

DOCUMENTARY: Next step is to edit footage

Continued from Page E1

film near military installations or bases or near police stations or checkpoints. Otherwise, absolutely no worries. Colombia is safer now than it has been in at least a decade. The current administration has really pushed the rebels far into the jungle, and the war is almost completely unnoticed to the common traveler.”

They’ve met ordinary Colombians and indigenous people displaced by the civil war; filmed Shaman rituals; and explored the rain forest, coffee regions, hot springs, waterfalls, large cities and small villages. They’ve been dumped into a river when their boat overturned and spent 17 sweltering hours on a bumpy bus ride where fields were all they could see.

“(Recently) we went into some really poor neighborhoods with some college students who are doing something similar to Habitat For Humanity,” he said.

Tanner said Americans have much to learn from the Colombians, who are reportedly some of the happiest people in the world.

“Tranquillo, amigo,” that means ‘Relax, friend,’ and in Colombia it is more of a mantra and has a deeper meaning that cannot be completely defined by

words alone.”

He illustrated his point by mentioning the unorganized traffic.

“It has a Zen-like flow, and one feels no stress. Taxis and dump trucks weave in and out of busy traffic like water flows over ice,” he said. “I defy anyone to find a Colombian driver yelling at someone who cut him off. It just doesn’t happen. People stop their cars on one-lane streets to say hello to a friend. Everyone behind just waits. ... There are no dirty looks given as you pass by.”

The next step for the filmmakers is to edit the footage and one of Dickenson’s friends will take care of that. Film festivals such as Banff Mountain in Canada will be the outlets for the completed work.

“People always tell you what you can’t do and why you can’t do it,” he said. “That is not right. If you have a dream, you should go for it. Even if your dreams don’t exactly work out the way you planned, you will at least always know that you tried, and pursuing your dreams will eventually lead you to what you really want to do, anyway, even if you never knew exactly what you wanted. ... It seems to me that a person regrets the things they don’t do more than the things they do.”

BRIEFS

Drive to raise money for wheelchairs

MANKATO — The Eagles Club will hold an aluminum tabs and recyclable aluminum event to raise funds for wheelchairs for children from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday at the Eagles Club.

Money raised will go to purchase wheelchairs for children at the Shriners Hospital. Donation may be sent to: Mankato Eagles Aerie No. 269, c/o Debra Johnson, 708 N. Riverfront Drive, Mankato, MN 56001.

Scholarships for youth with diabetes

MANKATO — Immanuel St. Joseph’s Foundation is offering scholarships for young people with diabetes interested in attending summer camp.

Scholarships are available for children age 5 to 16 who live in Blue Earth, Waseca, Watonwan, Nicollet, Le Sueur, and Brown counties. Application deadline is May 15. For a scholarship application, contact Jill Henry at 385-4732.

EXPLORE MN

Southern Minnesota

The Pioneer Power Showgrounds, located just east of Le Sueur, will be the site of the 31st annual Pioneer Power Swap Meet today. This is the largest event of its type in the United States, with over 1,000 vendors offering antique machinery, farm collectibles, flea market items and crafts. Featured in 2008 will be M, Super M, and MTA IH tractors, and Wheel Horse tractors. (507) 931-2296 or visit www.pioneerpowershow.com.

The 8th annual Bluff Country Studio Art Tour will conclude today at studios located in the hills and valleys of southeastern Minnesota’s Bluff Country region. In addition to an abundance of fine art, visitors will enjoy bead-making, wood-carving and pottery demonstrations. Galleries located in Harmony, Spring Grove, Lanesboro and Winona will also participate. (800) 428-2030 or visit www.bluffcountryarttour.com.

Various locations within and near the cities of Madison and Marietta will be the site of the Salt Lake Birding Weekend today, with birders from around the country visiting Salt Lake and the surrounding area to view over 125 species of migrating birds. And, the Lac qui Parle Fairgrounds, located in Madison, will be the site of the 2nd annual Lac qui Parle Outdoor Expo today. This family-oriented event is designed to increase awareness of the relationships between people, wildlife and a healthy environment, and to raise awareness of Western Minnesota’s vast resources. Highlights

include nature, hunting and conservation exhibits, as well as educational seminars, activities and presentations. (320) 598-7301 or visit www.prairiewaters.com.

