



MBNA's Aspire Awards were created to recognize monument builder companies that have drawn favorable attention to their companies, and in turn, to the industry through their specialized marketing and/or public relations campaigns.

All MBNA members in good standing are invited to submit entries for the 2009 MBNA Aspire to Success Marketing & Public Relations Contest.

Any publicity you've received during the contest year (November 1, 2008 through November 1, 2009) is eligible. This includes coverage by newspapers, magazines, television, new acquisitions, celebrated anniversaries or testimonial letters.

Up to three (3) winners will be awarded the handsome granite MBNA Aspire Award, a tall, polished trophy that adds elegance and interest to any member's lobby or bookshelf. Honorable mention entries will receive a certificate of merit suitable for framing. All winning entries will be featured in MBNews.

## ENTRY FORM

Deadline to submit material is November 23, 2009.

### 2009 MBNA Aspire to Success Marketing and Public Relations Contest

Name: JEFF AND RENÉE ANDERSON  
 Company Name: Anderson Memorials, Inc  
 Address: 106 4<sup>th</sup> Street S.W  
 City: Austin State/Prov: MN ZIP/Zone: 55912  
 Phone: 507-437-3636 E-mail: andersonmemorials@hotmail.com

#### Tell us about your marketing and public relations success:

- Detail your experience. Use a separate piece of paper. It can be one item or event, or multiple events, or a year-long ad campaign.
- Please attach any photographs, clippings, brochures, letters or invitations that relate to your entry. We need original photographs (prints or electronic), but please photocopy your clippings, letters or invitations if you need them returned as we cannot return the material. *Photos can be black and white or color.*

Events should have taken place between November 1, 2008 and November 1, 2009. Deadline for receipt of materials at MBNA Headquarters is November 23, 2009. Materials may be submitted on-line or by postal service.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact MBNA headquarters at (800) 233-4472 or via email at [info@monumentbuilders.org](mailto:info@monumentbuilders.org).

MBNA  
 136 South Keowee Street, Dayton, OH 45402  
 (800) 233-4472 | Fax (937) 222-5794 | [info@monumentbuilders.org](mailto:info@monumentbuilders.org)

# Anderson Memorials

*Four Generations of Monumental Service - Since 1870*

November 17, 2009

To: The MBNA Aspire to Success Contest Judges.

Re: Marketing and public relations successes from November 1, 2008 to November 1, 2009 for Anderson Memorials, Austin and Rochester, Minnesota.

I've enclosed news articles and have numbered them to correspond with the description below:

1. Last year we won our Chamber's Business of the Year, and still received additional publicity in 2009 by being featured on the front page of the Chamber's newsletter.
2. One of our salespersons, Ed Cunningham, was featured in a local magazine.
3. Area newspapers have continued to talk about a county veteran's memorial project that we are working on. Jeff has been interviewed several times regarding this.
4. Jeff was interviewed by NBC Affiliate, KTTC, regarding the project 'Remembering with Dignity'. It was broadcast several times that day and the next day.
5. Renee was expecting a Rotarian to come and sell her tickets to their fundraiser, and in walks a chicken and the local newspaper photographer. This picture was on the front page and Renee received many phone calls and cards regarding this!
6. This is a picture of a group of children taking a tour of our place and trying their hand lasering on a plaque that we made and donated to their academy.
7. The last picture is of the Biggest Pumpkin Contest that we sponsor every year.

Other projects that received media attention but don't have the footage for you:  
We are working on a project featuring, George A Hormel and the history of Austin. Jeff is working on the design phase which will include bronze sculptures and tablets with the City of Austin's history on them.



*To Remember ... and Be Remembered ... is the Desire  
and Heritage of All Generations.*

## Austin Memorials

106 S.W. 4th Street • Austin, MN 55912  
507 / 437-3636 • 1-800-658-2560  
Fax: 507 / 437-0092

## Rochester Granite Co.

2843 S. Broadway • Rochester, MN 55904  
507 / 282-7502 • 1-800-658-2542  
Fax: 507 / 282-9502

## Cemetery Memorial Sales

610 Hoffman Drive • Owatonna, MN 55060  
507 / 451-5453 • 1-800-657-3250  
Fax: 507 / 451-5453

We have organized vets efforts and provided fundraising pavers for Mower County Veteran's Memorial, Northfield Veteran's Memorial, Soldiers Field Memorial, and River Falls Vets Memorial.

On a side note, we are not the local monument company for one of these Veteran's Memorials and tried to get the veteran's committee to work with the local monument company, who happens to NOT be a member of MBNA, but they had heard of our company's reputation and capabilities and insisted on doing business with us!

