hear what my constituents have to say before making a decision. The roads that should be prioritized

are Nobles County 54 leading to gravel pits, as well County Road 55 that leads past Maka-Oicu County Park. Nobles County 37 through Bigelow could use work, as well.

A new Nobles County Library is included in the proposed W.E.L.L. project in Worthington. If bonding isn't approved by state legislators, how should the county proceed? I continue to maintain my position as it pertains to the library. I have not been in favor of this project and still am not. I truly believe it would be in the taxpayers' best interest to remodel the existing building. I believe we could get another 25 years of use out of this facility. In my role as a commissioner, I have worked with the financial aspects of this project and have evaluated the consequences of this project on the taxpayer. I do not believe this project could go forward without increasing the levy. I believe there is better use for the taxpayer dollars.

Marvin Zylstra

Occupation: Ag production (crops/livestock)

Commissioner District (and hometown): District 1 (Worthington)

What qualifications do you have for county commissioner? My previous experience includes having

serving a county commissioner representing District 1. Prior to being elected county commissioner, I worked for the Minnesota Extension Service in 4-H

COUNTY: Page 7

JBS awarded permit for new freezer warehouse

By Ryan McGaughey
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WORTHINGTON — Following the recommendation of the Worthington Planning Commission, Worthington City Council members unanimously approved Monday night a conditional use permit (CUP) for a new freezer warehouse at Worthington's JBS facility.

Project Ice is currently planned at 186,083 square feet, with an option to add an 84,683-square-foot warehouse addition in the future for the meatpacking business using the property. Construction is already set to begin this week, JBS engineer Jeff Buysman said Monday night.

According to company officials, the new freezer warehouse could create approximately 70 new jobs ranging from \$17.05 to \$21.30 per hour, plus benefits. The expansion could store up to 25 million pounds of frozen product and 2.5 million pounds of fresh product, increasing the plant's overall production capacity.

One condition of the CUP is that 74 parking stalls be provided within one year of receiving a building permit, along with a parking plan showing where an additional 59 parking spaces would go if employment intensifies.

Later in the meeting, Buysman presented the city with a \$1 million check from JBS, a gift announced earlier this month. The gift, part of the company's Hometown Strong initiative, will go toward enhancement of the city's fieldhouse and recreation center. The company plans to donate \$2.6 million to help Worthington respond to needs resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and invest in the community's future.

Also on Monday, the council unanimously approved a \$1,147,500 bid from DK Buildings LLC for work on the 10th Street Plaza. Included are reconstruction of a paved area, a new shelter building, year-round public restrooms, green space, a 10-foot trail and an area at the terminus of 10th Street dedicated for an art exhibit.

Bids for the project were also received from Solonek Construction (\$1,213,193), Tri-State General Contracting (\$1,261,801) and McCuen Construction Inc. (\$1,398,255). The DK Buildings bid is \$454,299.82 under the engineer's estimate.

Utilities work for the project is set to wrap up this fall, while construction completion is anticipated by May 2021.

COUNCIL: Page 7

Local facilities aim to keep people active during COVID-19

By Jane Turpin Moore
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — Fitness clubs and facilities are doing their bit to keep people fit after a lot of sitting during the early months of mandatory shutdown due to COVID-19.

In Minnesota, gyms, personal fitness and yoga studios, and martial arts facilities were able to reopen on June 10 at 25% capacity.

The Worthington Area YMCA, Prairie Rehab & Fitness and GreatLIFE Golf & Fitness Club all had plans in place to welcome back their members, with spacing and sanitation requirements keenly observed at all sites.

"We asked our members to stay with us during the shutdown," said Meredith Daley, executive director and CEO of the YMCA. "Our expenses continued, but we offered the options of putting memberships on hold or cancelling, and we waived our normal 60-day cancellation policy during that time."

GreatLIFE suspended its membership billing for fitness club users during the facility's closure, explained GreatLIFE general manager Ben Johnson.

"But as soon as we reopened, people



Tim Middagh / The Globe

Josh Dale works out at the GreatLIFE Worthington Golf & Fitness Club fitness room Monday evening.

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WEATHER
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HIGH 82°
LOW 61°



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GOOD MORNING
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LIBRARY NEWS

The Nobles County Library, 407 12th St., Worthington, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Adrian Branch Library, 214 Maine Ave., Adrian, is open from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. Friday.

