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Austin Daily Herald

www.austindailyherald.com

Friday, July 10, 2015



Sports:
Austin Legion loses first home game, Page 10

Getting paddles in the river

Canoe rental service to start Wednesday

By Alex Smith
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Austin native Brian Pirmantgen has enjoyed canoeing and the outdoors all his life, and now he wants to share that joy with others.

The Cedar River Canoe and Kayak Rental Service will be-

Rentals at the Nature Center

The Jay C. Hormel Nature Center also rents out kayaks and canoes as well for use on Dobbin's Creek to East Side Lake.

Rentals are available Monday through Saturday for \$10 for up to three hours.

Punch cards are also available to receive five canoe or kayak rentals for half the fee.

Patrons are responsible for transport to and from the pond or Dobbin's Creek. Rentals are first-come, first-served, and reservations are not available.

gin to rent equipment out of Brian and his wife, Dorothy's, home next Wednesday.

"I want to get more people to enjoy the river," Brian said.

Brian previously rented canoes from Rent N' Save, but after they stopped carrying the equipment he wanted, he decided it'd be easier to buy them himself. He started off

with just a couple boats, but has increased his collection to three canoes, two kayaks, and a paddle boat.

See **RENTAL**, Page 12



Brian Pirmantgen stands with his fleet of kayaks, a paddle boat and canoes that will soon be available for rent. Eric Johnson/photodesk@austindailyherald.com

A rain of knowledge



Erick Hernandez, left, of Austin and Dakota Robinson of Hayfield assemble a water-filtration unit as part of Project E3 Thursday at I.J. Holton Intermediate School. Photos by Eric Johnson/photodesk@austindailyherald.com

Students learn about water conservation through school collaboration program

By Jenae Hackensmith
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Eleven-year-old Leon Kong of Albert Lea has spent many summer days so far this year learning all about water.

"Mainly I'm learning a lot about water and how we should conserve it, because that's what our summer's been about, water," Leon said. "But I've been just learning about the things we do to help water and just learning more about the world."

Leon is one of about 75 students participating in Project E3 this year — Environment and Engineering Sciences for Everyone — located at I.J. Holton Intermediate School. Students from five dis-

"I'd love for them to become more community scientists and advocate for environmental sciences in their own community."

— David Wolff

Gifted and Talented teacher and coordinator

tricts — Austin, Albert Lea, Southland, Lyle and Hayfield — come together for the program Monday through Thursday during the summer and once a month during the school year to participate in the program. There is a three-year theme of conservation, and this

year's theme is all about water.

"We're getting ready to make our projects, and everybody's making different projects," Leon said. "And we're making a dam that can hold back water."

See **PROGRAM**, Page 11



Right, going clockwise: Lily Martin, 10, of Austin, Anna Gil of Albert Lea and Josanne Tempel of Hayfield work on a set design.

Burglars swipe electronics while homeowners were sleeping

By Trey Mewes
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An Austin family is missing several cell phones and laptops after burglars broke into their home while they were asleep.

Police Capt. Dave McKichan said homeowners at the 1400 block of Eighth Street Northeast reported the burglary took place between 12:30 and 6 a.m. Friday, while at least four family members slept.

Burglars allegedly entered through an unlocked back door and took three cell phones and two laptops, according to McKichan.

Anyone with information on the burglary is encouraged to call law enforcement at 507-437-9400 or use the anonymous online app Tip411.com under austinpd.

MNsure billing woes frustrate, worry consumers

By Mark Zdechlik
MPR (90.1) News

Ongoing technical problems at MNsure mean thousands of Minnesotans have not received a single bill for their MinnesotaCare health coverage this year.

Officials say technical glitches that prevented billing for 24,000 MinnesotaCare policies have finally been resolved. But the problems have left some Minnesotans frustrated and worried about big bills that may be coming soon.

Anna Lucas said she hasn't received a bill for her health plan all year and was told not to pay her \$50 monthly premiums until she received a notice from MNsure. That's never come.

See **MNSURE**, Page 12

Solberg hired as rec coordinator

By Rocky Hulne
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Jared Solberg was looking to get back to Minnesota, and he was able to make his return thanks to the Austin Park and Recreation Department.

Solberg, a native of Silver Bay, Minnesota, had spent the last four years in Williston, North Dakota, working as a recreation coordinator for two years and a recreation supervisor for two years. In April, he began work as the recreation supervisor in Austin, replacing Val Pitzen.

"My wife and I wanted to get back to Minnesota, so I applied for this job and I got hired," Solberg said.



Jake Solberg has been hired as the Recreation Supervisor, filling the role previously held by Val Pitzen. Eric Johnson/photodesk@austindailyherald.com

See **SOLBERG**, Page 12

In Sunday's Herald: Read about how the recent spate of burglaries differ from previous years.

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1 Peter 4:13