Jeff is currently working with a Boy Scout who is working on his Eagle Project-Cemetery Restoration.

We also feel it is important to be a part of the community through our time and donations. Here are some of the things we have sponsored and we always promote art in the community whenever we can.

Some Cash Donations for 2009:

Historic Paramount Theatre, Kiwanis Wish and Spin, Biggest Pumpkin Contest, Rochester City Art Foundation, Historical Societies, Katie Nelson Scholarship Fund for the Arts, High School Graduation Party, High School Prom Party, local college scholarship fund, Historical Cemetery Skit Sponsor, Local City's July 4th Celebration. Sponsored a unique drama presentation dedicated to veterans.

Gift Donations for Charity Auctions:

Large bronze cheetah for the Big Cat Sanctuary. Engraved name plate for the Nature Center Auction. Plant stand for the K of C auction. Tickets to a dinner theatre and gift baskets for the Relay for Life Auction.

I have attached a few of the thank yous we received in 2009.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Submitted by:

Renee' Anderson  
Anderson Memorials, Inc  
106 4<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Austin, MN 55912



# Outlook

What's Inside . . .

- Sue Howard wins Buy Mower drawing... page 2
- Your Chamber .... page 3
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Working for Business in the Greater Austin Area Since 1940

## Chamber annual Winter Banquet set for Feb. 26 at Holiday Inn

The Chamber's annual Winter Banquet and Awards Program will be held Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Holiday Inn and Austin Conference Center. Twelve business members will be recognized as this year's Business of the Year nominees, and several others will be noted for their contributions to the organization and community throughout 2008.

Hosted by the Chamber's Ambassador Committee, the banquet is the largest gathering of members during the year with about 300 attending.

Ambassadors have chosen "Growing Mower" as this year's theme, building on the Chamber's efforts to increase awareness as to the importance of conducting business locally. Member products and services will be featured as part of the event décor.

Besides the business awards, individual members and committees are recognized at the banquet. Ambassador of the Year and Ambassador Team of the Year will be presented along with the Chamber's Volunteer of the Year award. The Austin Area Employers Association, a chamber committee, will also honor an outstanding human resource professional with their 2008 Award of Excellence.

Business award nominees will be featured during the program. This year's nominees include:

- The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota; Dr.



**ANDERSON AUSTIN MEMORIALS** was honored as "Business of the Year" at last year's banquet. Pictured above are owners Renee and Jeff Anderson.

Zigang Dong, Executive Director

- Healing Palms Massage and Spa, Naomi Thompson, Owner.
- Cooperative Response Center, Inc., Todd Penske, President and CEO.
- Quizno's Subs, Marlene and Norm Blaser, owners
- Island Pool & Spa, Tim and Sue Wiersma, owners.
- Wal-Mart, Lee Kruse, Store Manager.
- The Edge Salon, Sharon Teigen, owner
- MJ Flaherty Paint, Mike and Mary Lynn Flaherty, owners
- Community Bank

Austin, Bob Cooper, President and CEO

- Ameriprise—Davis, Thoen, Kramer and Associates; Web Davis, Greg Thoen, Randy Kramer.
- Lefty's Bar, Jeff Daily, owner.
- Parenting Resource Center-Seibel Center, Maryanne Law, Executive Director.

Events will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. To register, simply call the Chamber at 437-4561 or fill out and mail the registration form, enclosed in this edition of The Outlook.

## Did you know?

The Chamber is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. Jeff Kritzer, an attorney with the law firm Baudler, Baudler, Maus and Blahnik, is the 2009 Chamber President.

# From FILM to FILM

*Cunderson Man...  
sales man.*

## Owatonna man recalls his time as a photographer for the nation's most famous 'crook'

Story by Clare Kennedy

Sometimes, the best laid plans are not your own. Just ask Ed Cunningham. Cunningham worked as a photographer for the White House during the final years of Richard Nixon's presidency — from 1971 to August 1974. But Cunningham did not seek this position out. It was not a lifelong ambition. Rather, many twists of fate led Cunningham to the White House.

A native of Tulsa, Okla., Cunningham graduated from high school in 1966 and headed to Owatonna to attend Pillsbury Baptist Bible College.

It was in Owatonna that Cunningham first started on his circuitous path to Washington. "I went downtown to find a job, and I got a job working at the Photo News for Don Regal," Cunningham said. "And I had a background in printing but he didn't need a printer. He needed a photographer. So he handed me a camera and a book."

