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Auditor to close offices

Official dates for closing of four regional auditor offices are not known yet

by David Hill
Editor

Four regional State Auditor offices have received notice that they will be closed.

Minnesota State Auditor Patricia Awada announced last week that there have been important statutory changes and that regional offices in Thief River Falls, Virginia, Detroit Lakes, and Big Lake will be closed. In addition, four of the Metro Area offices will be combined into three. Budget cuts and new statutory

language that makes it possible for counties to engage a private CPA to perform the annual audit were cited as reasons for the closures.

In a letter to county auditors, and dated May 27, State Auditor Awada stated that "Though I am the first Auditor to support allowing private CPA's to perform county audits, it is my intention to maintain the high level of compliance currently maintained by counties in the state."

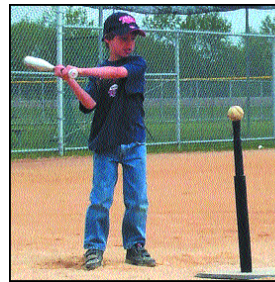
The new language that allows for private certified public accountants to be used as the state auditor was agreed to this year by several

groups, including the Minnesota CPA Society, the Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and the Office of State Auditor (OSA). The new language in the statute states that the state auditor may visit without previous notice; and, it also states that "If the audit is performed by a private certified public accountant, the state auditor may require additional information from the private certified public accountant as the state auditor deems in the public interest. The

state auditor may accept the audit or make additional examinations as the state auditor deems to be in the public interest."

The impact of these changes and the specifics of how the periodic or revolving audits will be conducted, have not been worked out yet.

"Over the course of the next year, the OSA will be setting up county audit schedules, and developing the auditing standards to be used by private CPA's performing county audits," said Awada in her (Continued on Page 16)



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- > Two Prowlers will run at State Track meet

It's Official!

IHF selects Grand Forks/TRF to host World Junior Hockey Championship

In Marbella, Spain, today, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), at its General Congress officially announced that Grand Forks, N.D., and Thief River Falls, will host the 2005 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship.

USA Hockey had announced their selection of Grand Forks and Thief River Falls on Dec. 23, 2002, as host of the 10-nation tournament. That decision had to

be finalized by the IIHF.

This tournament will feature the world's best players under the age of 20. It marks the first time since 1996, and just the fourth time since its inception in 1977, that the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship has been held in the United States.

To purchase tickets for this event visit Ralph Engelstad Arena online at www.theralph.com.

Over 300 to compete in inaugural soccer season

by April Scheinoha
Reporter

Chauffeured to Challenger Elementary School and accompanied by their drivers, they descended on the school in droves. As mom and dad watched on the sidelines, the kids pounced on the soccer ball.

Over 300 kids are participating in the inaugural season of Thief River Falls soccer. They are competing in Under (U)-6 to U-18 divisions.

U-8 player Taylor Blaine knew why she was at Challenger Thursday night. "You kick the ball," she said.

Fellow team member Tyler Efteland likes the team and even practice.

Soccer began the week of May 12, and will end the week of July 14. Teams are competing in regular inter-squad play, and some of the older teams will be competing against teams from other area communities.

The teams play at various locations in the city. The U-6 to U-10 teams, about 2/3 of the kids, play at Challenger. The U-12 teams play at Franklin Middle School, and the U-14 to U-18 teams play at the old Prowler football field. Thief River Falls Soccer Association (TRFSA) President Glen Kajewski said the association hopes to move the older kids' games to the Multi-Events Center.

Kajewski was amazed by the number of people willing to coach or help coach. He said over 40 people are coaching or assisting.

Seth Carlin is one of the coaches. He saw an advertisement for youth soccer and a flyer advertising for volunteer coaches. Carlin has been interested in soccer since he was a child.

Carlin coaches a U-6 team that includes one of his children. He has another child on a U-8 team.

"It's been a lot of fun," said Carlin. "We've had a great time. We've learned a lot."

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Blake Kuznia kicks a goal Thursday night, while competing in a U-8 soccer match. He is coached by Darren and Brenda Leier. The other team is coached by Kelsey Rude and Jeff Rypka. The Thief River Falls Soccer Association is in its first season.

Summer Vacation Students share their summer vacation plans

by April Scheinoha
Reporter

What are you going to do for your summer vacation? For most of us, those years are long gone. For Susan Olson's afternoon kindergarten class, though, they have many years of summer vacations ahead of them.

On their last day of school Friday, they were able to sit next to whomever they chose. They cut papers for their homemade books, and their teacher read the book with

them. They also thought about life after kindergarten.

For most of them, it appeared that they had one thing in mind and that was riding dirt bikes. It also made a difference that one of them brought it up, and then, well you know how that goes.

Six kindergartners said they planned to go dirt biking. They included Jon Anderson, Amy Dagg, Jordan Nelson, Jacob Peterson, Skyler Peterson and Brady Skallet.

Dagg is already looking ahead to first grade and how tough it will be.

"Kindergarten is easier," said Dagg.

