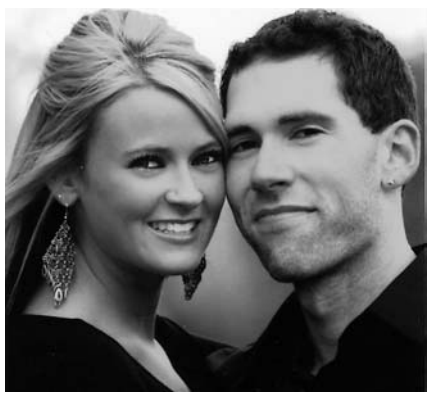
Weddings & Engagements



Emily Pearson

daughter of Steve and Julie O'Malley of St. Peter and the late Rick Pearson and Wendy Pearson of Mankato. A 2005 graduate of St. Peter High School and 2009 graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, she is employed by The Buckle in Ridgedale Mall as an assistant manager.

Brandon Buesgens

son of Tim and Laurie Buesgens of Norwood - Young America. A 2005 graduate of NYA High School and a 2009 graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, he is a student at Northwestern Chiropractic College in Bloomington.

An August 11, 2012 wedding is planned.

Celebrations

Marcella Johnston

MAPLETON - An open house is planned to honor Marcella Johnston of Mapleton for her 99th birthday on December 22. The open house will be held on Thursday, December 22 from 1:30 – 4 pm at the Mapleton Community Home. Greetings may be sent to: Marcella, c/o Mapleton Community Home, 301 Troendle Street, Box 337, Mapleton MN 56065

Anniversary, wedding and engagement policy

Engagement announcements should be to us at least one month prior to the wedding.

Engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements may be formatted in the style of those published in The Free Press and email to classified@mankatofreepress.com. Photos may be scanned, saved as a JPEG and sent electronically and email to: classified@ mankatofreepress.com. Forms for wedding, engagements and anniversary announcements are available on The Free Press website by going to www.mankatofreepress.com and clicking on the "contact us" box at the bottom of the home page. Those forms can be submitted electronically on that page.

In addition, printed forms for wedding, engagements and anniversaries are available for anyone preferring to use them. They may be obtained by stopping in The Free Press or writing to The Free Press Marketplace, PO Box 3287, Mankato MN 56001.

There is a $27.50 charge for wedding, engagements and anniversary announcements. Five copies of the newspaper will be provided with the order and newspapers must be picked up within five days of publication.

For more information, call 507-344-6395

Photo graphics submitted through mail with wedding, engagement and anniversary stories will be returned if a self-addressed, stamped envelop is included, or they may be picked up at The Free Press.

EXPERIENCES: 'Something time-starved people don't have is quality time with people they love'

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might not have thought about them," says Dan Hess, CEO of Dealradar.com, another site that aggregates deals.

Groupon, the biggest deal site, sold 650,000 of its "Grouponicus" deals — the name is an apparent play on the secular "Seinfeld" holiday of Festivus — in the four days after Thanksgiving, six times as many as last year. The company wouldn't give dollar amounts.

LivingSocial, the No. 2 deal site, sold more than 281,000 vouchers during the first three days of its "12 Days of Giving" promotion — about one and a half times what it sold last year. The number given as gifts has more than doubled.

For those ready to take the plunge, there are as many options for experience-giving as Santa has elves.

In New York, LivingSocial had a $100 deal for a wine-tasting and meatball-cooking class taught by the chef of Little Owl restaurant. It sold out in an hour. In Austin, Texas, Groupon offered a package of classes valued at $2,300 for $999. Included: a five-hour pyrotechnics workshop, a stunt driving course and hand-to-hand-combat training. In Toronto, it offered dog-sledding lessons for two for $74, half off.

While there's no way to tell how many of them were given as gifts, Sheri Bridges, a marketing professor at Wake Forest University, says experiences are the best gifts for the person who has everything.

"Something time-starved people don't have is quality time with people they love," she says.

Kevin O'Connor, 26, of Overland Park, Kan., found a spa massage on Groupon to give his girlfriend for Christmas. It normally goes for $132 but cost him $62. To add suspense, he plans to put the printed Groupon in a big box.

"She saw it on there but didn't want to buy it because it was some extra thing she didn't want to spend money on," he says.

Kristen Vannice bought her boyfriend flying lessons on a glider, a small plane that runs without power using air currents. For $99 from the Soaring Society of America, she got him a lesson, instruction materials and a few months' membership to a glider training group.

"He always talked about it kind of longingly, and I knew it was just the kind of thing he probably wouldn't get around to taking the initiative to do himself," says Vannice, 29, a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore. "We rarely pamper ourselves with nice or new experiences."

Still, as with any gift, givers of online daily deals have to proceed with caution.

They come with expiration dates, and if your brother keeps hectoring you about whether you've taken that hot air balloon ride, it can get awkward. Plus, you can always take a necktie back, but returning a day of zip-lining is tricky without a time machine.

