

LAWSUIT

➤ continued from A1

did not place Schneider in a locked jail cell after she turned herself in on a warrant for drunken driving while at the time obviously intoxicated. In addition, it states she was left in a locked common area, which includes two cells, and booking procedures “which includes elements essential to prisoner safety and security” were not completed by jail staff.

The complaint also states video surveillance of the area in which Schneider was placed shows actions

she took early on which would be considered a security breach in any correctional institution.

The court document continues that Schneider in about two hours makes five phone calls, passes notes and talks through a slot in the door to whom are assumed to be jail staff. During that time she also walks back and forth between the two cells, and eventually takes a sheet and chair from one of the cells, secures the sheet on the automatic door closing mechanism near the top of the door, moves the chair, sits on it, and then stands on it for one minute and

kicks the chair out from under her.

The document says she was cut down after 14 minutes by International Falls police officer Perryn Hedlund who, along with jail staff, responded after being alerted by Andy Jespersen when he looked into the area she was being held and saw her hanging.

Schneider was taken to Rainy Lake Medical Center at about 10:09 p.m., at which time her blood showed she was intoxicated, states the complaint. She was airlifted to a Duluth hospital where she died five days later.

The complaint argues jail staff had previously

been alerted to Schneider’s mental health issues and her risk of suicide, but did not conduct an assessment of her mental state, medical or medication status, or search her when she came to the jail that night.

The complaint also states The Minnesota Department of Corrections investigated Schneider’s death and found several violations of the rules and county jail policy.

Sarah Latuseck, with the Department of Corrections media resources, told The Journal the DOC “DOC does not investigate in-custody deaths in Minnesota jails. Jails typically use an outside law enforcement agency

to perform death investigations. The DOC’s role is to evaluate that all of the Chapter 2911 rules were followed. Part of this may include reviewing the investigation, if one has been conducted.”

Latuseck provided The Journal a copy of a letter sent April 11 by Greg Croucher, senior detention facility inspector with DOC, to Sheriff Jespersen after DOC reviewed documentation, video footage and a walkthrough of the jail regarding Schneider’s death.

The letter said there were several violations of the Chapter 2911 rules as well as jail policy. The letter states well-being checks were not

completed appropriately: The staff member responsible scanned the sensor on the outside of the housing unit but did not enter the cell block or look inside the cell block window to visually observe Schneider. The letter said the law requires all inmates be personally observed at least every 30 minutes. Instead, said the letter, jail logs show seven well-being checks in the two hours and 20 minutes preceding Schneider’s death.

In addition, the letter said well-being checks in the jail have not been in compliance with rules and policy for the last three inspections.



KEDA member Bob Anderson, left, and KEDA Chair Alan Rasmussen listen as SBDC business consultant Jenny Herman, right, addresses the KEDA Wednesday.

KEDA

➤ continued from A1

Of those 81 clients, 18 were pre-venture, which Herman said are clients who are interested in starting a new business or purchasing an existing business. She’s spent 145 hours advising and working with those clients in the same time period, she said.

In her work with clients, Herman said she’s been able to help them obtain \$396,000 in commercial loans, and raise \$41,000 in equity capital. She also helped two clients get approved for \$5,000 grants from the Koochiching Community Development Association.

Herman has also been active in continuing education for the business community, and held a Quickbooks workshop, as well as a succession planning workshop. Herman is planning an exporting workshop for Dec. 9, which will feature importing and exporting officials from both sides of the U.S.-Canada border.

“I think we’ve got a lot of opportunities to increase our sales by exporting to Canada, both goods and services,” Herman said.

The Junior Achievement program is at 100 percent participation rate at Falls High School, Herman said, and is in 17 classrooms in kindergarten through fifth grade.

“I think that will be fairly easy to coordinate this year, although I haven’t really started matching up volunteers with classrooms yet, but that’s on my list of things to do,” Herman said.

The Junior Achievement program is a national non-profit organization dedicated to teaching students in kindergarten through grade 12 about entrepreneurship and financial literacy, according to the program’s website.

The program has provided almost \$40,000 in materials to the Falls School District, Herman said. In order to help defer the costs of the program, Herman worked with Junior Achievement to secure a \$5,000 KCDA grant.

“That was very, very help-

ful, and Junior Achievement was very happy with that,” Herman said.

In other business, KEDA Director Paul Nevanen provided an update on the vacant Northome Care Center, which had recently had a potential new owner looking at renovating and reopening the building as an assisted living facility.

However, a recent estimate of construction costs was more than 30 percent higher than an estimate from last year, Nevanen said. Because of this increased cost, the potential owner has decided not to pursue the facility.