Mobile Internet Hotspots

The library now offers Mobile Internet Hotspots. A hotspot uses cellular access to create a WiFi connection, allowing people to connect to the Internet where there is not typically strong, or any, WiFi access. Hotspots can be checked out by any adult library card holder in good standing. They may not be placed on hold, are checked out just one week, and cannot be renewed. This program is partially funded with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding,

CFDA 45.310, Library Services and Technology Act (LS-00-19-0024-19) Grants to States.

Children's Programming

► Pre-K and Kindergarten Story Time is from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays; First through Third grade from 1 to 2 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Fourth and Fifth grades is from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursdays; and Teens from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays. Space is limited, so please call the library to sign up. Additional program times will be added if there is interest.

► July 20-31, window "I Spy" is offered as an outdoor activity for all grades. Stop by the Youth Room for your "I Spy" list and let the search begin.

► Bingo Scavenger Hunt, a weekly outdoor activity for all grades, begins each week on Mondays. Stop by the

Youth Room for a Bingo sheet and try to get a Bingo or work for a Blackout. Spend the week finding the items in your backyard, neighborhood or around town. You must turn in your Bingo sheet to receive a prize.

COVID-19 precautions still in place

► Please limit yourself to one visit per day and maintain a distance of six feet from non-family members when in the library.

► Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (except during organized programming activities).

► Temporary masks and hand sanitizer are available near the front door. Spot cleaning is done throughout the day and after hours.

► Please bring exact change or the nearest dollar amount for copies, scans, faxes, etc..

► View all library events and updates at nclibrary.org.

Coming Soon

New Books: "Deadlock" by Catherine Coulter, "Deadly Touch" by Heather Graham, "The Friendship List" by Susan Mallery, "Playing Nice" by JP Delaney and "The Ultimate Betrayal" by Kat Martin.

New Audios: "What You Wish For" By Katherine Center and "The Lost and Found Bookshop" by Susan Wiggs.

Fun Fact: In the last six months, these are the top eight circulating books in Worthington: "Where The Crawdads Sing"

by Delia Owens, "This Tender Land" by William Kent Kruger, "Educated" by Tara Westover, "Dog Man" By Dav Pilkey,

"Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes, "Moral Compass" by Danielle Steel, "Thief River Falls" by Brian Freeman and "Long Range" by C.J. Box.

ANNIVERSARY



50th Anniversary - Jim & Sherry Hintgen

Jim and Sherry Hintgen were married on July 25, 1970. They will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during an Open House hosted by their daughters on Saturday, August 1st at The Dayton House from 9 am-12.

BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday!

The Garms/Slocum Twins are turning 80 on August 8th. The families are requesting a card shower for Ruth and Rita.

Ruth Slocum
1403 33rd Ave N
Unit 17
St. Cloud MN 56303
Rita Slocum
644 2nd Ave
Brewster MN 56119
Love from the Family!

ENGAGEMENT

Gravenhof - Haugen

Paige Gravenhof and Ethan Haugen announce their engagement.

Their parents are Stacey and Michelle Gravenhof of Roundup, Montana (formally of Worthington) and Richard and Sharla Haugen of Coleman, SD.

Paige graduated from Worthington High School and South Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science Specialization with minors in Ag Business and Biotechnology. She is currently employed at SGS in Brookings, SD.

Ethan graduated from Flandreau High School and LATI in Watertown. He is employed at Meyer Services Inc.-MSI in Volga, SD.



COVID-19

From Page 1

returned," he said. "We have made sure our equipment is spaced according to the guidelines, and no more than 10 people can be in the fitness area at a time.

"We also added more signage about cleaning, on top of the daily cleaning we do, because we want people to have a way to exercise while staying safe and healthy."

Mark Gustafson, fitness manager at Prairie Rehab & Fitness, clarified that the facility's therapy patients retained supervised access to the fitness area even during the shutdown.

"Otherwise, our fitness area was closed for 88 days," said Gustafson. "Since we reopened in June, we've had a mix of people returning, but there may still be some nervousness for certain demographic groups about being out in public.

"We've had maybe half the regular numbers we usually see, but the main thing is we want people to stay active, whether that's walking or biking outside or doing body-weight exercises at home."

Gustafson detailed Prairie Rehab's new routine.

"We require people coming in on the fitness side to wear masks, and we ask them to apply hand sanitizer both when they enter and leave," he said. "There are spray bottles filled with sanitizer around the fitness area so people can wipe down the machines they use when they're finished, and staff

members sanitize all contact surfaces and locker rooms every couple of hours."

"We're on top of what needs to happen," he added, mentioning that machines have been spaced out to a six-foot distancing guideline and when that isn't possible, certain machines are marked to alternate exercisers at a safe space.