And the deals are basically coupons, which can carry a stigma.

Names & Notables

SportPix

Santa leads the Fish House Parade down Third Avenue in St. Peter.

MSU Scholarships

The following students received scholarships from the Minnesota State University College of Business:

■ Richard and Leone Myers Finance Scholarship — Christopher Wilke of North Mankato, $400.

■ Hickory Tech Foundation Scholarship — Hannah Wasko of Mankato, $1,000.

■ CHS Foundation Scholarship — Victoria Hagen of Mankato, $1,000.

■ Dean Bowyer/Baseball Endowed Scholarship — Nick Kaus of North Mankato, $500.

The following International students received scholarships from the Minnesota State University College of Business for the 2011-2012 academic school year:

■ Elmer T. and Nina C. Anderson Endowed Scholarship — Natsua Asai, $725; Anuka Rodrigo, $725; Guanyu Ma, $725 Mohammad Khan, $725.

■ Gaber Abouelenein Scholarship — Kirill Graminschi, $1,000 .

■ Finance Faculty Student Scholarship — Sanjesh Kumar, $1,000.

■ B.H. and Betty Chesley Endowed Scholarship — Anisha Pant, $475.

Essentials of Orchestra Management

MANKATO — Mankato Symphony Orchestra's Executive Director Sara Buechmann was accepted into the Essentials of Orchestra Management program offered by the League of American Orchestras. Only 30 candidates are accepted each year based on leadership potential, application essays and letters of recommendations from other professionals in the field.

North Dakota State University

Hailey Colbrunn, daughter of Michael and Merilee Colbrunn of Mankato, was admitted to North Dakota State University "With Distinction" for fall 2012. Distinction means that NDSU is acknowledging Colbrunn as an honor student.

Study Abroad Programs

The following students are studying abroad during the fall 2011 semester through the Office for Education Abroad at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph and Saint John's University in Collegeville:

■ Andrew Thom, son of Jeff and Cindy Thom of North Mankato, is studying in Australia through St. Joseph and Saint John's University.

■ Gretchen Osdoba, daughter of Dan and Kris Osdoba of Mankato, is studying in the Greco-Roman program. Osdoba is a junior chemistry major at College of Saint Benedict.

■ Mary Weber, daughter of Frank and Connie Weber of Kasota, is studying in the Roman-Greco program. Weber is a junior sociology major at College of Saint Benedict.

Submitted photo

FFA Blue Jackets

LAKE CRYSTAL — Crystal Valley, together with Syngenta participated in a program through the National FFA Foundation for an opportunity to have an FFA jacket awarded to Nathan Hendel, a member of Nicollet HS FFA.

Syngenta issued a challenge: contribute $2,500 to the National FFA Foundation and Syngenta will match it. In recognition of each retailer's contribution, a local FFA chapter that has been designated will receive an official FFA blue jacket and a $500 check for the chapter.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization whose mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Welsh Association

The Board of Directors of the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association, Minnesota Welsh Association, elected the following persons and committee chairs for 2011-2012: President Marcia Richards, Mankato; Vice President Robert Williams, Vernon Center; Secretary Karen Wojahn, Windom; Treasurer Helen Balcome, Lake Crystal; Membership Steve Alinder, Le Sueur; Historian Shirley Grundmeier, Mankato; and Publicity Ellis Jones, St. Peter.

Essentials of Orchestra Management program

Mankato Symphony Orchestra's Executive Director Sara Buechmann was accepted into the Essentials of Orchestra Management program offered by the League of American Orchestras.

Admission is competitive and only 30 candidates are accepted each year based on leadership potential, application essays and letters of recommendations from other professionals in the field.

Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus

The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus placed second, 3 points out of first place, in "Harmony Internationals" 2011 Chapter Achievement Program. Each chapter was judged on Membership, Community, Chapter Management, Events/Contests, and Fulfillment. The Riverblenders score of 92 was the highest score in Community of the top ten chapters.

The Riverblenders have 52 members on its roster and have five active quartets that performed or competed over 60 times during the past year. The chorus has won the Southwest District Contest 14 different times and then competes at the District level.

North Dakota State University

Emily Karkoska, daughter of Robert and Nancy Karkoska of Mankato, has been admitted to North Dakota State University "With Distinction." She will enter NDSU in fall 2012. Distinction means that NDSU is acknowledging Karkoska as an honor student.

Marine Corps

Marine Corps Pvt. Marielle M. Schultz, daughter of Christine L. and Ronald V. Schultz of Easton, completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Katherine Ann Ingman of Mankato graduated in December, 2011, from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Attention

82% of U.S. adults used a preprinted insert in the past 30 days in 2009. On average, adults keep inserts 3.8 days. Uses include 59% used to compare prices, 55% used to compare one circular to another, 52% saved until visiting the store, 43% showed it to a spouse, friend or family member, 43% used to make an unplanned purchase, 42% took it to the store with them.

Sources: Scarborough 2008; MORI Research 2009.

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