“She came to the conclusion that it’s not cost-effective to do it this way,” Nevanen said. “Plus there were some mold issues that they discovered.”

In addition to that setback, Nevanen said the current building owners won’t heat it this winter, which could create more issues for the building.

“I don’t know at this point in time where we’re going to go with this,” Nevanen said. “But it’s frustrating that it couldn’t happen.”

MMR

➤ continued from A1

“We’re kind of in the middle of the pack, so there’s room for improvement, which is always the case,” Grover said. “The next step is to focus on improvement.”

The MMR ratings system replaced the No Child Left Behind requirements in 2012, and ranks schools on proficiency in math and reading, growth from year-to-year, and achievement gap reduction in categories such as students on free and reduced lunch, or minority populations. High schools are also ranked on graduation rate.

In the Littlefork-Big Falls School District, elementary students produced an MMR of 74.26 percent, which gives them a “celebration eligible” designation for the second year in a row.

According to the MDE, “celebration eligible” schools rank in the 60-85 percentile in terms of scores, with the highest-performing 15 percent of schools designated as “reward” schools. Schools with the “celebration eligible” designation can apply to be named a “celebration” school.

L-BF interim superintendent Chris Bachmeier said he was very pleased about his schools’ scores, especially with their “celebration eligible” designation. However, he said they won’t be resting on their laurels.

“I’m very happy, the kids and the teachers both work hard,” Bachmeier said. “We’re pleased, but we’re never satisfied. We still have to make strides, but we’re happy with where we are.”

This year, 217 schools were classified as “celebration eligible,” and 131 were designated as “reward” schools.

The L-BF secondary students scored an MMR of 68.91 percent, slightly below 2013’s MMR of 77.59 percent.

How area schools performed

<b>MMR rating:</b> The Multiple Measurement Rating gauges proficiency, student growth, achievement gap reduction and graduation rates on a percentage scale of zero to 100.		
<b>Designation:</b> Schools designated as “reward” schools were among the highest-performing 15 percent in the state, and “celebration eligible” schools are in the 60 to 85 percentile, just below reward schools. Celebration eligible schools have the opportunity to apply to become a celebration school.		
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<b>International Falls .....2014 MMR.....Designation</b>		
<b>School District</b>		
Falls Elementary .....	51.55.....	None
Falls High School .....	71.29.....	None
<b>Littlefork-Big Falls School District</b>		
L-BF Elementary .....	74.26.....	Celebration Eligible
L-BF High School .....	68.91.....	None
<b>South Koochiching-Rainy River School District</b>		
Indus Elementary .....	45.72...	Continuous Improvement
Indus High School .....	51.13.....	None
Northome Elementary .....	37.98...	Continuous Improvement
Northome High School .....	61.78.....	None
Source: Minnesota Department of Education		

Scores saw a slight decline in the South Koochiching-Rainy River School District as well, which consists of Indus and Northome schools.

Indus Elementary students scored an MMR of 45.72 percent, a slight decrease from 2013’s MMR of 51.79. This gives Indus Elementary a “continuous improvement” designation, which are the bottom 25 percent of schools that have not already been identified as “priority” or “focus.”

Indus Elementary earned a “continuous improvement” designation in 2013 as well.

Indus secondary students scored an MMR of 51.13 percent, a slight decrease from 2013, when the MMR was 54.77 percent.

In Northome, elemen-

tary students produced an MMR of 37.98 percent, a slight decrease from 2013’s MMR of 38.9 percent. Northome Elementary earned a “continuous improvement” designation, as was the case in 2013.

Northome Secondary students scored an MMR of 61.78 percent, a slight increase over 2013’s MMR of 60.82 percent.

Multiple messages seeking comments on the district’s scores from superintendent Martin Avelsgaard were not returned.

Under Minnesota’s waiver from No Child Left Behind, the state set goals to reduce achievement gaps by 50 percent by 2017 and to reach a 90 percent graduation rate by 2020.

Littlefork Medical Center Welcomes  
Dr. Adam Kakar  
As Their Medical Director and Primary Care Physician



Dr. Kakar received his medical degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency at Long Beach Medical Center in New York. He is Board Certified in Family Practice.

“We are excited to have Dr. Kakar join our practice to help meet the primary healthcare needs of our surrounding area.”

-Mike Anderson, CEO  
Littlefork Medical Center



To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kakar, please call:  
(218) 278-6634, ext. 141  
912 Main Street, Littlefork, MN 56653

VOTE PERRYN HEDLUND  
NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>



“I promise to work hard for the residents of Koochiching County. I will build upon the relationships I have already established and will lead by example. With a young family, I am motivated to provide a secure future for Koochiching County.”

Visit my website:  
**www.20ph14.com**

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