Staff at the YMCA have spread out weight machines on the main gym's north side, with other fitness equipment also spaced differently than patrons were familiar with it being prior to the pandemic's onset.

"Everything is appropriately socially distanced," assured Daley. "And we have extra sanitizing stations and extra cleaning protocols, plus staff on hand at all times to offer members assistance in wiping down equipment in between uses to ease transition times."

Members interested in YMCA group exercise classes had the chance to return to those workouts in mid-June, too.

"Depending on the size, some classes meet outdoors on nice days — or they meet indoors in the south gym," said Daley, listing the Silver Sneakers group, Fusion and Strength Train Together classes among those once again up and running.

In addition, Daley said the Y was able to offer some of its normal summer youth sports programs, like T-ball, tennis and track and field — albeit with somewhat later start dates than usual.

"We moved forward with

our programs, though on a little smaller scale," said Daley. "We didn't have as many registrants as in a normal year, but people still want to do things and be active so we are serving the community in every way we possibly can."

To illustrate the challenges the Y faced, Daley mentioned T-ball.

"Kids used to share helmets, so we had to assign each child a helmet," she said. "And we needed to pay attention to practice times, and add an extra staff person for temperature-taking and wiping down bats in between uses.

"Yes, there were challenges, but I feel we've overcome them in a really good way as we've shifted to meet the needs and demands."

Daley is particularly pleased the Y was able to accommodate 35 five- to 10-year-olds for its summer camp. She credits the cooperative spirit of Minnesota West Community and Technical College, which has provided additional classroom space, for helping make it possible.

"Typically, we've had up to 54 kids involved, but we needed to keep a ratio of nine kids to one counselor and space out more," Daley said.

"In some locations (in other towns) where they normally had 150 kids at camp they're down to 30, so we think it's good we could retain over 50% of our normal enrollment figures.

"We've been excited to be able to offer the camp opportunity because we knew there would be a need for it."

Currently, the Y staff is gearing up for a four-day swim camp (open to youth ages six to 18) that is scheduled for Aug. 17-20.

"We really strive to be an outlet for fitness and well-being, with our focus areas of healthy living, youth development and social responsibility," said Daley. "We want to be good community partners and offer as many things as we safely can."

While masks are required when entering and exiting and in all common areas, YMCA exercise enthusiasts are able to remove them (in accordance with state guidelines) while working out.

"We definitely encourage mask-wearing otherwise," stressed Daley.

An advantage at Prairie Rehab, Gustafson said, is that he is a personal trainer and therapists are also on hand to make sure patrons are exercising properly and safely.

"We're open, and people can still get personal attention here while exercising in safe ways," said Gustafson.

Added Daley, "The Y is committed to providing the best experience we can, given the circumstances, and we're keeping everything as clean as possible for member satisfaction and to ensure everyone feels safe coming in."

For more information about programs and fitness opportunities, contact: Worthington Area YMCA, 376-6197; Prairie Rehab & Fitness, 372-2232; GreatLIFE Golf & Fitness Club, 376-5142.

FAIR

From Page 1

Service oriented projects weren't reserved solely for Community Pride projects, however. Kuhl volunteered to deliver Meals on Wheels one year, using the experience to create a citizenship project through 4-H.

"I did that to get my

driver's ed hours," Kuhl added with a laugh. "I still do Meals on Wheels."

Child Development was another one of her usual 4-H entries at the fair. As a teen who does a lot of babysitting, Kuhl said she'd come up with age-appropriate activities to help children with their learning.

"My mom teaches summer school and

she'd let me come in and do some sort of game or age-appropriate learning there too," said Kuhl. Summer school, however, was cancelled this year due to the global pandemic.

"It was such a weird year," she reflected.

Kuhl, the daughter of Kris and Melanie Kuhl, is preparing to leave Worthington behind in a

few short weeks to study animal science at South Dakota State University in Brookings. She is considering a career as a small animal veterinarian — a career goal that took shape during her years in 4-H.

"I think a lot of people look at 4-H as a livestock-oriented thing," Kuhl said. "I've never had any livestock."

What she learned most through 4-H are the leadership skills that will stay with her forever — the ability to do public speaking, carry on a meeting, volunteer in community service and meet new people.

"Through officer positions you get to learn to take notes; you learn parliamentary procedure," said Kuhl,

who served not only as secretary and then president of the Okabena Bees, but also as secretary and now vice-president of the Nobles County 4-H Federation.

"There's just so much to 4-H," she said. "I love that it's based on learning. You learn so much through it and get better throughout the years."

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