

Austin Post-Bulletin



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Who knew Tommy Lee
had feelings? » **B6**



SCHOOL REGISTRATION



Missy Cline prepares her daughter Adi for a school photo Wednesday during school registration at Austin High School.

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GARBAGE HAULERS

Garbage options compact

Best Disposal was in city for 2 years

By Kay Fate
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A local garbage hauler has been sold to a giant in the business.

Best Disposal owners Don and Dori Hagen said family reasons led to the decision to sell their two-year-old business to Waste Management, effective Aug. 1.

"The decision was a very hard one," Don Hagen said Wednesday. "We grew it from zero, and we had continued growth right up to the end. We've been looking at 40-41 percent growth" since the business opened in April 2010.

Working part-time at UPS in Owatonna, then finishing up the day at Best Disposal was simply consuming too much of his time, he said.

"I had to prioritize things. I'm a week old in it today," he said of the sale, "and I'm content with it. I'm sad, but I feel like I made the right decision, to be able to spend more time with my family and explore a full-time career with UPS."

Hagen doesn't anticipate a change in the level of service his 1,350 customers have come to expect.

The one full-time employee will remain in the office for another two weeks as the transition is completed.

The other two employees, both part-time, "won't continue employment with Waste Management," he said.

Julie Ketchum, director of government affairs for Waste Management, confirmed the deal Wednesday.

"Waste Management is proud to serve the Best customers," she said, adding that the company plans to maintain the same business hours and will honor Best's new customers' current rates for at least a year.

"Best is a very small waste hauling company," Ketchum said. "It matches and fits in nicely with the current market (in Austin) for our company; it augments a foundation that Waste Management already has in the community."

The deal "was a good fit for Waste Management, a good fit for Best," she said. "We look forward to serving the customers in the Austin area."

Though Waste Management provides service in Austin, it doesn't have a facility here; Ketchum was unsure where additional trucks needed would come from. The company has sites in Rochester, Clarks Grove and Owatonna.

Waste Management Inc. posted \$13.4 billion in revenues in 2011, serving nearly 20 million residential, industrial, municipal and commercial customers.

The local phone number, 433-9489, will remain during the transition.

'E' is for expeditious

By Heather Rule
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It's year No. 3 for mass registration Wednesday and today for all students

on the regular schedule in Austin Public Schools. Lines formed and often moved quickly as families arrived at Austin High School to turn in forms, fund lunch accounts and take school pictures.

"People are really getting this," said administrative assistant Sharon Alms.

Here's how registration went for one family Wednesday:

• **12:10 p.m.** Corrine Hjelm and two children, fourth-grader Carson and second-grader Emily, enter a short line at the starting point in the gym lobby. It's the first stop on the family's way to dotting all the 'i's and crossing all the 't's.

"This year the line's not as long," Hjelm said. "I think now that they kind of have the system down, it just looks more efficient."

• **12:11 p.m.** The Hjelmens are helped at station No. 1 by Alms, who collects blue re-enrollment forms for the two students, then hands the family a school calendar and phone directory. The Hjelmens get the same parting greeting Alms has been giving many families: "Have a good school year."

• **12:12 p.m.** For many, station No. 2 is food services, where parents can load lunch accounts with money. Hjelm is ahead of the game, having taken care of this online, so the family skips this part.

• **12:14 p.m.** Hjelm and her kids walk a gymnasium with all of the elementary school tables. Carson and Emily attend Neveln Elementary School, a table with no line.

"Oh look, the Neveln table's empty," Hjelm said. "Let's go right over there."

At the Neveln table, there are a few items to accomplish. The first priority is for Carson and Emily to find out who their teachers are going to be. Carson will be in Linda Dolan's class, and Emily in Janene Lunning's classroom.

There is a quick turn-in of health forms, followed by the payment of student fees. While his mom takes care of that, Carson picks which colored strap he wants for his recorder.

• **12:18 p.m.** The Hjelmens' business at the Neveln table is complete. Last on the list is to get school pictures taken. Each elementary station has a Lifetouch photo booth. There is no line at the Neveln photo table. Both kids get their pictures taken quickly.

• **12:26 p.m.** Registration is completed for the Hjelmens.

"I think we lucked out," Corrine Hjelm said. "We were here for over an hour last time, so we're not complaining."

MOWER COUNTY FAIR

Day care kids use outdoor voices at fair

By Heather Rule
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The sky looked like it might rain mid-morning Wednesday at the Mower County Fairgrounds, but the rain held off and the sun shone down on activities for Day Care Day at the fair.

Fair Square was filled with kids running around, playing games and watching Bubbles the Clown make balloon swords, dogs and hats.

Discovery Learning Center in Austin brought about 35 youngsters to the Mower County Fair.

"They have been talking about it for days," said Deanna Weis, preschool teacher at

Discovery Learning Center. "You can see the excitement. They want to run from one thing to another."

The large group got to the fairgrounds just before 10 a.m. Along with the special activities, the Discovery kids also went through some of the buildings and had a chance to look at some of the animals.

Day Care Day is an annual event at the fair. As Day Care Day coordinator for the fair, Dawn Mueller sends invitations to licensed day cares in Mower County. About 210 kids were registered this year, which is pretty good, she said.

"So we have quite a group here," Mueller said. "A lot of

mingling. They stick around for awhile.

"Usually the ones that are here are back year after year."

New this year, Mueller sent a coloring page to the day cares, which were returned once they got the artful touches from kids. The pages are displayed in the Plager Building.

Local 4-H groups help run games and hand out prizes. The fair board treats kids to train rides. At picnic tables, kids could color or have fun with temporary tattoos.

Possibly the yummiest highlight is the pizza and beverages the kids get, all free of charge. The event is sponsored by the Austin Police Officers Association.

tion, the Mower County Fair, Sampson Dairy and Godfather's Pizza.

"It's just a nice outing," Mueller said.

Vanessa Payne came from LeRoy with six of her day care kids. They were all dressed in pink, except for her son, who was wearing orange. Payne said she only brings kids ages 4 and up, and they enjoy some of the rides. They also stopped at the animal buildings.

The kids were raring to go Wednesday morning before they left.

"Oh, yeah," Payne said. "They could hardly contain their excitement."

Additional coverage page A4



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Braeden Hahn, 6, tumbles through an inflatable obstacle course set up by Camp Victory, of Zumbro Falls, on Wednesday at the Mower County Fairgrounds in Austin.

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Melvin Hackenmiller, Stacyville, Iowa
Clara Prestegard, Riceville, Iowa
Bruce Rinn Sr., Rochester
Earl Weiland, Virginia Beach, Va.

Weather A6

Friday

74
49 6 a.m. 52° Noon 69° 6 p.m. 73°

Corrections

The Post-Bulletin is committed to fairness and accuracy. If you have a concern, contact Managing Editor Jay Furst at 285-7742 or furst@postbulletin.com.

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Punchline A2

Curiosity killed the cat.

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Austin, Minnesota
Volume 87, No. 190
12 pages

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