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Paynesville Press



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Briefs

Expert to discuss sex trafficking

Rebecca Kotz, trafficking services coordinator at the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center in St. Cloud, will give a seminar on sexual exploitation and trafficking on Friday, May 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Paynesville Hospital. Community leaders, law enforcement personnel, teachers, counselors, parents, and anyone working with survivors are encouraged to attend. The training will cover definitions, law, risk factors, tactics, counseling, support, and more. The seminar will be held in the Blakely Room; please park by the emergency room entrance but then enter using Door #19.

Memorial Day to remember veterans

The Paynesville American Legion and Auxiliary will hold its annual Memorial Day program on Monday, May 27, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Paynesville High School auditorium. Gerald Quarfot will be the guest speaker.

Post #271 Auxiliary is sponsoring a Memorial Day dinner from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, May 27, at the Legion. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children ages five to 10; children under five eat for free. The meal will include chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, vegetables, dinner rolls, bars, coffee, and milk. It is open to the public.

The Lake Henry American Legion will hold its Memorial Day service at 10:30 a.m. on Monday at the Lake Henry American Legion on Co. Rd. 32. A dinner at the Legion hall begins at 12 noon.

Graduation for '19 on Sunday

Graduation for the Paynesville High School graduating Class of 2019 will be held on Sunday, June 2, in the high school gymnasium at 2 p.m. Paynesville High School will graduate 68 seniors.

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School pondering scope of possible building project

PAYNESVILLE SCHOOLS

School board sets special meeting for Tuesday, May 21

By Michael Jacobson

After reviewing the results of the school district survey, conducted in April, the Paynesville School Board set a special meeting for Tuesday, May 21, to review possible scopes for a building project.

The board's next business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, and to get a bond referendum before voters in August, board approval is needed by the end of May.

The good news is that the district got very good feedback in the survey (24 percent, better than the 18-20 percent on average), that most people are happy with the district (84 percent said they are either satisfied or very satisfied with the school district), and that most people are open to exploring a building project at this time (68 percent), per School Perceptions, the firm that conducted the survey. Unsatisfied respondents were only 8 percent, which is in the top quartile of surveys, they added.

Part of the district's current long-term debt will be paid off in 2020, and all of its existing debt will be paid off in 2024, so the district could invest \$8.5 million in its buildings and infrastructure just by maintaining existing tax rates.

The survey asked about willingness to support a bond referendum. For all residents, the threshold of support identified in the survey was around \$19 million. For non-parents and non-staff respondents, whom School Perceptions gives great weight since they are the majority of voters. (Parents and staff typically have a greater desire for school funding – in this survey supporting \$22 million in improvements.) Non-parent, non-staff support identified in the survey was only \$16 million.

"The reason I look at this is there's no reason to invest in this survey and then not follow it," said superintendent Matt Bullard. To do otherwise, he added, would be "foolish."

"It's a difficult financial time for many people, so we need to be careful," agreed board member Jacob Holck.

A project of only \$16 million, however, poses a dilemma for the school district, which has been working on a plan for a new addition –

including a four-court field house, new automotive space, a new wrestling room, a new lobby for the auditorium/field house, and revamped career and technical space, including the existing ag and woodshop labs. But the cost of the addition is \$14 to \$15 million, which would leave little space in a \$16-million project to address other district needs: new boilers, energy-efficient lighting, improving air quality, etc.

Bullard suggested the district might need to prioritize into an initial \$16 million ask of district voters, which a second question asking for maybe an additional \$3 to \$4 million.

The special meeting on Tuesday, May 21, at 6 p.m. was established to give administration and Unesco, their building consultant, time to look at options, prioritize needs, and come up with some proposals for the board to consider.

Other Results

School Perceptions noted that support from staff towards a building project – 82 percent said the time is right to consider a project – is key because the staff needs to believe in a project for it to be successful. The survey also got responses from 24 percent

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School Survey

In April, School Perceptions surveyed the entire school district, with mailed surveys to every household. From that, there were 624 total responses (341 online and 283 paper), with a participation rate of 24 percent, which is valid, giving results a margin of error of +/-4.0 percent. Of the surveys, 67 percent came from the City of Paynesville or Paynesville Township. 84 percent said they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the district, with 8 percent unsatisfied and 8 percent having no opinion. And 68 percent said they support the district exploring a building project at this time.

The survey asked respondents to rate various items as high (3), medium (2), or low (1) priority, resulting in these ratings.