Out of necessity, Cunningham quickly picked up how to take photos and how to use the dark room to develop film. Cunningham beat the street taking photos of Eagles benefits, sporting events and car wrecks for the weekly newspaper.

"That's how photography got into my blood," Cunningham said.

Before long, he garnered his first experience shooting photos of a political candidate when Regal decided to run for state representative.

"I went around with him watched him shake hands and kiss babies and do what politicians do," Cunningham said.

In 1970, Cunningham's life abruptly changed when he got a notice in the mail. He'd been drafted by Uncle Sam. At the time, Cunningham had recently married his wife Shirlee and they were expecting their first child, Karen.

"I could have gotten out of the draft if I'd pressed my 4-D, which means a divinity student's status that I had," Cunningham said. "But I didn't want to hide behind my religion because I didn't know if I wanted to go into church work or not."

**"That's how photography got into my blood."**

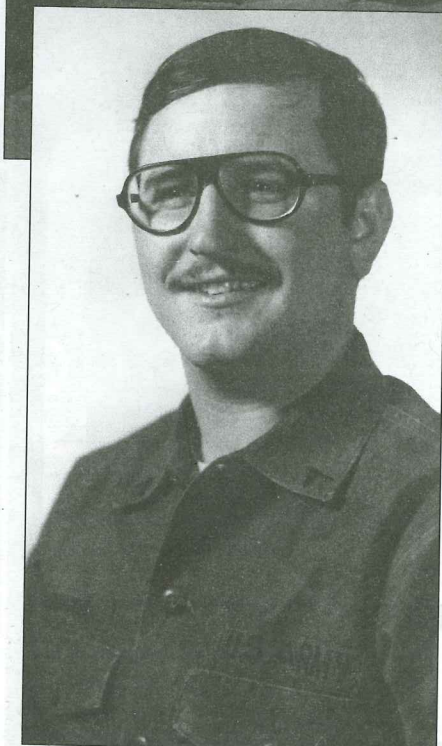
Cunningham tried to transfer to the University of Tulsa.

"When I did that I got nailed," Cunningham said. "So I went down for my induction physical."

**PHOTOG**  
Continued on page 9



TOP: Ed Cunningham of Owatonna holds a blown-up copy of his White House pass. The original pass, given to him when he was a member of White House photography corps during the Nixon presidency, allowed him to carry a concealed weapon. Cunningham said he never carried a weapon. Photo by Thom Caya.



LEFT: Ed Cunningham poses for a photograph during his days in the Army Photography School. Cunningham said that members of the school practiced taking portraits of each other. Submitted photo.

Cunningham was one of a handful of guys who was selected to stay one more night and talk to an agent from the Army Security Agency.

"He told me if I joined his organization I'd almost be guaranteed that I would be in the United States, but I would be in some missile silo in Fargo, N.D.," Cunningham said. "That sounded pretty good to me because I had a wife and child on the way."

Cunningham took him up on the offer. To join this particular branch of the military, Cunningham had to enlist for four years. Pretty soon he was at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for basic training.

Four weeks into basic training, they called out the troops to do formations in front of the main building. After the men were assembled, the platoon sergeants made an announcement.

"They called my name and seven other guys and said we had White House appointments," Cunningham said. "They told us to get on a truck and go to the post theater?"

The prospect of leaving for D.C. was less than thrilling to Cunningham.

"I didn't necessarily want to go because if you miss too much basic training, they can start you all over again if they want, and I already had four weeks invested," Cunningham said.



Ed Cunningham receives a plaque given to members of the White House photography corps. His wife is also present.

**PHOTOG**  
Continued on page 10

**Steele County Free Fair**  
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Steele County Free Fair

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"We have talented designers," Heerema said. "I don't think I've ever heard them say, 'no, we can't do that.'"

Technology has helped improve the process, but along with a boost in what's possible for gravestones, there has also been an increase in customer expectations and wants.

"Ten years ago, there were four letter styles; now we have 40," Heerema said. "Probably the biggest change is that people have become more creative with what they want. Unique stones are a bigger part of our memorials now because people are more computer savvy so they have higher expectations of what's possible."

Part of the increased expectations stems from the public's increased connection to technology, so they are aware of a variety of possibilities. Another part of the change has to do with Hollywood's depiction of funerals in movies.

"Society right now is all about instant," Heerema said.

However, instant doesn't always work with gravestones. Sometimes the granite has to be quarried in India, Africa or Norway, depending on the order. Other times the project specifications simply require more labor.