The annual 100-Mile Garage Sale will be held Friday through Sunday, May 4, with garage sales at thirteen communities located all around Lake Pepin. Sales start early Friday morning, and end each day at 5:00 p.m. Maps showing registered sales can be found at some area convenience stores. www.mississippi-river.org/garage.html or call (877) 525-3248.

German Park in the city of New Ulm will be the site of Mai Fest on Saturday. This German May festival features an outdoor play, Renaissance Faire, games and vendors. There will also be other activities held throughout New Ulm, including a Kid’s Mai Fest Fun Run, and the Putting Green Environmental Adventure Park season opener. (507) 354-8221 or visit www.newulm.com.

The 7th annual Wings on the Prairie will be held Saturday at the Windom Wetland Management District in the city of Windom, to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. Featured will be Early Riser’s bird walks, Prairie Ecology Bus Center activities, a Bluebird Recovery Program, “Remarkable Reptiles,” a Trumpeter Swan release, Bison Burger lunch, raffle drawings, and children’s activities, including wood duck house building, duck stamp coloring, wetland critter exploration, and nature hike bingo. (507) 831-2220 or visit <http://midwest.fws.gov/windom>.

ROUND THE TOWN

MONDAY
Alcoholics Anonymous (Mankato area) — 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., Lute’s Travel (downstairs), Mankato; 10:30 a.m., Summit Center; Noon, Messiah Lutheran Church; 7 p.m. Women in Recovery, AA Club, Le Center; 8 p.m., Fifth Ave., 1430 Fifth Ave., Mankato; 8 p.m., St. Anne’s School, N. Fourth St., Le Sueur. For more information, call 388-8989.

Alcoholics Anonymous (St. Peter area) — 8 p.m., Church of the Holy Communion. Closed meeting. For more information, call 931-9380.

Diabetes Education Support Group — 7 p.m.,

Immanuel St. Joseph’s Hospital, lower level conference center. For more information, call (507) 385-2651. 7 p.m., Waseca Medical Center, new conference room. For more information, call (507) 837-2651.

Duplicate Bridge — 1 p.m., Jerry Dutler’s Bowl, North Mankato. For more information, contact Henry at 387-2463.

Gamblers Anonymous — 7 p.m., Lower level of Belgrade Ave. Methodist Church, North Mankato. For more information, call 257-3772 or 933-8451.

Heart-to-Heart Support Group — 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Immanuel St. Joseph’s lower level conference cen-

ter room 310. An educational program for people with heart disease. For more information, call (507) 385-2607.

Kiwanis Club — 12:05 p.m., Holiday Inn.

Life-Work Planning Center — 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Union Square Business Center, 201 N. Broad St., Suite 100, Mankato. Personal growth and career development for displaced homemakers and other women in transition. For more information, call Marlene at 345-1577 or (800) 369-5166.

Mankato Area Jaycees — 7 p.m., Tav on the Ave. For more information, call 327-0377.

Sertoma Club — Noon,

Happy Chef. For more information, call 625-8392.

St. Peter Senior Center — 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. PALS, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. health insurance, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. N.A.P.S.

Summit Center — 1 p.m. Summit Singers.

Support Group for Women — 6 p.m., St. Peter. For victims of sexual abuse. Call Sue at 934-2222.

TOPS — 6:15 p.m., weight in; 6:30 p.m., meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Call Sally at 388-6152.

If your group is not listed, or there are changes to your group listing, contact Bronson at 344-6356.

Everyday PEOPLE



Bukata Hayes came to Mankato to play basketball for Bethany Lutheran College in 1994. Today, he is the Executive Director for the Greater Mankato Diversity Council.

The Face of Diversity

By Sara Gilbert Frederick
 Special to The Free Press

When Bukata Hayes came to Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato in 1994, he was one of less than a dozen students of color at the school.

“It was very much a culture shock,” Hayes says now. “I grew up in Milwaukee, in a very diverse neighborhood. My high school was basically all black and Hispanic. When I first got to Bethany, of about 300 kids, there were maybe 10 who were minorities.”

In the years since then, Hayes has watched both the Bethany campus and the Mankato community as a whole become more diverse and more accepting of that diversity - and he’s been able to play a role in both processes.

“This has become my life’s work,” says Hayes, who is now the executive director of the Greater Mankato Diversity Council. “I tell people all the time that this is my dream job, being able to talk about diversity, about the benefits of diversity, about what it brings to a community.”