The school board set a special meeting for Tuesday, May 21, to review possible project scopes and budgets. To have a special referendum in August to approve bonding for a project, the board would need to approve a project by the end of May. Their business meeting this month will be held on Tuesday, May 28.

Item	Rating From All Residents
Replace Boilers and Heating Control Systems (\$1 million)	2.61
Add a Fabrication Lab (Real-Life Manufacturing) (\$0.5 million)	2.30
Create Engineering/Design Classrooms (\$0.3 million)	2.29
Replace Plumbing Fixtures/Electrical Panels (\$2 million)	2.18
Replace Light Fixtures with Energy Efficient Ones (\$0.5 million)	2.14
Improve Air Quality/Add Air Conditioning (\$7.5 million)	2.09
Renovate Agriculture/Industrial Arts Labs (\$1 million)	2.03
Create a Multi-Purpose Room for PE, Wrestling, Gym (and Updates to the Softball Complex) (\$1.8 million)	2.02
Add a Four-Court Gym (\$8.5 million)	2.01
New Lobby/Restrooms for Auditorium/New Gym (\$0.75 m)	1.92
Relocate Automotive Repair to Main PHS Building (\$1.8 m)	1.90
Expand Weight Room/Fitness Center (\$2.5 million)	1.70
Replace Flooring, Cabinetry, Interior Doors (\$1 million)	1.64

AG DAY

Students Enjoy FFA Petting Zoo...



Photo by Michael Jacobson

Sophomore Elizabeth Utsch cradled a puppy as the Paynesville FFA students held their annual ag day at Paynesville Area Elementary School on Monday, May 13, showing the students some safety tips, talking about the importance of ag, and petting all kinds of animals.

CNA CLASS

New class prepares students for CNA jobs

Six PHS students earning CNA certificates thru new class

By Michael Jacobson

During the spring semester, eight EV-W students participated in a new course, hopefully becoming certified nursing assistants.

A combined class of 18 students from ACGC, EV-W, and Paynesville took the new CNA class, which was taught by Shannon Lansworth through Ridgewater College during the second semester. Ridgewater usually offers nine CNA classes per year; but this was the first high school class. Students earned credit, plus (hopefully) their CNA.

"This is a great after-school job. Facilities know they're high school students," said Lansworth of the flexible CNA hours. "The pay is good." The first class kept expanding until they ended up with 18 students. "They had such a good response they kept saying, 'Can we add one? Can we add one?' It was great," said Lansworth, who has worked part-time at Ridgewater College for 11 years. Her day job is as a registered nurse (RN) at Bethesda of Willmar as the director of nursing of its home care agency.

The CNA class has to include 75 hours, as required by the Minnesota Department of Health. After classes finished earlier in May, students had to do five clinical practices – four hours each – before taking the CNA test on Thursday, May 16, at Ridgewater College.

Six PHS students – seniors Taylor Reiter and Diamond Tello and juniors Allyson Ahl, Abby Bullard, Harley Kunstleben, and Grace Utsch – took the new class, along with eight girls from EV-W and four from

ACGC. "I knew I wanted to be in health care," said Reiter of taking the CNA class. "I volunteer at the nursing home, and I figured it was a good place to start."

Reiter plans to work as a CNA in the St. Joseph area while going to St. Ben's. Eventually, she hopes to become a pediatric psychiatrist. Even though the CNA is on the opposite end of the health care spectrum, it should give her "a better understanding of health care in general," she said.

As soon as she learned about the class, Tello decided, "I want to do this." She plans to work as a CNA while getting her LPN degree at Ridgewater College.

Bullard is also planning a medical career, but is undecided exactly where. "I want to work in the medical field, so it will be a good place to start," she said.

"I just did it to do it," said junior Harley Kunstleben. "It sounded interesting." Will she work as a CNA? "Yeah, probs," she added.

Utsch is uncertain about her future career, but figured her CNA "was a good way to start." She plans to work as a CNA this summer and then continue if she likes it.

The class was held from 7:30 to 9 a.m. before school and then during the first period. "I'd be willing to do it if we did it first thing in the morning. Then I can leave and go to my regular job," Lansworth said of the schedule. "Generally, I teach in the evenings." Due to the snowy winter and spring, and due to having students from three school districts, the class had nine cancellations... "if any school was cancelled, or late, we were cancelled, or late," said Lansworth.

Generally, the class was held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at Paynesville High School, but due to the

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