"I don't think people realize how labor intensive it can be," Heerema said. "It's a long process from start to finish, especially if you want something unique."

What's possible now ranges from pictures of people etched into the stone or scenic and landscape views to forming the actual monument into a certain, meaningful shape.

For Ed Cunningham, monument salesman at Anderson Memorials in Owatonna, one of the most unique headstones he helped design involved a monument shaped exactly like the Harley Davidson emblem.

"We try to personalize (monuments) as much as we can," Cunningham said. "That makes the stone rather unique and it makes it more personal for the family."

While much of monument design and planning comes after a death, more and more people are choosing to pre-design and pre-select their gravestones.

"People will come in because they don't want their family to worry about it," Cunningham said.

Like Heerema, Cunningham also sees his sales job as a service to the community.

"Many of these people are going through the toughest times of their life," he said. "If I've made them happy in this process, then I have done my job. Sometimes you can almost see the burden lift. It's a unique business."

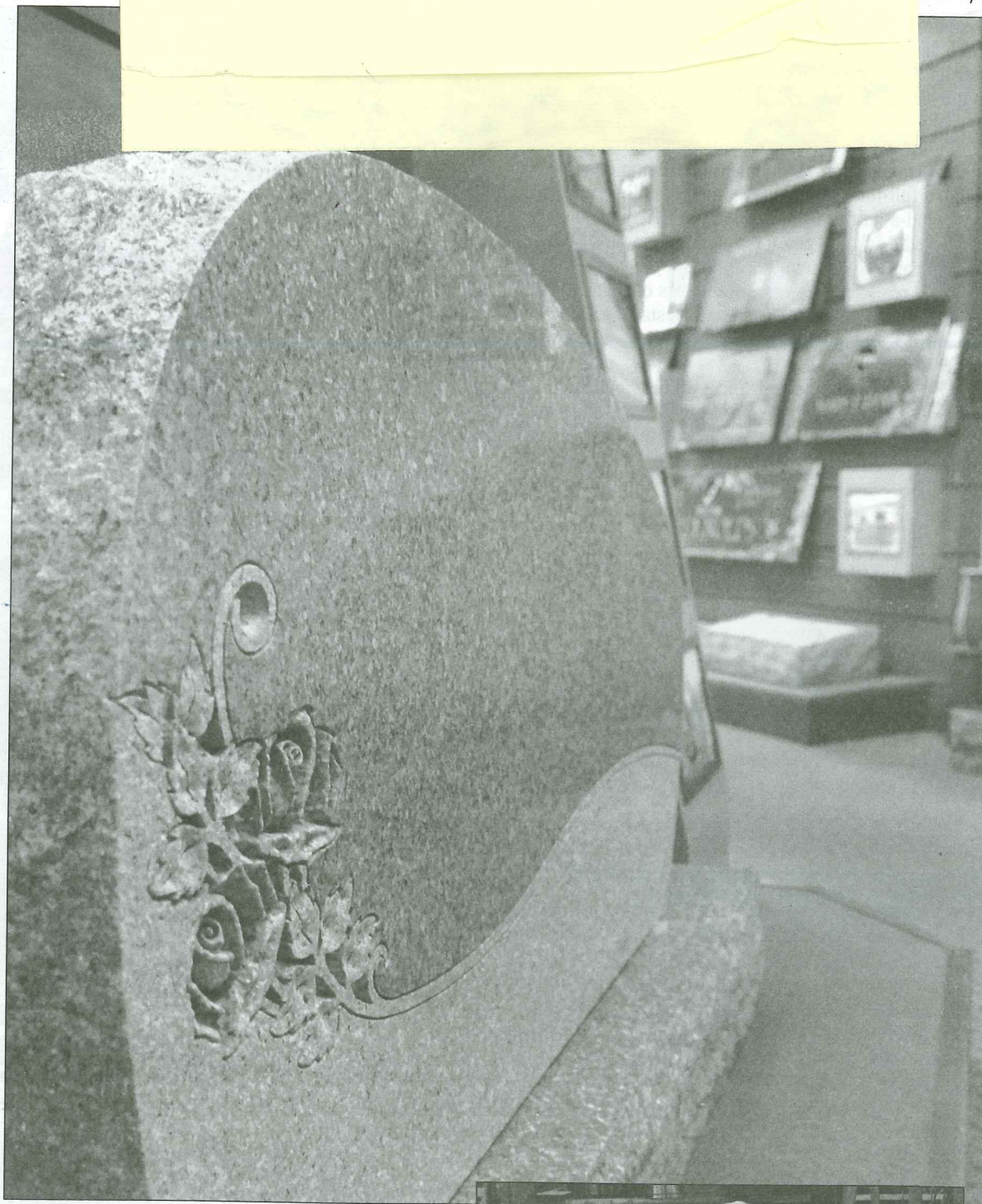
One of the toughest parts of selling and designing grave monuments, though, is creating a gravestone for a young person.