When he graduated from Bethany in 1996, however, Hayes went on to the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth to continue his education in exercise physiology and cardiac rehab. It wasn’t until he got a call from a vice president at Bethany in 2000 that his career path changed.

“He called me to tell me that the college had an opening in the admissions office and to see if I was interested,” Hayes says. “So I took about a \$7,000 pay cut to move back to Mankato.”

It was a good decision. For one thing, his wife’s family lived in town. And it was a foot in the door at a university setting for Hayes, who hoped to become a professor someday. But more importantly, it was an opportunity to work with underrepresented populations and to increase diversity at his alma mater.

“That’s how I found my true love,” says Hayes, whose father was also an advocate for equality and social justice as he was growing up. “It was about social justice, about helping those who didn’t have as many opportunities as others.”

For four years, Hayes traveled to major metropolitan areas in the Midwest, including his hometown of Milwaukee, recruiting minority students to come to Bethany. But eventually he realized that just getting those students to come to Bethany wasn’t enough; he wanted them to stay and graduate as well. So in 2004, he launched the college’s Multi Ethnic Center.

“The college was increasing its diversity of students, but it needed a place for them to feel welcome and accepted,” he says. “I think that the Center has really helped a lot of those students.”

While Hayes was working to make Bethany a more diverse place, he was also helping to make Mankato a more accepting community as a facilitator for the Diversity Council’s Prejudice Reduction Workshops at local schools. “I fell in love with the organization as a whole,” he remembers. “I remember thinking that it would be a great place to work.”

So when former Executive Director Marsha Danielson stepped down in 2006, he quickly put his name in for consideration as her replacement. In September 2006, he was hired. He’s pleased by the progress the organization has made since then.

This year alone, he says, the Council has been able to present Prejudice Reduction Workshops to more than 6,500 students in Greater Mankato. Businesses have begun to request presentations and workshops from the Council and to tap into its resources as well. That’s exactly what he had hoped would happen.

“I think that this community has received the Diversity Council well and that we have become a resource for the community,” he says. “We are doing exactly what we hoped to be doing here.”

Hayes is also pleased by the progress the community has made since he first moved here.

“My reference point is 1994,” he says. “I remember going to the mall and not seeing a lot of faces like mine back then. Now, you can see so many different faces everywhere you go.”

Know of an Everyday Person with an interesting story to tell? E-mail names and contact information to sgfrederick@mac.com

\$99 MOVE IN SPECIAL
2 BR's - \$650/\$660/\$700

3 floor plans to choose from.
 Move-in Ready.
 Pet Friendly community.*

Part-time Students Welcome

With Approval & 12 Month Lease, enter drawing to win a 42" flat screen TV.
 (Drawing will be held 7/1/08)

Call today for a personal tour of our community
507-344-8646

* Some restrictions apply

BLUE HERON HOMESTATES
160 Homestead Road Mankato

WE DO BLINDS

Andrea Bales - Sales Representative

- All Major Brands of Blinds & Shades
- Draperies & Soft Treatments
- FREE In-Home Estimates
- FREE Installation

“Southern Minnesota & Northern Iowa’s Largest In-Home Service”

Budget blinds
 OF MANKATO

507-373-8535 • Toll Free 1-877-373-8535
 email: sales@coolwindowshades.com www.coolwindowshades.com
 Showrooms at: 1704 N. Riverfront Drive, Mankato, 310 1st Ave. South, Albert Lea

WORLD’S LARGEST SEAMLESS STEEL SIDING COMPANY

We Also Have 2 Styles of Seamless Gutters

abc SEAMLESS

Maintenance Free and Beautiful • Lifetime Warranty
 • No Ugly Seams in our Siding • Experienced Professional Crews
 • All installers are Employees (No Subcontractors)

“Between You and the Weather Since 1949”
 Call For Free Estimates (507) 625-6412
 Toll Free 877-625-6412

SCHMIDT SIDING & WINDOW CO.
 901 N. 5th St. • Mankato, MN 56001
www.sswc-mankato.com

abc SEAMLESS SIDING & GUTTERS
 MN LIC 6219

20% OFF

Framed Pictures

Good towards new purchases thru April 30th.

HANG UPS
 Custom Framing

Madison East Center, Mankato, MN - Mon.-Thurs. 9-8; Fri. & Sat. 9-5; Sun 12-4