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FARIBAULT

# Daily News

FEBRUARY 23, 2003

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## School to Work program runs out of time, funding

**Federal grant helped students learn about careers**

By JON MINNICK  
 Staff Writer

FARIBAULT — A half million dollars later, it's done. But its impact remains. The Faribault / Medford / Northfield School to Work Partnership began with grants from the Clinton administration in the mid-1990s. After educators, students and businesses worked together to improve student awareness about careers, funding officially ran out Dec. 31, 2002. However,

Becky Weiss, the coordinator of the program, said she hopes its effects will live on.

"It was great," Weiss said. "We got a lot accomplished and hopefully those things will continue."

Through the partnership, educators and businesses cooperated, looking at a number of factors that could help students learn about careers. Weiss said much of the money that came to the program was spent on career exploration.

"We spent a bulk of our money on that, Making sure schools had a career exploration program," Weiss said. "We spent oodles of money to take students to career fairs. We sent thousands of kids places."

Weiss said that over the course of the program, Faribault, Medford and Northfield received over \$500,000 directed toward improving students' knowledge about careers and career possibilities. The money was much-needed, Weiss said, as students were not being educated in career possibilities and how those possibilities could be realized.

"The kids didn't have a long-term plan," she said. "We really had to do more with career awareness. The kids needed to start in eighth and ninth grade, not that they needed to decide, but the information is out there."

The funding for the program was on a temporary basis, and

Weiss said she knew it would run out. A goal of the School-to-Work Partnership was to establish programs that would exist after its funding ended.

"The gist was to get (programs) in place and let them keep going," Weiss said. "We knew from the get-go that the money was going to go away. We tried to get as many things in place as we could before that happened."

Weiss said the program accomplished a "huge amount" with the money and time available.

"We made more connections for kids and gave more opportunities for them to see what they wanted to do," Weiss said. "Some wonderful things came out of it."



Becky Weiss reflects on her time as the School to Work Partnership coordinator recently. Funding for the program ran out. (Hans Madsen / Daily News)



A group of Cannon Old West Society members head down the parade route. (Hans Madsen / Daily News)

## Parade, sun warm chilly Kenyonites

By JON MINNICK  
 Staff Writer

KENYON — The sunny side of Second Street in Kenyon was standing room only.

Although cold weather and blustery winds chilled the town, die-hard fans of the Don Knopf Memorial Carriage and Cutter Parade bundled up Saturday and enjoyed over 60 parade entries of horse-drawn carriages and sleighs on wheels.

Most spectators strategically positioned themselves on the sunny north side of Kenyon's main business street. The south side of the street was in shade from the buildings, sheltering only the bravest of the parade observers.

This year's parade is the 24th annual Carriage and Cutter Parade. Don Knopf, who died in 1991, founded the parade. After Knopf's death, the town honored Knopf by naming the parade after him.

Carriages participating in the parade traveled from across Minnesota and from as far as Wisconsin. Ginger Petersen, who grew up in Kenyon, traveled even farther to see the parade.

"I came all the way from North Dakota," Petersen said. "I wouldn't miss it."

Monica Livers, who said she is a "proud Kenyonite returned," also grew up in Kenyon and traveled from Eagan to see the parade.

Petersen and Livers were shivering alongside Jenny Brunette of Kenyon, but they still had full intentions of toughing out the parade to see the large variety of carriages and horses traveling through downtown Kenyon.

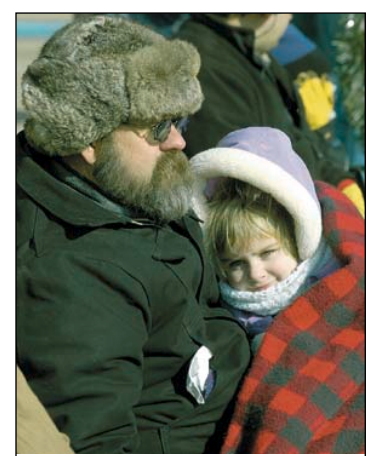
"It's freezing," Brunette said. "That wind is raw."

The three recalled parades from their childhood, when the streets were covered in snow and the sleighs could run without being propped up on wheels. Even with Saturday afternoon temperatures in the 20s, the streets were dry.

Nathan Nelson, a teacher at the School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley, traveled to Kenyon as part of a study of rural Minnesota.

"Being a small-town guy who now lives in the suburbs, I'm pretty much a sucker," Nelson said. "When I heard about this, it didn't take me long to decide — it sounded like a lot of fun."

Kenyon's parade is unique in that it doesn't allow motorized vehicles. Any entrant in the parade must be drawn by horses or other animals. Bryan Hagen, who co-chaired the parade with his wife Mary, announced the parade entrants as they strolled, one-by-one, down Second Street.



Mike Kindseth holds his granddaughter Sidney Chester Saturday afternoon as they watch the Kenyon Carriage and Cutter parade. (Hans Madsen / Daily News)



Sterling and Heather Sibley head home after the parade, living only a few miles out of town, they rode their parade entry to and from the parade. (Hans Madsen / Daily News)

## County DFL working to change perceptions



Jim Molkenbur makes a point Saturday morning during a Rice County DFL meeting held at the Faribault Community Center. (Hans Madsen / Daily News)

By JON MINNICK  
 Staff Writer

FARIBAULT — Despite a sparse turnout, Rice County Democrat-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party leaders discussed the party's direction Saturday morning.

The leaders invited a small group of Faribault citizens to attend an informal meeting at the Faribault Community Center, covering what the party has done, is doing and what it needs to do. Although Faribault citizens didn't show support in attendance, they did show economic support of the work the party is doing locally, according to Rice County DFL Chair Steve McKelvey.

The meeting was held as part of a fundraising and informational series. McKelvey said the party has received \$1,600 in contributions to support the series of meetings. The series is intended to break down stereotypes and provide a mouth-piece for DFLers county-wide.

"We're not all far-left liberals," McKelvey said. The series can help to "fight knee-jerk reactions that less government is better government."

Rice County DFL Treasurer Sandy Molkenbur agreed with McKelvey.

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**TUESDAY**



**Budget hearing...**  
**Faribault School Board**  
**presents its trimmed budget**  
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**Watch For It Tuesday!**