"You have to be very sensitive and kind," Halvorson said. "It's much like being a funeral director. We try to help people through a difficult time but one of the more difficult things is when it's a young person because they had so much life and promise ahead of them."

Despite the age of the person being memorialized in a monument, Heerema and his staff visit the grave sites 95 percent of the time, he said, just to make sure the finished product is what everyone envisioned.

And, besides guaranteeing customer satisfaction, seeing the result in stone also proves satisfying for those who first envisioned it and helped the customer see the possibilities. Selling gravestone memorials may be a service, a unique job in communication or a way to minister to those in grief, but it's also a bit of an art.

"There's a unique joy of seeing a finished product that you envisioned in your head," Halvorson said. "It's a very rewarding job."



ABOVE: Owatonna Granite and Monument in conjunction with its manufacturing facility has done everything from hand-etched sayings to pictures and scenic views on grave memorials.

RIGHT: Owatonna Granite and Monument employees work with customers to envision a gravestone that suits their needs, but the memorial is actually manufactured in St. Cloud. The process includes everything from laser etching to rock pitching, which is shown here. Here, a laborer cuts a bevel marker using a hammer and chisel, an age-old technique used to cut designs into rock. Submitted photo.



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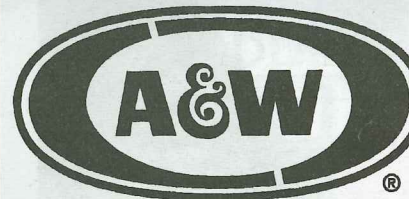
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MOWER COUNTY / TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

# Group raises funds to finish memorial

By Tim Ruzek  
truzek@postbulletin.com

In 1992, a group dedicated the Mower County Veterans Memorial outside of the courthouse in Austin.

At that time, the memorial wasn't completed because it needed a large, bronze statue of a soldier holding an injured soldier.

The memorial wall includes the image of a military nurse reaching out with a hand, said Jeff Anderson, owner of Anderson Memorials. The nurse is supposed to be interacting with the statue's soldiers, he said.

The memorial's creators didn't regroup after '92 to raise money for the statue, Anderson said.

Now an effort is under way to raise more than \$200,000, including about \$140,000 for the statue, to complete and improve the memorial.

"It's been long overdue," Anderson told the Mower County Board on Tuesday.

Officials with the memorial are working with the Austin Area Foundation.

The statue will replace the memorial's fountain, which leaves residue and has been a maintenance issue, Anderson said.

Aside from the statue, officials want to repair the van-

## TO HELP

**Veterans Memorial donations can be mailed to:**

Austin Area Foundation,  
P.O. Box 6, Austin, MN  
55912. Specify on the check that the money is for the Veterans Memorial.

dalized sun dial, revitalize the landscaping and add a few names to the memorial wall that honors Mower County residents who were killed in service.

As of now, the wall has the names of soldiers from the Civil War to the Vietnam War, officials said.

Organizers also are seeking to create a perpetual fund for caring for the memorial in later years, Anderson said, including when more soldiers' names need to be added to the wall.

Officials told the county board they hope to have the money raised and memorial work done by Veterans Day — Nov. 11.

The main fundraising idea involves selling hundreds of pavers to line the memorial's sidewalks and feature the names of people who have served in the military.

At \$300 each, the pavers — 6 inches by 12 inches in size —



Submitted photo  
**Jeff Anderson, of Anderson Memorials, is leading a group effort to complete this tribute to veterans, which now stands at the Mower County Courthouse.**

are polished black granite, Anderson said.

The pavers to honor those who have served or are serving in the military and generally have a connection to Mower County, officials said. Each paver will have one veteran's name with information, such as the person's military branch and years of service.

Space is available for 1,056 pavers, Anderson said.

Norm Hecimovich, a veteran working with Anderson and the memorial's original chairman Bill Fuller, said the group plans to sell pavers indefinitely. Anyone who has served should be part of it, he said, noting Mower County has more than 3,000 veterans.

The group plans to have a booth July 3 and 4 during Freedom Fest at Community Bandshell Park.

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Thursday, June 18

The Austin police and fire departments responded to fire alarms going off in the 1700 block of Eighth Street Northeast.