One kindergartner said she wanted two more days of kindergarten. Another, Alexis Hanson, stated she will miss kindergarten.

Hanson's friend Juliette Tunberg was visiting the class Friday. She said she planned to play baseball this summer.

Like Tunberg, Lexy Kotrba plans to play baseball.

Aaron Carlson had a more unusual activity planned than other kindergartners. He plans to get a (Continued on Page 16)

Four-way stop to be installed at Barzen and First

by April Scheinoha
Reporter

Four four-way stop signs will be installed at the First Street and Barzen Avenue intersection. The Thief River Falls City Council approved the request at its May 27 meeting. The stop signs will be installed the week of June 9.

Police Chief Jim Haugen said citizens had requested that stop signs be installed at that intersection. He noted that heavy traffic, safety and the drop in the road deemed it appropriate.

Haugen remarked that flashers or flags would be put on the stop signs to alert motorists. For the first few days, he commented, police squad cars would be at the intersection to make motorists, especially Digi-Key and Arctic Cat employees, aware of the change.

It approved awarding the bid

for the 2003 Street and Utility Improvement Project to Davidson Construction of Newfolden.

According to Public Works Director Ron Lindberg, the \$1.28 million bid was \$170,000 below his estimate. There was a \$281 difference between Davidson's bid and that of the next lowest bid from Gladen Construction of Laporte. Northern Paving of Crookston and Central Specialties of Alexandria also bid on the project.

The council approved a zoning amendment, a conditional use request and a variance request for Tim Bergerson and Shannon Boen, d.b.a. Tiny Bubbles.

Bergerson and Boen will be constructing a self-service car wash and mini-storage units on the southeast corner of Eighth Street and Davis Avenue. The car wash will be 44 feet by 32 feet and include two (Continued on Page 16)

FMS reports on a busy school year

by David Hill
Editor

"It was a tremendous year," said Franklin Middle School Principal Bob Wayne.

Wayne and Assistant Principal Shane Zutz presented an update on activities at the school to the board of education for School District 564 on Tuesday, May 27.

Wayne credited the successful year, highlights of which included fewer discipline problems and an attendance rate of 94.8 percent, to parents and staff.

Wayne also reported that the use of planners at the school has been successful and that they plan to purchase planners with Pepsi dollars again next year. He said the use rate is at about 80 percent and he has seen improved communication

with parents as a result of the planners. He does want to see a higher use rate next year though.

This year's Franklin Middle School Activity Day was a great success. Wayne reported that this year's event changed its focus to one of giving back to the community.

This year, students participated in 34 projects and donated 1,000 volunteer hours. Projects included everything from cleaning ditches, decorating placemats, and preparing packets for troops overseas, to collecting food for the food shelf and visiting nursing homes. "It was a very positive experience for the children," said Wayne.

Wayne and Zutz gave credit for this year's success to the staff and volunteers who organized the event. (Continued on Page 16)

Students learn the value of enterprise

Junior Achievement focuses on teaching free enterprise to students

by Jenny Nicholson
Reporter

At one point in every student's life, they've asked themselves the question, "Why do I have to learn this?"

Believe it or not, students, there are reasons they teach us those things. There is a program in north-west Minnesota called Junior Achievement, and it gives students in all grades the scoop on why many of the things they are taught in school are important when they leave and enter the "real world."

The main focus of the Junior Achievement program is to teach

students about the free enterprise system. Business and economics are also a key issue in Junior Achievement.

Northwest Minnesota has benefited from the Junior Achievement program for years now and currently serves in the communities of Baudette, Bemidji, Blackduck, Crookston, Park Rapids and Thief River Falls. Programs are currently in the works for several other area towns.

One of the reasons the Junior Achievement program has been so successful is the fact that its sessions are taught by volunteers from the community, such as business

people, students, parents and retirees. In Thief River Falls, the volunteers come from Digi-Key Corporation.

Howard Brockhouse, regional manager of Junior Achievement, says he has had a great relationship with the company and they have been very generous with their volunteers.

The Junior Achievement programs are designed for each individual grade, with varying levels of curriculum. For example, the kindergarten classes learn about very basic ideas, such as the value of money and trade. Several topics are divided into self, community,

city, region, nation and world categories, and are taught accordingly.

The fourth grade students are treated to a tour of Digi-Key, where they learn about sales, shipping, national and international business, careers and many other topics. It is a real hands-on experience for the students to understand why economy and business are important subjects to learn.

As the students get older, they learn about more complicated issues, such as micro- and macro-economics, organizing and operating businesses, interpersonal skills and problem-solving strategies for (Continued on Page 16)



Denise Nelson's kindergarten class was mesmerized by the dry ice brought by Kari Wilde of Digi-Key Corporation during one of their Junior Achievement sessions.

Local Weather

Wed 6/4 67/50 Partly cloudy skies early. A few showers developing later in the day.	Thu 6/5 66/46 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	Fri 6/6 64/42 Chance of showers. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Sat 6/7 64/44 Chance of showers. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	Sun 6/8 71/49 Partial sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	Mon 6/9 83/53 Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.
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