Police officers responded to the 700 block of 18th Street Northwest with Gold Cross Ambulance for a person who had fallen at home. The person was transported to Austin Medical Center.

An officer spoke with a person about threats in the Law Enforcement Center lobby.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the American Legion parking lot. There were no injuries.

Officers assisted Gold Cross on a medical call at the Twin Towers.

Officers assisted Gold Cross on a medical call in the 1400 block of Fourth Avenue Southeast.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in Kwik Trip parking lot. There were no injuries.

An officer checked the 2000 block of Fifth Avenue Southeast for people who were going door to door. No one was located.

Officers assisted Gold Cross on a medical call in the 600 block of Eighth Street Northwest.

A community service officer checked on the welfare of a cat that reportedly had been kicked.

A theft of fishing equipment was reported in the 800 block of Eighth Avenue Southeast.

A person reported that someone has been opening credit cards in their name without their knowledge or consent.

Harassment was reported in the 800 block of Oakland Avenue West.

Friday, June 19

Officers assisted the Austin Fire Department and Austin Utilities at Third Avenue and Second Street Northeast, where a gas line was hit by construction workers.

An officer fare check in the 16th Avenue N

Two cats were live trap and animal shelter

Property reported in the Street Northeast

Theft was 1400 block of east.

Threats w the 400 block of Northwest.

Monday, June 15

Adams responded to a the 800 block Street.

A person w warrant and felony forgery.

Police offic Cross Ambular call in the 300 Avenue North

A person the Law Enfor lobby for a mis

An officer check on a str

A white ca the pound after the 2200 block Northwest.

A person t on a warrant.

Officers ass on a medical block of Eight west.

Austin p departments w 100 block of 37

west to a repotial fire alarm canceled.

Officers ass at Austin Hig person who fel

Austin fire cers were call Elementary Sc

of a fire alarm canceled wh were en route.

A communi assisted a per person in a vehic

JUSTICE CENTER / FINANCES

# County board approves last of jail's bonding

## \$16.7 million

Amount of general obligation taxable jail bonds that the Mower County Board on Tuesday approved.

## 13 years

The term of the bonds to be issues.

## 4.74 percent

The final average interest rate the county will pay.

## \$21.75 million

The amount with interest that the financing option will cost the county before a federal reimbursement.

## \$19.97 million

The amount with interest that the financing option will cost the county after a federal reimbursement.

By Tim Ruzek  
truzek@postbulletin.com

Mower County leaders gave final approval Tuesday for a nearly \$16.7 million issuance for the justice center already under construction in downtown Austin.

With the plan, the county will issue \$16.66 million in general-obligation, taxable jail bonds to pay for the jail portion of the project.

The 13-year bond will have a 4.74 percent final average interest rate — 3.08 percent after the federal reimbursement, according to George Eilertson, of Northland Securities, a firm hired by the county to handle the project's financing.

County officials chose to use the new Build America Bonds program to get a reimbursement from the federal government for 35 percent of the jail bonds' interest. Through that program, the county expects to save nearly \$429,000 compared to tax-exempt bonds.

The federal reimbursement is expected to total nearly \$1.8 million.

Shortening the jail bonds from 20 to 13 years also will save the county about \$3.3 million, Eilertson said.

Overall the county is looking at spending roughly \$41 million in the next 20 years on the justice-center project, which involves three cleared blocks downtown. That figure includes the \$38.4 million in principal and interest for two bond issues as well as up to \$3 million in county reserve money.

In December, the county's Housing and Redevelopment Authority issued a 20-year, \$10 million lease-revenue bond for the courts portion of the project.

The county got a higher "AAA" bond rating this time compared to its "AA" rating because it's using the Minnesota County Credit Enhancement Program, which includes jail projects.

The county is looking at spending roughly \$2.5 million on debt service for the two bonds through 2021. That figure will be split in 2022 and hover around \$830,000 yearly until 2029.

This year, the county's tax levy increased 17.9 percent because it included a special levy to pay about \$2.5 million a year on the justice center's debt. That figure was based on \$32 million in bonding but construction bids came in low, leading to the current plan to borrow nearly \$26.7 million.

Overall, the justice center is budgeted to cost nearly \$29 million and be completed by August 2010. Construction began in April.

Some people have challenged the legality of the county issuing a second bond after contracts have been approved and construction has begun.

No one, however, attended Tuesday's meeting to raise further concerns.

County officials and advisers have said the county is following state law.

On this date:

In 1793, the first republican constitution in France was adopted.

# Hail Damage?

## Part of Hiawatha light-rail to shut

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Construction work will shut down part of the Hiawatha light-rail line in Minneapolis from 11 p.m. Friday to 3:30 a.m. Monday.

The line operated by Metro Transit runs between downtown Minneapolis and the Mall of America in Bloomington. Last year, it topped 10 million rides for the first time.

Metro Transit construction strengthening rail stations to accommodate car trains, as well as upgrades of inter-

While the line between will subsides the 46th and the Mall of America in Bloomington. Last year, it topped 10 million rides for the first time.

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◆ **Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** DLP: (PG-13): Wed.-Thurs. Only: 9:45 10:30 11:00 1:05 1:45 2:20 4:25 5:00 5:40 7:45 8:15 9:00 11:05 11:30

◆ **The Hangover: Part II** Fri.: 11:40 2:10 4:40 9:40 10:10 Sat.: 2:10 4:40 7:10 Sun.-Mon.: 11:40

## Ceremony celebrates placement of 125 more grave markers

10/6/2009 8:10:02 AM

Comments (1)

By Janice Gregorson

Post-Bulletin, Rochester MN

Another 125 grave markers have been placed at the old Rochester State Hospital cemetery, replacing the numbers on the unmarked graves with names.

A ceremony Sunday honored the people buried at the cemetery and celebrated the placement of the additional grave markers. Several hundred markers have been placed at the cemetery, in Quarry Hill Park, in the past three years.

Between 1866 and 1997, almost 13,000 Minnesotans living in state institutions were buried anonymously. That includes 2,019 at the former Rochester State Hospital cemetery. Of the 13,000, named gravestones have replaced the numbered markers at 5,050 gravesites.

The grave-marking project is the work of the Rochester State Hospital Cemetery Recognition Group, which teamed up with Remembering with Dignity, a project of the St. Paul-based Advocating Change Together. In 2006, the groups received a \$100,000 state grant to place 500 headstones.

An art project has been developed to help tell the stories of these forgotten lives, said Halle O'Falvey of Remembering With Dignity. She said the project begins in November and ends next May. The project will include 40 workshops of visual arts programming and historical research of the decedents.

*JEFF WAS interviewed by the Local TV station, KTRC NBC, and it ran on the evening news. regarding news. This project - Remembering with Dignity.*



### State hospital cemetery

In this October 2008 photo, John and Beth Thompson, members of the Rochester State Hospital Cemetery Recognition Group, stand among some of the first headstones that were installed to mark graves at the old state hospital cemetery. Their group's goal is to eventually mark all 2,019 graves at the site. File photo/Post-Bulletin

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### Related Articles

- Ceremony celebrates placement of 125 more grave markers



point to their least favorite. With 90 points, a \$9,000 funding request for the library's summer reading program was

She added that she hoped Friends of the Library donations would cover the increased costs by 2011, but would like the

keep costs low for students. **GRANTS, Page 9**  
Half of Todd Park trees were lost.

**Tim Rodgers**, of the Austin Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, was part of a three-man crew cutting down tornado-ravaged trees Monday at Todd Park. The city may request grants from the Hormel Foundation for tree replacement and inventory.

5

## Chicken hits the streets



**Renee Anderson**, left, of Anderson Memorials, buys tickets to the Austin Rotary Club 34th Annual Chicken Corn Feed from an oversized chicken Monday. The chicken (Eric Connett of Heartman Insurance) will be selling the tickets downtown today. The feed is from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today at St. Edward's Corcoran Center. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3-10. Proceeds benefit public and private school projects and scholarships.

Photo by **Katie Johnson**/katie.johnson@austindailyherald.com

# City tax increase could be lowered

## Council agrees they want a lower number

By **MIKE ROSE**  
mike.rose@austindailyherald.com

A proposed Austin city tax increase for homeowners could amount to about \$10 per year on an average \$102,000 house, lower than initially discussed.

Preliminary discussion of the city's 2010 budget Monday night largely focused on the proposed tax levy increase, and council members generally agreed they'd like to lower that number.

The proposed 4.59 percent increase would bring in an additional \$170,000 based on the 2009 levy and, along with a number of discussed budget cuts, would be a way for Austin to deal with \$876,833 that has been unallotted by Gov. Tim Pawlenty for 2010.

However, the city has some time to lower the increase if officials...

## Austin firefighters to fill

6



Oct 2009  
Home schooled kids came for a tour.  
about 6 kids + parents

GIANT PUMPKINS / AND THE WINNER IS ...

7

we donate.



Claire Bliese, 3, takes a closer look at one the giant pumpkins entered in the 10th annual Southern Minnesota Giant Pumpkin Weigh-off at Jim's SuperFresh on Saturday.

Nathan Howard, [nhoward@postbulletin.com](mailto:nhoward@postbulletin.com)

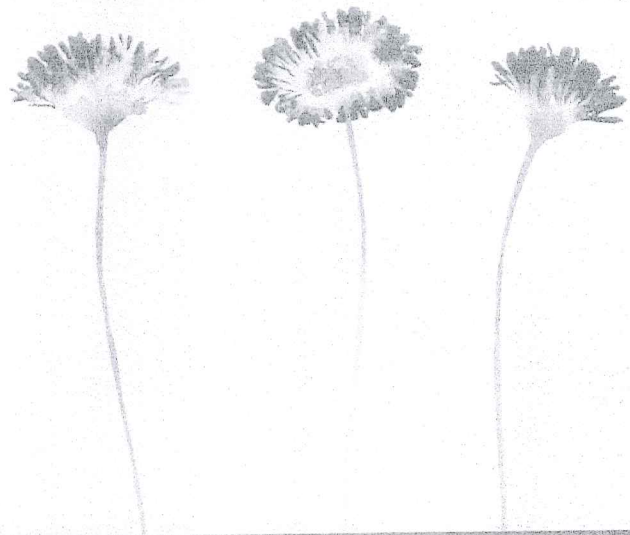
7/28/09

DEAREST RENEE' —

THANK YOU SO VERY VERY MUCH FOR THE PICTURES OF MOM & DAD'S MARKERS! (CY STADLER + MARY KAY THOMAS STADLER) DAD'S LOOKS BEAUTIFUL! I COPIED THE PICTURE AND SENT ONE EACH TO MY SISTER AND BROTHER. THEY ARE GOING TO BE SO HAPPY TO SEE THE FINISHED PRODUCT! THANK YOU ALSO FOR THE "OBIT" AND YOUR "WOW! WHAT A MAN" NOTATION — YES, HE WAS QUITE A MAN... AND, MULTIPLIED BY A MILLION... THAT MUCH OF A DAD TO US KIDS! I REALIZE THAT YOU DON'T GO TO THIS LENGTH AS A MATTER OF COURSE! YOU WENT WAY OUT OF YOUR WAY TO DO THIS FOR US! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DID WITH NONE OF US KIDS LIVING CLOSE BY! YOU HAVE BEEN SO PLEASANT AND PATIENT →

WITH ME!! I THANK YOU,  
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY  
HEART, FOR ALL YOU HAVE  
DONE!!

MOST VERY SINCERELY -  
YOUR COHORT FROM SO. GLENS  
FALLS, N.Y. ☺ - LYNN-MARIE LORMADY  
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8720 85<sup>th</sup> ST NW  
Pine Island, MN 55963  
September 13, 2009

Anderson Memorials INC.  
106 4<sup>th</sup> ST SW  
Austin, MN 55912

Dear Sirs:

A huge Thank You is in order to your firm for superior service rendered by the Anderson Rochester location. Once in a while, one encounters a business that is absolutely a jewel. Rochester Granite and Monument is in that category.

I approached Rochester Granite with an original design for a monument for my late husband. Kyle Larson worked and collaborated with me for a number of years on it. While respecting the creative elements, he improved it through his skills and knowledge of design details while remaining sensitive to price. Kyle exhibited such a strong desire and willingness to help me achieve my creative goals of a unique monument with grace and beauty in honoring my husband's life. The result is stunning in its elegance, everything I could have hoped for.

It was a pleasure to work with such an able employee and the whole Rochester business. Thanks to all of you for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Johnnie Sue Reed

Dear Jeff and Renee,

Thank you so much  
for the "special care" you  
gave to Glenn's grave marker.  
It is a beautiful work  
of art and a very, very  
special monument and it  
truly is lovely. Every  
day when I'm there, someone  
stops to say how beautiful  
it is. You and your  
hard workers did a great  
job and we love it so  
much.

Love,  
Lynda

Thank you  
so much  
for your  
thoughtfulness

Your employees  
made this  
difficult process  
easier & were  
so kind &  
patient. The



headstone  
looks good  
but is hard  
to see as the  
reality is just  
that much  
stronger - I love you  
all  
Shelby & Paul Nelson

"A  
SIMPLE  
ACT OF  
KINDNESS  
HAS A  
BEAUTY  
ALL IT'S  
OWN"